



**United Nations Trust Fund
for Human Security**

Dominican Republic

Strengthening Human Security and Resilience to Transnational Organized Crime in Coastal Communities

Background information

Many coastal communities in Latin America and the Caribbean are experiencing an increase in violence and transnational organized crime, which is undermining the rule of law and threatening multiple dimensions of the human security of local populations. Located along major shipping routes for drugs, the coastal communities of the Dominican Republic are being exposed to armed violence, narcotics trafficking, and the corruption that results from the presence of organized criminal networks. Already facing limited socioeconomic opportunities, reduced fish stocks, strict fisheries regulations, and the possibility of easy profits from illicit activities, an increasing number of small to medium-scale fishers have turned toward or been coopted by criminal activity to support their livelihoods. This has increased violence and drug addiction among local communities, further hampering local economic development.

Goals and objectives

The programme seeks to promote the development of comprehensive strategies to strengthen human security in coastal and fishing communities affected by transnational organized crime on the southern coast of the Dominican Republic. Specifically, the programme aims to (i) promote whole-of-government dialogues based on a community-centered and comprehensive analysis of the human security situation in target coastal communities to develop strategies that prevent the impact of and reduce vulnerability to the multidimensional consequences of transnational organized crime, and (ii) elaborate integrated civilian-law enforcement responses to organized crime and promote sustainable fishing practices that emphasize both development and security in the country's coastal communities.



DURATION

February 2023 – February 2025



UN IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES
UNODC, FAO



OTHER KEY PARTNERS

National Drugs Council, National Drug Control Directorate, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development, Ministry of External Relations, Ministry of Interior and Police, community-based organizations



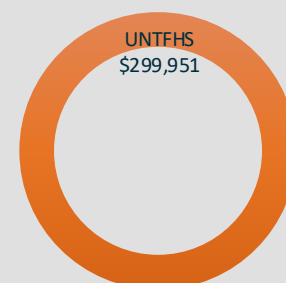
BENEFICIARIES

Coastal communities in South coast of the Dominican Republic



TOTAL BUDGET
US\$ 299,951

POOLING OF RESOURCES



Beneficiaries

The programme benefits roughly 30,000 people including vulnerable women and youth, local fishers' associations and cooperatives, government stakeholders, including relevant ministries and the Navy, and the broader populations of Pedernales and Palmar de Ocoa.

Applying the Human Security approach

Given the interplay of regional, national and local dynamics in producing insecurity in coastal communities in the Dominican Republic, the human security approach was identified as the best tool to assess the risks at different levels as well as understand the root causes and underlying drivers related to transnational organized crime and its multidimensional consequences on communities and local socioeconomic development. Moreover, it guides the identification of the appropriate stakeholders from across line ministries to operational-level security and regulatory agencies, as well as community-based groups that need to be engaged in developing solutions.

By leveraging multistakeholder partnerships, the programme facilitates a comprehensive mapping process of the existing resources, capacities and gaps at the local and national levels thereby ensuring that issues are analyzed and tackled from different perspectives and sectors. As such, stakeholders are better placed to devise strategies that address policy gaps as well as obstacles related to service delivery that leave local communities exposed to risks associated with transnational organized crime. The early inclusion of communities in the assessment, particularly the most affected women, men and youth, both empowers communities to identify issues and solutions and ensures that these priorities are at the center of government policies and law enforcement practices.

The human security framework facilitates coherence across multiple levels of intervention for strategies of much greater impact. For example, establishing whole-of-government dialogue processes on local vulnerabilities and threats while building the capacity of law-enforcement agencies involved in these issues and promoting socio-economic development through pilot initiatives in target communities encourages a comprehensive response. This facilitates more transformative efforts as well as creates opportunities to enhance state-society relations and trust among diverse stakeholders. Given the relevance of this initiative for other coastal communities in Latin America and the Caribbean, the programme aims to serve as a model for addressing transnational organized crime in the region through the human security approach.



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