

CARIBBEAN REGIONAL RESILIENCE BUILDING FACILITY



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Strengthening Disaster and Climate Change Resilience in the Housing Sector in the Dominican Republic

Country

Dominican Republic

Caribbean Regional Resilience Building Facility Component

Regional Technical Assistance Facility to Mainstream Resilience

Amount Approved

€297,017 / \$338,600

Duration

08/2021 – 02/2024

Context and Objectives

The Dominican Republic is a heavily urbanized country with 82% of the population living in towns or cities, a proportion that is expected to reach 92% by 2050. Furthermore, cities have been growing without the guidance of urban development plans that favor resilience, leading to overcrowding and even greater vulnerability.

The quality and resilience of available housing has been a persistent issue, with many existing housing units in poor condition and unable to withstand potential climate and disaster events. Housing supply has also been unable to keep up with the demand, leading to a significant housing deficit and causing overcrowding conditions in Dominican cities, which leaves more people exposed to risk.

A recent study was conducted by the National Geological Service and funded by the European Union which evaluated the Gran Santo Domingo seismic risk and defined the vulnerabilities of the National District. This Technical Assistance builds on the findings of this survey and informs the implementation of the World Bank's [Support to the National Housing Program Project](#).

The objectives of this project were to integrate resilience into existing national housing stock, enhance preparedness for post-disaster housing reconstruction, and improve the dialogue among different actors involved in the housing sector.

Main Activities

- Strengthening technical capacities to mainstream resilience and recovery in the housing sector.
- Increasing the adaptive capacity to disasters and climate-related hazards.

Results

In providing technical support to the government of the Dominican Republic, the project produced analyses of the main constraints in the design and implementation of subsidies that helped determine how to better reach the poorest households. This work was bolstered by the identification of key strategies to improve the effectiveness and sustainability of subsidies, including the possible creation of a housing guarantee scheme. This assistance improved institutional capacity within relevant ministries concerning disaster and climate risk-informed housing policy design and analysis, and the needs and options for housing guarantee and insurance instruments. This was followed by specific support to operationalize the housing resilience action plan into the Plan Nacional de Viviendas Familia Feliz (PNVFF) which involved help to develop specific housing insurance and guarantees.

Technical assistance was also made available to government officials on topics relating to protecting households from disaster and climate events, this included the enforcement of building codes, identification of energy-efficient investments, and improving financial mechanisms available to

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homeowners. Participants gained knowledge on concepts, tools and experiences that can be used to better incorporate climate resilience into housing policies, programs, and projects.

In November 2022, the team held the first workshop with the Ministry of Housing (MIVED) on 'Latin America Experiences with Social Housing', to share the main lessons from housing in other LAC countries. The event allowed participants to gain knowledge on experiences with social housing programs in the region and identified specific areas that need improvement in the Dominican Republic.

Partnerships and Coordination

The World Bank implemented this project in close collaboration with MIVED, the Ministry of the Presidency (MINPRE), the Ministry of Public Works and Communications (MOPC), the Social Policy Cabinet (GPS), the National Office for Seismic Assessment and Vulnerability of Infrastructure and Buildings (ONESVIE) and the Institute of Aid and Housing (INAVI).