

# CARIBBEAN REGIONAL RESILIENCE BUILDING FACILITY



**GFDRR**  
Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery



**WORLD BANK GROUP**

## Strengthening disaster and climate change resilience in the housing sector in the Dominican Republic

### Context and Objectives

The Dominican Republic is a heavily urbanized country with 82% of the population living in urban areas, a proportion that is expected to grow to 92% by 2050. This rapid rate of urbanization has had consequences at the planning level for vulnerability to climate and disaster hazards, with 36% of urban residents living in structures that are at risk from climate and disaster events. Furthermore, cities have been growing without the guidance of comprehensive urban development plans that favor resilience, leading to overcrowding and increased vulnerability.

The quality and resilience of available housing has been a recurring issue, with many existing housing units in poor condition and unable to withstand potential climate and disaster events. Housing supply has been able to keep up with the demand, leading to a significant deficit and overcrowding conditions in Dominican cities, leaving more people exposed to risk. To address these issues, the Ministry of Housing was inaugurated in 2021 to coordinate the formulation of relevant policies and implementation of housing programs.

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 new 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". It aims to integrate resilience into the national housing stock and enhance preparedness for post-disaster housing reconstruction while improving the dialogue among the different actors in the Dominican government involved in the housing sector.

### Main Activities

- **Strengthening technical capacities to mainstream resilience and recovery in the housing sector**
  - Activities under this component provide technical support to the government of the Dominican Republic to promote housing that is affordable, inclusive, green, and resilient. This work will focus on strengthening the country's relevant institutions, namely the Ministry of Housing, 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).
- **Increasing the adaptive capacity to disasters and climate-related hazards**
  - Activities under this component focus on capacity building for government officials on topics relating to protecting households from disaster and climate events, such as the enforcement of building codes, identifying energy-efficient investments, and improving financial mechanisms available to private homeowners.

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## **Results**

This project is in its inception phase.

## **Partnerships and Coordination**

This Technical Assistance will be implemented in collaboration with the following government institutions of the Dominican Republic: The Ministry of Housing, 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).

### **Country**

- Dominican Republic

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

#### **Component**

- Regional Technical Assistance Facility to Mainstream Resilience

#### **Amount approved**

- EUR 338,600 / \$400,000

#### **Duration**

- 11/2021 – 03/2023