

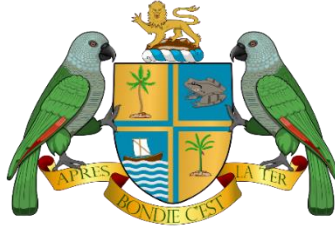


GOVERNMENT OF DOMINICA

# VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW OF DOMINICA







## **Voluntary National Review: Commonwealth of Dominica**

### **“The Nature Island”**



*“Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”*







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## Statement from the Prime Minister, Hon. Roosevelt Skerrit

**B**rothers and sisters, citizens of this global community, we are *Waitukubuli*, the Nature Isle of the Caribbean, officially known as the Commonwealth of Dominica or simply, Dominica, and we have a story to tell. It is one not unlike that which exists in the biblical Garden of Eden; a mix of unrivalled beauty, peace, serenity, and love for each other punctuated by tragic events but still blossoming. Dominica's story is truly one of resilience in the face of crushing external shocks. You may have heard of a few of the weather-related events: Hurricanes David in 1979, Marilyn (1995), Lenny (1999), Dean (2007), Maria (2017) and Tropical Storms Ophelia (2011), Erika (2015), but there are political ones too. Our successes are therefore all the more noteworthy in the face of the cumulative weight of these shocks. We are consequently, delighted with this opportunity to relate this story to you in the hope that you can learn from our journey.



Since political independence in 1978, we have embraced a philosophy of development that places the individual at the center of all that we do, promoting, for example, the involvement of women in every sphere of socioeconomic life. In fact, we proudly boast of having the first female Prime Minister of the Caribbean, in the person of Dame Mary Eugenia Charles who served from 1980 to 1995; three consecutive terms in office and that and that, at a time when the concept of gender parity seemed mostly foreign to the global community. We later built upon this foundation by seeking to maximize the income-generating potential of our fertile soil and clean waterways through targeted developments in agriculture, tourism, and light manufacturing and although we continue to experience tremendous challenges in these sectors (pests, adverse weather events, and unfriendly policies of foreign competitors to name a few) we are proud that we can produce enough food to sustain our population for a minimum period of five (5) weeks following a severe debilitating external shock.

To fuel this success, we have moved from solely fossil fuel power generation to having 37 percent of our electricity generated from hydro and we are now on course to commission a 10MW geothermal plant in 2024. We expect to further complement this milestone with additional exploration for geothermal energy and the establishment of a Green industrial park and commercial production of Green Hydrogen in the near future. Our goal is 100 percent fuel generated from renewable sources by 2030, contributing on the frontline in the fight against this common existential threat we know as climate change. Today, thanks to our water resources we are at over 30 percent of this target.

For us, people-centred development means facilitating sustained prosperity for all and doing all we must to help the disadvantaged to prosper. Consequently, socially, we continue to invest heavily in the social development of our people. You may be very familiar with our triumphs in



housing because this has gotten significant media attention since the devastation of Hurricane Maria in 2017. Our aim is to make every family resilient, in all dimensions of this concept. This includes building resilient homes for those who cannot afford and facilitating others to do the same. In health today, our primary health care programme remains a model for many of our partners. Health care is both physically and financially accessible to all (free to citizens from birth to 18 years and 60 years and beyond), and our medical centres offer a plethora of programmes and a variety of infrastructure to combat non communicable diseases (NCDs), (launching our first cardiology center in May 2021, partly staffed by Dominican surgeons, health and wellness education programmes across the island, etc.); and the near complete eradication of pit latrines. Education services are provided up to the tertiary level at no cost to citizens and we now have our own “State College” where we offer associate and first-degree programmes to Dominicans and foreign students. Today, we have successfully engendered a culture of self-development through education so that the first degree is the entry level qualification for most positions in the Public Service and the private sector. This is development in spite of adversity.

We have done all this through strategic alliances that are built on the foundation of peace, mutual respect, and inclusion. Dominica promotes the territorial and political sovereignty of each nation and consequently, embraces every opportunity to advance mutually beneficial relations among nations.

Brothers and sisters, comrades, these form a snapshot of progress for Dominica since 1978. The journey has been challenging, but our victories are a testament that with strategic leadership, a people-centric focus to development, and a mobilized people, nations around the world can rise to prosperity and peace for all. It is therefore my distinct pleasure to share with you this story about Dominica, the Nature Isle of the Caribbean; a story about our march towards prosperity as one nation, united and determined.





## Statement from the Minister of Planning and Economic Development, Climate Resilience, Sustainable Development and Renewable Energy, Hon. Dr. Vince Henderson



**T**he 17 Goals and 169 Targets of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable Development were premised on a commitment by member states to ‘leave no one behind’ with a strong focus on the physical, economic, and social well-being of all people, the protection and preservation of the natural environment, adapting to climate change and advancing sustainable prosperity and equality.

Dominica is pleased to participate for the first time in the annual assessment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). My Ministry serves as focal point for the coordination of the implementation of the SDGs and to this end, continues to foster partnerships and collaborative arrangements with multiple stakeholders from the private sector, the public sector, civil society, the Kalinago and development partners, who all are playing an integral part in the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs. Current assessments measuring progress on achieving the SDGs have revealed the substantial progress is being made in Dominica across several developmental areas such as: social protection; agricultural production, energy diversification and food security; health and wellness, including significant improvements in health infrastructure and services; education and the digitalization of our economy; protection of ecosystems and the natural environment; climate change adaptation and ‘climate proofing’ of our social and economic sectors; strengthening of justice systems and institutions; and, fostering of strategic partnerships for the Goals.

The role of the government in mainstreaming and localizing the Sustainable Development Goals has been realized by integration and alignment of the SDGs with the National Resilience Development Strategy (NRDS) 2018 -2030, the Climate Resilience and Recovery Plan (CRRP) 2020 - 2030, the Disaster Risk Finance Strategy 2022 – 2030 and the Low Carbon Climate Resilient Development Strategy (LCCRDS) 2012. These documents collectively provide the road map through which Dominica is implementing the SDGs. The current assessment contained in the Dominica Voluntary National Review, places the focus on sustainable development in a COVID-19 recovery environment and is structured around the 5 Ps:

**People** – putting people first and at the center of our development

**Prosperity** – Building forward stronger and equal for sustainable growth and community development

**Planet** – Advancing our blue and green economies towards sustainable adaptation

**Peace** – Fostering a peaceful, just and safe Dominica

**Partnerships** – Implementing the Agenda through sustainable and inclusive partnerships

With over 30 social protection programmes, increased focus on environmental protection and use renewable energy resources, strides made in agriculture, in developing resilient housing, in trade, in sustainable tourism, in education, in the digital economy and climate resilience mitigation and adaptation measures, I am indeed elated to present this scorecard of our performance on the Sustainable Development Goals for the first time.

I firmly believe that this report will not only provide all stakeholders with greater insight and information on Dominica's performance, but it will inform policy actions towards realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.





## About the VNR



Dominica's VNR is presented with a focus on the multi-hazard environment in which our small island exists and our most recent experiences in 2015, and 2017, with Tropical Storm Erika and Hurricane Maria respectively, followed by the COVID-19 Pandemic in 2020 and which has extended to 2022. This VNR has been designed to share Dominica's story – a story of:

**Vulnerability**

**Resilience**

**Sustainability**

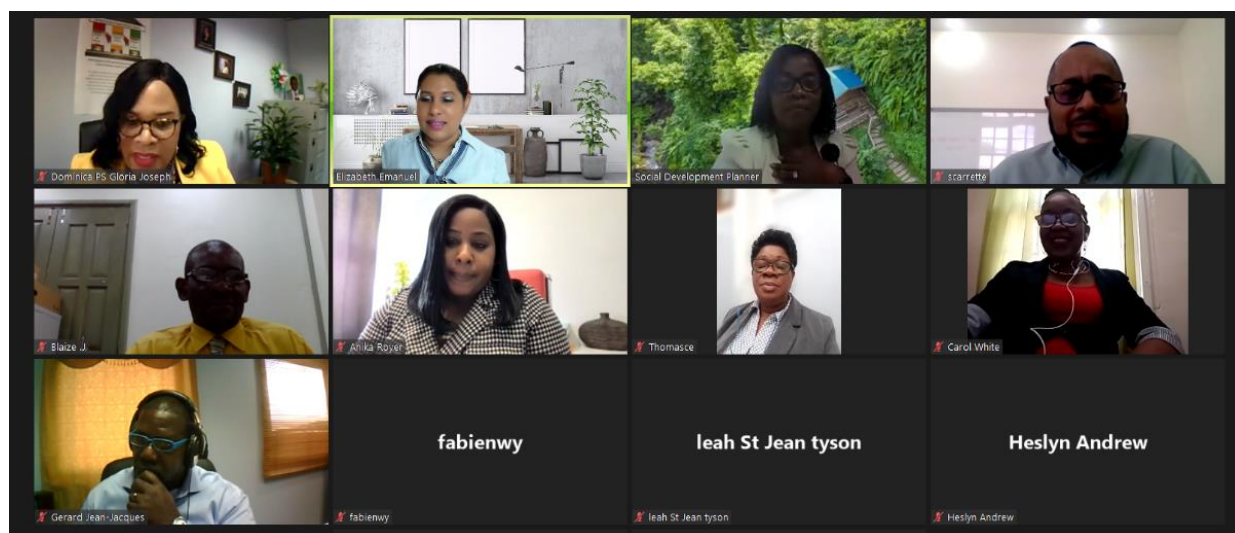
**And Our Thrust to Build the World's First Climate Resilient Country**

While this year's VNR for all presenting countries has a strong focus on building back better post-COVID-19, Dominica's VNR will not only address our recovery efforts post-COVID-19 but also our efforts at recovery from two devastating climate events – Hurricane Maria in 2017 and Tropical Storm Erika in 2015. The latter two events were devastating to our country, not only to our infrastructure, but also to our people. Together, we have all seen the opportunity that we have as a country to build resilience and to build forward stronger so that we will be able to withstand future exogenous shocks – climatic or economic or any others.

Dominica is in the process of building the world's first climate resilient small island state – an example for other regions around the world. This VNR has been designed to help Dominica share its experiences with building forward stronger, sharing some better practices and lessons learned but also sharing with the world, the country's progress to advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs.

Dominica's VNR was prepared consistent with Paragraph 84 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which states that regular reviews in the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) are to be voluntary, state-led, and provide a platform for partnerships, including through the participation relevant stakeholders. The VNR also was prepared in accordance with the UN High Level Political Forum (Guidelines) which calls for a review by countries of the SDGs that respects "their universal, integrated and interrelated nature and the

three dimensions of sustainable development” (para 74). Accordingly, the Commonwealth of Dominica’s VNR reflect on the implementation of all 17 goals and their interlinkages.



This VNR represents a national overview of the policies, programmes and measures being implemented, success stories and flagship initiatives. It also sets out the challenges that the country is facing as well as solutions being employed to advance Dominica’s sustainable development prospects. In addition to providing our country’s progress and achievements under each goal, the Voluntary National Review also will set out the approaches that will be taken to guide the future implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Dominica.

## **The Process for Preparing Dominica’s VNR – Stakeholder Consultations and Engagements**

The Focal Point in Dominica for the implementation of the SDGs is the Ministry of Planning, Economic Development, Climate Resilience, Sustainable Development and Renewable Energy and this Ministry led the preparation of the VNR. As part of the institutional mechanism, the Ministry established an SDG Committee to provide strategic direction and guide the development and review of the VNR. The Ministry also worked closely with all other line Ministries and Agencies as well as the National Statistical Office to assess data and information and case studies for their inclusion of the VNR.



## The National SDG Committee

The Government established a National Committee to support the preparation of the VNR. This Committee is chaired by the Ministry. The Committee is tasked with providing strategic input and direction to the development of the VNR. The National Committee is made up of representatives from the public and private sectors and civil society organizations and also includes representation from the United Nations agencies. The Committee also is tasked with reviewing the draft VNR report, verifying accuracy of information and data etc. before it is submitted to the UN. This committee also is supported by the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Dominica and other

UN agencies. Some of the roles of the Committee with respect to stakeholder engagement are to:

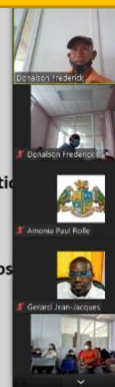
- Identify the strategic purpose for the consultations
- Map and identify the stakeholders that the VNR preparation team should reach out to
- Determine how best to represent stakeholder input into the VNR report

Dominica recognizes that a key requirement for advancing sustainable development and creating a sustainable future is to ensure that there is inclusive and participatory stakeholder engagement in a country's development processes. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development calls for participation of stakeholders in its implementation, follow up and review processes. The objectives of the stakeholder consultations were broadly to:

- Fulfil the requirements of producing a quality and comprehensive VNR
- Create engagement and ownership among all stakeholders of the SDGs
- Assess and agree on the country's development progress

## Voluntary National Review – What are we reporting on? Capturing the Views of the Kalinago People – Your Voice Matters

- What do you think your roles are in preparing the VNR
- What are some of the issues and challenges faced by Kalinagos in Dominica?
- Do you have any views on the SDGs and sustainable development that you would like to reflect in the VNR?
- Are there any specific SDGs that you are working towards advancing within the Kalinago Community?
- Are there any mechanisms in Dominica for the participation of Kalinagos in decision-making processes at the national level that you would like to share and see included in the VNR? Or any recommendations
- Share with us any ways or approaches the Government and private sector can employ to achieve the SDGs?
- Any meaningful quotes that you would like to be included in the VNR – your perspectives – what do the Kalinagos in Dominica want by 2030



Consultations were held with:

- Public sector
- Private sector and Civil Society Organizations
- The Kalinago Territory

The stakeholder involvement and engagement for the development of the VNR was undertaken in two ways – through virtual workshops/consultations<sup>1</sup> as well as through the dissemination of online questionnaires that sought to determine the elements below from stakeholders – public and private sector, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academia and youth organizations:

1. The programme(s) or initiatives that have been undertaken (2015 to present) or that are being implemented to advance progress towards achieving the SDGs and their objectives, main activities and beneficiaries
2. The major achievement(s) under the programme(s) or initiatives referenced in Q1 to include the main outputs of the programme, including the number of beneficiaries and who the beneficiaries were
3. The challenge(s) in the delivery of the programme(s) referenced in Q1, including challenges related to the pace of implementation, capacity in terms of staffing and resources etc.
4. Lesson(s) learned from the delivery of the programme(s) related to planning, stakeholder engagement, implementation, monitoring, etc.

These questionnaires were widely distributed via an online data collection platform.

The virtual consultations with stakeholders provided the following information:

- Understanding the dimensions of sustainable development and the sustainable development goals
- The SDGs that stakeholders are contributing to through their work and in their communities
- The philosophy behind the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- The 5Ps of the SDGs
- SDG localization and implementation
- The importance citizen participation and stakeholder engagement
- The vulnerable in Dominica
- Alignment of the SDGs and Dominica's National Resilience Development Strategy and the Climate Resilience and Recovery Plan
- Dominica's progress with respect to the implementation and achievement of the SDGs
- Alignment of the SDGs and Dominica's National Resilience Development Strategy
- Defining the VNR
- The structure of the VNR

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<sup>1</sup> In-person consultations and meeting continue to be limited due to the COVID-19 pandemic



- The principle of ‘Leaving no one Behind’
- Opportunities presented by the VNRs

The VNR also benefitted from the engagement of key stakeholders through the UN DESA/UN-ECLAC Sustainable Recovery and Resilience towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in the Commonwealth of Dominica Initiative held in March 2022 and organized in collaboration with the Government that focused on:

- Strengthening the integrated recovery planning and decision-making capacity of the national stakeholders in Dominica involved in mitigating the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and building back better towards achieving the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals.
- Discussing with stakeholders the progress in formulating and implementing sustainable recovery plans in Dominica and receiving input and concrete recommendations on building back better and accelerating the implementation of the country’s national development plans, in this case the NRDS towards advancing the achievement of the sustainable development goals.

The consultations adopted an approach that allowed the team to delve into the role of stakeholders in realizing the SDGs and to identify development priorities going forward. The consultations also allowed for updates and the assessment of policies, processes, institutional arrangements and progress made, including best practices and current and perceived further challenges as well as solutions.

### The Communication Campaign to Raise Awareness about the SDGs and the VNR



The Government launched a communications and awareness campaign in 2021 on the SDGs to heighten awareness and inform the general population about the VNR and excite them about their role in its preparation.

## Structure of Dominica's VNR



Dominica's VNR will report on its progress towards achieving the 17 SDGs, and will be structured around the 5Ps, namely People, Prosperity, Planet, Peace and Partnership. It provides information under each Goal related to:

- Overview of Targets
- A snapshot of the country's progress towards achieving the goal
- Transformational Initiatives... To Build Resilience and Build Forward Stronger
- National Strategies, Opportunities, and Future Directions
- Best practices, challenges and gaps



## Opening Statements



### We are Building the World's First Climate Resilient Country

The Commonwealth of Dominica is a small island developing state in the Caribbean, stretching 751 km<sup>2</sup> with 148 km of coastline with a population of 72,000. It is the only Caribbean Island to have retained its indigenous people - the Kalinago. We are called the “Nature Island of the Caribbean” because of our lush rainforests, 365 rivers, and the Caribbean’s highest mountain peaks, Morne Diablotin. We are also known as *Waitikubuli*, the name inherited from our Kalinago brothers and sisters.

Our people have been the cornerstone of our development agenda. We put people first and pursue development that is equal and inclusive, and which aims to leave no one behind. The approach to development dates as far back as 1978 when we gained Independence from England. The triumph for political independence was led by our first Prime Minister, Patrick Roland John (1938 – 2021). It paved the way for the coronation of Dame Eugenia Charles; in 1980 as our first female Prime Minister, and who also was the Caribbean’s first female Prime Minister. With 44 years of Independence behind us, the preparation of this VNR is timely. It allows us to take stock of the journey we have so far travelled and assess our current development progress.

Our first VNR reflects and reaffirms our commitment to advance the global agenda. We believe that our people must be part of deciding the future of Dominica and the preparation of the VNR embodies this thrust, as stakeholder engagement was an important part of the process.

The United Nations places Dominica in the high human development category with an HDI value of 0.742, positioning the country at 94 out of 189 countries. Positive indicators have been recorded across several development spheres including improvements in fiscal discipline and management; reduction in poverty; expansion of housing; improvements in educational outcomes; reduction in infant mortality; improved access to safe water; gender equality; and, in the area of governance there have been advances in rule of law, progress in public sector modernization and enhancement of foreign policies.

Our story of development, however, cannot be told without mention of our vulnerability to the effects of climate change and other exogenous shocks such as the COVID-19 pandemic which have further underscored the multi-hazard environment in which we exist. A little short of five years ago, in 2017, Dominica was completely devastated by Hurricane Maria - a Category 5 hurricane which resulted in losses amounting to 226 percent of GDP, causing significant destruction to every sector and community. This event followed on the heels of Tropical Storm Erika in 2015 which cost Dominica 96 percent of its GDP. The COVID-19 pandemic caused new challenges and impacted the anticipated gains that would have strengthened Dominica's recovery post Maria. In 2020, Dominica's GDP contracted by 11 percent, and the country achieved only a modest recovery of 3.7 percent in 2021. These disasters did not only impact the physical environment or the country's economic growth trajectory, but also exposed Dominica's socio-economic vulnerabilities, inflicting hardship on our people. Notwithstanding, these disasters provided us with a unique opportunity to review our development pathway and create new solutions and ambitions to advance our development prospects. **We remain focused and on track!**

We recognize that development underpinned by a well-designed resilience agenda is key to sustainably uplifting Dominicans towards our shared vision for the future. Over the past several years, the Government has promulgated three key documents to achieve this: The National Resilience Development Strategy; Dominica's Climate Resilience and Recovery Plan 2020 – 2030; and The Disaster Risk Financing Strategy. These documents represent our roadmap for achieving the 2030 Agenda and are fully aligned with the SDGs. Implemented together, they will help us to aggressively identify key enablers and critical 'accelerator points' for lagging SDGs and enable policy coherence.

As we work to prioritize resilience and to create enduring prosperity for our people, we will be leaning heavily on the knowledge, perspectives and experiences of our partners around the world. We too, have much to offer, and through this process we will share our experiences, recommendations and solutions as we journey to build the world's first climate resilient country and become the gold standard in resilience for small island developing states (SIDS).

## Our Story – Balancing the Economic, Social and Environmental Dimensions of Our Development



Dominica is part of the Windward Islands located in the Lesser Antilles archipelago in the Caribbean Sea. It has a total area of 750 km<sup>2</sup> (290 mi<sup>2</sup>) and a total coastline of 148 km (92.0 mi), making it the 20th smallest country in the Americas and ranked 192nd in the world. The highest mountain peak (Morne Diablotin) is at 1,447 meters. The island has a rugged and mountainous terrain and several natural landscape features encompassing waterfalls, rivers, and springs. It is an upper-middle-income Small Island Developing State (SIDS), with an estimated population of 72,000 of which 90 percent reside along the coastal areas and 70 percent is classified as urban. The population also includes a sizeable number of indigenous Kalinago people, who have lived on the island since the 13th century<sup>2</sup>. Dominica is politically and economically stable, with a low crime rate and rich investment opportunities. The country's gross domestic product (GDP) of US\$548.41 million.



### Social Context

Dominica's Human Development Index (HDI) value for 2019 was 0.742— which put the country in the high human development category— positioning it at 94 out of 189 countries and territories. Between 2000 and 2019, Dominica's HDI value increased from 0.703 to 0.742, an increase of 5.5 per cent. Recent data on poverty are scarce. However, the Country Poverty Assessment (CPA) based on data from 2009, informs that 28.8 percent of Dominica's population was classified as poor, with 3.1 percent of this considered indigent.<sup>3</sup> In addition to those considered poor, a further 11.5 percent of the population was considered vulnerable due to downturns in the economy and other exogenous shocks such as natural disasters. The next Country Assessment of Living Conditions (CALC) is to be conducted in later 2022 or in early 2023. Notwithstanding, most citizens have access to basic goods and services. For example, 100 percent of the population – in urban and rural areas - has access to electricity, 97 percent of the population has access to drinking water

<sup>2</sup> International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. 2021. Integrating CCA and DRR laws and policies towards a climate-resilient development: Lessons from The Commonwealth of Dominica

<sup>3</sup> <https://prais.unccd.int/sites/default/files/2018-08/Dominica%20CPA%202009%20Main%20Report%20Final.pdf>



from an improved source and 78 percent of the population has basic sanitation services (i.e., use of improved facilities which are not shared with other households).

To support the most vulnerable in society, the Government has in place extensive social programmes. Dominica has over thirty safety net programmes.<sup>4</sup> Public spending on social assistance was about 2.2 percent of GDP in 2016, of which 64 percent is spent on cash transfers, 25 percent on food, in-kind and near-cash transfers, and 11 percent on social services<sup>5</sup>. The Government views social protection as a basic human right that must translate into policies and programmes to reduce risk, vulnerability, and exclusion. Social programmes are delivered by both the government and non-governmental organizations<sup>6</sup>.

The Government of Dominica is committed to the development of the social sector, evidenced by the significant investments in education, health and social protection. According to the Human Development Index 2020, Dominica ranked first in life expectancy in the Caribbean and has the highest number of centenarians per capita in the world. Life expectancy at birth is 78.2 years. Notwithstanding the high life expectancy at birth, Dominica is impacted by the high incidence of non-communicable diseases (NCDs). NCDs including diabetes, hypertension, heart diseases, cancers and strokes are the leading causes of mortality, morbidity and illness and represents over 50 percent of deaths.

Dominica is committed to achieving universal health care for all its citizens. There is access to primary and secondary health care and with the Dominica China Friendship Hospital, Dominicans now have access to a tertiary health care facility that includes specialized health services. Primary care services are provided at no cost with some groups receiving health care at no cost – the poor, pregnant women, seniors above 60 years, people below 18 years old.

The Government recognizes the strong linkages between poverty and natural disasters. Hurricane Maria in 2017 resulted in estimated damages totaling approximately US\$931 million and losses of another US\$380 million. To reduce the impact of natural disasters on standards of living and the quality of life of the population, the Government is placing emphasis on prudent disaster risk management.

Education in Dominica is compulsory for all students between the ages of 5 and 16 and is provided free by the state. Early childhood and tertiary education, though highly encouraged, are not mandatory for Dominican children and adolescents. Tertiary education, at the Dominica State College (where students complete first degree or associate degree programmes) is also provided

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<sup>4</sup> Oxford Policy Management & World Food Programme. 2018. Study on Shock-Responsive Social Protection in Latin America and the Caribbean: Dominica case study

<sup>5</sup> Ibid

<sup>6</sup> Dominica Growth and Protection Strategy, 2014 – 2018

at no cost to citizens. In 2016, the primary school enrollment rate was 95 percent (UNICEF) and the rate for secondary school enrollment was slightly lower at 88 percent. The Government's commitment to education reflects its allocation to the sector of the equivalent of 5 percent of its total GDP which is above the global average which stands at about 4.5 percent of GDP.

With respect to gender equality, women enjoy the same rights as men, and there is little open discrimination against women. Women in the formal economy are primarily in government services 55.7 percent, commercial services sector 55.3 percent followed by the agricultural sector 20.1 percent. Men represent about 80 percent of the formal agricultural sector, and manufacturing. Thirty-four percent or one-third of Parliamentarians are made up of women. For comparison, the world average in 2020 based on 185 countries was 23.8 percent, making female representation in Parliament in Dominica well above the global average. Beyond the Parliament, women also dominate senior positions in the Public Service. Out of the 14 Ministries and nine Departments, only 9 are headed by males. Issues related to gender equality in Dominica is guided by the National Policy and Action Plan for Gender Equity and Equality which was first formulated in 2006.

## Economic Context

Dominica is an upper-middle-income small open economy with a gross domestic product (GDP) of US\$548.41 million and a GDP per capita of US\$8,580 (2022)<sup>7</sup>. Tourism and agriculture drive the country's economic growth, with tourism being the country's main foreign exchange earner, followed by remittances.

Dominica's main economic industries are tourism and agriculture - key drivers of growth and employment. Tourism is the country's main foreign exchange earner, followed by remittances. Inflows from remittances are a key source of foreign exchange and in 2018 and 2019 the island received just under US\$50 million in foreign exchange because of remittance inflows, which provides much needed resources to supplement the income of the most vulnerable<sup>8</sup>.

Prior to the COVID-19 crisis, growth was forecast at 5.47 percent for 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic reduced the gains that were expected to strengthen Dominica's economic position in the near term and GDP contracted by 11 percent in 2020, underpinned by a sharp reduction in tourism and related sectors, plus the measures put in place to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Growth showed a modest recovery of 3.7 percent in 2021.

During the pandemic, continued efforts to recover from the impacts of Hurricane Maria, led to strong growth in the construction sector, due to the large public investment programme in

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<sup>7</sup> <https://www.imf.org/en/Countries/DMA#featured>

<sup>8</sup> Moore, Winston. 2021. Commonwealth of Dominica: COVID-19 Heat Report: Human and Economic Assessment of Impact. UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women Eastern Caribbean

housing and infrastructure development, financed with record-high Citizenship by Investment (CBI) revenue of 30 percent of GDP<sup>9</sup>. The record high CBI revenue contributed to a reduction in the fiscal deficit for 2020, despite declines in tax revenue and increases in spending. Public debt, however, increased to 106 percent of GDP in 2020 due mainly to higher official borrowing.

GDP is projected to reach pre-pandemic levels by 2023, averaging 5 percent growth per year through 2022-26—tourism recovery would be supported by the ongoing construction of new hotels and the inauguration of direct flights from the United States which started in December 2021.

