



## Towards an Adaptive Social Protection System in the Dominican Republic

### Context and Objectives

The Dominican Republic is one of the most highly exposed countries to climate-related and geophysical hazards that pose major challenges to its sustainable growth and development. It is ranked 27 out of 171 countries on the United Nations World Risk Index. Furthermore, the country has endured considerable economic and social impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic, and as a result vulnerability and poverty levels have increased. Almost half of the population remains vulnerable to poverty, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic could dramatically worsen these poverty indicators.

Fortunately, the Dominican Republic has extensive experience over the last 20 years in developing and implementing comprehensive social protection systems aimed at protecting the poor, which provide the country with the institutional framework necessary to respond to the socioeconomic aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic. In this light, the World Bank, through the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), has been supporting the Government of the Dominican Republic over the last two years in designing and implementing a new Adaptive Social Protection (ASP) Strategy and framework. While this technical assistance has focused on the effects of natural hazards caused by weather and geological events, the COVID-19 crisis entailed a Government's response that has focused on the expansion of existing social programs and the creation of new emergency programs. The technical assistance was therefore adjusted to continue to support the Government's efforts to respond to the economic crisis as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Building on these activities, the current grant aims to strengthen the capacity of the Government of the Dominican Republic to implement an ASP system that incorporates lessons learnt from the COVID-19 crisis, and more effectively supports households and individuals to adapt, prepare for, cope with, and recover from the impact of shocks.

### Main Activities

- **Institutionalization of Adaptive Social Protection.** This component supports the incorporation of lessons learnt from the COVID-19 crisis in the government's ASP Strategy. It supports a series of workshops to engage government officials from the new administration on the suggested changes to the ASP Strategy to incorporate lessons learnt from the COVID-19 crisis. It also supports the development of a note with recommendations for an improved ASP Strategy.
- **Development of ASP tools and programs.** This component addresses changes to emergency cash transfers, the SIUBEN social registry, and the ADESS payment system to ensure the services they provide to the poor and vulnerable are adapted to post-disaster scenarios.
- **Integration of poverty and vulnerability data with household disaster risk and vulnerability assessments.** This activity integrates poverty and vulnerability data with disaster risk assessments to provide a spatial understanding of household vulnerability to shocks.



## **Results**

The project is not yet active and there are no results to report yet.

## **Partnerships and Coordination**

This project is being implemented by the World Social Protection team, in coordination with the World Bank DRM team for the Caribbean region.

Activities are coordinated with the Government of the Dominican Republic as well as the European Union, the Inter-American Development Bank, the United States Agency for International Development, the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC), United Nations agencies (World Food Program and the United Nations Development Program - UNDP), and Non-Governmental Organizations (the Catholic Relief Services and ACTED). The World Bank team also works closely with the inter-agency ASP group. Members of the group include, in addition to the World Bank, the World Food Program (WFP), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

### **Country**

Dominican Republic

### **Caribbean Regional Resilience Building Facility component**

Regional Technical Assistance Facility to Mainstream Resilience

### **Amount approved**

EUR 250,000 / \$300,000

### **Duration**

07/2021-02/2023