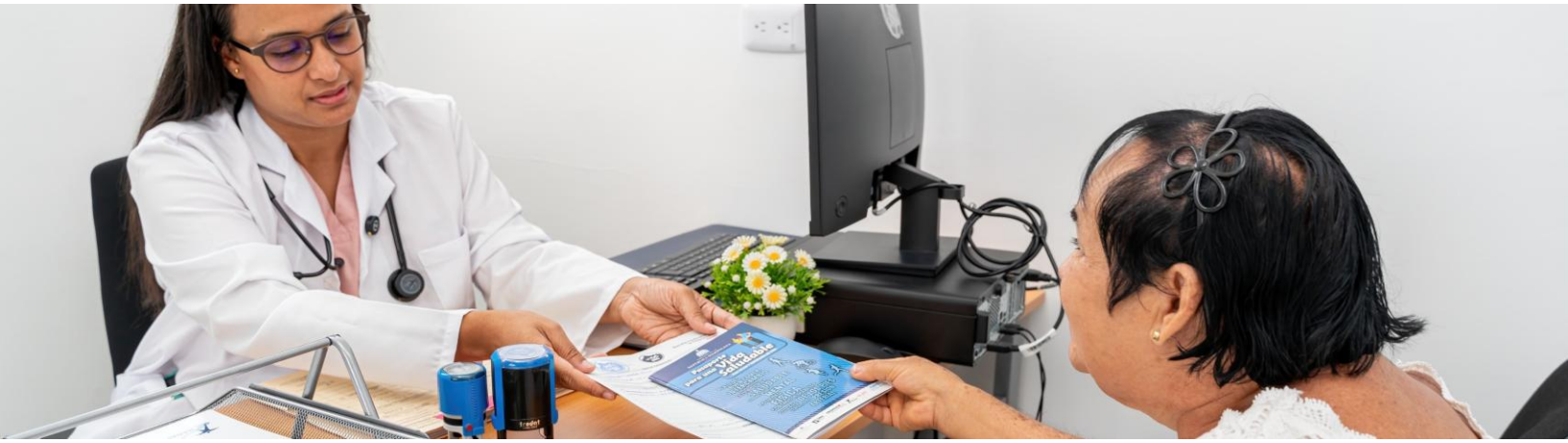
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC PAHO/WHO COUNTRY COOPERATION STRATEGY 2025-2030



INTRODUCTION

The Country Cooperation Strategy (CCS) 2025–2030 of the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) serves as a mid-term strategic framework for collaboration with the Dominican Republic. Developed using WHO's methodology, the CCS emerged from a participatory process that included extensive consultations with the Ministry of Health, the National Health Service, other relevant ministries and institutions, the United Nations System, development partners, civil society, and additional stakeholders.

The strategy aims to objectively identify the country's primary health challenges and outline how PAHO/WHO's cooperation can contribute to reducing health inequities and enhancing the well-being of the Dominican population. Through this process, five strategic priorities were identified, reflecting the Organization's comparative advantages and aligning with both national and global health policies.

ABOUT US

The PAHO/WHO Country Office in the Dominican Republic, established in 1964 , has maintained a dynamic and constructive partnership with the Dominican State. As of 2024, the office comprises 35 staff members, including both administrative and technical professionals. During the last biennium, the office managed a budget of $7,911,575 with an impressive execution rate of 98%.The office has successfully expanded its budget and operational scope through strategic cooperation agreements. The office has successfully expanded its budget and operational reach through cooperation agreements, projected to increase the total allocation by 32% during the 2024-2025 biennium, benefiting over 150,000 people.

PARTNERSHIP ENVIRONMENT

PAHO/WHO collaborates closely with a diverse network of partners to implement its technical cooperation initiatives. Over 102 key partners have been identified to date, with most interactions occurring with government entities, followed by non-governmental organizations and United Nations System agencies.

COUNTRY CONTEXT

The country has an estimated population of 10,760,028, with 65% aged between 15 and 64 years and a growing trend in the elderly population. Administratively, it is organized into a National District and 31provinces, subdivided into 157 municipalities and 235 municipal districts.

Approximately 50% of the population resides in key urban areas such as Santo Domingo, the National District, Santiago, and San Cristóbal. Classified as an upper-middle-income country, it demonstrates significant economic growth. Public health investment stands at about 3.2% of GDP, which is below the 6% recommended by the WHO.