The National Resilience Development Strategy; Dominica's Climate Resilience and Recovery Plan 2020 – 2030; and The Disaster Risk Financing Strategy, the country's roadmap for achieving the 2030 Agenda will be key to supporting the country's recovery post COVID-19 as well as the country's medium to long term development prospects.

The country has been ranked as the number one Citizen by Investment (CBI) initiative nation for five consecutive years on the CBI Index, which is published by the Financial Times' Professional Wealth Management magazine.

## **Environment and Climate Context**

Dominica is colloquially known as the 'The Nature Isle' of the Caribbean and considers its natural resources as its foundation providing the substrate on which all social and economic development is built. Sixty percent of the land area is covered by dense forest and woodland of which 20 percent is protected by the Forest Act of 1958 and the National Parks and Protected Areas Act, 1975. Dominica is recognized as having one of the best remaining tropical rainforests in the Eastern Caribbean. An estimated 20 percent of jobs in Dominica are directly or indirectly linked to forestry. From an environmental perspective, the forest habitat hosts a considerable variety of birds and animals with many species unique to Dominica.

Protected areas include one marine park, two large forest reserves (Central and Northern), and three national parks, including the Morne Trois Pitons National Park which is the largest in the Eastern Caribbean with major positive implications for carbon sequestration, eco-tourism, and development of a thriving green economy. The National Forest Policy 2022 was recently approved by the Cabinet of Dominica and replaces the last formal policy for managing Dominica's forest

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<sup>9</sup> <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2021/12/03/mcs-120321-dominica-staff-concluding-statement-of-the-2021-article-iv-mission>



resources which was adopted in 1949. The island's national Protected Area (PA) System consists of 6 terrestrial and 1 marine park<sup>10</sup>.

Dominica has a rich and diverse flora and fauna and accounts for 48 percent of local food supply which comes in the form of wild meat, fish (from the rivers and sea), fruits, root crops and the wide range of domestic agriculture products. Additionally, biodiversity provides energy in the form of fuel wood and charcoal, raw material for the craft industry, timber for the local market, and a host of products that contribute to the quality of life in Dominica.

With respect to its coastal resources, Dominica is fully committed to developing its blue economy as it recognizes that its marine environment and its exclusive economic zones presents opportunities to help develop the full potential of the aquatic resources of the country, while at the same time building safe and resilient coastal communities, ensuring a healthy and productive marine environment, and creating sustainable and inclusive economic growth. Dominica already benefits from the use of the marine environment through several ocean-related activities including tourism, fisheries and ports and shipping. The island's exclusive economic zone (EEZ) is approximately 28,500 km<sup>2</sup>, approximately 38 times its land area.

Dominica's fisheries sector employs around 2,200 people, including full and part-time fishers, fish vendors and ancillary workers such as boat boys. Although the fisheries sector contributes less than 1 percent to GDP it is important to livelihoods, employment, and national food security. Tourism contributed about 37 percent of total GDP, 56.4 percent of total foreign exchange earnings and 34.4 percent of total employment in 2019.<sup>11</sup>

At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Dominica was still rebuilding and recovering from Hurricane Maria in 2017, a category 5 hurricane that had significant impacts on the socioeconomic fabric of the country. Hurricane Maria resulted in losses amounting to 226 percent of Dominica's GDP and was preceded by Tropical Storm Erika two years earlier in 2015 which cost the country 96 percent of its GDP. Hurricane Maria resulted in:

- Estimated damages totaling approximately US\$931 million and losses of another US\$380 million. This amounts to almost 225% of the country's 2016 GDP.
- 30 residents losing their lives.
- Damage to the country's housing stock — 15 percent of houses were totally destroyed, 75 percent partially damaged, at an estimated cost of US\$382million.
- Damage to critical infrastructure — roads, bridges, water systems, electricity, telecommunications.

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<sup>10</sup> UNDP Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean. Supporting Sustainable Ecosystems of Dominica's Protected Area System. Available at: "<https://www.bb.undp.org/content/barbados/en/home/projects/supporting-sustainable-ecosystems-PAS-dominica.html>

<sup>11</sup> World Travel and Tourism Council. 2020. Travel & Tourism Economic Impact 2019: Dominica.

- Impacts on the agriculture and tourism sectors, critical for supporting food security, economic activity and providing a livelihood for thousands.
- Uncalculated loss of ecosystem services provided by watersheds, wetlands, and coral reefs

Dominica highlights the multi-hazard environment that is a feature of Caribbean islands and many other SIDS outside of the Caribbean. Between 2014 and 2018, the island experienced 10 tropical storms and two hurricanes, rendering its economy ever more fragile. During 1997-2017, it was the country with the highest GDP losses to climate-related natural disasters and ranked in the top 10 percent among 182 countries for climate-related fatalities. Following the huge devastation, as a result of back-to-back major storms in 2015 and 2017, Dominica announced its intention to become the first climate resilient nation in the world and has prepared a Disaster Resilience Strategy (DRS), a comprehensive plan including policies, costs, and financing to build resilience against future natural disasters.






### **Governance Context**

As contained in the National Resilience Development Strategy (NRDS), the Government of Dominica is fully committed to some basic principles and core values to enhance its development prospects, achieve the SDG targets, uplift the poor and vulnerable over the next eight years such as:

- Political stability
- Rule of law
- Equity and social order
- Responsiveness, effectiveness, transparency and accountability
- Macro-economic stability
- Creation and maintenance of key infrastructure
- Creation of a conducive climate for the private sector to flourish
- Provision of essential services for human capital formation and enhancement
- Strengthening partnerships with all stakeholders (civil society; private sector business and investor community; and external development partners) to improve effective and coordinated use of resources

# Impacts of COVID-19 on Our People, Our Economy and How We Pivoted



 The Economy	 Livelihoods, Food Security and Access to Markets	 Labour Market	 Women	 Agriculture
GDP declined by 11% in 2020	Disruption in health, social services, and education	Businesses laid-off 31% of employees	70% of persons employed in the accommodation and food services are female, highlighting a disproportionate impact of the falloff in tourism on females	Impact on market access and availability of some food items
Public debt, increased to 106 per cent of GDP in 2020 due mainly to higher official borrowing	Disruptions to livelihoods were reported by 81% of respondents that participated in CARICOM survey related to impacts of COVID-19	A reduction of the wage bill of about 37% due to lay-offs in the private sector	Women smallholder farmers' fields and gardens became full, and their storerooms piled up as a result of the closure of markets and restaurants due to COVID-19 lockdown measures, resulting in farmers experiencing reduced opportunities to sell, leading to surpluses of fresh produce	Farmers' points of sale were nearly eliminated by measures to reduce the spread of the virus
The current account deficit widened to about 30% of GDP due largely to the loss of tourism exports and increase in imports related to public investment and the increase in commodity prices	The proportion of respondents with no food stocks in their household increased from 4% in April 2020 to 18% in June 2020 (CARICOM survey)	58% of respondents from CARICOM survey indicated job loss or reduced salaries.		

## *Socio-Economic Impacts of COVID-19 in Dominica*

As of May 31, Dominica recorded 14,184 COVID 19 cases and 65 deaths<sup>12</sup>. Despite ample vaccine and testing availability, vaccination remains below 42.1 percent of the population.

According to the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB), prior to the COVID-19 crisis, GDP growth for Dominica was forecast at 5.47 percent for 2020. However, the pandemic reduced the gains that were expected to strengthen Dominica's economic position in the near term. GDP contracted in 2020 by 11 percent, and the country experienced a modest 3.7 percent growth in 2021. The anemic performance of GDP in 2021 was partly due to the sharp reduction in tourism and related sectors. While the tourism sector is less important to growth in Dominica compared to several other Caribbean countries, tourism remains Dominica's largest foreign exchange earner and the

<sup>12</sup>

<https://www.google.com/search?q=covid+19+cases+commonwealth+of+dominica&oq=covid+19+cases+commonwealth+of+dominica&aqs=chrome.69i57j0i22i30j0i390i5.10673j0j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8>

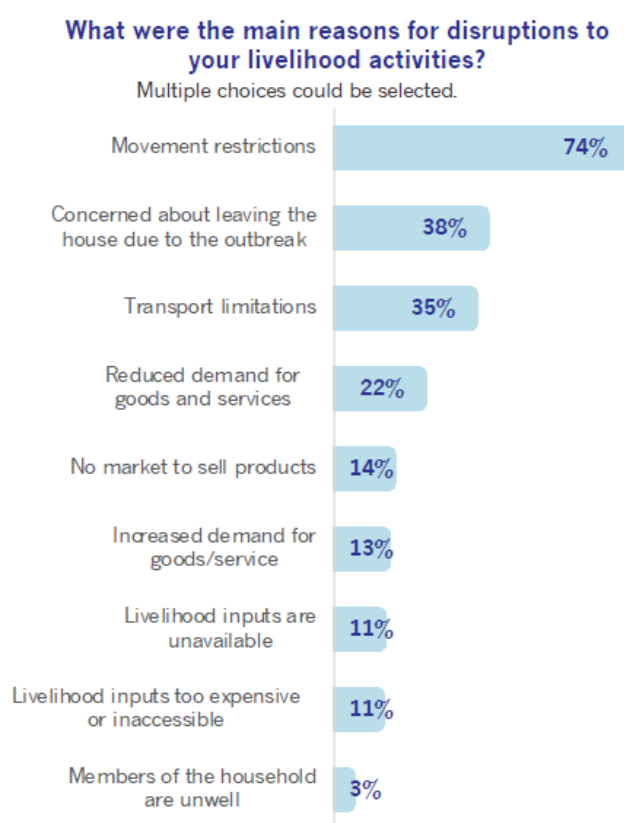


sector is responsible for 56 percent of all export earnings.<sup>13</sup> The downturn in the tourism sector also led to a reduction in foreign exchange earnings.<sup>14</sup> Women were significantly impacted by the pandemic as about 70 percent of those employed in the accommodation and food services activities are female, which implies that the direct impact of the falloff in tourism was disproportionately felt by women<sup>15</sup>.

In the case of agriculture, female farmers were significantly impacted by the lockdowns imposed to curb the spread of the virus. Women smallholder farmers' fields and gardens became full, and their storerooms piled up as a result of the closure of markets and restaurants due to COVID-19 lockdown measures, resulting in farmers experiencing reduced opportunities to sell, leading to surpluses of fresh produce<sup>16</sup>.

The World Food Programme conducted The Caribbean COVID-19 Food Security and Livelihoods Impact Survey<sup>17</sup> and the results of the survey indicated that:

- Half of the survey respondents reported eating less preferred foods or skipping meals/eating less, with 4 percent of respondents reportedly going one whole day without eating.
- Disruptions to livelihoods were reported by 81 percent of respondents – the highest of Caribbean countries surveyed, with movement restrictions being the primary reason.
- Incomes were impacted, with 58 percent of respondents indicating job loss or reduced



<sup>13</sup> Moore, Winston. 2021. Commonwealth of Dominica: COVID-19 Heat Report: Human and Economic Assessment of Impact. UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women Eastern Caribbean

<sup>14</sup> <https://www2.unwomen.org/-/media/field%20office%20caribbean/attachments/publications/2020/human%20and%20economic%20assessment%20of%20impact%20-%20commonwealth%20of%20dominica.pdf?la=en&vs=2852>

<sup>15</sup> Ibid

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/6/feature-women-farmers-find-paths-to-market-amidst-covid-19>

<sup>17</sup> World Food Programme. 2020 "Caribbean COVID-19 Food Security & Livelihoods Impact Survey

salaries. This appeared to be more prevalent among business-owners compared to salaried workers.

- The proportion of respondents with no food stocks in their household increased from 4 percent in April 2020 to 18 percent in June 2020.<sup>18</sup>

Of the 11 countries/territories surveyed in the Caribbean, Dominica had the highest percentage of respondents reporting disruptions to livelihoods, the second highest for loss of jobs or reduced salaries, and the second most negative outlook on future livelihood impacts.

The pandemic caused disruption in health, social services, and education, and significantly stretched the social protection system. With respect to education, access to technology for online learning, was an issue as those without adequate resources were at risk of being left behind, and in some cases, parents had to relinquish their smartphones to their children for them to join online classes, since they were unable to afford a laptop or tablet for that child. This situation was partially remedied by the Government stepping in to launch programmes to distribute devices to those in need.<sup>19</sup>

During the pandemic, efforts to recover from the impacts of Hurricane Maria which devastated the country in 2017, led to strong growth in the construction sector. This was as a result of the large public investment programme in housing and infrastructure financed with record-high Citizenship by Investment (CBI) revenue of 30 percent of GDP<sup>20</sup>. The record high CBI revenue contributed to a reduction in the fiscal balance for 2020, despite declines in tax revenue and increases in spending. Public debt, however, increased to 106 percent of GDP in 2020 due mainly to higher official borrowing. Also, the current account deficit widened to close to 30 percent of GDP due largely to the loss of tourism exports and increase in imports related to public investment and the increase in commodity prices.

The Dominica Association of Industry and Commerce (DAIC) conducted a survey in 2020 to assess the impacts of COVID-19 on the private sector and on employment,<sup>21</sup> which revealed that COVID-19 significantly impacted employment and revenues of all businesses in Dominica. Impacts included:

- businesses laid-off 31 percent of employees due to COVID-19
- A reduction of the wage bill of about 37 percent was revealed due to lay-offs
- A decline in revenues by businesses of 35.6 percent

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Dominica Summary DOMINICA Report

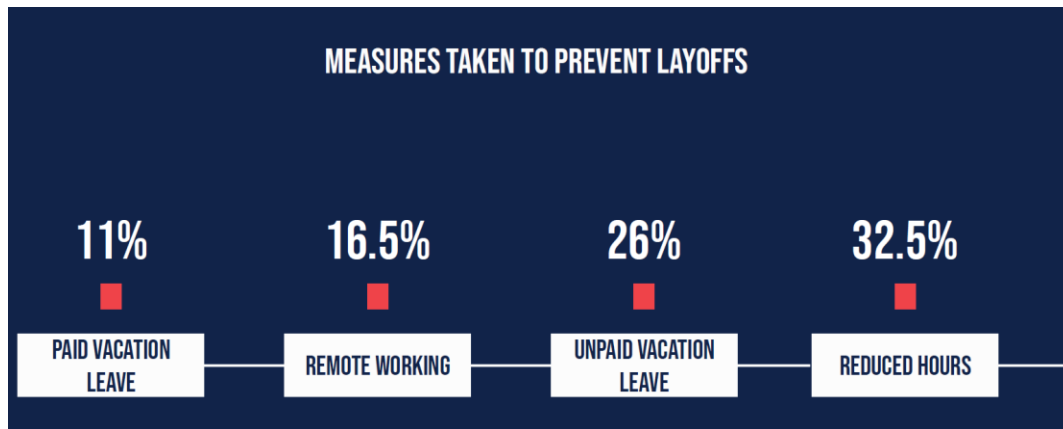
<sup>18</sup> <https://www.mediainstituteofthecaribbean.com/dominica>

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.mediainstituteofthecaribbean.com/dominica>

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2021/12/03/mcs-120321-dominica-staff-concluding-statement-of-the-2021-article-iv-mission>

<sup>21</sup> Dominica Association of Industry and Commerce. 2020. "COVID-19 Employment and Revenue Impact Assessment Report".

- Most businesses implemented measures to mitigate against employee layoffs and 50 percent of businesses indicated the use of personal measures to minimize disruptions to their businesses



## Government Responses to COVID

The Government responded very quickly to reduce the overall socio-economic impacts on the population and the economy, announcing a fiscal stimulus package, focused on strengthening its public health systems supporting families, vulnerable individuals and households through cash transfers, and shoring up the production structures through liquidity measures. The World Bank for example, approved US\$25 million as part its first COVID-19 Response and Recovery Development Policy Credit to the Government of Dominica as part of budget support which supported Dominica's COVID-19 response to save lives, livelihoods, and jobs, while laying the foundation for longer-term economic recovery. It was aligned with the National Resilience Development Strategy and COVID-19 response strategy.

The Government also introduced the Livelihood and Income Support to Employees and Self-Employed people, which provided employees and self-employed people with dependents under the age of 18, US\$222, while other eligible employees and self-employed individuals with no minor dependents under the age of 18 received US\$148. This transfer was provided monthly for a maximum of three months.

Overall, the Government of Dominica introduced several measures, among which were:

- Extension of the deadline for filing of personal and corporate income tax returns
- Extension of three months for payment of corporate income tax and waiving penalties for businesses that enter into payment plans within 6 months of the new payment deadline
- Reduction in the corporate income tax rate (from 25 percent to 17 percent) to companies which commit to continue to employ at least 80 percent of their staffing as of January 1, 2020, for a period of 12 months



- Reduction to zero percent in the import duty and the value-added tax charged on disinfectants, cleaning supplies, protective gears and face masks
- Increased budgetary funding to the Ministries of Health and Agriculture
- Cash grants to approximately 2,500 individual crop farmers, based on the size of the farmers holding
- Implementation of multiple infrastructure projects
- Cash grants to qualifying bus drivers
- Pay to small contractors and merchants with amounts owed by the Government of EC\$100,000 and less
- Launch of the social cash transfer assistance programme in conjunction with the World Food Program, which provided temporary income support to eligible vulnerable individuals and families whose income had been impacted by the pandemic. The programme supported low-income communities and vulnerable individuals and was designed to build on Dominica's main national social assistance programmes
- Income support for heads of families and single people who were currently unemployed, extended through June 2021
- Closure of borders which were reopened in July 2020 for the arrival of nationals and residents, and in August for all travelers including non-nationals.
- The World Bank approved US\$25 million COVID-19 Response and Recovery Development Policy Credit and was Dominica's first World Bank budget support operation aimed at supporting Dominica's COVID-19 response to save lives, livelihoods, and jobs, while laying the foundation for longer-term economic recovery. It is aligned with the country's National Resilience Development Strategy and COVID-19 response strategy.
- Also, the World Bank mobilized rapid support for Dominica's emergency response activities to limit the impacts of COVID-19, protect the people of Dominica, and lay the groundwork for recovery, providing US\$5.1 million to bolster the capacity of Dominica's public health system to manage COVID-19. These funds were used to purchase drugs, medical supplies and equipment, and laboratory supplies to boost testing capacity and for minor retrofitting of isolation units. Another US\$1.5 million was used to support agriculture and strengthen national food security during the pandemic. The intervention was targeted to reach an estimated 3,200 farmers to ensure that the local food supply chains are better able to meet the needs of the island<sup>22</sup>.
- The IMF Executive Board approved emergency financial assistance under the Rapid Credit Facility (RCF) to help address the challenges posed by COVID-19, in the amount of US\$14 million or 89.4 percent of Dominica's quota<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> <https://reliefweb.int/report/dominica/world-bank-strengthen-dominica-s-covid-19-response-us66-million>

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2020/04/28/pr20192-dma-grd-lca-imf-executive-board-approves-us-million-disbursements-address-covid-19-pandemic>

## The Policy and Enabling Environment for Localizing and Achieving the SDGs in Dominica



The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted by the 193 Member States of the United Nations in September 2015 and came into force on January 1, 2016. The Commonwealth of Dominica was one of the 193 Member States. The SDGs are 17 goals underpinned by 169 targets and are part of what is known as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which recognizes “that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development.” In adopting the agenda, countries resolved to take the “bold and transformative steps which are urgently needed to shift the world onto a sustainable and resilient path where no one will be left behind”, in the development space. The goals and targets are universal, meaning they apply to all countries around the world, not just poor countries. Reaching the goals requires action on all fronts – governments, private sector, civil society and people everywhere all have a role to play.

### Dominica’s Roadmap for Achieving the SDGs...How we are Integrating the SDGs into National Frameworks

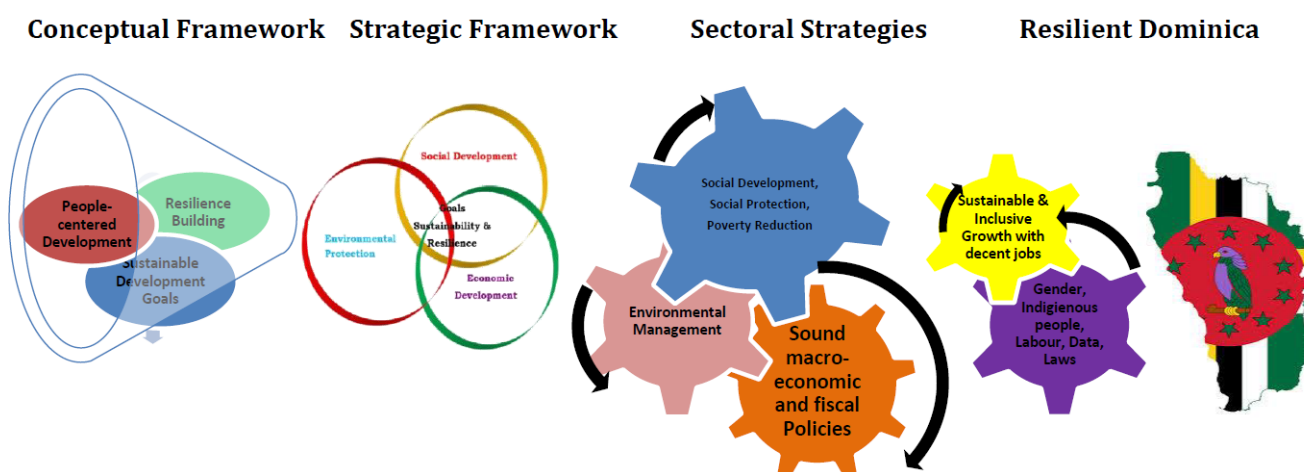


Over the past several years, the Government has developed and approved three key strategic documents: The National Resilience Development Strategy; Dominica’s Climate Resilience and

Recovery Plan 2020 – 2030; and The Disaster Risk Financing Strategy. These documents represent the country’s roadmap for achieving the 2030 Agenda and are fully aligned with the SDGs. Implemented together, they will help Dominica aggressively identify key enablers and critical ‘accelerator points’ for lagging SDGs and enable policy coherence.

The National Development Resilience Strategy (NRDS) 2030 developed shortly after Hurricane Maria in 2017, is focused on developing the Dominican economy and people from the visible destabilizing and horrendous effects of climate change and economic driven and other exogenous shocks that may affect the country. The NRDS represents a collective response of all citizens to contribute to the sustainable development of Dominica with a focus to build resilience, build forward stronger and more resilient, and provides an opportunity for every citizen to be an active participant in, and reap the benefits of a more modern, peaceful and prosperous Dominica. The NRDS articulates the overall policy framework of the Government and outlines 43 resilience goals aimed at ensuring that development is people centered. It essentially presents the priorities that the country must pursue in the pursuit of sustainable economic growth while maintaining a prudent fiscal stance in the face of global realities, such as climate change.

Further, the NRDS is characterized by three (3) main forces – the Sustainable Development Goals, the vision of “Building the First Climate Resilient Country in the World “and a focus on People-centred Development. These forces are shaped by three (3) strategic elements (i) Environmental Protection, (ii) Social Development and (iii) Economic Development and Transformation. At the core of this strategic framework are the national goals of Sustainability and Resilience. Sectoral strategies which focus on people, sound macro-economic and fiscal policies, environmental management, sustainable and inclusive growth with jobs, and synergistic and cross-cutting areas are the engines that drive the NRDS, and once successfully implemented will lead to a resilient Dominica.



Of highest priority is poverty reduction and progress towards achieving the sustainable development goal targets by 2030. Achievement of these critically depends on the attainment of significant and steady progress in several socio-economic spheres such as: robust and equitable macro-economic growth; low inflation; significant increases in the output of productive enterprises and productivity; growth in the services sector; protection and enhancement of the environment; strengthening and improvement of infrastructure; robust industrial development; creation of employment and incomes; reforms in public administration; fast growth in private sector investments; unhindered growth in trade; and social protection.

This NRDS is therefore designed to bring hope to the people of Dominica by factoring more firmly climate and non-climate considerations in development processes, thereby increasing the probability of attaining key development objectives of:

**Economic  
growth**

**Employment  
generation**

**Poverty  
reduction**

**social  
protection**


**Towards the overall improvement  
in the quality of life of all Dominicans**






## Alignment of the National Resilience Development Strategy (NRDS) with the SDGs

The resilience platform of NRDS is aligned to the SDGs as presented in the matrix below:

Pillars of the National Resilience Development Strategy (NRDS)	Alignment with the SDGs																
																	
	SDG 1	SDG 2	SDG 3	SDG 4	SDG 5	SDG 6	SDG 7	SDG 8:	SDG 9:	SDG 10	SDG 11	SDG 12	SDG 13	SDG 14	SDG 15	SDG 16	SDG 17
Foster equitable, and spatially and sectorally well-spread in depth, robust and sustained, macro-economic growth that readily provides opportunities and benefits to all	X					X		X		X	X						
Significantly increase “real investments” for growth in productive sectors (such as agriculture, tourism and manufacturing), infrastructure and in human development (health and education)		X	X	X			X	X	X								
Reforms in all sectors which will yield long-term benefits								X								X	
Optimize productivity- capital, labour, and natural resources				X		X	X	X				X		X	X		
Factor poverty reductions and gender concerns in all activities	X				X												
Target the vulnerable including the poor; persons with disabilities and the Kalinago community	X									X	X						
Foster institutional and human capacity building in all sectors and at all levels to create and sustain a critical mass of expertise and human capital				X												X	

<b>Pillars of the National Resilience Development Strategy (NRDS)</b>  <i>Theses overarching aspects of the NRDS will govern all actions to be pursued during 2018-2030 on a resilience platform, viz.:</i>	<b>Alignment with the SDGs</b> 																
	SDG 1	SDG 2	SDG 3	SDG 4	SDG 5	SDG 6	SDG 7	SDG 8:	SDG 9:	SDG 10	SDG 11	SDG 12	SDG 13	SDG 14	SDG 15	SDG 16	SDG 17
Promote adaptation and use of science and technology								X					X				
Further broaden and deepen integration of Dominica into the region and the world																	X
Attract investments to achieve pro-poor economic progress	X							X		X		X					
Continue to deepen and strengthen partnership with civil society, private sector and external development partners																X	X

Aligned to the NRDS is the Dominica's Climate Resilience and Recovery Plan 2020 – 2030. The CRRP operationalizes the NRDS providing an outline that will guide the preparation of sector strategies and plans. The objective of the Climate Resilience and Recovery Plan is to translate Dominica's vision to "build the first climate resilient nation in the world" into a concrete set of actions. The NRDS stipulates that the Climate Resilience and Recovery Plan (CRRP) should reflect three pillars of resilience, namely:

1. Climate Resilient Systems which cover a wide range of systems and processes that must have the capacity for adjusting to, and absorbing the impacts of, climate change.
2. Prudent Disaster Risk Management Systems which focus on minimizing and managing the risks associated with climate-related disasters.
3. Effective Disaster Response and Recovery which addresses the post-disaster phase, focusing on minimizing disaster impacts and reducing the pain and the period of recovery.

The CRRP further expands these three pillars into six results areas for a climate-resilient Dominica:

1. Strong Communities
2. Robust Economy
3. Well-planned and Durable Infrastructure
4. Enhanced Collective Consciousness
5. Strengthened Institutional Systems
6. Protected and Sustainably Leveraged Natural and Other Unique Assets.

The CRRP and specifically the 6 results areas also are fully aligned with the SDGs as follows:

		Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)																
Resilience outcome		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
1	Strong communities	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						✓	✓	✓		✓
2	Robust economy	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3	Well-planned and durable infrastructure				✓							✓						✓
4	Strengthened institutional systems		✓						✓		✓						✓	✓
5	Enhanced Collective Consciousness	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓								✓
6	Protected and sustainably leveraged natural and other unique assets		✓						✓						✓	✓	✓	

Based on these six result areas, the Government of Dominica is committed to achieving 20 Climate Resilience Targets by 2030. All other government policies and sectoral plans that have been developed after 2017 are aligned to the SDGs, the NRDS and these reflect the country’s resilience vision.

