

# 2021



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## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IFRC COUNTRY OFFICE

Appeal number  
**MAADO002**

Funding requirement in Swiss francs  
**3.8 million**



Branches

**118**



Staff

**634**



Volunteers

**20,000**

This document details the IFRC's support in areas agreed upon with the relevant National Society. The IFRC seeks resources to carry out this country/cluster plan listed here as funding requirements.



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## SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Population

**10.63 million**

2019 Human Development Index Ranking

**89**

### Vulnerabilities



Climate change



Hurricanes



Drought



Earthquakes



Migration

The Dominican Republic is a middle-income developing country with a population of 10.6 million people. For the past two decades, the country has had one of the fastest growing economies of the Americas, with an annual growth rate of 5.4 per cent. The economy has shifted its dependence from agriculture towards tourism, free trade zones, remittances, and foreign investment. In addition, the Dominican Republic has made progress in areas such as education, health, and access to drinking water.

However, not everyone has benefitted from these positive changes and inequalities remain. Although there has been an overall reduction in poverty, the levels of extreme poverty are still very high. In addition, the Dominican Republic has experienced a migratory wave of people from Venezuela, adding to already high migration numbers that have existed for decades.

The Dominican Republic is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change. It has endured severe drought and rain seasons recently and climate change is increasing the probability of natural hazards such as hurricanes and other hydrometeorological hazards. It is also at risk of geological hazards such as earthquakes. It is essential that the country strengthens its capacity to respond and recover from such situations.



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## ROLE OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY



**CRUZ ROJA  
DOMINICANA**

**Established**

**1931**

The Dominican Red Cross was established in 1931. It has approximately 20,000 active volunteers, 188 branches operational in all provinces of the Dominican Republic, and 634 paid staff. One of its main areas of focus is disaster risk reduction at the municipal and community level, and another prioritised area is health. It provides three blood banks, support to pre-hospital care, and community health activities.

The National Society has been responding to the COVID-19 pandemic since March 2020 and has been provided with 1.4 million CHF from the COVID-19 Emergency Appeal to support its efforts. It has also strengthened its programme to support migrants in the Dominican Republic and worked towards improving disaster response with a decentralised process at the province level.

Through the IFRC Global Fleet Vehicle Rental Program, the National Society contributes 48 per cent of the total number of ambulance units that serve the Dominican Republic through the National System of Emergency Care and Security. The Red Cross Fleet Strategy entails a continuous training programme, with highly qualified instructors, allowing staff to meet the safety parameters required for the service provided. Furthermore, the National Society has implemented a georeferencing system which offers a clear picture of the nationwide coverage of the ambulance units. The 911 system has brought significant visibility to the service and work of the National Society and presents a favourable area for growth.

# MEMBERSHIP COORDINATION AND MOVEMENT FOOTPRINT

Name of Partner National Society	Climate	Crises	Health	Migration	Inclusion	Engaged	Accountable	Trusted
Haitian Red Cross	✓	✓	✓			✓		
Italian Red Cross		✓	✓					
Spanish Red Cross			✓	✓				

## Movement footprint

The National Society receives support from The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) through the Restoring Family Links programme. As part of this initiative, information and technical support is provided to migration, gender and inclusion focal points at the National Society to enhance its responses. Movement presence in the Dominican Republic, both in terms of cooperation and funding, is nevertheless limited.

Maternal and child health is a priority area at the national level in the Dominican Republic. The Italian Red Cross has implemented a maternal-child health programme in the province of Elias Pina, and further support is necessary to expand these initiatives to other areas of the country where the situation is critical. The Italian Red Cross has also provided a delegate to support the National Society with the development of youth and has made remote technical assistance available to the National Society to share lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic via a series of webinars.

The Spanish Red Cross is a long-standing partner of the National Society, historically involved in disaster management, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) projects, including the coordination of international cooperation and WASH activities. The Spanish Red Cross and the National Society have collaborated in cross-border operations between Haiti and the Dominican Republic with coordination from the Dominican Government.

The Haitian Red Cross and the National Society maintain daily communication at the operational and construction levels of contingency plans. Support from the Haitian Red Cross allows the National Society to work with the Haitian Embassy in the Dominican Republic to translate COVID-19 messages into Creole for the Haitian population residing in the Dominican Republic.

The National Society has established agreements and strategic alliances with external actors in order to complement and strengthen prevention and response actions. Through the formulation of projects, important relationships have been established with UN agencies such as the World Food Programme and the United Nations Development Programme. With these partners, the National Society has worked very hard to strengthen community resilience and the National Prevention, Mitigation and Response System, as well as to establish a humanitarian corridor for the island of Hispaniola and Cuba.