Politically, it operates as a representative democracy with an executive branch led by the president, elected for a four-year term. Health governance falls under the Ministry of Health, while the National Health Service oversees service provision, aiming to ensure accessible healthcare despite growing demands and limited public resources.

PROGRESS ON HEALTH OUTCOMES

By 2024, life expectancy at birth is 73.9 years, 3.5 years higher than in 2000. Over the past decade, significant progress has been made in reducing maternal and infant mortality, controlling infectious diseases and malnutrition, and improving access to reproductive health services. The country eliminated measles (2016) and neonatal tetanus, alongside achieving control of diphtheria, whooping cough, and hepatitis B. Tuberculosis cases decreased from 60 to 45 per 100,000 inhabitants, and strides are being made toward the elimination of malaria.

KEY CHALLENGES

In 2021, maternal mortality reached 167.6 deaths per 100,000 live births, one of the highest rates in the region. The Dominican Republic also faces one of the region's highest road traffic mortality rates, underscoring the urgent need to prioritize road safety. Challenges persist in ensuring timely access to quality healthcare services, medications, vaccines, and health technologies. Establishing an integrated health service delivery network based on Primary Health Care is a national priority reflected in recent health policies and plans. Addressing major mental health conditions and reducing non-communicable diseases, the leading causes of mortality in the country, remain critical challenges for achieving the health targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

For more information visit the link: https://www.paho.org/es/republica-dominicana

OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES & DELIVERABLES



Strengthening national capacity to reduce inequities by addressing social and environmental determinants, with a territorial approach, and integrating cross-cutting dimensions.

01

STRATEGIC DELIVERABLES

- Enhanced national capacity to analyze, mitigate, adapt to, and respond effectively to the health impacts of climate change.
- Strengthened and advanced health promotion efforts, focused on addressing social and environmental determinants of health, with an emphasis on intersectorality, gender, equity, ethnicity, and human rights.
- Improved health sector capacity to reduce modifiable risk factors for disease prevention and control, adopting an intersectoral approach and prioritizing vulnerable populations.

Strengthened health service delivery network ensuring comprehensive access to healthcare and health technology for the entire population throughout their life course, with particular emphasis on vulnerable groups.

03

STRATEGIC DEIVERABLES

- Improved access to person-centered health services across the life course through the implementation of an integrated health service delivery network based on primary health care (PHC).
- Enhanced access to and rational use of medicines, vaccines, and health technologies.
- Strengthened national and subnational capacity to reduce maternal and neonatal morbidity and mortality.
- Improved health information system for case management and decision-making based on interoperable platforms.

Strengthened national capacity for the prevention, mitigation, and comprehensive response to disasters and health emergencies.

05

STRATEGIC DELIVERABLES

- Strengthened national capacity in emergency preparedness and response under the International Health Regulations, within multi-hazard response and the One Health approach.
- Improved national capacity for intersectoral coordination, ensuring community participation and empowerment in risk management related to disasters and health emergencies.

Strengthening stewardship and governance of the Health System to ensure an adequate and resilient response within the framework of the Essential Public Health Functions.

02

STRATEGIC DELIVERABLES

- Strengthened national capacity for health governance and leadership within the framework of the Essential Public Health Functions (EPHF), promoting effective coordination among policies and system stakeholders to create synergy and enhance achievements.
- Strengthened capacity of the health authority to advocate, regulate, and manage health sector financing.
- Reinforced stewardship to increase the health system's response capacity and resilience, ensuring transparency and social participation.
- Strengthened human resources management and capacities within the framework of the Primary Health Care Strategy.

Strengthening national capacity to advance in the prevention, control, and elimination of diseases

04

STRATEGIC DELIVERABLES

- Developed and strengthened comprehensive interventions targeting non-communicable diseases, with an emphasis on cardiovascular diseases, mental health, road traffic injuries, and other external causes.
- Strengthened national capacity for the surveillance, diagnosis, treatment, prevention, control, and elimination of communicable diseases and vaccine-preventable diseases by adopting the "One Health" approach.

Tel: +1(809)562-1519

e-mail: domcomunicaciones@paho.org

CONTACT

Edificio Cruz Roja y OPS/OMS, Calle Pepillo Salcedo - Recta Final, Plaza de la Salud, Ensanche La Fé, Santo Domingo, República Dominicana