### Institutional Mechanisms for Localizing and Achieving the SDGs in Dominica

The Government’s main institutional mechanism for overseeing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is the Ministry of Planning, Economic Development, Climate Resilience, Sustainable Development and Renewable Energy. This Ministry has overall responsibility for national planning, coordination, and monitoring of policies and plans in relation to the SDGs. The Central Statistical Office (CSO) of Dominica is the country’s National Statistics Office and is the agency responsible

for the compilation of Official Statistics and is responsible for the compilation and production of data and SDG reporting. The Central Statistics Office has adopted for monitoring the Caribbean specific SDGs with the selection of specific indicators that are relevant to the Caribbean region. A database is being developed to register the SDG indicators, their definition, responsible stakeholders, level of completion and method of reporting, etc. Some data collection related to the SDG indicators has begun. However, a large percentage of the indicators are expected to be extracted from the 2022 Population and Housing Census.

The Government has established an SDG Technical Committee and a national structure as a formalized oversight mechanism is being discussed. One of the first tasks of the SDG Technical Committee was developing and implementing an SDGs communications and awareness raising campaign to bring greater awareness about the SDGs to the entire population.

Additionally, all Government Ministries and Agencies are responsible for the alignment of Government policies and key programmes with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to facilitate not only implementation but also more effective monitoring and evaluation of the achievement of the SDGs.

A key consideration in advancing the 2030 Agenda, is to build on existing frameworks and mechanisms to allow for better harmonization and coordination. Dominica's recent experience with the development of the NRDS and the CRRP illustrates the importance the country places on ensuring the engagement of all stakeholders – the public and private sectors, civil society organizations, and youth in current and future medium-term and long-term development planning processes.

To enhance the involvement of children and youth in the SDG dialogue, the Government has recently crafted a framework for the integration of the SDGs into the school curriculum at the primary and secondary education levels. To support this, a teacher's training workshop was held with roughly 150 Primary and Secondary teachers on the SDGs and the process of localization and implementation. Discussions also centered on projects that could be developed by schools around the SDGs to contribute to the achievement of Goal 4.

To support the localization and subsequent achievement of the SDGs, the following activities are planned:

- Conduct a national assessment of Dominica, to determine the capacity of the national statistical system to produce the necessary data for measuring progress in the implementation of the SDGs and the SIDS agenda
- Development of a protocol for producing official statistics that informs evidence-based policy planning and facilitate better monitoring, evaluation and reporting



## **Transformative Actions to Achieving the SDGs: Dominica's Resilience Vision, "The World's First Climate Resilient Country"**

Dominica's resilience agenda and vision is fully aligned with the SDGs. The Government recognizes that the SDGs necessitate major mobilization and management of resources including additional spending and increases in government revenues; integrated planning and joint implementation of policies supported by synergistic and interactive policies that have positive impacts on several sector goals; improved enabling conditions and reinforced mechanisms emerging from policies across all sectors; rapid implementation processes; strengthened distribution mechanisms; comprehensive data collection, extensive capacity building, and effective action on the part of all stakeholders. The Government is committed to that endeavor and the NRDS will help to drive the strategy and engagement. A strategic action to demonstrate that commitment was the establishment of the Climate Resilience Executing Agency of Dominica (CREAD) by Act of Parliament in 2019. The operations of CREAD is jointly funded by resource contributions from the Government and key development partners. CREAD has responsibility to foster the building of climate resilience in all economic sectors and services; and will operate within this policy through coordinating strategic initiatives and resource sourcing to support the goal of making Dominica the world's first climate resilient nation, while at the same time, enabling Dominica to achieve the SDGs. The NRDS and its accompanying strategies will:

**Lead to the achievement of  
Dominica's resilience agenda  
and vision**

**+**

**Lead to the Achievement of  
the SDGs in Dominica**

## Our Approach to Leaving no one behind... and Living Up to the 2030 Agenda



### We intend to reach every resident in Dominica

To ensure that every resident in Dominica is reached and no one is left behind, Dominica recognizes that the SDGs will not be achieved if goals with zero targets, for example Goal 1, *No Poverty*, are not achieved. In other words, if there are still people living in poverty, SDG 1 will not be achieved and consequently neither will the SDGs or the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Dominica. We recognize that to achieve the SDGs we must as a country also think about full inclusion and reducing inequalities. We intend to reach everyone in Dominica. Accordingly, we will place emphasis on:

- Identifying the vulnerable groups among the population.
- Undertaking the necessary studies on poverty and other areas to ensure that as a country there is up to date information on people or communities that may be at risk of falling behind.

- Ensuring the those furthest behind are considered first in the development space.
- Ensuring that there exists a high level of policy coherence with respect to the integration of economic, social and environmental issues in all national policies and programmes as well as official development assistance.
- Adequately financing the NRDS which already has an emphasis on the principle of leaving no one behind.
- Improving the country's reporting, monitoring and evaluation frameworks, so that there is more focused data-driven analysis to better inform policy and also to take corrective action when needed, creating a stronger focus on continuous improvement. These frameworks must also be transparent.
- Strengthening the country's national statistics system, increasing the disaggregation of development data so that the country is better able to identify the groups that are at risk of being left behind.
- Developing and implementing new initiatives to promote social protection and inclusive development as a means of ending extreme poverty, and reducing inequalities
- Ensuring that policy development processes are participatory and underpinned by high levels of stakeholder engagement.

Our approach to leaving no one behind is fully aligned to our ambition of making *Dominica the world's first climate resilient SIDS*. Dominica has a strong history of focusing on people centered development, identifying groups that are at risk of being left behind and putting in place strategies and actions to uplift the most vulnerable and those at risk. creating a resilient Dominica. In fact, our focus on leaving no one behind can be tracked as far back as the 1970s. Just two years after independence in 1978, Dominica elected the first female Prime Minister in the Caribbean, Dame Mary Eugenia Charles, and under her leadership, Dominica was among the first Commonwealth nations in the Caribbean to acknowledge its commitment to human rights with the ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in September 1980. Parliament went on to ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in March 1991, the Convention on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples on June 25, 2002, and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in June 2012. Another clear example of our thrust to leave no one behind comes from the World Bank which reports that the generosity of Dominica's Public Assistance Programme and Social Pension benefits is greater than the average in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The national consultations for the preparation of the VNR, focused on achieving consensus on '*who are the vulnerable in Dominica*', which groups are at risk of being left behind, and the commitment of the government as well as other stakeholder groups to reducing these risks.

Knowing the groups that are vulnerable or at risk is a first step in ensuring fulfilling the commitment to leave no one behind.

**Vulnerable Groups Identified through Consultations ... Leave no One Behind**



*Prime Minister, Hon. Roosevelt Skerrit helps two young Kalinago cut the ribbon for a resilient housing development in the Kalinago Territory*

- People living with Disabilities
- Single Parents – including single male or single female headed households
- Kalinago
- Homeless/Vagrants
- Elderly
- Migrants
- Victims of Abuse
- Squatters/Landless
- Poor NEET (youth neither in education, employment or training)
- Unemployed and Underemployed
- Women and Children
- Mentally ill People

The table below shows examples of vulnerable groups and examples of actions being undertaken by the Government to reduce these vulnerabilities. For Dominica, leaving no one behind also means employing a human security approach to development and inclusion of the approach in social development programmes and projects. This Human Security approach ensures that programmes and projects are designed to ensure people have access to economic security, environmental security, personal security, community security and good security.



Example of Vulnerable Groups at Risk of being left behind	Extent of Vulnerability	Examples of Dominica's Commitment to 'Leaving no one behind'
The poor Women and children in poverty Kalinago Migrants	National Poverty Rate: 28% <sup>24</sup> Children and youth in poverty: 38%	Social Protection Policy 2014 – 2018 Social Safety Net Programmes, including Public Assistance Programme
People living with disabilities	7% of the population has a disability, approximately 4,800 people	Social Safety Net Programmes Dominica signed the UN Convention on Rights of People living with Disabilities on March 30, 2007, and ratified it on October 1, 2021
Youth	Youth Unemployment (15 – 24) – 26% (2016) <sup>25</sup>	National Employment Programme
Elderly	Elderly (65 and older): 13% of population	Social Safety Net Programmes 60% of the elderly are covered by pensions (44.6% of elderly covered by the Dominica Social Security (DSS) pension, while 14.5% were covered by the social pension)
Women and girls	Unemployment rate (Women) – 9.5% <sup>26</sup>	Social Protection Policy 2014 – 2018 Social Safety Net Programmes National Health Insurance for poor Working Mothers
Unemployed Underemployed Unemployed youth Women	Unemployment total – 11% (2010)  Youth unemployment (15 – 24 years) - 23% (2016) <sup>27</sup>	Training Opportunities for Youth

<sup>24</sup> Country Poverty Assessment 2009

<sup>25</sup> UNICEF (2020). Generation Unlimited: The Well-being of Young People in Dominica: Fact Sheet

<sup>26</sup> <https://data.unwomen.org/country/dominica>






<sup>27</sup> UNICEF (2020). Generation Unlimited: The Well-being of Young People in Dominica: Fact Sheet

## Dominica's Progress to Achieving the SDGs



In this section, we describe Dominica's progress towards 2030 through a more detailed look at its performance in each of the 5 Ps of the SDGs, i.e. People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, and Partnership. The assessment of the 17 SDGs covers the period 2015–2021 on a range of social, economic, and environmental indicators. Under each goal, there also is an assessment of the regulatory, policy and institutional environment along with projects and programmes that are supporting the implementation of the SDGs in Dominica.

The assessment of the country's performance under each of the SDGs also led to the preparation of a self-assessment of progress in achieving the SDGs based on the dashboard of SDG targets. At the end of each SDG, a matrix is presented that provides a rough measurement or mapping of the country's progress across all goals based on the SDG targets, which is based on current data, interventions being implemented and the pace of implementation. This SDG self-assessment uses the traffic light methodology to measure distance from achieving the SDG target, as presented in the table below, and classifies the progress on each indicator as achieved, mostly achieved or fair progress, partially achieved/some progress, or moving away from the target and the indicator is at risk of not being met.

	The SDG target has been met or likely to be met by 2030/substantial progress
	Fair progress but acceleration is needed (the enabling policy and legal framework in place, resources are allocated, implementation of initiatives.
	Limited or no progress
	Moving away from the target/target at risk of not being met by 2030/strategic intervention needed urgently
	No trend data available/insufficient data/not applicable



# PEOPLE

PUTTING OUR PEOPLE FIRST AND  
AT THE CENTER OF OUR DEVELOPMENT  
PROCESSES





## **SDG 1: No Poverty**

**End poverty in all its forms everywhere**



### **A Snapshot of Our Progress to Achieving SDG 1**

Poverty Rate	28.8% (2010)
Children in Poverty (0 – 17 years)	38% (2010)
Adolescents in Poverty (10 – 19 years)	36% (2010)
Persons with Disabilities	~7% of population



Proportion of population with severe disabilities receiving disability cash benefit	9.7%
Proportion of mothers with newborns receiving maternity cash benefit (%)	38.6% (2016) <sup>28</sup>
Human Development Index	0.742 (2019)
Human Development Rank	94/189 countries (2019)
Death due to Disasters	30 (Hurricane Maria)
# of social protection programmes	>30 (2017)
% of poor receiving unconditional cash transfer through social protection programmes	35%
Spending on social assistance	2.2% of GDP (2016)
<b>Dominica's Resilience Targets... towards the world's 1<sup>st</sup> climate resilient small island developing state</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zero (0) fatalities from extreme weather events</li> <li>• Individuals able to revert to basic living standards within four (4) days after a disaster</li> <li>• 100% resettlement of individuals living in physically vulnerable locations</li> </ul>	

Dominica's Human Development Index value for 2019 was 0.742— which put the country in the high human development category— positioning it at 94 out of 189 countries and territories<sup>29</sup>. Between 2000 and 2019, Dominica's HDI value increased from 0.703 to 0.742, an increase of 5.5 percent. The Country Poverty Assessment of 2009, recorded poverty rates at 28.8 percent.<sup>30</sup> Updated and reliable data on poverty are forthcoming with the rollout of a country poverty assessment in late 2022. The 2009 report also showed a higher prevalence of poverty in rural areas. Exogenous shocks such as the COVID-19 pandemic and disastrous weather events can reasonably be expected to have further exacerbated poverty rates for Dominica. In fact, following the devastation caused by Hurricane Maria in 2017, it was already estimated that unemployment and poverty would rise given the impacts on key economic sectors such as agriculture, fisheries and tourism, resulting in significant impacts on lives and livelihoods. Both the agriculture and tourism sectors are critical for supporting food security, economic activity and for providing a

<sup>28</sup> <https://data.unwomen.org/country/dominica>

<sup>29</sup> <http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/Country-Profiles/DMA.pdf>

<sup>30</sup> <https://prais.unccd.int/sites/default/files/2018-08/Dominica%20CPA%202009%20Main%20Report%20Final.pdf>

livelihood for thousands of Dominicans. The government agrees that poverty reduction requires the creation of sustained employment and income earning opportunities for all.

Notwithstanding the possible observation of phenomena that could be attributed to poverty, most citizens have access to basic goods and services. For example, 100 percent of the population – in urban and rural areas – has access to electricity<sup>31</sup>, 97 percent of the of the population has access to drinking water from an improved source and 78 percent of the population has basic sanitation services (i.e., use of improved facilities which are not shared with other households). This is due in part to the fact that the Government Poverty Reduction Strategy focuses on 5 core areas:

- Promotion of economic growth and job creation
- Development of the skills and health conditions that will enable current and future households to achieve and maintain a sustainable and fulfilling life
- Betterment of the conditions of those currently in severe poverty to help them achieve sustainable livelihoods through a combination of direct income support and other measures
- Elimination or reduction of the potential causes of future impoverishment.

The Government recognizes the strong linkages between poverty and natural disasters. Hurricane Maria in 2017 resulted in estimated damages totaled approximately US\$931 million and losses of another US\$380 million. This amounts to almost 226 percent of the country's 2016 Gross Domestic Product. But the impact of this event is more than the US\$1.31 billion in damage and loss, it reflects the significant negative impacts felt by about 93 percent of the population<sup>32</sup>. While exogenous shocks such as natural disasters can have an impact on anyone, the poor and vulnerable are disproportionately impacted. Hurricane Maria resulted in 30 people losing their lives. In addition, there was significant damage to the country's housing stock. Of the 31,348 homes on the island, 15 percent (4,700 houses) were completely destroyed, 75 percent (23,500 homes) partially damaged, and only 3,135 (10%) were not affected by the event<sup>33</sup>.

To reduce the impact of natural disasters on standards of living and the quality of life of the population, the Government is placing emphasis on prudent disaster risk management. A range of protocols and actions are being established. For example, under the country's Climate Resilient National Plan, established procedures to evacuate people from disaster-prone areas are being strengthened to reduce loss of life during natural disaster events. Focus is also being placed on the construction of more resilient emergency shelters – to be powered by independent and renewable energy sources, with adequate storage, that can operate independently of the power grid and with sufficient water storage capacity to supply potable water during the period when national water services are temporarily disrupted. In May 2022 the Government opened the two climate-resilient emergency shelters as part of its efforts in disaster management. One of the

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<sup>31</sup> [https://www.theglobaleconomy.com/Dominica/Access\\_to\\_electricity/](https://www.theglobaleconomy.com/Dominica/Access_to_electricity/) (based on World Bank data)

<sup>32</sup> Government of Dominica. 2017. Post Disaster Needs Assessment Hurricane Maria

<sup>33</sup> Ibid

shelters, the Jimmit Regional Emergency Shelter can comfortably house approximately five hundred people. The structure covers approximately 18,000 square feet and contains a water storage capacity of 130,000 gallons, as well as a generator. There are also shower facilities for men and women, a kitchen and storage area for food and other supplies. The shelter is intended to allow vulnerable people to have a safe space during the event of a disaster. Outside of a disaster situation, the shelters also will double as resource centers for the communities in which they are located, to host educational programmes particularly for youth.



*The Jimmit Regional Emergency Shelter which can comfortably house approximately five hundred people. The structure covers approximately 18,000 square feet and contains a water storage capacity of 130,000 gallons, as well as a generator. There are also shower facilities for men and women, a kitchen and storage area for food and other supplies.*

To support the most vulnerable in society, the Government has in place extensive social programmes that are developmental, supportive, inclusive, and preventive and targets the disabled, indigent, elderly, drug addicts among others. The Government views social protection as a basic human right, that must translate into policies and programmes to reduce risk, vulnerability, and exclusion.

Social programmes are delivered by both the government and non-governmental organizations<sup>34</sup>. The emphasis that the Government has placed on social protection has been designed to promote equity, build resilience, and enable opportunities to the most vulnerable by providing them with benefits and services that include non-contributory social assistance or social safety nets (SSN), active labor market programs; social care services; and contributory social insurance. The

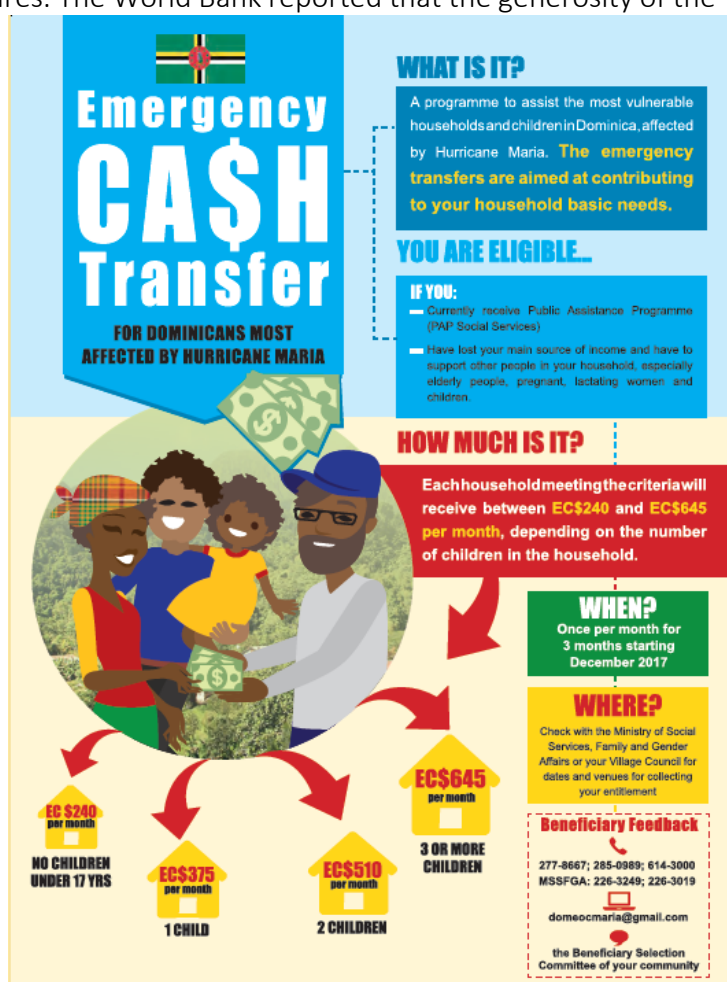
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<sup>34</sup> Dominica Growth and Protection Strategy, 2014 – 2018

country's approach to social protection is not only related to reducing poverty but also supporting long-term transformation of the society towards more adaptive and resilient households and society as a whole.

Dominica has over thirty safety net programmes.<sup>35</sup> All main social assistance schemes are nationally funded, with about 35 percent of the poor receiving unconditional cash transfers.<sup>36</sup> Public spending on social assistance was about 2.2 percent of GDP in 2016, of which 64 percent is spent on cash transfers, 25 per cent on food, in-kind and near-cash transfers, and 11 percent on social services. The Public Assistance Programme (PAP) is the largest programme, accounting for 18.7 percent of total assistance expenditures. The World Bank reported that the generosity of the PAP and Social Pension benefits is greater than the average in Latin America and the Caribbean<sup>37</sup>.

The depth and resilience of Dominica's social protection system was put to the test following Hurricane Maria in 2017. The World Food Programme (WFP) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) were able to piggyback on the capacity of the Public Assistance Program (PAP) to provide temporary cash transfers through the Joint Emergency Cash Transfer program (JECT), reaching almost 25,000 people (including 6,000 children), that included existing PAP beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries, providing them with three payments of US\$90 per household per month, with a top-up of US\$50 per child up to three children, in addition to PAP benefits for those in the programme<sup>38</sup>.



<sup>35</sup> Oxford Policy Management & World Food Programme. 2018. Study on Shock-Responsive Social Protection in Latin America and the Caribbean: Dominica case study

<sup>36</sup> World Bank Group. 2021. Adaptive Social Protection in the Caribbean: *Building Human Capital for Resilience*

<sup>37</sup> Ibid

<sup>38</sup> Government of Dominica and UNICEF. 2018. Process Review of the UNICEF-WFP Joint Emergency Cash Transfer (JECT) Programme in Dominica

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**Examples of  
Social  
Protection  
Programmes  
in Dominica**

School feeding programme

In-kind assistance

A pilot national health insurance for poor working mothers

Housing Assistance

Labour market programmes

Cash based transfers

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**The World Bank reports that the generosity of Dominica's Public Assistance Programme and Social Pension benefits is greater than the average in Latin America and the Caribbean.**

The country's National Employment Programme (NEP) which offers three types of support: internships, community employment, and education mentorship, was key to supporting recovery efforts post Hurricane Maria. In the community employment component, people work three days a week in the beautification of communities and as caregivers in the program *Yes We Care*, while others work in tourism or in road maintenance. Dominica's response to Hurricane Maria in 2017 included the expansion and refocus of the National Employment Program: the program expanded its coverage, absorbing a substantial proportion of unemployed people, and some of the activities conducted under the beautification component, like cleaning roads, helped communities to recover faster from the impacts of the Hurricane.

Dominica is one of the first countries in the Caribbean to indicate that it will develop a shock responsive social protection policy and strategy that links social protection to disaster risk management. Such a strategy will ensure that social protection systems are adaptive and contribute to improved resilience with focus placed on sound institutions, delivery, and resourcing.

Despite the many strengths of its social protection programme, there are some issues and challenges that need to be addressed including the limited resources available for implementing and monitoring the programmes as intended. For example, there is need for increased staffing. The second challenge is related to the lack of key management tools, such as digital social registries for most of the social programs except for the NEP.

With respect to people living with disabilities (PWDs), the Government in 2021, ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. There are over 4,800 PWDs in Dominica<sup>39</sup>.

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<sup>39</sup> The Caribbean Law Institute Centre. December 2021. A Report on Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities in CARICOM Countries



Although the country has no national policy specific to PWDs, the Government plays an active role in protecting and assisting PWDs, through its various ministries. For example, the Government continues to take deliberate steps to ensure the provision of inclusive education for all children with disabilities. The Government also provides financial assistance and duty-free concessions for equipment purchased by, or donated to, the Dominica Association of Persons with Disabilities. The Government is currently making provisions for people living with disabilities through its 'build resilience concept' which was implemented following Hurricane Maria. In 2019, the Government adopted the OECS Regional Building Code for the creation of accessible public buildings and spaces for PWDs. The National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (NTRC) has played an active part in assisting PWDs in Dominica by providing a range of information and communications technology (ICT) equipment. The Government also provides stipends to cover educational expenses in private special education schools for children with intellectual or mental disabilities and provides funding to the Dominica Association for PWDs (DAPD) to support the roll-out of programmes. In January 2022, the Cabinet of Dominica approved the establishment of the National Commission on Persons with Disabilities, and the commission has been given the mandate to help provide guidance and advice on policies, programmes, activities and other matters which respond to the needs, opportunities, aspirations and potential of persons with disabilities particularly in keeping with the provisions of the CRPD.

## **Transformational Initiatives – Building Back Better... From Vulnerability to Resilience**

### **High Impact Climate Resilient Initiative Under SDG 1**

#### **Enhanced Social Safety-Net Initiative**

A resilient nation supports vulnerable members of society to reduce the impacts of climatic and other disasters. This initiative will put into place a data driven, computerized social protection systems, with strengthened delivery teams, so that all vulnerable citizens receive the appropriate interventions.

**To be delivered by the end of 2022**

### **Housing Recovery Project**

Following Hurricane Maria and the full or partial destruction of over 90 percent of the country's housing stock, the Government with funding from the World Bank began reconstructing destroyed, small homes (500 sq ft.) for vulnerable residents, island wide in accordance with internationally recognized resilient best-practices in engineering and construction, revised building codes and vital safeguards to address environmental, social, health and safety risks. The Government also is building resilience in the housing sector by supporting safe, owner-driven

reconstruction of destroyed houses, across Dominica. Under this project 676 resilient houses were built.



***Roseau Housing Project***

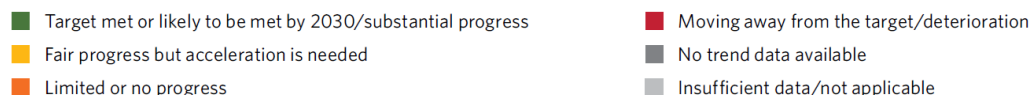
The Housing Recovery Project is in fact only one of eight programmes for the construction and/or renovation of houses that the Government has designed and is implementing; a clear indication of Dominica's determination to provide resilient and affordable shelter for all.

### **Creating a More Shock-Responsive Social Protection System**

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and the Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica in December 2021 signed an innovative agreement to strengthen the ability to deliver assistance to the most vulnerable people following a climate shock by linking social protection systems to the payouts made by the CCRIF SPC (formerly known as the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility). Through the pilot project, WFP has strengthened the Government of Dominica's access to disaster risk financing, enabling the Government to build the financial resilience of the most vulnerable against natural disasters. This pilot project links CCRIF SPC's payouts and Dominica's social protection system enabling timely and efficient assistance to those most in need following a natural disaster in keeping with the principle of 'leaving no one behind'.

## A Review of the SDG Targets under Goal 1 and Dominica's Progress

This dashboard shows at a snapshot how Dominica is progressing with respect to the achievement of the SDG targets under **Goal 1: No Poverty**



SDG Targets Goal #1 – No Poverty	Dominica's Progress
By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day.	
By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions.	
Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable	
By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance	
By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters.	
Ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions	
Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions	

## National Strategies, Opportunities, and Future Directions to 2030

To advance the achievement of SDG 1, the Government of Dominica in partnership with its citizens and development partners will:

### Poverty Assessments

- Undertake a Country Assessment of Living Conditions
- Implement more frequent and periodic household surveys to measure poverty, resilience and many other well-being dimensions, which will support evidence-informed policy and

programme decisions that better target the vulnerable and strengthen the country's commitment to leaving no one behind

#### *Social Protection*

- Develop and promulgate the country's new social protection policy and strategy mainstreaming shock responsive and adaptive social protection strategies
- Focus attention to poverty in rural areas which would be key to immediate and significant impact in reducing overall poverty levels
- Strengthen institutional policy, coordination and capacity to deliver shock responsive and adaptive social protection programmes
- Implement and leverage opportunities for electronic delivery of social protection payments, bearing in mind that delivery options are critical to providing flexibility in post-disaster or shock environments, especially since Dominica has the second highest rate of credit union penetration globally. Where social protection benefits are delivered in cash, they do not facilitate financial inclusion
- Ensure that the new disaster risk management plan when developed clearly articulates the role of social protection in emergency preparedness and response.
- Leverage the opportunities of the Dominica diaspora which is estimated to be more than double the country's existing population. The diaspora has contributed significantly to poverty alleviation and to growth through remittances, by providing food and other essentials to relatives, and through investments in real estate (World Bank, 2017).

