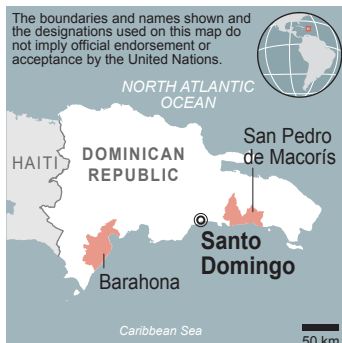


Improving human security in the bateyes of the Dominican Republic by securing documentation and ensuring that vulnerable people's needs are met



UN Trust Fund for Human Security



Fast Facts

Country: Dominican Republic

Duration: October 2012 – September 2015

Implementing UN Agencies: UNHCR; UNDP; UNICEF

Other Implementing Partners: ASCALA, World Vision, Save the Children, Plan, Pastoral Materno Infantil, El Movimiento de Mujeres Dominicano-Haitianas, JRS, National Ministries

Budget: \$2,569,600

Key Words: Economic migrants; children; youth; education; basic social services; poverty reduction; social inclusion; disaster risk reduction

BACKGROUND

The Dominican Republic hosts between 500,000 and one million Haitian migrant workers and their descendants. Approximately 200,000 Haitian migrants live in precarious conditions in the bateyes – communities located on or near sugar cane plantations. With the sugar industry shrinking, the human insecurities of this already vulnerable population have grown exponentially. Geographically and socially isolated, bateyes lack basic healthcare, adequate water

and sanitation, and access to education, while employment and income generation opportunities have grown increasingly scarce. Moreover, many residents in the bateyes, including an overwhelming 85% of adolescents, lack civil status documentation including birth certificates (either Dominican or Haitian) and are therefore unable to access education, vocational training, employment opportunities or healthcare offered outside of the bateyes.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The goal of the project is to protect residents in the bateyes from physical threats to their human security while empowering isolated communities to access their rights by way of: (i) ensuring that Haitians, Dominicans of Haitian descent, and Dominicans living in the bateyes are protected from threats to personal and political security; (ii) strengthening economic

security by enhancing people's income generation capacity and providing educational opportunities; (iii) decreasing the high levels of food insecurity; (iv) advancing health security by increasing access to basic primary care and health education; and (v) improving natural disaster preparedness as well as access to clean water and safe housing conditions.

BENEFICIARIES

The project directly targets 33,820 people in 37 bateyes in the regions of San Pedro Macoris and Barahona. The beneficiaries include: (i) former sugar cane employees who due to new migration laws are unable to renew their documents; (ii) children born in bateyes to long-term residents who are unable to obtain birth certificates; (iii) impoverished

Dominicans that live in or near bateyes and face similar difficulties; and (iv) post-earthquake arrivals from Haiti that remain in the Dominican Republic. In addition, the project has 60,000 indirect beneficiaries living in the participating areas, of which 15,000 are children.



APPLYING THE HUMAN SECURITY APPROACH

The project highlights the importance of contextually relevant interventions and is grounded in the specific local realities of the bateyes. By building on existing community infrastructures, the project will establish food stores and community gardens to promote sustainable access to food and reduce malnutrition. Moreover, health security will be addressed by improving access to facilities as well as instituting contextually appropriate preventative measures, particularly in the areas of maternal health and prevention-oriented campaigns on adolescent pregnancies and sexual health. Meanwhile, economic insecurity is addressed through training sessions, vocational activities and support to micro-enterprise ventures, aimed at diversifying people's income generation opportunities.

Furthermore, by applying a multi-stakeholder approach, the project creates a diverse network of actors which build on each other's expertise in order to comprehensively address the multitude of insecurities in the bateyes. In this regard, the project is able to implement a human security strategy which combines the necessary top-down and bottom-up approaches to meet the needs of the vulnerable and

isolated bateyes. While the lack of official documentation requires a protection-oriented approach, which includes law and policy reform, residents may still face difficulties in accessing basic services due to chronic poverty and their geographical isolation. Therefore, by complementing protection efforts with participatory empowerment measures, such as enhancing people's income generation capacity and providing educational opportunities, the human security approach strengthens communities' ability to manage their insecurities and advocate for their rights.

Lastly, by focusing attention on the combined risks of climate-related threats, the project highlights the interconnectedness and the cross-sectoral consequences of natural hazards and their impact on different areas of human insecurities in the bateyes. By developing local emergency-response mechanisms and early warning systems, the project enhances community resilience against natural disasters and helps minimize the economic and social costs of environmental degradation and climate related challenges.