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# DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

## FACT SHEET: PLANNING FOR CLIMATE ADAPTATION PROJECT

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE:** To increase the resilience of the people of the Dominican Republic to the impacts of climate change through improved municipal-level land use planning processes.

**COUNTRY SITUATION:** The Dominican Republic is the 11<sup>th</sup> most vulnerable country in the world to climate change according to the 2016 Germanwatch Climate Risk Index. Physical vulnerabilities include more drought in the arid regions and extreme rainfall in the Southern and Eastern regions. Coastal areas will be negatively affected by stronger tropical storms and sea level rise that will cause larger storm surges. The latter, combined with river flooding during rainstorms, puts hundreds of thousands of the country's poorest people in physical danger of flooding and landslides and increases the risk of contamination of surface water sources. These problems are exacerbated by poor land use planning at the local and national levels, including the increase of informal settlements along the most flood-prone parts of the city. Municipalities are legally required to develop and implement a land use planning process, but have not been able to do so due to institutional weaknesses in planning and management. Without a planning process, the ability of municipalities to incorporate climate change or public input into decision-making is ad hoc at best and absent at worst.

### OUR WORK

USAID is working with municipal officials, community-based organizations, the private sector, and relevant stakeholders in mainstreaming climate change considerations into participatory land use planning and managing climate risk. USAID will focus these efforts in Santo Domingo, Santiago, San Pedro de Macorís, and Las Terrenas and it will strengthen the capacity of the Dominican Federation of Municipalities to lead the effort to scale up this land use planning methodology that takes climate change

into consideration to four more municipalities. In addition, USAID will facilitate learning through city-to-city partnerships.

Through these activities, the Dominican Republic will have the first comprehensive land use plans that integrate climate change adaptation in eight municipalities, with personnel across municipal departments trained in participatory planning and climate change adaptation techniques and tools. With these plans in place, these communities will be better equipped to adapt to the risks of climate change.

**EXPECTED RESULTS:**

- Improved capacity to obtain, analyze, and apply appropriate climate and weather information to decision making and operational processes.
- Climate change adaptation considerations incorporated into the municipal planning process.
- Participation in the municipal planning processes including women, members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersexual community and persons with disabilities strengthened.
- Knowledge and innovation transfer for planning process and adaptation measures increased.
- Climate-resilient land use planning practices scaled up.
- A community of practice and expert network developed.
- Peer-to-peer exchanges between the initial four target municipalities and a second group of municipalities in the Dominican Republic established.

**RESULTS ACHIEVED TO DATE:**

- Peer-to-peer exchanges from the municipality of San Pedro de Macorís to Fort Lauderdale, Florida and from the municipality of Santiago to Dubuque, Iowa completed.
- Publication of four municipal-level climate change vulnerability assessments
- The Guide for the Formulation of Municipal Land Use Plans developed in close collaboration with other donors by the National Directorate for Development and Land Use Planning.

**Duration:** March 2015 to March 2019

**Budget:** US\$6.6 million

**Implementing Partner:** International City/County Management Association (ICMA)



Photo by: ICMA



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