#### *Financial Inclusion*

- Develop and implement a financial inclusion policy and strategy that is aligned to the country's new social protection strategy as this will be a critical component of fostering household resilience, enabling poor householders to connect to the financial sector, improve their financial literacy, and encourage savings. Dominica also will seek membership in the International Alliance for Financial Inclusion and encourage the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank to develop and promulgate a financial inclusion strategy for the OECS

#### *People living with Disabilities*

- Develop and promulgate a national disabilities act to be led by the National Commission on Persons with Disabilities
- Take further steps to advance the rights of people with disabilities through the implementation of social programs.
- Create mechanisms for the unemployed such as unemployment insurance





## SDG 2: Zero Hunger

**End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture**



### A Snapshot of Our Progress to Achieving SDG 2

Agricultural Land (% of land area)	33.3% (2018) <sup>40</sup>
Agriculture Contribution to GDP	15.2% (2020) <sup>41</sup>
Agriculture Contribution to Employment	14% (2019)

<sup>40</sup> <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/AG.LND.AGRI.ZS?locations=DM>

<sup>41</sup> Ibid



Food Production Index	99.56 (2018)
# Farmers	~2,600
% Agricultural Produce Consumed Locally	60%
% Crops Destroyed Following Hurricane Maria	90%
Government target for sustainable agriculture practices	60% of farmers

**Dominica's Resilience Targets... towards the world's 1<sup>st</sup> climate resilient small island developing state**

- Less than 50% agriculture and fisheries losses as a percentage of total losses
- 60% of agricultural land cultivated sustainably, supporting environmental protection and the sustainable development agenda

Dominica is defined as organic and green, but a significantly large portion of the country's food consumption comes from imports, creating challenges to food security. Notwithstanding, the country credits its consumption of local foods to the longevity of its population and its ability to have the most centenarians per capita in the Caribbean. This success is not a result of providence. It emanates from a deliberate campaign of strategic investments in food production.

Agriculture and tourism are the key drivers of growth and employment. To improve the international competitiveness of the agricultural sector, the priority goals for the sector focuses on the enhancement of:



To achieve the above, the development and strategic direction of the agricultural sector places emphasis on:

- resilient and sustainable agriculture food systems
- value chain development
- supporting rural livelihoods and development
- Ending hunger and reducing poverty
- Ensuring healthy diets for the most vulnerable

The Government continues to make significant investments in agriculture both for local consumption and for export. Since 2017, there has been a 13 percent increase in agricultural production reflecting an increase in the acres of agricultural land farmed. The Government continues to strengthen market access to its farmers, including strengthening the linkages and food systems along the value chain between the agricultural sector and the accommodation and restaurants sub-sector towards greater efficiency, transparency and competitiveness. In line with this, the government has undertaken other initiatives to support strengthening market access including: the construction of banana packing sheds in accordance with Global Gap standards; strengthening farm certification and quality assurance systems that will ensure market access, and meet international standards requirements; conducted analytical and chemical testing to meet food safety standards; and, conducted training of farmers in good agricultural practices

The agriculture sector is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and Dominica is establishing itself as a Global Centre for Agriculture Resilience (GCAR). Lessons learned from Hurricane Maria has provided an opportunity to restructure the country's farming practices and build institutional capacity at the level of the Ministry of Agriculture at farm levels. The Global Centre for Agriculture Resilience will disseminate, at the global level, experiences and technologies related to climate-smart agriculture. It is expected to create a powerful knowledge-sharing forum of great relevance to Eastern Caribbean countries. The centre also will provide opportunities for analyzing ways in which countries can recover from a major disaster as well as avoid food shortages and the stagnation of agricultural production systems under these circumstances.

The main thrust of the Government with respect to agriculture is to build a resilient agricultural sector with 60 percent of the farmers on the island adopting sustainable agricultural practices that will secure the access and availability of food for local consumption, creation of employment and improved economic growth. Rain-fed agriculture, particularly banana, citrus and coconut production, represents a significant proportion of Dominica's income, accounting for 15.2 percent of GDP (2020) and 14 percent of employment (2019). The Government has set a target of US\$257 million for the sector's contribution to GDP by 2030.

The agricultural sector in Dominica is largely composed of small family farms and subsistence production from small plots locally referred to as kitchen gardens. Subsistence farmers augment their income through local sale of limited excess production. Efforts prior to Hurricane Maria in the expansion of production of root crops was the main source of food and was a lifesaver immediately following the devastation wrought by that hurricane and up to mid-2018. With the support of our development partners, the country has expanded the range of vegetables and fruits produced locally and formalized and improved the production of poultry, pork, and fish with limited export to neighboring islands.

Underpinning this success in food production is the Dominica Bureau of Standards, a member of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). By virtue of the Standards Act of 1999, the Bureau is the national standards body. It regulates the quality of food production in Dominica

so that all produce sold through Government facilities or exported from our shores must first meet the qualifying mark of the Bureau.

Much of the agricultural production serves the local markets. However, Dominica has maintained and expanded a thriving industry that exports produce throughout the Caribbean. The agriculture sector registered growth of 19.9 percent in 2019 and expanded by a further 2.2 percent in 2020 following the impacts of Hurricane Maria in 2017. This is significant given the impact of Hurricane Maria on the agriculture sector, in which ninety percent of the country's agricultural products were destroyed. Livestock also was significantly impacted. For example, the country lost 45 per cent of its cattle, 60 percent of its pigs, 90 percent of broiler chickens, 90 percent of layers and 25 percent of its beehives. The loss of agricultural products and livestock due to Hurricane Maria resulted in at least 24,000 people becoming severely or borderline food insecure (World Food Programme). In addition to crops and livestock, agricultural infrastructure and equipment were either damaged or destroyed including buildings, animal husbandry facilities, and agricultural roads.

The COVID-19 pandemic further reemphasized the need to increase the contribution of the agriculture sector and achieve greater levels of food and nutrition security. The vulnerability of Dominica's agricultural sector is therefore manifested in the risks presented by natural disasters and climate extremes, as well as in the sector's vulnerability to climate variability and other exogenous shocks, such as economic shocks.

The agricultural sector is key to the economic and social development of Dominica as it boosts GDP, employment and the livelihoods and income security of people particularly in the rural areas. Dominica has the highest share of agricultural value added in GDP among other Caribbean countries<sup>42</sup>. Therefore, the Government continues to focus on creating the enabling environment aimed at achieving a sustainable food and agriculture system that will guarantee food and nutrition security, employment and improved livelihoods, income generation, and economic development and growth. Within the context of the enabling environment, focus is also being placed on strengthening the policy frameworks. Recent policies that have been developed include:

- National Agriculture Policy (2021 - 2030)
- Agriculture and Food Systems Transformation Roadmap; (currently in draft)
- Blue Economy Roadmap 2030
- Agriculture Disaster Risk Management Plan (ADRM) (currently in draft)

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<sup>42</sup> Food and Agricultural Organization, Caribbean Development Bank. 2019. Study on the State of Agriculture in the Caribbean

## Transformational Initiatives – Building Back Better... From Vulnerability to Resilience

### High Impact Climate Resilient Initiative Under SDG 2

#### Dominica as a Global Centre for Agriculture Resilience

A Global Centre for Agriculture Resilience will transform the country into a model for best practice regionally and internationally, working across the value chain from farmers to end-users, with a dynamic Ministry of Blue and Green Economy, Agriculture and National Food Security as a key part of the sector's engine. This initiative will develop a scientific, and practical, approach to reducing the vulnerability of farmers and fisherfolks through the adoption of resilient practices, as well as the introduction of resilient crops and infrastructure.

**To be delivered by 2030**

### Emergency Agriculture Livelihoods Climate Resilience Project

To build resilience in the sector, the Government through its Ministry of Agriculture also is implementing the USD 25 million World Bank funded Dominica Emergency Agriculture Livelihoods Climate Resilience Project (EALCRP), which is delivering on the resilience agenda. Since 2017, the project has produced the following results:

- A 13 percent increase in agricultural production reflecting an increase in the acres of land farmed
- Growth in the agriculture sector of 19.9 percent in 2019, with a further 2.2 percent expansion in 2020
- Approximately 80 percent trained beneficiaries of the project have adopted new technologies in one way or another
- 76 per cent of target farmers reached with productive assets (3,732); of which 25% were female (target-20%) 73 percent of the fisherfolk (106 to fisherfolks and 3 canoes) had their assets (engines and canoes) replaced

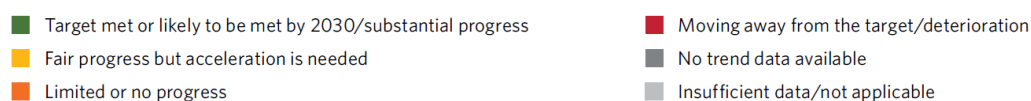
This project has provided inputs (including fertilizers, materials for building greenhouses, provision of water tanks to farmers to allow for and promote rainwater harvesting etc., quality seeds and planting materials of suitable crop varieties) to farmers and has promoted the involvement of rural youth and women in agriculture. The project also provides technical assistance, and investment in small mechanization tools and advanced technologies which have already begun to enhance production and productivity in the sector.



Other programmes and projects that are being implemented or have been recently completed to support food security, rural developments, jobs and advance the country's growth prospects are:

- The national backyard gardening programme, supported by the Dominica-China Modern Agricultural Center which has the dual objectives of supporting national beautification and food security with the planting of vegetables, horticultural produce, and fruit-trees. Over the period January 2020 to May 2021, over 490,000 high-quality vegetable seedlings, 17,768 flower seedlings and 2,289 fruit trees were propagated.
- Distributing citrus plants and trees to backyard farmers, schools and small subsistence farmers. In 2020 for example, a total of 4235 citrus plants were distributed and 60 acres of farmland established among 111 farmers.
- Providing small-scale farmers with access to affordable inputs, quality seeds and planting materials of suitable crop varieties. This has also contributed to attracting rural youth and women into agriculture as well as enhancing production and productivity
- Enhancing agro-processing facilities geared towards improving agriculture-based infrastructure for small scale farmers in rural areas, improving access to markets and services for some of the indigenous industries, augmenting production systems and value chain development, generating sustainable income for farmers and agro-processors, strengthening collaboration among users of the facilities, and providing opportunities to restore and modernize some of the traditional processing plants.
- Programmes for livestock development and expansion with a view to increasing food availability and reducing the importation of meat
- Rehabilitation of fisheries landing sites that were damaged during Hurricane Maria
- Building a resilient fisheries sector including the application of modern technology to the fisheries sector, capacity building of fishers to be able to better adapt to the changing climate




## A Review of the SDG Targets under Goal 2 and Dominica's Progress

This dashboard shows at a snapshot how Dominica is progressing with respect to the achievement of the SDG targets under **Goal 2: Zero Hunger**



SDG Targets Goal #2 – Zero Hunger	Dominica's Progress
By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.	
By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older people.	



SDG Targets Goal #2 – Zero Hunger	Dominica's Progress
By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers.	
By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality.	
By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels.	

## National Strategies, Opportunities, and Future Directions to 2030

To advance the achievement of SDG 2, the Government of Dominica in partnership with its citizens and development partners will:

### *Policy and Regulatory Environment*

- Promulgate the recently developed sustainable agriculture policy which includes strategies and actions that will optimize opportunities within the blue and green economic space, enhance food and nutrition security, promote strategies for building resilience of the agriculture sector, promote inclusiveness and equitable access to resources and ultimately bolster the overall socio-economic development goals of Dominica
- Improve the general policy and regulatory environment to stimulate investments in agriculture and agribusiness, promote greater use of technology and innovation, germplasm conservation, standards and certification, towards enhancing the growth of the sector and significantly reducing rural poverty

### *Value Chain Development*

- Transform the productive systems in agriculture, support and enhance integrated value chain development towards food and nutrition security

### *Food Security*

- Enhance synergies between agriculture and food security

### *Youth in Agriculture*

- Create incentives to encourage higher levels of youth participation in agriculture, which could be a key driver for reducing youth unemployment

- Attract young professionals to actively participate in agricultural development. Specifically, graduates from the Dominica State College Agriculture Programme will be mentored and provided with emerging opportunities in the sector. In addition, further support will be given to the Dominica Youth Business Trust to increase their capacity to provide financing to young farmers and enterprises which are directly agriculture based or spin-offs of the agriculture and fisheries sector

#### *Sustainability of the Agriculture Sector*

- Climate proof the agricultural sector through the development and diffusion of climate-smart agriculture (CSA), including the development of crop varieties which are better adapted to the expected effects of climate change, introduce new technologies and focus on disaster risk mitigation towards reducing the impacts of natural hazards on the agriculture sector
- Engage in higher levels of organic agriculture, to contribute to health outcomes due to reduced use of fertilizer, environmental outcomes and better management of waste. Over 40 percent of the material that enters the Dominica landfill is compostable waste and therefore farmers groups could create the waste into compostable material. The idea would be to view waste as a resource
- Focus on the expansion of the vegetable sub sector, tree crop, livestock development, and modernization of traditional crops





## SDG 3: Good Health and Well Being

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages



*The Dominica-China Friendship Hospital is a state-of-the-art health care facility that has also been built to be resilient, but importantly to provide specialized health care services that bring tertiary level health care to Dominica. Health services include among others, intensive care, oncology, a Brenda Strafford Foundation Eye Care Centre, ophthalmology, fully equipped labs, dialysis units and modern and start of the art medical equipment and machines of the same level of sophistication that exists in China.*

### A Snapshot of Our Progress to Achieving SDG 3

Life Expectancy at Birth	78.2 years (highest in the Caribbean)
Life Expectancy at Birth (men)	74.2 years
Life Expectancy at Birth (Women)	80.3 years
Number of inhabitants over 100 years old	23 (July 2021); highest number of centenarians per capita in the world

Infant Mortality Rate	30.9 per 1,000 live births (2017) <sup>43</sup>
Diabetes prevalence rate	11.7% (% of population ages 20 – 79)
Hypertension Prevalence Rate	32.1% (2017)
Incidence of HIV/AIDS	0.26 cases per 1,000 population (2016)
% Males that are Overweight	35% (close to LAC average) (2017) <sup>44</sup>
% Females that are Overweight	30% (better than LAC average) (2017) <sup>45</sup>
Number of Operational Health Centers	47 (2017)
Doctors per 1,000 Population	1.1 (2017) <sup>46</sup>
Nurses per 1,000 Population	6.4 (better than LAC average) (2017) <sup>47</sup>
% Women Attending at Least 4 Antenatal Visits During Pregnancy	85% (better than LAC average) <sup>48</sup>
Health Spending Per Capital	US\$636 (2017) <sup>49</sup>
Health Care Costs as a % of GDP	4.2 (2019) <sup>50</sup>
<b>Dominica's Resilience Targets... towards the world's 1<sup>st</sup> climate resilient small island developing state</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No more than 5% of schools and healthcare facilities severely damaged or destroyed by an extreme weather event</li> </ul>	

According to the Human Development Index 2020, Dominica ranked first in life expectancy in the Caribbean and also has the highest number of centenarians per capita in the Caribbean. Life expectancy at birth is 78.2 years, which is a good indicator of the quality of life of the people of a country. Dominica also gave birth to the oldest person ever to live in the world – a women that lived to 128 years.

<sup>43</sup> <https://data.unwomen.org/country/dominica>

<sup>44</sup> OECD, World Bank. 2020. Health at a Glance: Latin America and the Caribbean 2020

<sup>45</sup> Ibid

<sup>46</sup> Ibid

<sup>47</sup> Ibid

<sup>48</sup> Ibid

<sup>49</sup> Ibid

<sup>50</sup> <https://www.statista.com/statistics/952542/dominica-health-expenditure-share-gdp/>



Dominica is committed to achieving universal health care for all its citizens. There is access to primary and secondary health care and with the Dominica China Friendship Hospital, Dominicans now have access to a tertiary health care facility that includes specialized health services. Primary care services are provided at no cost with some groups receiving health care at no cost – the poor, pregnant women, seniors above 60 years, and children below 18 years old. The health sector is guided by the National Strategic Plan for Health 2009-2019. The Ministry of Health seeks to protect and expand universal access to a high-quality health system that includes strong, adequately funded infrastructures for health promotion, disease prevention and health protection as well as increased resource mobilization for health programmes. Focus continues to be placed on strengthening the governance of Dominica’s health system to support the development of a resilient health system which meets the population’s needs. This involves providing world-class health facilities across the island as part of its thrust to provide optimal health care and delivery of health services for the population. In fact, as of May 2021, Dominicans can access lifesaving heart surgery at the Cardiology Department of the Dominica China Friendship Hospital, which is partly staffed by Dominican surgeons. The Government has been focused on delivering to its population 12 new SMART health centres and 2 new hospitals and the overall modernization of the health infrastructure on the island.



*The Marigot Hospital also is another new and modern hospital*

Several health policies have been drafted in recent years, along with implementation plans which focuses on:



- Providing an adequate and motivated workforce equipped to provide quality health services. It is important to note that the system is affected by the emigration of nurses.
- Strengthening the institutional structure of the health and social services system
- Maintaining health services that respond to the needs of the population both at primary and secondary care level.
- Improving the health and quality of life of selected vulnerable individuals and groups in the population.
- Managing communicable and non-communicable diseases through early detection and prevention.

The Ministry of Health has in place an integrated electronic information system, the Dominica Integrated Information Systems for Health (DIISH). All 47 primary health care centers are linked to this network, which allows them to back up information locally and use it off-line.

Notwithstanding the high life expectancy at birth, Dominica is impacted like several other Caribbean countries by the high incidence of non-communicable diseases (NCDs). NCDs including diabetes, hypertension, heart diseases, cancers and strokes are the leading causes of mortality, morbidity and illness and represent over 50 percent of deaths. For example, between 2013 and 2017, more females were diagnosed with diabetes than males at a ratio of 2:1, and more males had amputations due to diabetes compared to females in the 50 – 59 age group and the over 70 age group<sup>51</sup>. In 2014, diseases of the circulatory system (hypertension, heart disease) were responsible for 44 percent of deaths and neoplasms (cancers), 18 percent. These two groups of causes account for almost two-thirds of all deaths in the country. To control and better address NCDs, the Government has embraced a Health in All Policies approach. The disease burden affected by a country can be measured by two indicators – Years Lived with Disability (YLD) and Disability-Adjusted Life Years<sup>52</sup> (DALYs), with one DALY being one lost year of healthy life. NCD in Dominica cause 61.4 percent of all disability- adjusted life years (DALYs) and 52.9 percent of all years lived with disability (YLDs)<sup>53</sup>.

Maternal mortality has been at one to zero deaths for several years, with three deaths between 2010 and 2015. Quality antenatal care is available to all women, and all births are attended by skilled health personnel. Vaccinations are almost universal.

Following Hurricane Maria, damage to the health sector was US\$10.9 million. Princess Margaret Hospital, Roseau, the only referral hospital in the health care system, sustained severe damage with 15 percent of its buildings totally destroyed, leaving 53 percent able to function. Central medical stores lost the majority of medical supplies due to water damage, although most

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<sup>51</sup> Experts from Speech by Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit, available at:

<https://caribbean.loopnews.com/content/diabetes-high-blood-pressure-5th-leading-cause-death-dominica>

<sup>52</sup> A Disability Adjusted Life Year (DALY) is the sum of years of potential life lost due to premature death and the years of productive life lost due to disability compared to a standardized life expectancy.

<sup>53</sup> PAHO. 2019. The Burden of Mental Disorders in the Americas, Country Profile: Dominica

medications were spared. Bed capacity was decreased by 95 beds. Medical equipment such as fluoroscopy, portable x-ray and all blood bank equipment were damaged and destroyed.

**Transformational Initiatives – Building Back Better... From Vulnerability to Resilience**

**Making Health Care Facilities Smart**

The Government has recently started to build Smart Health Care Centres and has 5 such facilities completed across the island. SMART Health Facilities completed in 2019 have already begun to provide benefits including savings of about US\$40,000 per annum due to solar installations and water conservation. The country can also boast of having the first off-grid solar powered health facility in La Plaine.



*SMART Retrofitted Health Centre in Grand Bay*

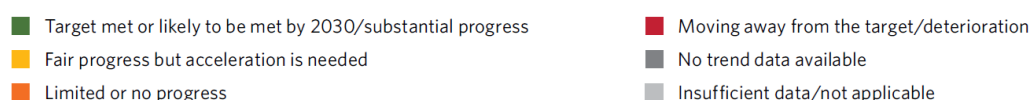
The SMART facilities embody resilience, sustainability and are environmentally sound and have the following characteristics:







Resilient and Safe facilities have:	Sustainable Facilities:	Environmentally Sound and Green Facilities are characterized by:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Sound Roof and Foundation</li><li>● Improved Security and Signage</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Reduce Downtime</li><li>● Have Resilient Structures</li><li>● Reduce Operating Costs</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Water Efficiency</li><li>● Waste Minimization and Management</li></ul>





Resilient and Safe facilities have:	Sustainable Facilities:	Environmentally Sound and Green Facilities are characterized by:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secured Equipment and Fuel Storage</li> <li>Protected and Efficient Doors and Windows</li> <li>Good Drainage</li> <li>Back-up Power</li> <li>Water Reserves</li> <li>Disaster Management Plans</li> <li>Comprehensive Maintenance Planning Disability Access</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve Safety</li> <li>Meet and Exceed Patient and Staff Satisfaction</li> <li>Embody Environmentally-Sound Operations</li> <li>Have Improved Emergency Care and Services for the Community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pollution Prevention</li> <li>Rainwater Harvesting</li> <li>Alternative Power using Renewable Energy</li> <li>Efficient Lighting and Cooling</li> <li>Improved Indoor Air Quality</li> </ul>

## A Review of the SDG Targets under Goal 3 and Dominica's Progress

This dashboard shows at a snapshot how Dominica is progressing with respect to the achievement of the SDG targets under **Goal 3: Good Health and Well-being**.



SDG Targets Goal #3 – Good Health and Well-being	Dominica's Progress
By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births	
By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births	
By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases	
By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being	
Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol	
By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes	

SDG Targets Goal #3 – Good Health and Well-being	Dominica's Progress
Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all	
By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination.	
Substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, especially in least developed countries and small island developing States	
Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks	

## National Strategies, Opportunities and Future Directions to 2030

The priorities of the Health Sector can be summarized in five core priorities as follows:

1. Strengthening the health system to advance universal health coverage and access ensuring appropriate legislation and policies
2. Reducing morbidity and mortality due to communicable diseases including new and emerging communicable diseases
3. Reducing the burden of chronic NCDs including mental health and substance abuse
4. Achieving optimal family health through one's life course
5. Strengthen health emergencies and disaster management and reducing environmental threats and risks

**To advance the achievement of SDG 3, the Government of Dominica in partnership with its citizens and development partners will operationalize these priorities as follows:**

- Review current health policies, strategies and legislation and reassess Primary Health Care services and conduct a re-evaluation of the human resource strategy of the health services
- Build upon the Smart Hospital Initiative to ensure that health care facilities are climate smart and promote the use of affordable technology and equipment
- Establish an entity to drive the climate resilience and health agenda
- Pursue the digitization of health data and encourage data sharing to inform plans of other development sectors
- Continue assessments on the impact of climate change on vector ecology and biology, water and water related conditions and include climate sensitive diseases and conditions in the national disease surveillance system to gauge the impact of climate variability on disease incidence and distribution
- Increase capacity of laboratory facilities to examine for and detect disease-causing pathogens
- Develop an early warning system for climate sensitive diseases



- Increase outreach and health campaigns and provide opportunities to building capacity of health service personnel surveillance, environmental monitoring, vector control, psychosocial support
- Complete review of solid waste management systems and technologies, including a focus on plasma incineration and promotion of waste to energy
- Encourage greater involvement of the private sector in the provision of affordable health care



*Dominica ranks first in life expectancy in the Caribbean and has the highest number of centenarians per capita in the Caribbean. Photos L-r Mrs. Meonette Bannis celebrated her 106<sup>th</sup> birthday on April 27, 2022 and Mrs. Angela Cuffy turned 105 on May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Dominica is organic and green and credits its consumption of local foods to the longevity of its population.*





## SDG 4: Quality Education

**Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all**



### A Snapshot of Our Progress to Achieving SDG 4

Mean years of schooling	13 <sup>54</sup>
Primary School Enrolment Rate	100% (2020) <sup>55</sup>
Secondary gross enrolment ratio	88% (2016) <sup>56</sup>
Tertiary gross enrolment ratio	34.18 (2016)
Student population, primary and secondary	~13,575 (2016)
% Allocation of GDP to Education	5%
Proportion of teachers who have received at least the minimum organized teacher training (e.g. pedagogical	63.36 (2016) <sup>57</sup> (Primary Education)

<sup>54</sup> UNICEF. 2017. Situational Analysis of Children: Commonwealth of Dominica

<sup>55</sup> <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SE.PRM.ENRR?locations=DM>

<sup>56</sup> UNICEF. 2017. Situational Analysis of Children: Commonwealth of Dominica

<sup>57</sup> <https://data.unwomen.org/country/dominica>

training) pre-service or in-service required for teaching at the relevant level in a given country, by sex and education level (%)	
Damage to the Education Sector due to Hurricane Maria	US\$74 million
% Primary Schools Damaged by Hurricane Maria	80%
Human Capital Index	0.54 <sup>58</sup>
<b>Dominica's Resilience Targets... towards the world's 1<sup>st</sup> climate resilient small island developing state</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No more than 5% of schools and healthcare facilities severely damaged or destroyed by an extreme weather event</li> </ul>	

Education is widely considered to be one of the best institutions to improve the wellbeing and life chances of a population. The thrust of all activities in the education sector is geared towards the realization of its vision:

**Every Learner Succeeds**

According to the 1997 Education Act (amended in 2008), education in Dominica is compulsory for all students between the ages of 5 and 16 and is provided free by the state. Early childhood and tertiary education, though highly encouraged, are not mandatory for Dominican children and adolescents. Tertiary education, at the Dominica State College (where students complete first degree or associate degree programmes) is also provided at no cost to citizens. The Government's commitment to education is reflected in its allocation to the sector of approximately 5 percent of its total GDP which is above the global average which stands at about 4.5 percent of GDP. The Government clearly recognizes the importance of the development of education to the human development of its citizens and by extension, the advancement of national development. However, Dominica's mean years of schooling of 13 years, which is below that of fellow OECS member states and below the average for Latin America and the Caribbean. The Government began implementing reforms in the education sector from as far back as the 1990's, recognizing that well-trained and educated human capital, and the promotion of human equality represent the foundation for a healthy and productive society. The policy and legislative framework guiding education is presented in the table below<sup>59</sup>:

<sup>58</sup> World Bank. 2020. The Human Capital Index, 2020 Update: Human Capital in the Time of COVID-19

<sup>59</sup> UNICEF. 2017. Situational Analysis of Children: Commonwealth of Dominica

<b>Year</b>	<b>Key Milestones in the Policy and Legislative Framework for Education</b>
1997	Education Act No. 11 based on OECS model for Education Reform (Foundation for the Future), established that all persons are entitled to an education and school attendance for children 5 – 16 years is compulsory and mandated the implementation of the USE
2002	Education Act No.6 called on renewed focus on education for children under 5 years and replaced pre-education strategies with the early childhood development approach
2002	Section 137 of the Education Act mandated the Minister of Education to develop a comprehensive national curriculum
2003	Early Childhood Regulations No. 39
2005	Universal Secondary Education (USE) introduced
2005	Education Order No. 14 created a Council on Early Childhood Development emerging as the regulatory body
2012	Implementation of access to universal early childhood development
2013	Early childhood development integrated into the public school system
2013	Strategy for expansion of technical vocational education training (TVET) and the Caribbean Vocational Qualification (CVQ) standards and benchmarks

In 2016, the primary school enrollment rate was 95 percent (UNICEF) and the rate for secondary school enrollment was slightly lower at 88 percent. By 2020, the enrolment rate for primary schools moved to 100 percent. Dominica also mirrors trends from across the region as the enrollment rate for girls at the secondary level is slightly higher at 91 percent than that of boys at 84 percent. The repetition rate, which represents the percentage of students that remain in the same grade after completing an academic year was 3 percent for primary students and 7 percent for secondary students. It should also be noted that the rate by sex was 2 percent and 4 percent for females at the primary and secondary levels respectively. In contrast, for males, the rates were higher at 4 percent and 10 percent for the primary and secondary levels respectively. Repetition rates can provide key insights into the effectiveness of education systems, curriculum and adequacy of teacher training.