The COVID-19 response operation has allowed the National Society to build additional partnerships for resource mobilisation, including with Mastercard and a network of private banks in the country. The National Society is also part of a regional consortium with The Nature Conservancy and the IFRC to work on Ecosystem-based Adaptation and climate action.



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## CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CRISES

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

**550,000**

People to be reached

**100,000**

The Small Island Developing States of the Caribbean are among the world's most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, with significant annual losses accruing in the social and productive sectors due to hurricanes, tropical storms and cyclones. In coastal areas, where populations are concentrated, these threats have devastated lives and livelihoods.

Predicted increases in storm frequency and intensity will increase the likelihood of losses due to flooding and wind damage. Rising sea levels will also exacerbate coastal hazards, threatening the viability of ports and other critical infrastructure. The costs of inaction are high and projected to increase.

The Dominican Republic is among the countries most affected by climate change in the world. Through the Resilient Islands Project, the National Society will advocate for the strengthening of legal and policy frameworks in Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) as well as the mainstreaming and integration of these frameworks into national and regional laws and policy.

### 🎯 TARGET 1

The IFRC and National Society staff and volunteers have the knowledge, capacity and resources to serve as agents of change and mobilise urgent action

### 🎯 TARGET 2

Communities have increased capacity to address the evolving impacts of climate change and have ownership over programmes

### 🎯 TARGET 3

The impacts of climate and environmental crises are reduced

### ➡️ ACTIVITIES

- Develop a climate change adaptation strategy
- Deliver behaviour change strategies to engage people in climate change programmes
- Develop country specific and regional policy briefs
- Influence policy changes and map “pathways” for change



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## EVOLVING CRISES AND DISASTERS

Funding requirement in Swiss francs  
**900,000**

People to be reached  
**500,000**



The Dominican Republic is in the path of hurricanes, the climate is hot and humid, the geographical terrain is mountainous, and the largest population concentrations are in coastal areas. These factors make the country particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change such as storm surges, more intense hurricanes and flooding. Among the main natural hazards affecting the country are hurricanes, tropical storms, droughts, heat waves, lightning, landslides, dams breaking and forest fires. The most frequent phenomenon is floods.

The Dominican Republic's vulnerability has been exacerbated by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Although significant work has been undertaken at the national level to build resilience and establish disaster response mechanisms, the need for shelter, food, sanitation, medical supplies and cash to meet basic needs at the community level continues to increase.

A community that has access to decent work and economic growth will be able to better address its vulnerabilities. The National Society's community resilience programme will focus on making communities economically stronger while preparing for and reducing disaster risk. Livelihood strengthening actions will be integrated via the ecosystem-based adaptation and safer shelters as these are essential aspects of a comprehensive community resilience programme.

### **TARGET 1**

Communities have increased resilience to evolving and multiple shocks and hazards

### **TARGET 2**

People affected by crises and disasters have their needs met through access to assistance and support

### **TARGET 3**

Timely and appropriate assistance is provided to people affected by crises and disasters

### **TARGET 4**

Increased capacity of the National Society to respond to crises and disasters

### **ACTIVITIES**

- Develop the climate change adaptation strategy
- Work with communities to reduce risk and vulnerabilities and enhance adaptive capacities
- Conduct hurricane season preparedness in targeted communities
- Implement Community Early Warning Systems simulation exercises in communities
- Strengthen logistics capacities in emergencies
- Revise Disaster and Crisis Response and Contingency Plans
- Participate in regional networking events



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## GROWING GAPS IN HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Funding requirement in Swiss francs  
**600,000**

People to be reached  
**200,000**



The Dominican Republic population has increased significantly in recent years, with 80 per cent concentrated in urban areas. Although the official national poverty rate has been falling, there were still more than 2 million people living in poverty in 2019. Income inequality is an issue, with almost 80 per cent of the income-receiving population earning little more than twice the minimum wage. Most disasters are caused by hurricanes and earthquakes, which have major economic and health consequences. Drought is also a critical concern. In 2017, 69,000 people were reported as being internally displaced as a result of natural disasters.

As of 30 September, the country had reported 112,728 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 2,108 deaths; 403 health workers were reported to have tested positive for COVID-19. The mortality rate was 201.75 per million inhabitants. The Ministry of Defence made available 12 quarantine centres equipped to isolate travellers when necessary.

