



UNDP Dominican Republic

Support to the National Response and Recovery to Contain the Impact of COVID-19



1. Government Response

A State of Emergency was declared on March 19th by the National Parliament, limiting freedom of transit, association and assembly for the entire population. Complementary Presidential Decrees and Resolutions have been issued. Starting on the beginning of June, the economy has started to resume its activity, according to the 4 phases announced by the Dominican Government. As of June 5th, 2020, Dominican Republic has 18,708 confirmed cases and 525 deceased.

General elections will be held on July 5 to elect a president, vice-president, 32 senators and 190 deputies. They had originally been planned for May 17, but were postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The ongoing emergency has important socioeconomic impacts, especially for groups with preexisting conditions of poverty and vulnerability, likely to suffer the worse effects during the crisis and the recovery phase. Informal workers account for 52% of total employments and those without access to social protection are struggling to generate income.

According to ECLAC analysts, Dominican Republic is in a better position than other LAC countries in terms of COVID 19 impact, forecasting a 0% growth against a -5,3% average fall in the region. On the other hand, experts fear that the crisis will

particularly affect specific sectors such as farming, tourism and trade (40.7% of employments) putting at risk the significant achievements made over the last decade in the country to reduce monetary poverty and unemployment rates.

At a socioeconomic level, measures taken by the Government to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 are aimed at the most vulnerable sectors and seek to facilitate food, try to keep jobs and, if this cannot be the case, ensure an income minimum for a limited period of time. Aid would reach approximately one and a half million households. Among other measures, two programs are being implemented:

- “Stay at Home,” to protect the income of families and informal workers, increasing the quota received by beneficiaries of Comer es Primero program. There are also additional amounts for households with members over 60 years and health conditions such as HIV or tuberculosis.
- “Employee Solidarity Assistance Fund” (FASE), to support workers in companies listed with the Social Security Treasury (TSS), and that have closed their operations due to transitory social distancing measures.

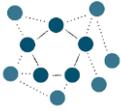
2. UNDP Support to Prepare, Respond and Recover

Strengthening Health Systems



Inclusive and Multi-Sectoral Crisis Management and Response

- **Improving medical services for people affected by COVID-19 with the acquisition of 45 hospital ventilators** with Funding from the Popular Foundation, the Association of Pension Fund Administrators of the Dominican Republic (ADAFP), and from reprogramming of resources from the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development.
- **Santo Domingo Aliado**, in alliance with the Mayor's Office of the National District (ADN) and the private sector, UNDP has delivered one million (1,000,000) masks and pairs of gloves to families from communities with higher levels of vulnerability in the National District.
- Dissemination of **COVID-19 prevention and gender-based violence content for vulnerable groups** such as women, people with disabilities, people living with HIV and LGBTI people.
- In partnership with the Social Policy Coordination Cabinet (GCPS) and with the support of UNICEF, IOM, UNHCR and UNFPA, UNDP is leading a monthly **Socioeconomic Impact Monitoring (SEIA) named Red Actúa** covering 5.000 households, through 30 local non-governmental organizations. Using digital crowdsourcing, the initiative SEIA – Red Actúa Covid19 supports the government with real time information to improve the impact of public social protection interventions towards the most vulnerable people.



- Technical support and guidance to the **national Early Recovery sector** -led by the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development-MEPYD and including the most important line ministries.
- In coordination with the Ministry of Women, UNDP has supported the participation and **leadership of women politicians**, identifying scenarios for closing gaps that affect women such as care of care-dependent population groups.
- In coordination with the National Disability Council (CONADIS), UNDP is collecting key information provided by **people with disabilities** about their current situation and needs in various areas and to analyze and prioritize, improving the response and recovery of this population.
- **Production and dissemination of communicational content and products for prevention and response to COVID 19** through the media and social networks.
- **Digitalization of the Judiciary system**, incorporating Information and Communication Technologies (ICT). In the current context of the COVID-19 Pandemic it is essential to protect, ensure and improve access to the judicial system, to protect the rights of the most vulnerable.

Socio-Economic Impact and Recovery



- Implementation of innovative and rapid impact initiatives for the **recovery of the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs)**, with the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and MSMEs (MICM). including: (1) a multidimensional survey, with Princeton University and the Vice Presidency of the Republic, about the current state of the MSMEs and (2) Support to 25 existing MSMEs Support Service Centers that cover the territory and can provide remote support to MSMEs with local Universities.
- Implementation of En Marcha Digital which consist in 6 ready-to-implement guides and videos to support small enterprises adapt their business model to COVID19 times, led by UNDP's Acceleration Laboratory.
- **Acceleration 2030** is a regional platform initiative that seeks the participation of different countries in the region to find innovative alternatives to recovery challenges of MSMEs in times of COVI19, through the exchange and transfer of knowledge, research, good practices, projects and initiatives.
- UNDP is finalizing its **socioeconomic analysis and policy recommendations on national capacities for resilience and sustainability against the effects of COVID-19** in the Dominican Republic.
- **Support to local governments** in the implementation of Response and Recovery strategies in selected municipalities. This initiative is being implemented in the framework of broader SDG localization efforts.

3. UNDP Support to UN Country Team

UNDP articulates with UN Agencies through the UNCT/HCT and the "UNETE" Group. Together with the RCO, UNDP is leading the Early Recovery sector which in the DR has been renamed as "Socioeconomic Response and Recovery". This sector has adopted 4 of the 5 pillars or sub-groups proposed by the United Nations Framework for Socio-economic Response and Recovery from Immediate Impacts of COVID-19. Additionally, UNDP is actively participating in the other UNETE sectors and contributing to the respective response plans.

On the programmatic initiatives, UNDP is partnering with other agencies in several activities described in the previous section, including with UNICEF, IOM, UNHCR and UNFPA for the SEIA-Red Actúa Covid19, UN Women and UNFPA for gender initiatives, and FAO and UNESCO for Communications.

4. Resources – COVID19 Response

<i>Areas of Response</i>	<i>Reprogramming (Existing Projects) USD</i>	<i>New Resources USD</i>
Strengthening Health Systems	1.250.000	482, 500
Inclusive and Multi-Sectoral Crisis Management and Response		6,042,000
Socio-Economic Impact and Recovery	240,000	550,000
Subtotal	1.490.000	\$7.074.500
TOTAL		8,564,500

The resources to support the government of Dominican Republic to contain and recover from the impacts of COVID-19 are:

As for reprogrammed resources, USD \$1,250,000 from the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development-MEPYD and USD \$240,000 from the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and MSMEs.

As for new resources, USD \$482,500 from Popular Foundation and the Association of Pension Fund Administrators of the Dominican Republic (ADAFP), USD \$300,000 from the Andalusian cooperation, USD \$6,042,000 from the Supreme Court of Justice and USD \$250,000 from UNDP's Rapid Response Facility.