In terms of educational outcomes and student performance assessments at the primary school level showed that for Grades 2 and 4 there was an increase in the number of students who are reading, writing and doing mathematics at their respective grade levels. For example, at the Grade 2 Level, 75.3 percent of students are reading at grade level compared to 61 percent in 2016. At the grade 4 level, 86.82 percent in 2018 compared to 78.18 in 2016 are reading at grade level. It is possible that the COVID-19 pandemic could have reversed some of these gains and resulted in learning loss.

Despite the various strides in education, issues and challenges with respect to learning outcomes and efficiency remain and continue to be addressed. The Ministry of Education has been making

improvements to the quality of education, covering all education sub-sectors, from early-childhood to higher education, with focus and development of curricula, undertaking curriculum assessments, teacher professional development, and trainings in Leadership and Accountability, teaching of reading, and monitoring and evaluation and reporting. To improve access and equity for the most vulnerable, the Government also has in place a school safety net programme which includes focus on special needs education, cash transfers, school grants, uniform and text-books provisions, and school feeding.

Dominica's Human Capital Index is 0.54<sup>60</sup> and ranks ahead of several other countries in the Caribbean such as Guyana, Dominican Republic, Jamaica and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The HCI ranges between 0 and 1 and is measured in terms of the productivity of the next generation of workers relative to the benchmark of complete education and full health. An economy in which a child born today can expect to achieve complete education and full health will score a value of 1 on the index.

## **Transformational Initiatives – Building Back Better... From Vulnerability to Resilience**

### **Introduction of Smart Schools**



***The Morne Jaune and Delices Smart Primary School. 80 percent of primary schools were damaged by Hurricane Maria***

Like other infrastructure around the island, schools were significantly impacted by Hurricane Maria. Educational facilities on the island, including daycare centers, suffered varying degrees of

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<sup>60</sup> World Bank. 2020. The Human Capital Index, 2020 Update: Human Capital in the Time of COVID-19

damage as a result of the Hurricane Maria. Of a total of 163 facilities, 67 (41 percent) suffered major damage and required reconstruction. A total of 52 facilities required major repairs and 17 facilities minor repairs. The remaining 27 facilities were without damage. Eighty-three percent of schools reported some level of damage. Damages included destruction of teaching materials, furniture and equipment and other educational resources. Overall, approximately 13,575 students representing 100 percent of the student population were affected. As part of the process to restore educational services and build resilience, the Government invested heavily in the reconstruction of Smart Schools in Dominica. Support for this initiative was received from several bilateral partners including the Governments of Canada and China.

As recent as May 2022, the Government with support of the Canadian Government as well as the Caribbean Development Bank commissioned three primary schools all developed with climate-resilient infrastructure and designed to mitigate floods, landslides, hurricane hazards such as wind and torrential rain and in accordance with the OECS Building Code: The Morne Jaune Primary School, Delices Primary School, and Wills Strathmore Stevens Primary. This also included infrastructure solutions to accommodate people living with disabilities and other physical impairments.

Renewable energy and energy efficiency solutions including the use of energy efficient lighting fixtures and equipment were also incorporated. The rehabilitation and reconstruction have met the safe school standards with the development of individual schools' safety disaster risk reduction management plans. The infrastructural design of this school is reflective of the Government's resilience building vision to position Dominica as the first country in the region. All three schools are equipped with modern facilities to meet the demands for high quality teaching, and are outfitted with auditoriums, computer labs and counselling rooms to name a few. These advanced, resilient facilities will provide safe learning environments for all children.

Another facility of note is the renovation and upgrading of the Grand Fond Smart Center, also impacted by Hurricane Maria. This facility forms part of a network of satellite rural educational institutions designed to extend both day and night classes from the Dominica State College to rural communities in Grand Fond and environs. These smart centers will contribute to the resilience of the educational system by aiding with access to education through online advanced communication services.

### **Adoption of the Safe Schools Culture**

Primary and Secondary schools in Dominica also are part of the global "Safe Schools" campaign from as early as 2008, focusing mostly on behaviour that is supportive of an environment of peace and safety from physical harm.





However, the safe schools programme has evolved since Tropical Storm Erika in 2015 to incorporate disaster risk reduction and resilience into all aspects of the education system. This initiative has been supported by UNICEF and a non-governmental organization, IsraAid. Activities undertaken included:

- Adoption and use of the Guidelines for Multi-Disaster Resilient School Building developed with support from UNICEF. The guidelines were developed using international standards and incorporates local knowledge and practices.
- Implementing the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) Safe Schools Project which involves development of policy, hazard risk assessment of schools and development of costed action plans based on the assessment recommendations.
- Operationalization and implementation of the School Emergency Operations Plan (SEOP). This involves training for teachers in the different roles and functions articulated in the SEOP, including training in First Aid, Communication in Emergencies, Response Team and their duties, Search and Rescue and psychosocial support.

### **The Incorporation and Use of Technology in Education**

Dominica has been pursuing the incorporation and use of technology in education and in classrooms as a means of remodeling classroom learning and enhancing education outcomes. Following Hurricane Maria, the Ministry of Education has been working on replacing equipment destroyed and upgrading computer labs to enhance teaching and learning and to meet the standards for online assessment.

Every Primary School in Dominica has access to computers and devices available for teaching and learning. All secondary schools are similarly equipped with internet connection and a select few primary schools are due for connection as renovations are completed.

The Government of Dominica has provided devices to secondary and primary school students to facilitate online learning. The Government's focus on aggressively introducing technology in education led to one year after Hurricane Maria the following being achieved:








- 60 mini laptops were distributed to 30 primary schools to accommodate unique learning styles
- 49 primary schools were provided with an internet connection
- All secondary schools were provided with laptops
- 100 desktop computers were distributed to secondary schools to facilitate the implementation of Technical Drawing for the regional examinations of the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC)
- 420 mini laptops in 28 charging trolleys, routers, 85 desktops and 15 projects were received to facilitate online CSEC examinations in June 2019

This augured well in the COVID-19 environment as the process of online learning and teaching was already a key strategic priority of the government.

## A Review of the SDG Targets under Goal 4 and Dominica's Progress

This dashboard shows at a snapshot how Dominica is progressing with respect to the achievement of the SDG targets under **Goal 4: Quality Education**.

- Target met or likely to be met by 2030/substantial progress
- Moving away from the target/deterioration
- Fair progress but acceleration is needed
- No trend data available
- Limited or no progress
- Insufficient data/not applicable

SDG Targets Goal #4 – Quality Education	Dominica's Progress
By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes.	
By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education.	
By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university.	
By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship.	
By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations.	
By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy.	
Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all.	

## National Strategies, Opportunities and Future Directions to 2030

In the medium to long-term, efforts will continue to improve the quality, efficiency and effectiveness of the education system at all levels- primary, secondary and tertiary. Attention will be paid to vocational training and tertiary education to start building a “critical mass” of educated, skilled, talented and capable people to serve the development needs of the country in various fields.

To advance the achievement of SDG 4, the Government of Dominica in partnership with its citizens and development partners will:

- Enhance the quality and efficiency of education services
- Ensure easy and equitable access to basic education especially to the poor, people living with disabilities, or children with special needs
- Enhance opportunities for 'bright spark' students
- Reduce the financial burden on poor students by improved targeting of scholarships and social assistance
- Undertake a national assessment of learning loss as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the closure of schools
- Improve the learning achievements of students at all levels, especially in the core areas of English and Mathematics
- Ensure better linkages of education, training and professional development programmes to the short, medium and long- term needs of the labour market and society as a whole
- Integrate climate change considerations into the formal and non-formal education system, including the recruitment of relevant staff trained in Disaster Management and project coordination
- Strengthen the policy framework, in particular the Disaster Risk Management for offices and school plants
- Adapt the curriculum with greater emphasis on disaster risk management and teacher training
- Establish standards and practices for school construction in alignment with national resilience building guidelines
- Extend opportunities for creating safe, protective and adaptive learning spaces
- Embrace advanced technologies to provide learning opportunities to learners of all abilities and under all contexts, during and after adverse events.







## SDG 5: Gender Equality

**Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls**



### A Snapshot of Our Progress to Achieving SDG 5

% Female Population	49%
% Women in the Labour Force	59.5% (2016) <sup>61</sup>
% Women in Parliament	34.38% <sup>62</sup>

<sup>61</sup> Dominica Geothermal Development Company Limited. 2018. Dominica Geothermal Development – Environmental and Social Impact Assessment

<sup>62</sup> [https://www.theglobaleconomy.com/Dominica/Women\\_in\\_parliament/](https://www.theglobaleconomy.com/Dominica/Women_in_parliament/)

Gender Inequality Index	0.33% <sup>63</sup>
Proportion of women in managerial positions (%)	48.41% <sup>64</sup>

Dominica boasts the first female Prime Minister in the Caribbean. She came into office in 1980 at a time when female heads of public sector entities, private enterprises and other organizations were uncommon. The country prides itself as having worn a gender lens since the late 1970's and have since then been incorporating gender-sensitive policies and practice across its development spheres.

Dominica's population is 49 percent female and 51 percent male. Women enjoy the same rights as men, and there is little open discrimination against women. Property ownership, for instance, continues to be deeded to the head of households while the 2009 Country Poverty Assessment estimated that 37 percent of households were headed by women. The average size of these female-headed households is between five and six people—larger than most male-headed households<sup>65</sup>. In addition to their role in household leadership, women continue logging an average of 16.14 hours per week in unpaid care work, which is more than double the time spent by men (7 hours)<sup>66</sup>. Female unemployment is slightly higher than male unemployment, with more men than women in the formal labour force, 70.6 percent male to 59.5 percent female.

Women in the formal economy are primarily in government services 55.7 percent, commercial services sector 55.3 percent followed by the agricultural sector 20.1 percent. Men represent about 80 percent of the formal agricultural sector, and manufacturing.

Thirty-four percent or one-third of Parliamentarians are women. For comparison, the world average in 2020 based on 185 countries was 23.8 percent, making female representation in Parliament in Dominica well above the global average. Beyond the Parliament, women also dominate senior positions in the Public Service. Out of the 14 Ministries and nine Departments, only 9 are headed by males (61% headed by women).

**Women dominate senior positions in the Public Service in Dominica. Out of the 14 Ministries and 9 Departments, only 9 are headed by males and 61% of these positions are headed by women.**

<sup>63</sup> <https://tradingeconomics.com/dominica/gender-equality-wb-data.html#:~:text=Gender%20equality%20in%20Dominica%20was,compiled%20from%20officially%20recognized%20sources.>

<sup>64</sup> <https://data.unwomen.org/country/dominica>

<sup>65</sup> Centre for Inclusive Growth. 2012

<sup>66</sup> Dominica Geothermal Development Company Limited. 2018. Dominica Geothermal Development – Environmental and Social Impact Assessment



The gender inequality index for Dominica was reported at 0.33 % in 2020, according to the World Bank collection of development indicators. Issues related to gender equality in Dominica is guided by the National Policy and Action Plan for Gender Equity and Equality which was first formulated in 2006. Following the need to make the National Policy more action oriented as well as to support its review and updating, the Government undertook to develop the country's second Gender Policy and Action Plan, which is to be promulgated.

The Bureau of Gender Affairs within the Ministry of Youth Development, Youth at Risk, Gender Affairs, Seniors Security and Dominicans with Disabilities seeks to promote and advance the concerns of women and gender issues to assist women and men in realizing their full potential through the attainment of gender equity and equality. Focus is placed by the Bureau on:

- Conducting research on gender and related issues affecting the population
- Lobbying for policy and legal reform
- Keep abreast of regional and global events and changes as pertains to gender and gender related issues
- Lobby against domestic violence against women and girls
- Provide Public Education on gender issues
- Mobilize and Empower Women and Men
- Facilitate Skills Training initiatives towards empowering women

The Dominica National Council of Women is very active and plays a role in supporting women in agriculture but has over the years, prioritized violence against women as a natural response to an unmet and growing societal need. Of particular concern is the sexual violence against women and children, including within families. Women and girls are disproportionately affected by sexual, domestic and gender-based violence, with many cases either not reported, and those that are reported only rarely lead to the prosecution and conviction of offenders. For example, according to the Central Registry on Domestic Violence, from July 2011 to mid-October 2015, there were 1,041 reported cases of domestic violence with 88 percent of victims being females. Of these reported cases, 52 percent were females under the age of 16 and 36 percent above the age of 18. The Central Registry on Domestic Violence showed that 47 percent of victims were related to the perpetrators.

The Government has ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child and commits to build on previous resolutions and advance the commitments made within national, regional, and international frameworks including the 2006 National Policy and Action Plan for Gender Equity and Equality, the Beijing Platform for Action, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), Commonwealth Plan of Action for Gender and Development, OAS/CIM Inter American Commission on Women, CARICOM Plan of Action and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

## **Transformational Initiatives – Building Back Better... From Vulnerability to Resilience**

### **Inclusion of Gender Considerations in the Climate Resilience and Recovery Plan (CRRP)**

The CRRP promotes gender equality and inclusion – an approach to mainstreaming gender consideration across all planned actions, policies and programmes as the country works to build resilience across all sectors. This approach recognizes the need to take social and economic differences between men and women into account to ensure that proposed policies and programmes have intended and fair results for women and men, boys and girls. The CRRP also takes into account other vulnerable groups and seeks to ensure that delivery systems are attuned to the challenges and obstacles faced by the vulnerable, as well as disadvantaged groups and have included special measures to protect them. Projects developed under the CRRP will promote “gender equality” meaning that women, men, girls and boys will enjoy the same human rights status, have equal opportunities, equal access and control over resources and equal participation in decision making. The CRRP will therefore play a key role in helping to achieve SDG 5.

### **Working Towards a Gender Responsive Climate Resilient Dominica Project**

This project has been designed to further contribute to the pursuit of gender responsive climate change resiliency through data collection, capacity building, and implementation of diverse climate adaptation actions using a gender lens. The overall objectives of the project are to

- Increase capacity specific to gender responsive data collection and the strengthening of national gender-based violence registry
- Support and implement Value Chain Strategies to enhance livelihoods and prompt sustainability
- Support the review and update of the National Gender Policy
- Strengthen Disaster Risk Management Planning

### **Fostering Gender Equality in Crisis Response**

Humanitarian crises affect men and women differently. Crises always disproportionately affect the weakest and already marginalized groups and contribute to the creation of new vulnerabilities. Dominica has been particularly vulnerable to disasters in the past decade, more recently, Tropical Storm Erika (2015), Hurricane Maria (2017) and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Integrating gender into every stage of response continues to be a core part of the Government’s response and recovery strategies. More specifically, the following priority actions were implemented to prevent reversal on SDG progress:

- UNFPA, in partnership with the Bureau of Gender Affairs, Lifeline Ministries and other national partners, developed the GBV referral pathway and accompanying standard operating procedures (SOP) for Dominica, which provide comprehensive information to

victims of sexual and/gender-based violence on how and where to access multi-sectoral, survivor-centered services.

- Approximately 1,500 dignity kits containing hygiene supplies were procured and distributed in shelters to women of reproductive age.
- Over 300 community residents and frontline service providers in judiciary, health, shelter management, community-based organizations were trained in GBV mitigation, prevention and mainstreaming in shelters, psychosocial support, and survivor-centered approaches.
- Through various funding agencies, the Government was able to facilitate cash transfer payments for single mothers, agricultural equipment and inputs for women and men, smallholder farmers and skills training for vulnerable people.
- Non-government organizations like the Dominica National Council of Women continue to support women during recovery through the provision of food and hygiene supplies and agricultural inputs.

### **Advancing Women's Economic Empowerment**

Dominica is one of several countries in the Caribbean that is participating in the UNDP/UN Women “Building Effective Resilience for Human Security in the Caribbean Countries: The Imperative of Gender Equality and Women Empowerment in a Strengthened Agriculture (and related Agri/Fisheries Small Business) Sector”. The programme is built on the premise that there can be no improvement in human security in the Caribbean without addressing the issue of ‘lost opportunities’ and ‘foregone achievement’ that result from deep gender inequality and insufficient progress in the economic empowerment of women and marginalized youth. The joint programme focuses specifically on the agricultural sector (including fisheries) because of the significant role agriculture plays in countries’ GDP and food security. In addition, the agricultural sector is extremely vulnerable to disaster and climate change risk impact and is a sector where gender inequality is possibly most entrenched.

The programme will contribute to human security for farmers and small agro-and fisheries business entrepreneurs – many of whom are women. Three categories of beneficiaries will benefit from the joint programme activities through direct households and community support. Small grant support will be offered for livelihoods development and will target approximately 2,500 farmers, fisherfolks and small-business entrepreneurs with at least 50% women and 25% under 40 years, reaching 12,500 people in the 5 countries. Pilot and demonstration activities in areas of disaster preparedness and mitigation, climate change adaptation and value chain development will be implemented in 50 community groups, reaching 30,000 people in the five countries. Associated ministries and the national gender machineries and focal points will also become beneficiaries. Successes from the project will provide major impetus for a broader recognition of the priorities of gender equality and women empowerment for enhanced resilience, stronger economic growth, a more inclusive society and strengthened and human security.






The Programme has five outcomes as follows:

- **Outcome 1:** Gender-responsive and disaster risk resilient agricultural, fisheries and small business extension services, programmes, and techniques available and accessible to the most marginalized.
- **Outcome 2:** Gender responsive social protection, insurance and financial products are available and accessible to marginalized and impoverished groups (specific emphasis will be placed on women headed households with high dependency ratios, women in agriculture (fisherfolk) and unemployed young men).
- **Outcome 3:** Increased market access readiness and resilience for smallholder farmers and agriculture related small businesses.
- **Outcome 4:** Community resilience is strengthened through advocacy and community engagement with farmers, fisherfolk and young people to engage in agriculture and the blue economy.
- **Outcome 5:** Integration and mainstreaming of the Human Security Approach

## A Review of the SDG Targets under Goal 5 and Dominica's Progress

This dashboard shows at a snapshot how Dominica is progressing with respect to the achievement of the SDG targets under **SDG 5: Gender Equality**.



SDG Targets Goal #5 – Gender Equality	Dominica's Progress
End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.	
Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.	
Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate.	
Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.	
Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing	

SDG Targets Goal #5 – Gender Equality	Dominica's Progress
Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences.	
Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws.	
Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels.	

## National Strategies, Opportunities and Future Directions to 2030

To advance the achievement of SDG 5, the Government of Dominica in partnership with its citizens and development partners will:

- Accelerate the promulgation and implementation of the National Policy and Action Plan for Gender Equity and Equality which makes special consideration for emerging and relevant gendered issues specific to the national context
- Strengthen capacity building opportunities for women, girls, and vulnerable groups to scale up their participation in decision making and in the labour market
- Design gender-specific programs for men while ensuring these do not put women at a disadvantage
- Ensure sustainability of efforts by promoting gender sensitivity education and training to build a society that champions gender issues
- Reinforce priorities around poverty reduction, promotion of justice, and economic and social empowerment of women and girls informal sector work and contraceptive use to ensure Sustainable Development
- Strengthen mechanisms to improve the management of gender issues
- Support gender sensitive research, analysis and development of a highly disaggregated statistical base and information for implementation strategies
- Enhance capacity to monitor and assess progress in meeting gender equality commitments specified in international and regional treaties and conventions, as well as in the implementation of the recovery programme
- Implement a public advocacy campaign to combat sexual violence against women and children, including appropriate training for law enforcement, educators, and medical personnel, as well as effective support and accountability for victims





## SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all



### A Snapshot of Our Progress to Achieving SDG 6

Proportion of Population using Safely Managed Drinking Water	95% (25,000 households) <sup>67</sup>
Proportion of Population using Safely Managed Sanitation Services	84% <sup>68</sup>
Population served by centralized sewage treatment facility	20% <sup>69</sup>

<sup>67</sup> <https://www.sdg6data.org/country-or-area/Dominica>

<sup>68</sup> Ibid

<sup>69</sup> Ibid

Degree of Integrated Water Resources Management <sup>70</sup>	47 Medium Low)
Damage to Water and Sanitation Services due to Hurricane Maria	US\$24 million
<b>Dominica's Resilience Targets... towards the world's 1<sup>st</sup> climate resilient small island developing state</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 60% of the population with access to water and sanitation within 7 days of an extreme weather event</li> </ul>	

Compared to other countries in the region, Dominica has an abundance of rivers and water. There are about 365 rivers and streams emanating from 35 watershed areas into which the island is divided. The ten largest rivers are the Indian, Picard, Layou, Roseau, Blenheim, Hampstead, Clyde, Pagua, Castle Bruce and Rosalie rivers. Most rivers originate on the slopes of the central mountain ranges, while a few originate as outcrops of underground springs along low-lying valleys. Other Caribbean countries consider Dominica as an alternative source of water supply in times of need. As a result, the government has positioned itself to be an exporter of bulk water (IWCAM, 2011).

Water in Dominica is predominantly used for domestic supply, hydropower, and export. The Dominica Water and Sewerage Company Limited (DOWASCO) – the body in charge of providing water and sewerage services in all of Dominica and the Dominica Electricity Services (DOMLEC) company for hydropower generation are the entities that consume the most water. The Water and Sewerage Act of 1989 and the Water and Sewerage Regulations of 1997 establish the framework for the water and sanitation sector in Dominica. Although this framework has made DOWASCO more independent from the government, the sector lacks an independent regulator that oversees DOWASCO's performance.

The total water withdrawal is estimated at around 20 million m<sup>3</sup>. Most water withdrawn is surface water and the Dominica Water and Sewerage Company (DOWASCO) produces approximately 45 million l/day (16.4 million m<sup>3</sup> /year) of drinking water from about 47 independent river intakes. The largest of the water systems has a supply capacity of over 16.3 million l/day, for the capital Roseau and its environs. This system serves a population of about 25,000 people. Two other systems have a supply capacity of about 5.3 million l/day, whilst the other systems are much smaller serving communities with populations usually less than 1,000. These supply systems are generally more than adequate to satisfy the demands of the communities.

Weirs or dams are constructed across water sources for water abstraction and storage. The rugged terrain offers the benefit of water being gravity fed throughout the network with little need for the use of pumps. Given the geology of the island, Dominica's water quality has been known to be of a high standard thus requiring minimal treatment. The only form of treatment used within the network is chlorination and water quality test results have fallen within the limits of the World

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<sup>70</sup> Ibid

Health Organization (WHO). Intake tanks and very small dams have been constructed with a total capacity estimated at 2,008 m<sup>3</sup>. About 44 such structures exist; the largest one has a capacity of 271 m<sup>3</sup>.

Freshwater resources are impacted by pollution from land-based activities such as agriculture and industry, combined with seasonal changes in flow from climate variability. The development of the water sector is capital intensive with the supply of water being regarded as an essential social service rather than as a profit centre. Additionally, topographical constraints, limited finances, and other limitations have resulted in small, individualized water storage systems which are costly to manage and maintain. Additionally, small population centers separated by extremely rugged terrain in Dominica result in high water distribution costs.

Twenty per cent of the population is served by centralized sewerage systems managed by DOWASCO. The remainder of the population is served by septic tanks, with decentralized wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs). Prior to 2003, all wastewater from properties within the capital city of Roseau would drain through a very old collection network and discharge directly along the shoreline in the Bay front area. A new Roseau Sewerage System was installed under the Roseau Water and Sanitation Project, which was executed between 1998 and 2003. This system treats wastewater from approximately 3,250 residential units, commercial, industrial and Government institutions in Roseau and its immediate environs. The wastewater collected undergoes preliminary treatment (screening, de-gritting, settling, and aeration) at the Baytown Wastewater Treatment Plant where the treated effluent is discharged to the Caribbean Sea via marine outfall at a depth of 200 ft below main sea level and at a distance of 1,200 ft offshore from Pottersville. The Baytown Plant was recently equipped with a 97.2 kW Solar PV system to reduce operating energy costs by 60 per cent.

Climate change presents a clear threat to water and sanitation systems, especially for the most vulnerable in the population and those residing in coastal areas. Flooding has a marked impact on water and sanitation systems. They destroy dams and pipe systems. Additionally, many diseases are highly sensitive to changes in temperature and rain patterns. This includes vector-borne diseases such as malaria and dengue, as well as the major causes of mortality, namely, malnutrition and diarrheal diseases. To cope with these varied challenges, the Government has committed to developing initiatives to improve this sector.

Hurricane Maria damaged forty-one water supply areas due to strong winds, flooding, landslides, fallen trees and power outage. According to the Post Disaster Needs Assessment, sixteen were heavily damaged with twenty-one moderately damaged. Production and distribution pipelines were damaged or washed away, intake systems were blocked with sand, silt and debris, and storage tanks, pumps, physical structures and access roads were damaged. Estimated damage to water supply infrastructure was US\$19.85M and damage to sanitation infrastructure amounted to



an estimated \$ 3.62M. Damage to the Roseau wastewater treatment plant affected 5,190 households<sup>71</sup>.

### Transformational Initiatives – Building Back Better... From Vulnerability to Resilience



*97-kW grid-tied, battery backed-up, solar photovoltaic (PV) system at the Baytown Wastewater Treatment Plant in Roseau, reducing energy costs by 60%*

Globally, it is well known that combined interventions in water, sanitation, and hygiene can reduce the prevalence of waterborne diseases and associated deaths by up to 80 per cent. Access to water and sanitation services is known to have a positive impact in the reduction of poverty, improved health and contributes to equality of opportunities, which improves individual development incomes and overall economic growth. As such, the Government of Dominica is committed to undertake various initiatives to support the management of the country's water sector to fulfill its role in the economic and social development of the country. Clean water and sanitation are important elements of developmental processes and will play a significant role in Dominica achieving its SDGs, and they too, are central to Dominica's thrust for a resilient and dynamic Dominica.

The provision of reliable and affordable potable water to every household is challenged by Dominica's topography and the accompanying investment costs, however, several projects are being implemented geared towards improving access to water and reducing the vulnerability of the country's water supply systems to intense rainfall events. There is therefore focus on

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<sup>71</sup> Government of Dominica. 2017. Post Disaster Needs Assessment Hurricane Maria





bolstering the robustness of the islands many water systems and as such several projects are being undertaken such as the:

- Water Sector Strategic Development Project (National Water Enhancement Project) is under implementation. The project will result in a vast improvement in water service reliability in various communities.
- Upgrade of Water Area 1 Network – which would result in vital improvements to water quality, water storage, and service continuity for DOWASCO’s largest and most important water system
- Integration of energy efficiency and renewable energy to reduce high operational costs attributable to the price of fossil fuel-derived electricity. DOWASCO implemented a sub-project to install a 97-kW grid-tied, battery backed-up, solar photovoltaic (PV) system at the Baytown Wastewater Treatment Plant in Roseau. The operation of this system has since yielded valuable savings to DOWASCO’s sanitation operations. Another project, included the installation of solar photovoltaic power for Tete Morne and Jimmit water pump stations to provide supplementary power to DOWASCO’s water The project comprised the installation of 30 kW grid-tied photovoltaic (PV) systems at each site.




## A Review of the SDG Targets under Goal 6 and Dominica’s Progress

This dashboard shows at a snapshot how Dominica is progressing with respect to the achievement of the SDG targets under [SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation](#).