### **TARGET 1**

The health, wellbeing and dignity of communities are protected and improved through access to health services

### **TARGET 2**

Access for communities to affordable, appropriate and environmentally sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene services is increased



**2 million**  
people living in poverty

### **ACTIVITIES**

- Revise and update the Dominican Red Cross Health, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene strategy
- Deliver health promotion, disease prevention and community-based care activities
- Help communities to identify and reduce health risks
- Expand the reach, quality, and modalities of first aid activities
- Achieve and sustain national immunisation targets and promote fair and equitable access to new vaccines
- Address the needs of people living with communicable diseases



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## MIGRATION AND IDENTITY

Funding requirement in Swiss francs  
**150,000**

People to be reached  
**20,000**



The Dominican Republic is a country of both emigration and immigration. An estimated 1 to 1.5 million Dominicans reside abroad, and around 5.6 per cent of the country's population is made up of foreign immigrants. The country benefits from a large volume of remittances, representing approximately 7 per cent of the gross domestic product and exceeding foreign direct investment. It also receives foreign labour while producing an immigrant workforce.

Haitian immigration contributes to economic activity by bringing in young workers willing to take jobs that Dominican citizens reject, and a growing number of Haitians are employed for low-paying jobs in agriculture, construction, tourism, and other service sector professions. However, increased immigration flows, especially over the past 15 years, have raised concerns about potential negative effects on the national labour market. Although people of Haitian origin continue to be the most represented migrant population in the Dominican Republic, there has been a significant increase in the number of Venezuelans in the country in recent years.

### **TARGET 1**

Migrants and displaced persons have access to humanitarian assistance and protection at key points along migratory routes

### **TARGET 2**

The assistance and protection needs of vulnerable migrants are addressed through effective access to essential services



**1-1.5 million**  
Dominicans residing abroad

### **ACTIVITIES**

- Consult migrants, displaced persons and host communities to more effectively assess, understand and respond to their priority needs
- Implement feedback mechanisms to collect migrants' opinions, doubts and suggestions.
- Create materials with important information for migrants
- Develop a migration preparedness plan inclusive of all migration routes

## VALUES, POWER, AND INCLUSION

Funding requirement in Swiss francs  
**100,000**

People to be reached  
**100,000**



The Dominican Republic is a developing country that has made great progress in terms of inclusion and attention to vulnerable groups. However, challenging demographic, economic and social realities persist. People with disabilities face significant impediments to fully developing their abilities, such as low access to inclusive education, decent employment, and social participation.

Access to education is very difficult for people with disabilities. Therefore, 17 per cent of people with disabilities have not achieved any level of education and 40 per cent have not completed basic education. The few opportunities for participation and access to basic services from early childhood also limits their development and opportunities for a dignified and independent adult life. There are strong limitations to their access to work, reinforcing the relationship between disability and poverty.

Gender-based violence remains a pervasive protection risk in Latin America and the Caribbean, with a quarter of the women in the region having experienced violence from an intimate partner. COVID-19 has proven to have a direct impact on violence against women and girls. Quarantine and physical distancing exacerbated intimate partner violence and sexual abuse. Since the crisis had a direct impact on the health system, the protection services for victims and survivors have decreased. Various types of gender-based violence increased such as sexual exploitation, child marriage or early unions, and survival sex in order to fulfil basic needs.

### ● TARGET 1

Enhanced protection, equity and inclusion, safety and well-being in education

### ● TARGET 2

People with disabilities are included in and able to access programmes and services



**668,460**  
people living in  
extreme poverty in  
2018



**40%**  
people with  
disabilities who have  
not completed basic  
education

### ➔ ACTIVITIES

- Collaborate on humanitarian education with key actors
- Promote and support safe, equitable and continuous access to quality education for all
- Adopt a comprehensive Protection, Gender and Inclusion approach across operations and programmes
- Promote the participation of people with diverse backgrounds in disaster and emergency response teams
- Engage community members, in particular women and gender minorities, in decision-making about disaster risk management



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## ENABLER 1

ENGAGED WITH RENEWED INFLUENCE, INNOVATIVE AND DIGITALLY TRANSFORMED WITH GREATER EMPHASIS ON NATIONAL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

**500,000**

The IFRC will support country-level planning processes to ensure alignment with the goals of the National Society. This includes assisting with the facilitation of the Dominican Republic Strategic Plan and Operational Plan and completing the monitoring and follow-up matrix prepared with information resulting from the Country Cluster Support Team meeting held in Cuba in 2019.

The IFRC will strengthen its cooperation with regional and global reference centres, including through the delegation of greater “shared leadership” responsibility. It will identify focal points within the National Society to communicate regional and global reference centre initiatives at the national level. It will also ensure that representatives of humanitarian and development agencies, and of relevant ministries, are well informed about the role and activities of the National Society and the IFRC network by developing and implementing a communication campaign targeted towards national authorities.

