CARIBBEAN REGIONAL RESILIENCE BUILDING FACILITY

EUROPEAN UNION

GFDRR Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery

WORLD BANK GROUP

Enhancing Resilient Territorial Development in the Dominican Republic

Context and Objectives

The Dominican Republic is highly exposed to climate-related and geophysical hazards that pose major challenges to its sustainable growth and development. Based on historical data, disaster losses have been estimated at 0.69%[1] of the 2015 GDP or US$ 420 million per year over the period 1961-2014. Natural exposure to these hazards is being exacerbated by rapid urbanization, along with limited territorial planning, urban planning, and poor natural resource management. These factors are having a negative effect on human health, quality of life, and major economic activities such as agriculture and tourism. Therefore, Resilient territorial and urban planning plays a key role in increasing resilience by ensuring the safe location of population, building disaster and climate-risk informed territorial and land use instruments, and through a comprehensive management of natural resources.

This project supports the government's efforts to implement a territorial development plan that improves land use regulations, enhances disaster risk management, and promotes the sustainable use of natural resources.

Main Activities

- Urbanization and Territorial Development Review, including a diagnostic of urbanization patterns to identify existing challenges and inform a pathway to address them while leveraging opportunities provided by cities to increase productivity, strengthen economic growth, tackle inequality, and build resilience.
- Support the Implementation of the Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) for the Dominican Republic (*IDE-RD: Infraestructura de Datos Espaciales de La Republica Dominicana*).

Results

The project has been supporting Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development (*Ministerio de Economía, Planificación y Desarrollo* – MEPyD) to provide a diagnosis of the Dominican Republic's main economic and social development challenges in the urbanization and territorial development sector. Six policy notes and a Spotlight have been finalized which aim to chart a course to address these challenges:

i. Urbanization in the Dominican Republic.
ii. Territorial disparities in the Dominican Republic.
iii. Towards a New Territorial Planning Framework in the Dominican Republic.
iv. Local Governments in the Dominican Republic.
v. Tourism and Territorial Development in the Dominican Republic.
vi. Towards Decent Housing for All in the Dominican Republic.
vii. Spotlight: Special Economic Zones and the Territories in the Dominican Republic.

[1] Source: "Dominican Republic: Building Physical and Fiscal Resilience to Ensure Shared Prosperity" ACP-EU NDRR https://www.gfdrr.org/en/dominican-republic-building-physical-and-fiscal-resilience-ensure-shared-prosperity.

These knowledge products support the MEPyD and key national and subnational actors on how to move Dominican cities and territories to make them better, more resilient places to live and do business, and were developed along four areas:

i. Adopting territorial planning instruments to meet today's and future territorial challenges.
ii. Improving the central and municipal governments' capacity to plan, manage, and finance territorial development, assuring an efficient use of scarce public resources; and leveraging private-sector investments.
iii. Better anchoring key economic sectors to enhance territorial spillovers.
iv. Continue pushing to solve persisting sectorial issues.

The project is also supporting the National Geographic Institute (*Instituto Geográfico Nacional* - IGN) and other public institutions to develop the national Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI). This includes developing a geo-spatial data quality model and standard, geo-spatial object catalogue, a metadata profile, fundamental data identification and classification, data inventory, the development of the national SDI web landing page, the creation of a national cartographic plan and protocol and policies to facilitate data exchange. Several knowledge products were thus developed to support these activities: (i) the landing webpage of the SDI for the Dominican Republic; (ii) guidelines for an Object Catalogue; (iii) a dictionary for the Object Catalogue; and (iv) guidelines for a data quality model. These products have enhanced the IGN's knowledge about geo-spatial objects and representation catalogue and provide fundamental knowledge on national cartography including on boundaries, hydro-network, and infrastructure.

The technical expertise of the IGN and other public institutions involved in production, analysis and spread of geo-spatial information in the Dominican Republic, were also increased through capacity building activities which included the organization of 29 virtual workshops and online training sessions over the reporting period, which gathered 66 people including 33 women. During the sessions, all attendees were able to learn and discuss about website software development, data sharing and data monitoring platforms, geo-spatial data quality model and standards, geo-spatial objects and representation catalogues, data exchange protocols, and a national cartographic plan. Thanks to these workshops and sessions, the IGN now has a better knowledge about geo-spatial data quality model and standards.

Partnerships and Coordination

The technical assistance project is undertaken jointly with the Economic and Social Analysis Advisor Unit (UAAES) and the National Geographic Institute (IGN), which are both within the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development (MEPyD).

Useful Links

The Dominican Republic Risk Profile is available in English here and in Spanish here.

Country

Dominican Republic

Caribbean Regional Resilience Building Facility component

Regional Technical Assistance Facility to Mainstream Resilience

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