SDG Target #6 – Clean Water and Sanitation	Dominica’s Progress
By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.	
By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations.	
By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally.	
By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water	



SDG Target #6 – Clean Water and Sanitation	Dominica's Progress
scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity.	
By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels.	
By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes.	
Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management.	

## National Strategies, Opportunities and Future Directions to 2030

**To advance the achievement of SDG 6, the Government of Dominica in partnership with its citizens and development partners will:**

- Develop and promulgate a national water and sanitation policy and associated action plan that includes a sustainable framework for the management of water resources. Develop appropriate accountability and oversight mechanisms.
- Develop an appropriate legal and regulatory framework for water and wastewater management that clearly assigns all key functions in the sector, including the body responsible for setting effluent standards and the body responsible for enforcing those standards. It must also establish a reasonable mechanism for setting and adjusting tariffs.
- Develop and implement a regulatory body/institution for the water and wastewater/sanitation sector.
- Create a sustainable financing mechanism to effectively address wastewater management
- Promote environmental management systems in industry, including for tourism that would encourage more sustainable practices including those associated with water such as energy conservation practices
- Develop and implement projects that address water loss and storage
- Recognize that proper land-use and forest management are key to water supply. As such there will be increased focus on protecting water catchment areas, by avoiding encroachment through farming and forest harvesting.



# PROSPERITY

**BUILDING FORWARD STRONGER  
AND EQUAL FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH  
AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**



## SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

**Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all**



*Renewable energy transition has led to the installation of wind and solar powered streetlights across the island and in the vicinity of public buildings. The Olivia Douglas Health and Wellness Centre Health & Wellness Center above is one such example.*

### A Snapshot of Our Progress to Achieving SDG 7

% Population with Access to Electricity	100%
% Renewables in the energy mix	8% <sup>72</sup>
Target for Electricity generated from Renewables	90% by 2029

<sup>72</sup> <https://blogs.iadb.org/energia/en/learn-more-about-energy-in-dominica-and-the-caribbean/>

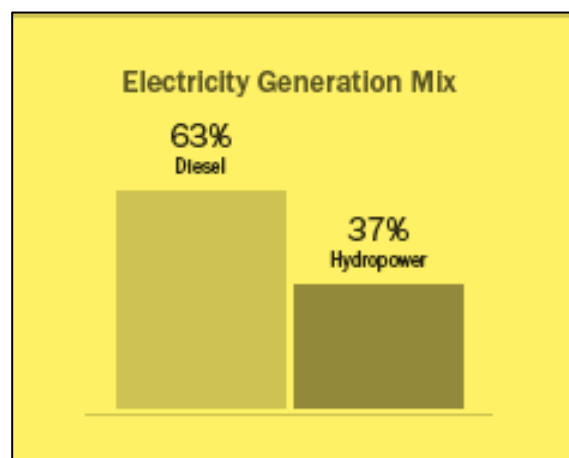


% Electricity Generated from Hydro	>37% <sup>73</sup>
% Electricity generated from diesel (fossil fuels)	~63% <sup>74</sup>
Electricity rates	US\$0.21/kWh
<b>Dominica's Resilience Targets... towards the world's 1<sup>st</sup> climate resilient small island developing state</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 90% of the population with access to power within 3 days of a climatic event</li> <li>• Becoming carbon neutral through 100% domestic renewable energy production, and an increase of protected forest areas to 67 of Dominica's land mass</li> </ul>	

Dominica's vision for the energy sector is to have by 2029, ninety percent clean, carbon-neutral energy. Currently, imported oil products make up the largest share of Dominica's energy mix representing about 92% of total energy supply (TES) or the energy mix<sup>75</sup>. Dominica has substantial renewable energy potential – geothermal, hydropower and solar – and continues to develop its renewable energy resources to reduce its reliance on imported fossil fuels, which leaves it vulnerable to global price fluctuations and directly impacts the cost of electricity. Increasing the percentage of renewables in the energy mix is one of Dominica's core development priorities.

One hundred percent of the population has access to electricity. Electricity rates in the Caribbean are one of the highest in the world. Current electricity rates in Dominica are on average US\$0.21/kWh, compared to US \$0.39 per kilowatt-hour (kWh) in 2015<sup>76</sup>.

Dominica is one of only two Eastern Caribbean states that is currently implementing projects to optimize its hydropower potential. Approximately 37 percent of the country's electricity is generated from hydropower and wind—more than any other CARICOM state. Hydropower in Dominica represents 4 percent of total energy supply. Combustible renewables and waste, used for cooking and heating, also represent 4 percent of the TES. The country's geothermal resources are the most studied and best understood in the Eastern



<sup>73</sup> National Renewable Energy Laboratory (An Agency of the US Department of Energy). 2020. Dominica Energy Snapshot

<sup>74</sup> Ibid

<sup>75</sup> <https://blogs.iadb.org/energia/en/learn-more-about-energy-in-dominica-and-the-caribbean/>

<sup>76</sup> National Renewable Energy Laboratory (An Agency of the US Department of Energy). 2020. Dominica Energy Snapshot

Caribbean and the Government is focused on the development of the country's first geothermal plant. To date, all the feasibility studies have been completed, the wells have been built and tested, and the plant is under development. It is anticipated that by 2024, Dominica would have completed the construction of all infrastructure for its 10MW geothermal plant. In addition, the country is currently undertaking exploratory studies for geothermal potential in the north of the island. A country assessment has affirmed the potential of green hydrogen industrialization utilizing geothermal resources from the Roseau Valley, in the North and elsewhere in Dominica. For the government, green hydrogen industrialization is a primary pillar in the planned transition to a low carbon economy. In furtherance of this objective, the state is advanced in engagements with key private sector developers and institutional finance partners.

As part of Dominica's goal to become the first climate-resilient nation in the world, the Government of Dominica, Dominica Electricity Services Ltd., Climate Resilience Execution Agency of Dominica (CREAD), and other technical partners developed a Sustainable and Resilient Energy Plan (S-REP) which outlines various approaches on how to generate the country's future electricity through secure, affordable, and resilient renewable sources. The S-REP is comprehensive, ambitious, and optimistic, and includes the following national targets for energy:

- approximately 90 percent of electricity generated by renewable energy sources by 2029.
- a reduction in the annual cost of diesel fuel by 94 percent by taking advantage of geothermal resources and projects
- a reduction in the total cost to generate electricity between 2020 – 2038 by approximately 44 percent

To achieve these ambitious targets, the Government continues to introduce several initiatives to ensure that renewable energy resources are developed. These initiatives include the granting of concessions on the importation of solar related equipment and accessories, application of solar technologies across the island project and most importantly the country's geothermal project.

The Government's policy on solar energy development includes encouraging, where economically viable, the installation of solar energy technologies on all new public sector buildings, commercial buildings, and residences. The project of illumination of streets with solar lights will continue and will be extended to various public spaces and facilities and this is expected to have a positive

### **Application and Scaling Up of Solar Energy Use**

- Street lighting- rehabilitation, upgrade and new streetlights and pole erection
- Lighting of parks and recreational grounds
- Illumination of grounds of Police stations
- Lighting of public spaces
- Illumination of the grounds of health facilities



impact on communities in relation to safety, crime reduction, fostering communication, greater socialization and encouraging more healthy lifestyles.

The Government is also exploring the use of wind energy and the assessment of wind resources and implementing the appropriate arrangements for the exploitation of wind resources to provide electricity for local consumption, where this is likely to be least costly. Wind turbine installation, like solar panel installation, is mainly private sector led. One issue related to wind energy in Dominica is the vulnerability of wind turbines to strong winds from tropical cyclones. Wave energy also is being considered.

Outside of renewable energy, the country remains committed to implementing sustainable energy strategies that support the promotion of energy efficiency and conservation. With respect to energy efficiency, Dominica continues to implement its energy efficiency standards, restrictions on the use of incandescent light bulbs, minimum energy performance standards, and application of the OECS Building Code.

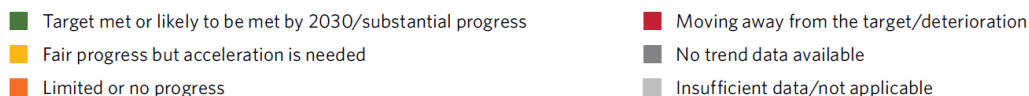
### **Transformational Initiatives – Building Back Better... From Vulnerability to Resilience**




The Government remains focused on the development of the country's renewable geothermal energy resource in the Roseau Valley which is expected to enhance the resilience of the power systems, reduce the energy import bill, promote shared prosperity and secure the island's economic future. As a relatively young volcanic island, Dominica has significant geothermal resource potential. The Government has allocated resources for the construction of a 10MW geothermal power plant in keeping with the government's vision to become the first climate-resilient country in the world. This plant is projected to make Dominica self-reliant on energy.

The geothermal plant will be based on zero-emissions technology which is the most environmentally friendly approach to geothermal resource utilization and will operate as a binary closed loop, with 100 percent reinjection of the geothermal fluids used in electricity generation. This choice is reflective of Dominica's commitment to sustainable development and a recognition of the need to carefully integrate this project into the pristine Roseau Valley setting.

## A Review of the SDG Targets under Goal 7 and Dominica's Progress

This dashboard shows at a snapshot how Dominica is progressing with respect to the achievement of the SDG targets under **Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy**.

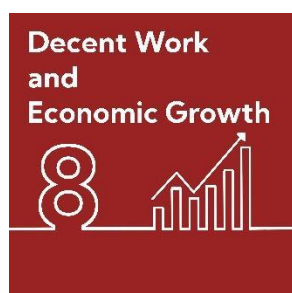


SDG Targets #7 – Affordable and Clean Energy	Dominica's Progress
By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services	
By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix	
By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency	

## Strategies, Opportunities, and Future Directions to 2030

To advance the achievement of SDG 7, the Government of Dominica in partnership with its citizens and development partners will:

- Climate proofing the energy sector by enhancing the resilience of the power system to avert risks, minimize damage to infrastructure and avoid disruptions of service and undertake further upgrades of transmission and distribution lines and fortify operations at existing power plants, to deliver a more efficient electricity supply to homes and businesses
- The Government and the UAE-Caribbean Renewable Energy Fund (UAE-CREF) hurricane-resistant clean energy project.
- Develop and implement the country's long-term National Energy Policy



## SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

**Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all**



### A Snapshot of Our Progress to Achieving SDG 8

GDP Growth Pre-Pandemic Forecast 2020	5.47%
GDP Growth 2020	-11%
GDP Growth 2021	3.7%
GDP per capita	US\$8,580 (2022) <sup>77</sup>
Unemployment Rate	11% (2010)
% Change in Tourism Arrivals 2020/21	-94%
# Commercial Buildings Damaged and Destroyed due to Hurricane Maria	1808
Ease of Doing Business Index	111 (2019)
<b>Dominica's Resilience Targets... towards the world's 1<sup>st</sup> climate resilient small island developing state</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Less than 5% of gross domestic product (GDP) in losses related to an extreme weather event</li> <li>• Sustained, sustainable and inclusive growth of minimum 5% achieved</li> <li>• 100% of national budgeting policies in place and enforced, and Government performance measurement framework informed by resilience targets</li> </ul>	

To achieve SDG #8, the Government continues to place focus on the following areas:

- Economic diversification with a particular focus on knowledge and other frontier sectors
- Building Capacity within micro, small and medium sized enterprises

<sup>77</sup> <https://www.imf.org/en/Countries/DMA>

- Access to adequate and affordable finance to start and grow businesses and ensure reduction of losses from natural resources through access to appropriate and affordable disaster risk financing products, insurance products
- Encouraging investment opportunities mainly within the services sector, particularly eco-tourism, information and communication technologies, and education. Other opportunities exist in alternative energy, namely geothermal, and capital works due to reconstruction and new tourism projects.

Dominica is an upper-middle-income small open economy with a gross domestic product (GDP) of approximately US\$640 million and a GDP per capita of US\$8,580<sup>78</sup>. Tourism and agriculture drive the country's economic growth, with tourism being the country's main foreign exchange earner and is responsible for 56 percent of all export earnings,<sup>79</sup> followed by remittances. Inflows from remittances are a key source of foreign exchange and in 2018 and 2019 the island received just under US\$50 million in foreign exchange as a result of remittance inflows, which provides much needed resources to supplement the income of the most vulnerable<sup>80</sup>.

Prior to the COVID-19 crisis, growth was forecast at 5.47 percent for 2020, according to the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB). Dominica had steady macroeconomic growth largely driven by construction, tourism and agriculture up to 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic reduced the gains that were expected to strengthen Dominica's economic position in the near term and GDP contracted by 11 per cent in 2020, underpinned by a sharp reduction in tourism and related sectors, plus the measures put in place to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Growth showed a modest recovery of 3.7 percent in 2021. This contraction was partly due to the sharp reduction in tourism and related sectors. The downturn in the tourism sector contributed to a reduction in foreign exchange earnings as well.<sup>81</sup>

During the pandemic, continued efforts to recover from the impacts of Hurricane Maria, led to strong growth in the construction sector, due to the large public investment programme in housing and infrastructure development, financed with record-high Citizenship by Investment (CBI) revenue of 30 percent of GDP<sup>82</sup>. The record high CBI revenue contributed to a reduction in the fiscal balance for 2020, despite declines in tax revenue and increases in spending. Public debt, however, increased to 106 percent of GDP in 2020 due mainly to higher official borrowing. Also,

<sup>78</sup> <https://www.imf.org/en/Countries/DMA#featured>

<sup>79</sup> Moore, Winston. 2021. Commonwealth of Dominica: COVID-19 Heat Report: Human and Economic Assessment of Impact. UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women Eastern Caribbean

<sup>80</sup> Moore, Winston. 2021. Commonwealth of Dominica: COVID-19 Heat Report: Human and Economic Assessment of Impact. UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women Eastern Caribbean

<sup>81</sup> <https://www2.unwomen.org/->

</media/field%20office%20caribbean/attachments/publications/2020/human%20and%20economic%20assessment%20of%20impact%20-%20commonwealth%20of%20dominica.pdf?la=en&vs=2852>

<sup>82</sup> <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2021/12/03/mcs-120321-dominica-staff-concluding-statement-of-the-2021-article-iv-mission>

the current account deficit has widened to close to 30 percent of GDP due largely to the loss of tourism exports and increase in imports related to public investment and the increase in commodity prices.

Another area of vulnerability which was exposed by the pandemic is linked to the high levels of informality in the labour force. One of the key implications of the high levels of informality is that households which are supported by informal workers are more vulnerable to shocks as their earnings and associated benefits such as health insurance are often lower than in more formal arrangements with limited options for shifting to alternative employment. Further, these households tend to be characterized by lower levels of education and school attendance rates, internet penetration and access as well as limited access to basic health services.<sup>83</sup>

Recovery from the economic impacts of COVID-19 in the medium term is promising and is underpinned by a large public investment programme to build resilience to natural disasters, which is being largely financed by revenue from the country's Citizenship by Investment (CBI) Programme.<sup>84</sup> Additionally, the government will continue to place focus on investments in infrastructure development that is resilient to natural hazards, with projects to be financed by the CBI revenue. Key projects include a new international airport, housing resilient to natural disasters, road and infrastructure improvement, a resilient water and sewage network, improvements in the hospital capacity (including a new hospital financed by the People's Republic of China), and a geothermal electricity plant. These projects will accelerate growth in the near term during the construction phase and also will increase potential output in the long term—including spillovers in tourism and reduction of fossil fuel dependency, all of which will improve Dominica's external sustainability and competitiveness<sup>85</sup>.

GDP is projected to reach pre-pandemic levels by 2023, averaging 5 percent growth per year through 2022-26—tourism recovery would be supported by the ongoing construction of new hotels and the inauguration of direct flights from the United States which started in December 2021<sup>86</sup>.

The National Resilience Development Strategy; Dominica's Climate Resilience and Recovery Plan 2020 – 2030; and The Disaster Risk Financing Strategy, the country's roadmap for achieving the

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<sup>83</sup> <https://www2.unwomen.org/-/media/field%20office%20caribbean/attachments/publications/2020/human%20and%20economic%20assessment%20of%20impact%20-%20commonwealth%20of%20dominica.pdf?la=en&vs=2852>

<sup>84</sup> <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2021/12/03/mcs-120321-dominica-staff-concluding-statement-of-the-2021-article-iv-mission>

<sup>85</sup> <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2021/12/03/mcs-120321-dominica-staff-concluding-statement-of-the-2021-article-iv-mission>

<sup>86</sup> Ibid



2030 Agenda will be key to supporting the country's recovery post COVID-19 as well as the country's medium to long term development prospects.

### **Labour Market Outcomes**

With respect to labour outcomes, based on the latest poverty assessment, the average unemployment rate in Dominica was about 11 percent (2010). Unemployment, including youth unemployment continues to be a cause for concern. Dominica's private sector accounts for 78 percent of national employment and is dominated by the services sector (tourism in particular), manufacturing and agriculture<sup>87</sup>.

With respect to youth unemployment, the Government since 2013 has been implementing the National Employment Programme (NEP) and providing employment opportunities through internships. The NEP does not directly provide employment but facilitates employment. The objectives of the NEP are to:

- Provide relief to eligible businesses by enhancing human resource capacity by subsidizing their wage bill and sustaining output
- Enhance skills, experience and expand network of employees
- Improve permanent employment prospects of programme participants

In 2018/19, about 3,859 people were placed in various organizations, significantly surpassing the target of 400 on the inception of the programme 9 years ago. At its inception, the programme was directed at young individuals who completed college. However, the target population was subsequently extended to unskilled labor without any age limitation. Currently, the program has three different components aiming at increased employment opportunities and employability of the unemployed and underemployed.

Addressing the challenges of unemployment is a top priority for the Government of Dominica. Consequently, the Government has committed to sustain significant investments to facilitate job creation and workplace development appropriate to mitigate unemployment-induced migration. The Population Growth Action Plan will identify specific employment opportunities to inform education, training and migration strategies. The Government will endeavor to build on existing Technical Vocational Education and training networks to serve both men and women equitably, especially those who are poor, disabled and vulnerable, to respond to labour market needs, in the short-term, medium term and long-term.

### **Tourism**

Tourism remains a key economic driver in Dominica. Tourism contributed about 37 percent of total GDP, 56.4 percent of total foreign exchange earnings and 34.4 percent of total employment

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<sup>87</sup> IDB Compete Caribbean. 2014. Private Sector Assessment of Dominica

in 2019.<sup>88</sup> The sector was severely impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic. The development of the country's tourism sector has always been based on sustainability principles that involve community engagement, conservation of the natural environment, preservation of the country's authentic culture, and importantly to exceed the expectation of visitors. As part of its thrust in sustainable tourism, Dominica also has a strong focus on expanding community tourism and heritage and cultural tourism, including in the Kalinago Territory.

Due to the pandemic and the resulting response measures such as the closure of ports and seaports to curb the spread of the virus, there was a significant drop in tourist arrivals over the 2020/2021 period. Data as of March 31, 2021, on tourist arrivals derived showed that stay-over visitor arrivals for the 12-month period was estimated at 5,298, a decline of by 94 percent over the previous corresponding period when arrivals were 84,625<sup>89</sup>. Furthermore, about 70 percent of people employed in the accommodation and food services are female, highlighting a disproportionate impact of the falloff in tourism on females due to pandemic.

To support the safe reopening of the tourism sector within the context of the pandemic, the Government implemented two initiatives:

- **Safe in Nature (SIN)** – The Safe in Nature Certification Programme is geared at providing a safe experience to visitors during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Work in Nature (WIN)** – this was crafted as an extended stay visa programme was developed to allow people to work remotely in Dominica for up to 18 months. This was a direct response to encourage increased visitors and foreign exchange to the island over a longer period, based on the country's exemplary management of the Coronavirus pandemic, based on the relatively low number of COVID-19 cases and the low rate of deaths due to the virus.



<sup>88</sup> World Travel and Tourism Council. 2020. Travel & Tourism Economic Impact 2019: Dominica.

<sup>89</sup> Government of Dominica. 2021. Economic and Social Review 2020/2021

Following Hurricane Maria in 2017, there was a plethora of construction activity in the private sector focused mainly on the building of hotels and resorts. This construction continues. Several new properties were constructed around the island, increasing hotel room stock in quantity and quality as well as the number of new internationally recognized and established hotels brands.

Some of Dominica's resorts have been frequently lauded internationally for their stellar service. Historically, cruise tourism has been the largest contributor to tourism, accounting for approximately 70 percent of the people who visited the island in 2017, although they spend considerably less than stay-over tourists. This recent development of several high-end hotels and resorts in Dominica will not only increase the number of bed spaces available on the island but will likely increase the economic contribution made by stay-over guests.



*The Secrets Bay Boutique Resort is Green Globe certified and has been consistently recognized for its exceptional design, service and experience by several global travel and lifestyle publications and media such as Architectural Digest, CNN, Fortune, National Geographic. In 2020 Secrets Bay was named one of Travel + Leisure's top 500 hotels in the world, and the #1 Resort Hotel in the Caribbean, and #6 Hotel in the World.*

### **Micro-Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises**

The micro-small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) sub sector is viewed as key to supporting the country's development prospects and an engine of growth for a modern economy. The Small



Business Enterprise Development Programme is the Government of Dominica's flagship financial and technical facility for MSMEs. The country has drafted its MSME Policy and Strategic Plan which includes two fundamental considerations: international best practices of MSMEs that could be adopted or adapted by local MSMEs and the urgent needs of the sector such as technical, technological (ICT) and financial assistance, and the enabling legislative and regulatory environment.

## **Manufacturing**

The manufacturing sector contributes about 2.3% to GDP and the Government is focused on initiatives that will support and strengthen the sector. Some of these include financial support to the sector through the on-lending of concessional funds and the enhancement of the industrial estates and folks. The development of Eco-Industrial Parks will be pursued to attract businesses eager to reduce their carbon footprint. The Invest Dominica Authority has partnered with the Dominica Manufacturing Association to enhance the visibility of the manufacturing and agro-processing sector, the output of which is a "National Strategy and Action Plan for the Expansion of Dominica's Manufacturing Sector". This Plan has proffered a number of recommendations for the stimulation and expansion of manufacturing after consideration of the needs and constraints of the sector.

## **Disaster Risk Financing and Closing the Protection Gap**

The Government of Dominica is fully cognizant of how natural disasters can result in the volatility of the economy and impact growth prospects and its sustainable development agenda.

Dominica also continues to invest in disaster risk financing as a means of reducing its budget volatility following natural disasters, knowing that the economic impact of disasters generates losses that disrupt the long-run economic growth trajectories of countries. The country is therefore focused on linking its fiscal policy framework with disaster risk management and putting in place a range of disaster risk financing instruments as well as increasing coverage on existing instruments. Dominica has been a member of CCRIF SPC (formerly the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility) since its inception in 2007 and purchases parametric insurance coverage for tropical cyclones, earthquakes and excess rainfall. Following Hurricane Maria, CCRIF made a payout to Dominica totaling over US\$20 million within 14 days of the event, enabling the government to have access to quick liquidity. CCRIF's parametric insurance is not designed to cover all losses on the ground but to close the liquidity gap following a natural disaster by providing governments with access to resources to support immediate needs. The Facility does not cover long-term redevelopment and reconstruction. As such Dominica also is focusing on other disaster risk financing tools such as catastrophe bonds and creating its own disaster response fund to which it allocates a minimum deposit each month; this fund will be the first source of liquidity after a disaster. The government also will participate in the ECCB's Climate Risk Vulnerability Facility.

To advance its resilience vision, the Public Sector Investment Programme (PSIP) and its accompanying sectoral policies, strategies and budgets have been synchronized and aligned to the country's climate resilience targets specified in the CRRP, and the SDGs. This has resulted in adjustments to the budget setting process and criteria to include the definition and weighting of resilience- and SDG-related indicators. Focus continues to be given to putting in place efficient and effective organizational structures and operating procedures to enable delivery on the resilience Agenda.

## **Transformational Initiatives – Building Back Better... From Vulnerability to Resilience**

### **Dominica's Citizen by Investment Programme**

The revenues from the Citizenship by Investment Programme (CBI), have allowed the country to implement a range of projects and programmes that continue to drive economic activity and growth. The CBI Programme has been an important part of the country's economy for the past 28 years, making investments in the areas of disaster recovery, reinforcing roads and bridges, infrastructure modernization and a nationwide resilience code. With funds from the CBI, the country was able, for example to embark on the largest investment project in Dominica's history, the construction of the International Airport. The CBI is one of Dominica's key sources of non-tax revenue for capital projects.

### **National MSME Policy and Strategy**

Globally, MSMEs are the engine of growth of modern economies, driving development, female economic empowerment, and innovation. Dominica's MSMEs policy which was promulgated in 2020 has been designed to support the MSME sector and foster the growth and development of the sector. The draft policy reflects climate change considerations, the emerging green and blue economic models, gender equality, the role of MSMEs in reducing youth unemployment rates, women's economic empowerment. The Policy is aligned to the SDGs.



## High Impact Climate Resilient Initiative Under SDG 8

### Innovative Insurance Solutions






Private property was insufficiently insured in the wake of Maria hindering reconstruction of homes and commercial property within reasonable timeframes, which has impacted the nation's ability to recover from the event. Public infrastructure and utilities were also un- or underinsured. This initiative will work to identify innovative affordable, appropriate options to reduce the protection gap and undertake public education on the importance of insurance.





**This initiative has been delivered (2020)**

## A Review of the SDG Targets under Goal 8 and Dominica's Progress

This dashboard shows at a snapshot how Dominica is progressing with respect to the achievement of the SDG targets under **Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth**.

- Target met or likely to be met by 2030/substantial progress
- Moving away from the target/deterioration
- Fair progress but acceleration is needed
- No trend data available
- Limited or no progress
- Insufficient data/not applicable

SDG Targets #8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth	Dominica's Progress
Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances and, in particular, at least 7 percent gross domestic product growth per annum in the least developed countries.	
Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high value added and labor-intensive sectors	
Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro- small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services	
Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation	
By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and people living with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value	

SDG Targets #8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth	Dominica's Progress
By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training	
Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment	
By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products	
Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all.	