The IFRC plans to increase investment into foresight and anticipation of emerging challenges and opportunities, forming the basis of strategy, policy, risk assessments and operational planning. A priority will be to improve collaboration with the private sector as well as new and non-traditional partners on joint problem solving and innovation.

The IFRC network is undergoing a digital transformation which will ensure the National Society and the IFRC have the foundational IT digital systems to efficiently run their daily operations and be ‘data ready’ for engagement with their staff and volunteers. It will also improve operational decision-making and business intelligence and allow leaders to use and understand data in their work to guide humanitarian action.

### 🎯 TARGET 1

Strengthened engagement with partners within and outside the network to work collectively on the key challenges facing communities

### 🎯 TARGET 2

Greater investment in foresight and anticipation of emerging challenges and opportunities

### 🎯 TARGET 3

A common data model is developed across the network that spurs interoperability

### ➡️ ACTIVITIES

- Support the facilitation of the Dominican Republic Strategic Plan and Operational Plan
- Develop and implement a communication campaign toward national authorities
- Support the National Society in the digital transformation by developing standards, tools and guidelines



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## ENABLER 2

ACCOUNTABLE WITH AN AGILE MANAGEMENT AND A RENEWED FINANCING MODEL WITH GREATER EMPHASIS ON NATIONAL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

**490,000**

The Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting and information management technical capacity at the National Society is limited to staff who work in these areas and only when supported by a particular project or operation. To further increase capacity and standardisation of tools, the IFRC will provide support with increased awareness and technical knowledge among managers.

The IFRC promotes a strong culture on gender, diversity, and inclusion both at an institutional level and in the way humanitarian operations are carried out, including mechanisms for monitoring and improvement. In 2021 it will create a procedure for the implementation of the Dominican Red Cross Gender Policy and promote the systemisation of sex- and age disaggregated data collection during humanitarian operations.

The IFRC plans to develop a new financing architecture to increase financial resources for the benefit of the National Society, as well as generate global fundraising business insights. It will also provide a global platform for fundraising knowledge sharing, and a mechanism for investment in the National Society's resource mobilisation development in emerging markets, via the Virtual Fundraising Hub. The IFRC aims to ensure quality and timely implementation and reporting in line with commitments to donors, with clear distribution of roles and responsibilities.

### 🎯 TARGET 1

A new financing architecture is in place to increase financial resources for the National Society

### 🎯 TARGET 2

Global fundraising business insights are generated and available to the National Society

### ➡️ ACTIVITIES

- Develop the talent of staff at all levels
- Establish Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting guidelines and procedures for managers
- Support the National Society in establishing fundraising objectives and strategies to reach them



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## ENABLER 3

TRUSTED BY COMMUNITIES, OWNED AND VALUED BY THE MEMBERSHIP WITH GREATER EMPHASIS ON NATIONAL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

**510,000**

The IFRC will continue to support the National Society in its development to become the trusted partner of choice for local humanitarian action, with capabilities to act in the global network. The National Society will align all external support in National Society Development to its priorities and development plans.

The IFRC recognises that when youth, volunteers and young community-based drivers of change can contribute to decision-making, the needs of young people are met more effectively. This enables a better understanding of the needs of young people from all backgrounds and will ensure they are accurately represented in the National Society's strategic and operational plans and programmes. The IFRC will also support the National Society to ensure its volunteer base reflects the diversity of the communities it serves, with attention paid to gender, local languages and cultures, and marginalised groups.

Membership Coordination is a core part of the IFRC's work and has led to a changed mindset under the new Federation-wide approach, resulting in greater trust from the membership and greater efficiency and effectiveness of our humanitarian actions. It will further enhance this based on an overarching strategy with practical tools and regional and country coordination positions.

Following the guidelines to be defined at regional level, the IFRC will support the National Society in the design and implementation of the Community Engagement and Accountability Minimum Commitments road map. It will also support the integration of Movement-wide commitments and minimum actions into strategies, policies, procedures, programmes and operations.

### 🎯 TARGET 1

The National Society's volunteer base reflects the diversity of the communities it serves

### 🎯 TARGET 2

Membership coordination is enhanced

### 🎯 TARGET 2

Vulnerable communities are empowered to influence decisions affecting them

### ➡️ ACTIVITIES

- Prioritise volunteering development and youth action as critical catalysts of behavioural change and local action
- Strengthen engagement with and accountability to communities through integrating mechanisms for communication
- Develop best practices and case studies



**The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)** is the world's largest humanitarian network, with **192 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies** and around **14 million volunteers**. Our volunteers are present in communities before, during and after a crisis or disaster. We work in the most hard to reach and complex settings in the world, saving lives and promoting human dignity. We support communities to become stronger and more resilient places where people can live safe and healthy lives, and have opportunities to thrive.

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