



U. S. CDC Dominican Republic

Accessible link: <https://www.cdc.gov/global-health/countries/dominican-republic.html>

CDC Dominican Republic (DR), established in 2009, works with the Ministry of Health (MOH) to build and strengthen the country's core capabilities. These include data and surveillance; laboratory capacity; workforce and institutions; prevention and response; innovation and research; and policy, communications, and diplomacy. Program areas address HIV and tuberculosis (TB), global health security, and emerging diseases.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Data & Surveillance

- Facilitated development of the National Epidemiology Surveillance System used for electronically reporting notifiable diseases



Laboratory

- Implemented the Strengthening Laboratory Management Toward Accreditation (SLMTA) program across 25 laboratories



Workforce & Institutions

- Trained 60 MOH staff across the country on monitoring and evaluating infection prevention control practices, and supported training for over 760 public health professionals who graduated from the Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP)



Prevention & Response

- Provided technical expertise on emergency response, patient management, and laboratory policies during the COVID-19 pandemic response, and donated laboratory equipment and supplies



Innovation & Research

- Supported the MOH in investigating U.S. citizen's deaths due to cosmetic surgery which are currently being used by the U.S. State Department to alert U.S. citizens on how to reduce their risk of complications and death



Policy, Communications & Diplomacy

- Helped the DR in adopting and implementing international HIV policies

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

HIV AND TB

Through U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), CDC DR partners with the MOH to:

- Increase the number of people with HIV who receive and stay on treatment
- Improve access to HIV services for populations who are harder to reach, such as migrants
- Strengthen HIV information and laboratory systems
- Help the DR adopt and implement international HIV policies

CDC has supported 21 healthcare facilities who provide HIV services across the country, developed an electronic patient information system to track individual HIV treatment progress and outcomes, and designed DR's first guidelines for providing preventive therapy to people at risk for HIV.

CDC also supports an electronic TB reporting system and a monitoring system for patients receiving treatment for HIV.

GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY

CDC's global health security program works with the DR government to help them prepare for the next pandemic. This work includes strengthening health systems to prevent, detect, and respond to infectious disease threats.

Laboratory Capacity

CDC's SLMTA program has successfully improved the quality of laboratory services. The program is now transitioning to the DR government for continued implementation. CDC has trained laboratory staff on methods to diagnose arboviruses such as dengue, Zika, and chikungunya and respiratory diseases such as COVID-19 and influenza.

Disease Surveillance

CDC DR helped the MOH develop the National Epidemiology Surveillance System. This electronic platform includes a laboratory component and is used for individual reporting of all notifiable diseases. CDC also helped transition the DR from weekly paper-based reporting to daily electronic reporting.

As a member of the chikungunya and dengue technical working groups, CDC provides technical expertise on surveillance protocols. CDC DR helps draft alerts and situational updates when outbreaks occur.

Workforce development

As of 2023, 760 epidemiology trainees graduated from FETP. Over 190 of these graduates also completed the Intermediate FETP and over 20 also completed the Advanced FETP. These epidemiologists serve as on-the-ground disease detectives on the front lines of public health. They have helped detect, prevent, and control numerous disease outbreaks across the DR before they can become epidemics.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

CDC works closely with the MOH to respond to a broad range of infectious disease outbreaks and other health problems. This range includes cholera, chikungunya, Zika, malaria, histoplasmosis, dengue, mpox, COVID-19, infection control, and medical tourism.

COVID-19

CDC DR was a leading partner in the MOH's COVID-19 response. CDC trained public health responders and helped develop daily and weekly situational updates to inform the national response. CDC provided technical expertise on emergency response, patient management, and laboratory policies. CDC also donated laboratory equipment and supplies.

Medical Tourism

CDC and the MOH conducted an investigation on deaths among US citizens who had cosmetic surgery in the DR. The recommendations from the investigation are being used by the U.S. State Department to alert U.S. citizens on how to reduce their risk of complications and death. The MOH is using the recommendations to improve the safety and quality of cosmetic surgery in the DR.

Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)

CDC supported the development of infection prevention and control plans for respiratory diseases, including tuberculosis, in 10 HIV clinics across the country.