### National Strategies, Opportunities and Future Directions to 2030

The Government recognizes that steady and robust macro-economic growth, fiscal discipline, and a vibrant financial sector are vital to pursue economic and social progress within a resilience framework, and as such to **advance the achievement of SDG 8, the Government of Dominica in partnership with its citizens and development partners will:**

- Set its economic growth target in the region of five to seven percent per annum believing that growth at this level will be positively transformative, both economically and socially
- Target a primary balance of 2.0 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) over the medium term in order to achieve debt sustainability which is metricized as a debt to GDP ratio of sixty (60%) by 2030
- Maintain stability in the external sector
- Contain inflation at under 2 percent
- Improve budget performance both by increases in current revenue and targeted pro-poor expenditure
- Pursue progressive yet strict budgetary policies both on the revenue and expenditure sides
- Enhance collection of revenues, tax and non-tax, broaden the tax base
- Mobilize more domestic revenues
- Target expenditure to priority sectors of development and transportation
- Strengthen and implement laws relating to public procurement
- Ensure full transparency and accountability in all government transactions
- Continue efforts at having a competitive, integrated and efficient banking system that is well regulated and supervised to generate finances for private sector investment and growth.
- Enhance the financial landscape and in particular stress the importance of having an insurance sector that protects businesses and individuals from unforeseen adverse events and a pension system that provides a secure retirement, both also providing capital for investment

- Implement the country's National MSME Policy and Strategic Plan to provide much needed support to micro and small businesses to expand private sector participation and more so small businesses.
- Align labour force needs with education and vocational training – so whilst overall educational outcomes may be increasing, these are not always meeting the overall requirements of the labour market.
- Reduce the costs of doing business by improving energy efficiency; increasing productivity; and enhancing efficiency in public delivery of doing business
- Approve and implement the National Strategy and Action Plan for the Expansion of Dominica's Manufacturing Sector



## SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

**Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation**



### A Snapshot of Our Progress to Achieving SDG 9

ICT Development Index Rank	77 (2017) <sup>90</sup>
UN E-Government Development Rank	99/193 (2020) <sup>91</sup>
UN E-Government Development Index	0.6013 (2020) <sup>92</sup>
Fixed Broadband Penetration (per 100 people) (2019)	16.1 <sup>93</sup>

<sup>90</sup> <https://www.itu.int/net4/ITU-D/idi/2017/>

<sup>91</sup> <https://publicadministration.un.org/egovkb/en-us/Data/Country-Information/id/50-Dominica>

<sup>92</sup> Ibid

<sup>93</sup> <https://www.itu.int/net4/ITU-D/idi/2017/>

Mobile Cellular Subscription (per 100 people) (2019)	105.8 <sup>94</sup>
Percentage of households with internet access	60% <sup>95</sup>
Percentage of households with computer	54% <sup>96</sup>
Damage to Telecommunications Infrastructure from Hurricane Maria	US\$48 million
Damage to Transport Infrastructure from Hurricane Maria	US\$182 million
Ease of Doing Business	60.5

**Dominica's Resilience Targets... towards the world's 1<sup>st</sup> climate  
resilient small island developing state**

- Seaports and airports functioning within one week of an extreme weather event
- 100% primary roads and bridges open within 3 days of an extreme weather event
- 100% of telecommunications restored within three 3 months of an extreme weather event

**The Government remains committed to developing resilient infrastructure thereby achieving SDG 9 as highlighted in its national and sub-national development frameworks, including the NRDS and CRRP.**

Strong economic infrastructure – road networks, water and wastewater systems, ICT infrastructure are key to supporting growth and development. Prior to the passage of Hurricane Maria, Dominica was on track to establishing a relatively well-developed road network and rehabilitation of its ports despite budgetary constraints and implementation capacity issues. Access to electricity and potable water was relatively high. Telecommunications and internet use expanded, and Government was making headway towards the attainment of the goals set for this sector as embodied in its 10- year Road Sector Plan, with these long-terms investment has received significant contribution from the CBI Programme

Hurricane Maria resulted in damage to the transport sector of US\$182.2 million. This was manifested as damage to roadways, bridges, and adjacent structures. Roads across the island were

<sup>94</sup> Ibid

<sup>95</sup> Ibid

<sup>96</sup> Ibid



covered by substantial amounts of trees and flooding debris. Six major bridges were seriously damaged and closed. Vehicles were damaged by flooding and flying trees and building debris, with an estimated one to four percent destroyed and seven to ten percent damaged.

Following Hurricane Maria in 2017, the Government prioritized the development of climate-resilient infrastructure. This thrust to developing climate resilient infrastructure started after Tropical Storm Erika in 2015, with efforts to build the country's international airport that was significantly impacted by the storm. The airport, which was inoperable after 2015 Tropical Storm Erika, was back in operation only a few days after Hurricane Maria, due to the resilience of its infrastructure. This also is true for communities that were built back better after Tropical Storm Erika.

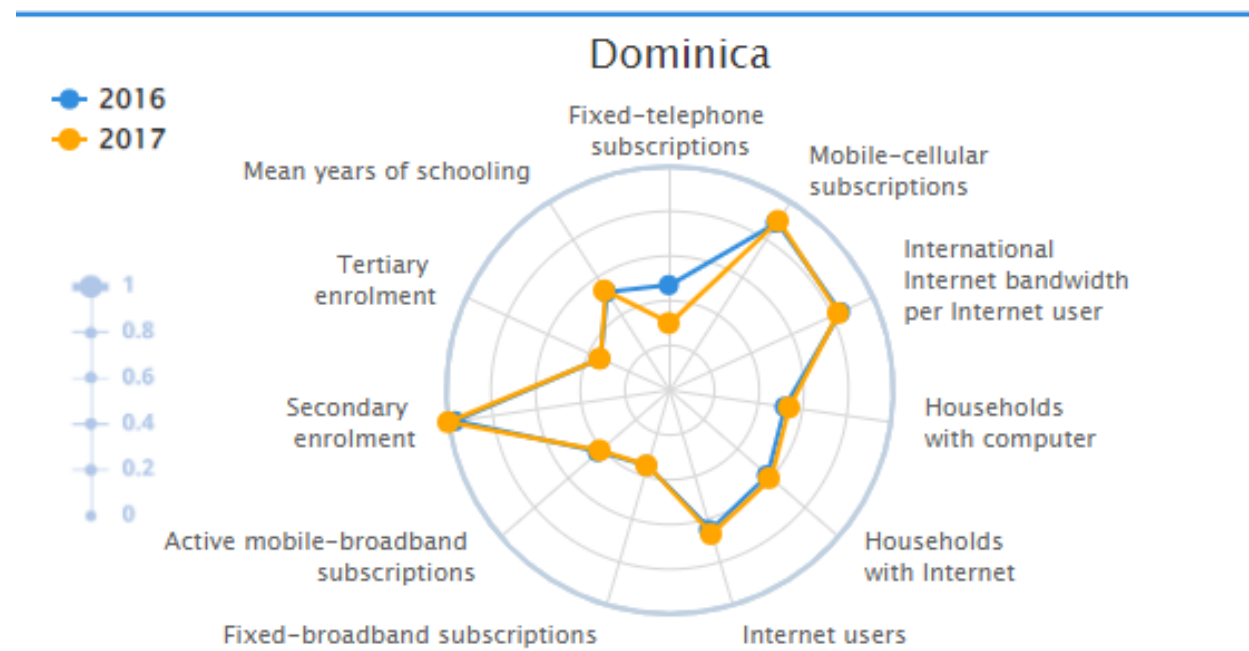
To build forward stronger and ensure resilient economic infrastructure, emphasis is therefore being placed on rehabilitation and reconstruction of its physical infrastructure network (roads, bridges, telecommunications and water and sanitation facilities) to support economic growth. Within the context of climate resilience, the Ministry of Public Works, Water Resource Management and Ports is expected to design and execute a programme of national infrastructure investments informed by environmental characteristics and circumstances that are responsive; and to develop and manage port facilities that are resistant to natural disasters in order that trade and people travel will not be severely impeded after a climatic event.

Damage to the telecommunications sector following Hurricane Maria was extensive and there was widespread damage to the overall telecommunications network and public ICT resources. All telecommunication services, except for amateur radio, were disabled for 3 days from September 19 to 21, 2017 and a total of 33 cellular sites were destroyed or severely damaged and the fiber-optic backbone was severed in several locations, leading to a nationwide loss of connectivity.

Information and communications technology (ICT) has emerged as a core driver of the modern knowledge-based economy with its crucial role in the socioeconomic development and economic growth of a country. This was further highlighted during the COVID-19 pandemic in which governments worldwide, including Dominica, pivoted to make full use of digital technologies to on one hand respond to the crisis and on the other hand to support day-to-day operations at workspaces and in schools.

The Government of Dominica, even before the COVID-19 pandemic, has been pursuing several strategic issues related to ICTs and its vision for the sector is to connect every household in Dominica to an accessible, affordable and highly resilient high-speed broadband digital infrastructure and to digitally link the country to the global network. For every 10 percent broadband coverage in a country, an average of 1.38 percent growth in GDP can be achieved. Considering the correlation between high speed broadband infrastructures to GDP growth, Dominica's global competitiveness hinges on the transformation of the country's ICT infrastructure. To this end, the Government has promulgated the National Broadband Strategy which provides a roadmap for the accessibility and delivery of broadband services to citizens.

In 2017, Dominica ranked 77 out of 176 countries on the ICT Development Index ahead of countries such as Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Jamaica and Mexico with a score of 5.48 and above the global average of 5.11, but behind countries in the region such as Barbados, St. Kitts and Nevis and Grenada. Dominica actually fell 8 spaces compared to the 2016 ranking.



This ranking is significant given Dominica's small size and small population, and the real topographical challenges that investors in the sector face. However, it results from a visionary and planned agenda for a Digital Economy as one strategy for resilience. For example, during the COVID pandemic, the Government has invested heavily in the inputs that will facilitate online learning, including the distribution of laptops to primary and secondary students. There have also been investments that have increased access to the internet and WiFi since 2020.

Indicator	2017 <sup>97</sup> Score (ITU)
Percentage of households with internet access	60%
Mobile-cellular telephone subscriptions per 100 inhabitants	107.43
Percentage of households with computer	54%
Fixed-telephone subscriptions per 100 inhabitants	18.25
Percentage of individuals using the Internet	67.03
Fixed (wired)-broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants	21.21
Active mobile-broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants	41.00

<sup>97</sup> <https://www.itu.int/net4/ITU-D/idi/2017/>

The Government continues to promote research and development in the areas of Science and Technology. This has continued to move the economy to the next level by promoting innovation and diversification through its project and programmes.

### **Transformational Initiatives – Building Back Better... From Vulnerability to Resilience**



Following Hurricane Maria, a number of strategic initiatives have been undertaken including:

- Development of a Government Wide Area Network, and nodal digital infrastructure to lay the foundations for digitalization of government that will allow for the connecting all government service locations (Government offices, schools, hospitals, and health centers) to high-speed connectivity delivered using fiber optic networks. The network will provide multiple layers of redundant connectivity—underground and overhead fiber, microwave, and satellite at key locations—in addition to cloud services to host Government data and services. The laying of underground fiber has provided connectivity to over two hundred and fifty (250) public facilities in the capital city Roseau and environs, including hospitals, health centers, police stations and educational institutions.
- Broadband Fibre Network Project – a multi-layer broadband network comprising underground and overhead Fibre, microwave and satellite services and two data centres for storage and retrieval of confidential and sensitive public records have been designed and implemented to secure the telecommunication assets and services of the Government's network.
- The promulgation of the National Cyber Security Strategy and Gap Analysis which details the major pillars necessary to secure the Government public network against illegal

network access was also finalized. This framework document is a critical element to complement the legal framework for legislative and prosecutorial enforcement of cybercrime activities.

Focus also is being placed on the digital transformation and advancement of the country's digital economy. In 2020, the World Bank approved the Caribbean Digital Transformation Project (DTP) for Dominica and three other Eastern Caribbean countries to build foundations of the digital economy. The DTP aligns with national economic development strategies and ongoing government programmes on digital transformation and public sector modernization and will be implemented at regional and national levels. These activities are aimed at building the cross-cutting enablers of digital government, while supporting public sector productivity and extending key digital public services to the citizens of Dominica.

### A Review of the SDG Targets under Goal 9 and Dominica's Progress

This dashboard shows at a snapshot how Dominica is progressing with respect to the achievement of the SDG targets under **SDG 9: Resilient Infrastructure, Industrialization, and Innovation**.

- Target met or likely to be met by 2030/substantial progress
- Fair progress but acceleration is needed
- Limited or no progress
- Moving away from the target/deterioration
- No trend data available
- Insufficient data/not applicable

SDG #9 – Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation	Dominica's Progress
Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and trans-border infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all	
Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and, by 2030, significantly raise industry's share of employment and gross domestic product, in line with national circumstances, and double its share in least developed countries	
Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets	
By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities	

SDG #9 – Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation	Dominica's Progress
Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries, in particular developing countries, including, by 2030, encouraging innovation and substantially increasing the number of research and development workers per 1 million people and public and private research and development spending	

## National Strategies, Opportunities and Future Directions to 2030

### High Impact Climate Resilient Initiative Under SDG 9

#### Resilient Dominica Physical Plan

A comprehensive plan that addresses all infrastructure—utilities, ports, roads, bridges, drainage, housing, schools, health centres, shelters, coastal, rivers and landslide risks—as well as the standards required to achieve resilience targets, must be prepared so that a structured approach to creating a resilient country can be implemented. This will result in a comprehensive capital works program to 2030 and beyond, facilitating the mobilization of financing for resilience. It will incorporate a modern information and communication technology (ICT) Network to offer reliable and resilient service amid a disaster. Plan delivered by mid-2021.

**To be delivered by 2030**

**To advance the achievement of SDG 9, the Government of Dominica in partnership with its citizens and development partners will:**

- Continue to develop the road infrastructure to be more resilient to climate change and special strategies will be employed and road standards will be revised and adapted to incorporate the possible negative impacts of climate





change. For these two approaches, careful attention will be placed on the following: planning and design; location of infrastructure and re-alignment of roads; slope stability; drainage; and road maintenance. For example, focus will be placed on making bridges higher to allow for water and debris overflow, building resilience into the housing sector, and upgrading hospitals and health centers.

- The Government has recently developed “Dynamic Dominica: National Digital Transformation Strategy”, that includes the following objectives:
  - Foster an environment of technology adoption and digital skills for everyone - from children to the elderly
  - Drive economic growth through job creation and business optimization
  - Provide the convenience of online transactions for people both in Dominica and abroad
  - Make conducting business more efficient by reducing time and cost
  - Improve overall service delivery and become a global service marketplace.
- With respect to the public sector, the Government will rebuild and upgrade its network infrastructure and seek to replace hardware and strengthen its ICT institutions. On a long-term basis, the Government will devise a plan for the operation and maintenance of its network, inclusive of the replacement of equipment, training of trainers and activation procedures for its telecommunication network in case of emergency where feasible.
- Improve its regulatory framework to address a rapidly evolving ICT and digital environment and develop and promulgate some necessary ICT legislation, such as Data Protection and Privacy Law and Cybercrimes Laws.
- Continue to create the necessary enabler of digital government, including an enterprise architecture, interoperability framework, identification and authentication, and a government payment portal among others
- Assess current ICT development challenges in areas such as skills and capacity, regulatory frameworks, consumer protection, data privacy, and digital security and take corrective action



## SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities

**Reduce inequality within and among countries**



### A Snapshot of Our Progress to Achieving SDG 10

Poverty Rate	28.8 (2010)
Human Capital Index	0.54 (2020)
Government Expenditure on Education	5% (2019)
Government Expenditure on Health	4.2% of GDP (2019)
Per Capita Income	US\$8,580 (2022)
<b>Dominica's Resilience Targets... towards the world's 1<sup>st</sup> climate resilient small island developing state</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>90% of the population able to identify the pillars of resilience and at least one measure undertaken by the Government, with specific focus on respect for people, planet and property and law and order maintained following significant disasters</li> </ul>	

SDG 10 calls for a reduction in inequalities by 2030. The more unequal a society is, the more likely there would be large groups of people who are left behind. The Government of Dominica recognizes that inequality remains one of the greatest impediments to equitable, people-centred development and is forging ahead through the introduction of a range of projects and programmes to reduce the pockets of inequality that exist. It is well known that reducing inequalities has a greater benefit on a country's growth prospects as inequality exacerbates social problems, compromises efforts to reduce poverty, reduces productivity, and can result in missed opportunities for succeeding generations.

Dominica as a small island state has achieved much even though the Government understands that there is much left to be done. To reduce inequalities the Government's focus remains on increasing jobs, improving educational outcomes, diversifying the economy and ensuring that those furthest behind are considered first. Strategies have been designed specifically for them in

the developmental space. There is also the recognition that climate change can impact the poor and as such policies are being put in place that would lead to reducing the impacts of climate change and extreme events particularly on the poor and vulnerable, including the elderly.

There are several areas worth mentioning in terms of reducing inequalities. There is a strong focus on continuing education, capacity building, entrepreneurial skills programmes, and citizen empowerment, catering to people fifteen years and over who wish to improve their quality of life, parents lacking parenting skills, prison inmates in need of a second chance, Individuals who have low-level education, individuals who lack work experience, and socially disadvantaged residents.

Youth are viewed as a vulnerable group and as part of the process to ensure youth are empowered to achieve their fullest potential, there is a focus on responding to the needs of the youth by encouraging their participation in areas such as enterprise development towards fostering an entrepreneurial culture among the youth in to reduce the unemployment rate among youth.

In terms of ensuring access to goods and services, considerable progress continues to be made to provide services to citizens in their communities, using a decentralization approach. Some of the strategies that have been employed to achieve this include:

- Strengthen national policies to facilitate improved interface between local government and communities
- Encourage the mapping of Community resources and services using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to graphically represent social, economic, and quality of life indicators as a guide to the allocation of resources
- Retain the use of the traditional media, including call-in radio programs combined with web-based media to make information widely accessible to all and promote active citizen engagement
- Expand the e-Government platform to provide opportunities for national ministries and departments to use e-services (websites, emails) to provide policy and programming updates as a means of promoting active citizen engagement and reinvigorating interest in democratic affairs of the state, particularly among the youth

## CASE EXAMPLE OF LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND... SUPPORTING THE KALINAGOS



*Dominica is the only Caribbean Island to have retained the original inhabitants, known as the Kalinago*

Dominica is the only Caribbean Island with a remaining population of pre-Colombian Carib Indians, known as the Kalinago. The majority of this indigenous population – about 2,000 people – live in a series of small rural settlements that make up the Kalinago Territory on the northeastern coast of the Island.

The Government continues to adopt a people-centered approach to development in an attempt to improve the quality of life of all Dominicans. Given the unique needs of the Kalinago, the Government continues to ensure that they are part of the development dialogue and that they are integrated within the country's development while at the same time, considering their own unique development needs and thrusts. In fact, there is a ministry dedicated to the development of Kalinago affairs and the Member of Parliament speaking on behalf of the Kalinago is a Kalinago. Additionally, the Government of Dominica has ratified the ILO Convention 169 on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as part of the process to ensure that the Kalinago are beneficiaries of Dominica's development and have a voice in deciding their future as well as the future of Dominica. Several initiatives are being implemented to support Kalinago development. Some of these include:

### **Strengthening Sustainable Livelihoods and Resilience in the Kalinago Territory Project**

This project focuses on various activities geared towards providing assistance to the Kalinago Community to access equitable social protection systems, quality services and improve sustainable

economic opportunities. This is achieved through the following four main outputs, each of which are underpinned by several activities:

- Agriculture – Boost agricultural production and sustainable agricultural practices
- Forestry – Design and implement community reforestation programmes to protect livelihoods and augment critical water catchment areas
- Tourism – Develop a comprehensive Kalinago Tourism strategy and brand that generates new income opportunities for the Territory
- Institutional Strengthening – Boost institutional capacities of the Kalinago Council for improved participative and inclusive decision making and planning



*Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Hon. Roosevelt Skerrit presented the cheque to the bank at the launch of the Kalinago Development Fund*

### Kalinago Development Fund

The Kalinago Development Fund was launched in March of 2022 and has been designed to enhance the livelihood and sustainable development of the Kalinago. This project was established to improve access to financial services by residents of the Kalinago Territory. The Fund aims to reduce barriers to economic growth, reduce unemployment, achieve economic stability, and increase the standard of living for residents in the Kalinago Territory. The fund is intended for, but not limited to, residential and commercial development, cultural development, enterprise development, crop production and processing, education and climate resilience and renewal energy development. The overarching goal is to support progressive project proposals by Kalinago organizations and individuals in the areas of human capacity, cultural, and enterprise development and sustainable growth. These initiatives will be tailored to assist in providing sustainable livelihoods and economic

independence for the Kalinago people.

### Kalinago Territory Housing Project

The Post Hurricane Maria Housing Rehabilitation Project led to the construction of fifty 50 resilient housing units comprising of nineteen three-bedroom units and thirty-one two-bedroom units in the Kalinago Territory in six clusters at Bataka, Concord, Crayfish River, Point Salybia, Sineku and St. Cyr.



## **Strategies and Actions related to Capacity Building, Promotion of Social Justice and Preservation of Culture for the Kalinagos**

Other strategies and actions that are being considered that are specific to the Kalinagos and fall under the umbrellas of capacity building, promotion of social justice, and preservation of culture include:

- Supporting the implementation of the Kalinago Development Plan, by mainstreaming it into the NRDS as a means of allowing indigenous people to participate in national planning and make their interests visible in development planning
- Adopting a human rights-based and culturally sensitive approach to programming when addressing the specific situation and needs of the country's indigenous peoples
- Encouraging the participation of people who identify as Kalinago on existing development planning bodies as a means of building their capacity to represent their interest
- Bringing into national focus successful community initiatives and achievements that demonstrate strength and resilience, and use them as case studies for changing policy and practice
- Encouraging improved data collection, disaggregation, and analysis to ensure the availability of adequate and useful data to address the issues confronting the Kalinago people

## **Kalinago Zero Waste Project**

This project aims to promote and introduce a zero-waste zone in the Kalinago Territory through the introduction of waste separation at source with the introduction of receptacles for recycled material and of general waste. Organic content in municipal waste streams is about 40 percent and as such the removal and commercialization of the organic content will be developed. A fully functional compost facility in the territory will help as an income-earner for many.

## **Transformational Initiatives – Building Back Better... From Vulnerability to Resilience**

The Dominican government in its effort undertake transformative change and invest in development that creates a greener, healthier, and more inclusive future for its most vulnerable groups, especially the Kalinago People and Community – has supported the UNDP's Enabling Gender-Responsive Disaster Recovery, Climate and Environmental Resilience in the Caribbean (EnGenDER) Project which seeks to ensure equal access to climate change adaptation solutions for women, children, people living with disabilities and other vulnerable groups in the Caribbean. This project will allow Dominica to access a portion of climate financing from international organizations like the Green Climate Fund to increase national mitigation and adaptation measures – this project will allow Dominica to move a step closer to achieving its vision of becoming the world's first climate resilient state and will contribute to the overall sustainable development priorities.

Additionally, the Government has created the Kalinago Development Fund as a financing mechanism for Kalinago who wish to invest in the Territory. This is further testament of the high regard that Dominica has for the indigenous people of the Caribbean.

### High Impact Climate Resilient Initiative Under SDG 10

#### Koudmen Domnik





It is well recognized that individual and community self-help and cooperation are an essential part of building resilience. An active volunteer movement through which each Dominican participates to the best of their ability to uplift all citizens, Koudmen Domnik will coordinate volunteer led projects, with an emphasis on youth involvement and the inclusion of marginalized groups, across the country.

**To be delivered by the end of 2022**

### A Review of the SDG Targets under Goal 10 and Dominica's Progress

This dashboard shows at a snapshot how Dominica is progressing with respect to the achievement of the SDG targets under **SDG 10: Reduce Inequality Within and Among Countries**.

- Target met or likely to be met by 2030/substantial progress
- Moving away from the target/deterioration
- Fair progress but acceleration is needed
- No trend data available
- Limited or no progress
- Insufficient data/not applicable

SDG #10 – Reduce inequality within and among countries	Dominica's Progress
By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 percent of the population at a rate higher than the national average	
By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status	
Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard	
Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality	

## National Strategies, Opportunities and Future Directions to 2030

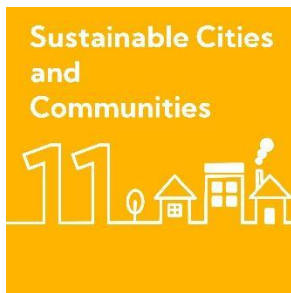
To advance the achievement of SDG 10, the Government of Dominica in partnership with its citizens and development partners will:

- As indicated in SDG #1, undertake an enhanced Country Assessment of Living Conditions (CALC) in a timely manner as this assessment will be critical in enabling the country to promulgate more targeted strategies for poverty reduction. This poverty assessment should be in-depth and comprehensive to determine the characteristics, extent, geographical concentration, severity and causes of poverty. The Assessment should create the foundation for the development of a Survey of Living Conditions and Household Budgets, to assess the extent of poverty, spending patterns, and could be used in the future to measure inflation. A Comprehensive Poverty Assessment would also be able to assess the well-being and coping strategies of the poor; include an Institutional Assessment to assess the effectiveness of the various social safety net programmes; and a Macro-Socio-Economic Analysis, to assess the global social and economic environment, to determine its impact on the incidence of poverty.
- The government will ensure that it incorporates the Human Security approach to development, which is a people-centered, context-specific, prevention-oriented, and comprehensive framework with the overall goal of providing population protection and empowerment and ensuring no one is left behind.



*Local vendor with Kalinago craft*





## SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

**Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable**



*The Bellevue Chopin Housing Development is Dominica's first integrated community, and consists of 355 climate-resilient houses*

### A Snapshot of Our Progress to Achieving SDG 11

Proportion of the population living in the capital city	25%
Proportion of Population Living in Urban Areas	71% (2019)
New Resilient Housing Stock up to April 2022	>2,000
% Housing Stock Destroyed or Partially Destroyed by Hurricane Maria in 2017	90%

# of Homes Totally Destroyed by Hurricane Maria	4,500
# of Homes Partially Damaged by Hurricane Maria	20,000
Deaths as a result of Hurricane Maria	30
<b>Dominica's Resilience Targets... towards the world's 1<sup>st</sup> climate resilient small island developing state</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 90% of housing stock built or retrofitted to resilient building codes</li> <li>• Communities able to operate independently for 15 days post extreme weather event</li> </ul>	

**We have embarked on a Housing Revolution underpinned by Resilience and Climate Change Adaptation, focused on Integrated Housing Development**

Following Hurricane Maria in 2017, ninety percent of the housing stock of the country was either fully or partially damaged. Prior to Hurricane Maria, the Government of Dominica began putting in place new policies in urban planning and developing integrated housing communities and solutions, across the country, resulting in the introduction of the Housing Revolution Programme (Integrated Housing Development). This initiative augured well for the work on the development of the housing stock that had to take place following Hurricane Maria. In fact, prior to Hurricane Maria, the Government's relocated the community of Pettie Savanne who were affected by Tropical Storm Erika and settled the residents into a new community in Dubique.

The Government has taken the bold step to fund this housing revolution from the Citizenship by Investment (CBI) Programme of Dominica. The overall intent of this housing revolution was to provide new, modern, integrated housing for low and middle-income families. The resettlement of displaced families began in December 2018 at the Bellevue Chopin Housing Development which has resettled more than 311 families of Petite Savanne that were displaced by Tropical Storm Erika. The housing units of the Bellevue Chopin Housing Development are climate-resilient and contains all modern services – water, sewage disposal, electricity, telephone/internet, roads, drainage and social services. The development consists of 355 housing units comprising 162 two-bedroom units, 143 three-bedroom units and 50 four-bedroom units. The development also contains commercial and community centers, a central plaza, a football/basketball and tennis court, a modern, resilient and SMART Health and Wellness Center, a day care facility and primary school. All utility lines are undergrounded for enhanced resilience.



Following on the first new climate resilient housing development, between 2018 and March 2022, twelve other housing developments have been successfully completed with over 2,000 new climate-resilient housing units. Other new housing developments are planned for several other communities across the island. The standard design for the developments is a mixture of two- and three-bedroom houses and apartments with a toilet and bath, a living room, a dining area, and a kitchen making the ratio of 1 habitable room per person based on Dominica's household size of 2.7 to meet international standards. To increase access to housing, the units are not sold or rented but rather awarded to beneficiaries through a selection system based social needs and also considers the needs of female-headed households and single mothers.

As part of efforts to ensure resilience, the housing structures were built with reinforced concrete with stormproof windowpanes. They were also fortified with retaining walls, sewage and storm water drainages, and all utility lines are underground as opposed to overhead, given that electric utilities that have overhead transmission and distribution lines are often significantly impacted by winds during tropical cyclone events. Homes are also outfitted with solar water heater, expanding the use of renewables while seeking to reduce fossil-fuel based energy.

Other than climate change adaptation considerations, the new housing developments also used local contractors and the other skilled workers, enhancing the capacity of the construction sector in 'climate proofing' that sector. The Government has already undertaken essential steps in respect of disaster risk reduction and building resilience in the housing sector with the revision of its building code with requisite training provided to raise awareness of the techniques for making houses disaster resilient. The Government will firmly enforce the building code for the overall protection of homeowners and the citizenry by extension.



*Goodwill and Bath Estate. Photo compliments of Robert Larocque*

To make cities safe and resilient, focus must be placed on disaster risk management. The Government is currently implementing its National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction 2018-2022. This Plan focuses on strategies and actions such as:

- Mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into policies, plans, and sustainable development programmes at all levels, with a focus on disaster prevention, risk reduction, preparedness, and mitigation of the vulnerability, with specific attention on women and children.
- Strengthening the legal framework, legal instruments, standard operating procedures, and policy guidelines, and establishing a mechanism in accordance with the actual requirement, by connecting local levels and the national level.
- Strengthening capacity of national and local officials, particularly at the community levels, on disaster-risk reduction, climate change adaptation, and hazard resilience.
- Integrating disaster-risk reduction into the preparation and implementation of disaster preparedness, emergency response and recovery programs to minimize disaster losses, and encourage full participation of Government institutions, civil society organizations, and the private sector.

Green spaces are being factored into development and into communities within the context of the Community Economic Diversification and Development (CEDD). The Government of Dominica has articulated that green spaces provide opportunities for fun and relaxation and are encouraged at the community level and viewed as important components of a wider plan to create the nexus between work, play and improving lifestyles, helping to combat NCDs and reducing carbon emissions.

Recreational sports have always played an important role in drawing people of the country together. As such, investments are being made to maintain playing grounds with some sitting accommodation and lighting.

The preservation of a country's cultural and natural heritage is key to achieving SDG 11. Cultural rights, heritage, diversity and creativity are core

components of human and sustainable development. The economical, biological, social and cultural value of Morne Trois Pitons National Park allowed it to be declared a World Heritage Site by the United Nations Education Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The Government



*Windsor Park Sports Stadium*

also continues to implement projects and programmes aimed at protecting and sustainably leveraging natural and other unique assets.

## Transformational Initiatives – Building Back Better... From Vulnerability to Resilience

### High Impact Climate Resilient Initiative Under SDG 11

#### Community Emergency Readiness Initiative





This initiative will develop Community Disaster Management Committees, Disaster Management Plans for all communities, and the requisite equipment and adequate supplies, including food, water and backup power to ensure 15 days' autonomy before the hurricane season each year





**To be Delivered by end 2022**

## A Review of the SDG Targets under Goal 11 and Dominica's Progress

This dashboard shows at a snapshot how Dominica is progressing with respect to the achievement of the SDG targets under **Prosperity**.

- Target met or likely to be met by 2030/substantial progress
- Moving away from the target/deterioration
- Fair progress but acceleration is needed
- No trend data available
- Limited or no progress
- Insufficient data/not applicable

SDG Targets #11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities	Dominica's Progress
By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums	
By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, people living with disabilities and older people	
By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries	
Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage	

SDG Targets #11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities	Dominica's Progress
By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations	
By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management	
By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older people and people living with disabilities.	
By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters	

## National Strategies, Opportunities and Future Directions to 2030

### High Impact Climate Resilient Initiative Under SDG 11

#### Resilient Housing Scheme

To transform the structural reliability of the nation's housing to extreme weather and relocate those currently located in physically vulnerable locations. This programme will significantly transform the sector and allow the Government to meet its target of 90% of housing stock to be resilient by 2030, through a combination of the construction of 5,000 new resilient homes for vulnerable citizens, updated building standards and fiscal incentives to assist homeowners to ensure that their homes are structurally resilient to a major storm event.

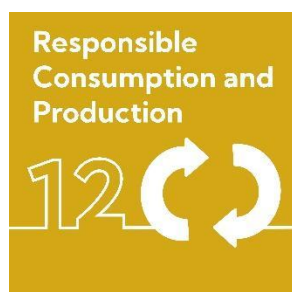
**To be Delivered by end 2023**

To advance the achievement of SDG 11, the Government of Dominica in partnership with its citizens and development partners will:

- Develop and promulgate a policy on the resettlement of communities to minimize risk to disasters and improve the living conditions of some of our households

- Modify the land use policy and include the incorporation of zone plans for high-risk areas to inform decisions around housing development, compulsory relocation of communities most at risk in the event of extremely adverse weather conditions etc. and even seismic hazards
- Develop and promulgate a new National Shelter Sector Strategy which will focus on improving the housing finance system and initiating reforms to facilitate the flow of financial resources to the low- and middle-income segments of the population
- Strengthen the role of the Office of Disaster Management (ODM) in coordinating and implementing the “National Action Plan and Strategy on Disaster Risk Reduction 2018-2022”, by: strengthen disaster management institutions at the national, sub-national, and local community levels, to ensure the effectiveness of disaster-risk reduction; implementing a law on disaster management; strengthening disaster management mechanisms by defining the organization and functioning of the national and local levels; and developing policy guidelines, legal instruments and the legal framework to support disaster risk reduction activities;
- Foster Community Economic Diversification and Development (CEDD) as part of community development and provide access to safe, inclusive and accessible green spaces
- Develop a Strategic Plan to chart the direction for sports and recreation, namely to promote sport for all and sport as an industry. Investments will be made in the development and upgrade of infrastructure to increase the level of participation in sports and to provide avenues for hosting international competitions with a thrust towards making Dominica a sport tourism destination.





## SDG 12: Responsible Production and Consumption

**Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns**



### A Snapshot of Our Progress to Achieving SDG 12

Annual Waste Stream (Tonnes)	~20,000 – 25, 000 (2001)
Waste Generation per person/per day (kg) <sup>98</sup>	1.2 (2001)
Projected Waste Generation per person/day (kg/per capita/day)	1.6 (2025)
Population Access to Waste Generation Services	94%
Total Municipal Solid Waste Generation/Per Day (Tonnes)	63 tonnes per day
Municipal Solid Waste Collection Rates	94%

Sustainable consumption and production patterns facilitate movement toward the green economy and the blue economy and include ensuring resource efficiency, waste prevention and management, and innovation in production processes and service delivery. These support the country's goal of advancing development that is resilient and plays a fundamental role in the preservation of the natural environment and reducing the impact of health-related issues associated with poor waste management practices. The Government acknowledges the need to develop a comprehensive waste management system to support waste disposal including recycling and the upkeep of the existing landfill. In 2005, a modern landfill was built to deal waste disposal and waste management. The Landfill was meant to last for 15 years, and today is filled. This has resulted in the introduction of programmes for waste separation at source as well as recycling and composting.

<sup>98</sup> World Bank. 2012. What a Waste: A Global Review of Solid Waste Management

The Dominica Solid Waste Management Cooperation is the established body that is charged with the responsibility of management and providing waste collection and disposal services. A new Solid Waste Act passed in Parliament in 2021 has given the Ministry of Environment control over of the Dominica Solid Waste Management Cooperation (DSWMC) and replaces the Solid Waste Act of 2002. Other Acts which support the management of waste and the protection of human health in the country include: Dominica Solid Waste Management Act; Environmental Health Services Act; and, the Litter Act.

Solid waste is classified into three categories: (i) domestic, (ii) industrial, and (iii) hospital waste.

The World Bank indicates that Dominica per capita waste generation is 1.2kg per capita (person) per day and that this is expected to increase to 1.6kg per capita per day based on current consumption and production patterns<sup>99</sup>. Total municipal solid waste generation per day is 63 tonnes and this is expected to increase to about 88 tonnes by 2025<sup>100</sup>. To better control waste, the Government in 2018, banned single use plastics, like other countries in the Caribbean, but went a step further and restricted imports of non-biodegradable food containers, an attempt to cut off their flow into the stores and restaurants that distribute them.

In recent years, there has been an increase in waste in urban areas, due to increasing urbanization and a change in the composition of waste with a greater volume of tin cans. This increase in waste has resulted in challenges related to volume of waste entering the landfill, hence the introduction of several waste diversion programmes underpinned by the 3Rs concept. Additionally, the DSWMC has implemented different measures to collect various kinds of wastes such as hazardous, biomedical waste, household waste, white goods, and condemned goods. The Corporation has also partnered with village councils to pick up white goods across the island. There is a designated area at the landfill to store white goods until it is properly processed. These efforts will be enhanced in the coming years.

The COVID – 19 pandemic posed additional challenges for waste management with the increase in bio-hazardous waste. The Dominica Solid Waste Management Corporation (DSWMC) adopted World Health Organization (WHO) protocols for the collection of COVID-19 waste and



*Members of the biomedical collection team*

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<sup>99</sup> World Bank. 2012. What a Waste: A Global Review of Solid Waste Management

<sup>100</sup> Ibid

collected bio-hazardous waste three days per week from all Government operated facilities and a twice weekly for all major health centres and private medical facilities throughout the island.

## **Transformational Initiatives – Building Back Better... From Vulnerability to Resilience**

### **Be the Solution, Stop Pollution**

The DSWMC has introduced measures to encourage recovery of recyclable items from waste. Dominica therefore implements a 3R (reuse, reduce, recycle) recycle collection system that involves urban communities, rural communities and some schools. The 3R initiative is focused on engaging the public through communities to engage in waste sorting from the point of origin of the waste. The objective of waste sorting has resulted in several benefits including: increased revenue from the sale of recycled material, increasing the lifespan of the landfill; reducing open dumping; and reducing overall littering.

To improve waste storage and reduce litter the government purchased and distributed 1,500 bins for the Residential level in Roseau City centre, Government Housing complex, within the city, and at tourist sites.



***Litter Bins***



***Residential Bins***



***Bins for Tourist Sites***

Other initiatives that have been implemented by the Government include the Material Recovery Facility (Recycling Plant), which was complemented by two new projects namely the Community Waste Storage Improvement Project and the Kalinago Territory Zero Waste Project.

In an attempt to raise awareness around the importance of waste management, the Government in 2021, launched a waste management campaign against littering as a means of protecting the natural environment. The goal is to adopt the 3Rs of Reduce, Reuse and Recycle waste to support proper waste management, across every sector and household. The flagship Programme, is formulated on two basic principles: corporate social responsibility and evoking collective consciousness. The programme implemented school competitions, “clean a mile”, consultations, panel discussions and radio programmes.



***Staff of the Ministry of the Environment and DSWMC participate in “Clean a Mile”***

The Government is investigating waste-to-energy (WTE) as a viable option for waste management and within the context of final disposal of waste and in keeping with the Paris Agreement and Dominica’s Intended Nationally Determined Contribution under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Early assessments contained in the World Bank Knowledge Paper on the subject indicate that the cost for landfill operation – both capital and operational costs outweigh the costs of converting residential waste into energy. Dominica’s annual waste stream averages about 20,000 – 25, 000 tonnes and with an ideal WTE energy

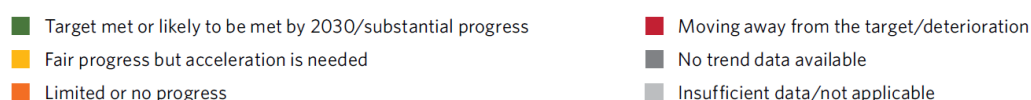








system, this should be at least 20 – 25 ton per day facility (maximum 9,125 tonnes per year) and would not be solely geared at generating electricity as its main output. Given the present waste stream, the following are also being considered:

- Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) – converting of plastic waste into fuel which could be sold commercially
- Organic fertilizer – given the high organic content of the waste composition
- Production of Electricity

## A Review of the SDG Targets under Goal 12 and Dominica's Progress

This dashboard shows at a snapshot how Dominica is progressing with respect to the achievement of the SDG targets under **Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns**.



SDG #12 – Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	Dominica's Progress
Implement the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, all countries taking action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries	
By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources	
By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment	
By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse	
Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle	
Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities	
By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature	



## **National Strategies, Opportunities and Future Directions to 2030**

To advance the achievement of SDG 12, the Government of Dominica in partnership with its citizens and development partners will:

- Develop and implement an effective solid waste management plan that considers the 3Rs as well as disposal, taking into consideration disposal requirements for e-waste, white waste, medical waste and other forms of hazardous waste
- Develop and implement practices and legislation to separate household garbage into biodegradable and non-biodegradable receptacles.
- Develop and implement new waste disposal policies that separate plastics, bottles, chemicals/ hazardous waste and metal should be instituted and even policies on importation of vehicles and incentives for scrap metal and new waste management and recycling enterprises should be promoted.
- Develop and implement appropriate public education and awareness programmes around waste management and recycling
- Implement waste-to energy options to support both waste management and renewable energy generation
- Develop a strategy to manage waste following natural disasters
- Develop and implement activities within the context of waste as a resource – for example, using agricultural waste and engaging in composting activities to make fertilizer
- Develop a green procurement policy for the Government to become part of the overall public procurement framework.
- Ensure that sustainability and resource efficiency considerations are incorporated into national tourism policies and plans.
- Develop more awareness campaigns related to waste management, recycling and sustainable consumption.



# PLANET

ADVANCING THE BLUE AND GREEN  
ECONOMIES TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE  
ADAPTATION



## SDG 13: Climate Action

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts



### A Snapshot of Our Progress to Achieving SDG 13

Losses from Hurricane Maria	226% of GDP
Cost of Recovery and Rebuilding post Hurricane Maria	230% of GDP
GDP losses to climate-related natural disasters	Top 10% among 182 countries
Loss of Life due to Hurricane Maria	30 persons
% of population living in coastal areas	90%



World Risk Index 2020 Rank	3 <sup>rd</sup> most vulnerable country to the impacts of climate change, worldwide
<b>Dominica's Resilience Targets... towards the world's 1<sup>st</sup> climate resilient small island developing state</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zero (0) fatalities from extreme weather events</li> <li>• 90% of the population able to identify the pillars of resilience and at least one measure undertaken by the Government, with specific focus on respect for people, planet and property and law and order maintained following significant disasters</li> </ul>	

### **Building the World's 1<sup>st</sup> Climate Resilient Country**

**Following the devastation as a result of back-to-back major storms in 2015 and 2017, Dominica announced its intention to become the first disaster resilient nation in the world and has prepared a Climate Resilience and Recovery Plan - a comprehensive plan including policies, costs, and financing to build resilience against future natural disasters.**

Addressing the United Nations in 2017, immediately after the passage of Hurricane Maria, the Prime Minister of Dominica, Honourable Roosevelt Skerrit declared climate change to be an “existential threat”, to Dominica and many other small island developing states. This conceptualization of the problem has resulted in an approach to climate action that is people centric and focuses on “climate-resilient and sustainable” development and focuses on responding to climate change in a comprehensive manner, cutting across all economic, social and environmental sectors and addressing issues of disaster risk financing, disaster risk mitigation, rehabilitation, and reconstruction. Dominica is focused on:

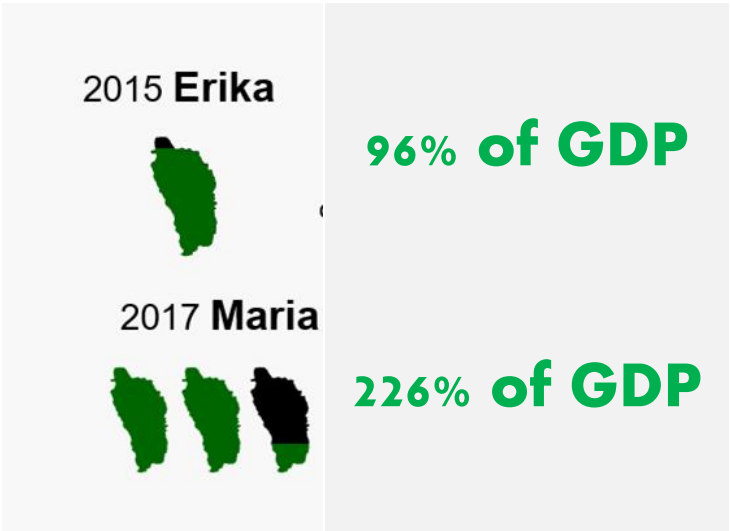
### **Inculcating resilience at the household, community and national levels**

Dominica is a mountainous island that is highly exposed to natural shocks, ranging from tropical storms and hurricanes to volcanoes and landslides, among other disasters. The island is the most geologically active island in the Caribbean and has nine active volcanoes. Due to the topography of the island, coupled with intense and excess rainfall events, landslides and floods occur fairly frequently. Of these different hazards, hurricanes and storms have had the largest severe effects.

Like most small islands, most of Dominica’s population and infrastructure is located on the coast, making them particularly vulnerable to strong winds and high seas.

Dominica is extremely vulnerable to natural disasters and climate change. Between 2014 and 2018, Dominica experienced 10 tropical storms and two hurricanes, rendering its economy ever more fragile as a result. The impacts of climate change pose an increasing risk to human life, health, infrastructure and ecosystems, and can threaten the achievement of the SDGs.

During 1997-2017, Dominica had the highest GDP losses to climate-related natural disasters and ranked in the top 10 percent among 182 countries for climate-related fatalities. Further, The International Monetary Fund (IMF) ranked Dominica as the country that suffered the worst natural disasters between 1980 and 2017 based on sustained damage, estimated at 226 percent of gross domestic product. The Patkins and Mazzi Composite Index ranks Dominica as the fourth most vulnerable Caribbean country, behind only Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas and Belize<sup>101</sup>. Dominica highlights the



multi-hazard environment that Caribbean countries and many other SIDS outside of the Caribbean exist in. Dominica’s population is situated mainly along the coast due to its mountainous interior, which increases the level of vulnerability to storm surge, sea level rise, and flooding, among other sea related threats. The World Bank Risk Index 2020<sup>102</sup>, ranks Dominica as the third most vulnerable country to the impacts of climate change, worldwide based on its exposure and vulnerability to disasters. Only Vanuatu and Tonga are considered more vulnerable than Dominica.






















The risk index in the World Risk Report is further broken down and assessed by the following components:

Dominica						
Components	World Risk Index	Exposure	Vulnerability	Susceptibility	Coping Capacities	Adaptative Capacities
Risk Classification	28.47	Very High	Medium	Medium	Medium	Low

<sup>101</sup> Dominica Climate Resilience and Recovery Plan 2020-2030 (2020)

<sup>102</sup> World Bank 2020. World Risk Index Report 2020










 <b>WorldRiskIndex (WRI)</b>	 <b>Exposure</b>	 <b>Vulnerability</b>
 very low 0.31 – 3.29	 very low 0.91 – 9.55	 very low 22.81 – 34.13
 low 3.30 – 5.67	 low 9.56 – 12.13	 low 34.14 – 42.38
 medium 5.68 – 7.58	 medium 12.14 – 14.64	 medium 42.39 – 48.12
 high 7.59 – 10.75	 high 14.65 – 19.69	 high 48.13 – 61.49
 very high 10.76 – 49.74	 very high 19.70 – 86.77	 very high 61.50 – 76.34
 no data	 no data	 no data

Max. value = 100, classification according to the quintile method

Hurricane Maria in 2017, a category 5 hurricane, had significant impacts on the socio-economic fabric of the country. Hurricane Maria resulted in overall damage of US\$931 million as well as a loss of US\$382 million), which values around 226 percent of the country's 2016's GDP. Hurricane Maria was preceded by Tropical Storm Erika two years earlier in 2015 which cost the country 96 percent of its GDP.



-  **Water/Sanitation:** 43 out of 44 water systems destroyed
-  **Shelter:** 90% of structures damaged; 62% of houses heavily damaged, of which 15% destroyed
-  **Power:** 90% of population lacked access to electricity for over 4 months
-  **Roads/Bridges:** 1-2m of floodwater; debris deposits of 1-4m in riverbeds, 6+ bridges severely damaged
-  **Emergency Services:** 5 of 11 police stations & 4 of 8 fire and ambulance stations severely damaged
-  **Food:** 24,000 people became severely or borderline food insecure, according to WFP
-  **Livestock:** Country-wide losses included cattle (45% lost), pigs (65%), small ruminants(50%), broiler chickens (90%), layers (90%), rabbits (50%), and beehives (25%)

In addition to the above-mentioned impacts, the Government estimates that both Tropical Storm Erik and Hurricane Maria also resulted in major damage to the country pristine natural environment, including its lush forests which cover about 60 percent of the country.

Following Hurricane Maria, the Government announced its bold ambition to become the world's first climate resilient small island. Immediately following the disaster, the Prime Minister of Dominica addressed the United Nations, declaring:

***“We as a country and as a region did not start this war against nature! We did not provoke it! The war has come to us...There is no more time for conversation! There is little time left for action. While the big countries talk, the small island nations suffer. We need action....and we need it NOW! We in The Caribbean do not produce greenhouse gases or sulphate aerosols. We do not pollute or overfish our oceans. We have made no contribution to global warming that can move the needle. But yet, we are among the main victims...on the frontline! “...To deny climate change is to procrastinate while the earth sinks; it is to deny a truth we have just lived! It is to mock thousands of my compatriots who in a few hours without a roof over their heads will watch the night descend on Dominica in fear of sudden mudslides...and what the next hurricane may bring.”***

To make this vision a reality, the Government promulgated the National Resilience Development Strategy to guide the ‘climate proofing’ of Dominica. The Plan is based on three pillars:



- **Climate resilient systems** with a focus on climate-proofing the country’s economic assets such as roads, bridges, housing, schools, ports, health facilities and other economic infrastructure. These assets are usually damaged during storms and hurricanes and place the largest financial burden on the Government during the period of post-disaster reconstruction. Climate proofing also extends to the country’ food security systems, water and sanitation systems, energy systems, communications systems, health service delivery systems, education systems, and all other social delivery systems.
- **Prudent disaster risk management** focuses on minimizing and managing the risks associated with climate-related disasters. This will involve the development of a strong evidence base for decision-making, to enable better planning and management of the damage caused by extreme weather events. Focus also will be placed on improving the

structure of the country's disaster management systems and strengthening planning processes and the enactment of modern and appropriate legislation.

- **Effective disaster response and recovery** which focuses on the post-disaster phase, minimizing disaster impacts, reducing the pain and the period of recovery and building back better. To do this, Dominica will put in place better, more efficient systems for search and rescue, relief coordination, restoration of road networks and port services, clean up and sanitation, and the preservation of law and order; and efficient networks for ensuring there is a reliable supply of food, water and medical services where needed, and cooperation between telecommunications service providers to allow sharing of their network to facilitate communication and dissemination of vital information. It will involve developing robust business continuity measures for both the public and the private sectors, so that essential operations may be resumed as quickly as possible. It means establishing systems that facilitate the speedy restoration of livelihoods, particularly in the agriculture, fisheries and tourism sectors. This necessitates having more effective and efficient procedures to accurately assess damage and loss and to identify resources that must be mobilized.

Aligned to NRDS is the Comprehensive Climate Resilience and Recovery Plan (CRRP) which is developed to translate Dominica's vision of becoming the world's first climate resilient nation into specific activities that can be shared with key stakeholders, all of whom have a critical part to play in helping the country achieve its bold aspiration. The Climate Resilience and Recovery Plan (CRRP) is the compendium to the NRDS and as such reflects its three pillars of resilience namely: (1) Climate Resilient Systems, (2) Prudent Disaster Risk Management Systems, and (3) Effective Disaster Response and Recovery. Borne from these pillars, are six results areas for a climate-resilient Dominica:

- Strong Communities
- Robust Economy
- Well-planned and Durable Infrastructure
- Enhanced collective consciousness
- Strengthened institutional systems
- Protected and Sustainably Leveraged Natural and Other Unique Assets

The road to a resilient nation led to the strengthening of public service institutions and the creation of the Climate Resilience Executing Agency of Dominica (CREAD). Also, the world's first Climate Resilience Act, was developed and promulgated to improve the legislative framework to deliver on the vision.

In addition, the Government has designed and continues to implement the National Climate Change Adaptation Policy, as well as Dominica's Low Carbon Climate Resilient Development Strategy that will support climate adaptation and resilience building.

Dominica recognizes comprehensive disaster management as critical to assuring the country's social and economic sustainability.

## **Transformational Initiatives – Building Back Better... From Vulnerability to Resilience**

### **Climate Resilience Execution Agency of Dominica (CREAD)**

Following the devastation wrought by Hurricane Maria, the Government committed to establish an executive agency, the Climate Resilience Execution Agency of Dominica (CREAD) that will facilitate the implementation of projects as part of rebuilding Dominica as the first climate resilient nation in the world. CREAD is essentially leading the recovery efforts, focusing not only on physical reconstruction but also on establishing climate resilient systems, for example, in the energy, food production and transport sectors. Hurricane Maria has given Dominica the opportunity to rebuild the island as a climate resilient nation. The scale of the recovery and rebuilding task is immense, estimated by the PDNA conducted after Hurricane Maria at 230% of GDP.

### **Dominica's Climate Resilience Act**

Dominica promulgated its Climate Resilience Act in 2018 – a first of its kind globally – to improve the legislative framework to deliver on the vision – to become the world's first resilient small island developing state. The Act includes 10 elements as follows:

1. To promote the swift and cost-effective recovery of Dominica from climate-related disasters
2. To ensure that any physical and other infrastructure damaged or destroyed during a climate related disaster is reconstructed or restored to a state that is better than its state before the occurrence of that disaster.
3. To ensure that Dominica will be more resilient to natural hazards and better able to respond to climate-related disasters.
4. To assist the public and private sectors and civil society to be better equipped to manage and recover from climate-related disasters.
5. To ensure the climate resilience of the physical and other infrastructure of Dominica.
6. To coordinate recovery action following a climate related disaster, including the construction, reconstruction or restoration of physical or other infrastructure and the execution of projects aimed at building national climate resilience.
7. To prioritize and accelerate projects and, where necessary, to ensure that projects are properly sequenced.
8. To avoid duplicity and maximize economies of scale.
9. To identify and reduce critical gaps in funding.
10. To support Government Ministries to enable them to implement climate resilient policies and priority recovery projects.



## Dominica Climate Resilience & Restoration Project

- Transform identified schools into climate resilient facilities
- Modern Equipment and Furnishings
- Gender Sensitization, Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building for stakeholders
  - Project Implementation Unit (PIU) Staff, Contractors, Suppliers, Teachers, Unskilled Groups
- Education Sector Plan 2019 to 2024



One of CREAD's main priorities is to encourage Dominicans to focus on developing resilient infrastructure and strengthened institutions.

To achieve this, it is critical to not only fortify the education facilities and their operatives, but also to engage and equip Dominicans with the basic skills to contribute to national development, and a sector plan to guide same.



### Impact

- Four (4) Schools rehabilitated and outfitted with modern equipment and furnishing:
  - Grand Bay Primary
  - W.S. Stevens Primary
  - Morne Jaune Primary
  - Delices Primary
- Sector direction with new Education Sector Plan 2019/2024
- Total Beneficiaries:
  - 462 Students
  - 150 community members equipped with basic skills training
  - 35 Contractors/Suppliers trained in resilience

### Finance

Government of Dominica  
**US\$533,000**

Government of Canada  
**US\$6,730,000**

Caribbean Development Bank  
**US\$300,000**

Total Contribution  
**US\$7,563,000**

### Partners



## A Review of the SDG Targets under Goal 13 and Dominica's Progress

This dashboard shows at a snapshot how Dominica is progressing with respect to the achievement of the SDG targets under **Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts**.

- Target met or likely to be met by 2030/substantial progress
- Fair progress but acceleration is needed
- Limited or no progress
- Moving away from the target/deterioration
- No trend data available
- Insufficient data/not applicable

SDG #13 – Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	Dominica's Progress
Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries	↑
Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning	↑
Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning	↑



## National Strategies, Opportunities and Future Directions to 2030

### 20 Climate Resilience Targets

The Government is pursuing 20 climate resilience targets (which are not dissimilar to SDG related metrics) that are designed across its economic, social and environmental sectors to ensure that it is able to meet its resilience objectives and achieve the vision of a world's first resilient small island developing state. These targets, which are fully aligned with the SDGs are:

1. Zero (0) fatalities from extreme weather events
2. Communities able to operate independently for 15 days post extreme weather event
3. 90% of housing stock built or retrofitted to resilient building codes
4. Individuals able to revert to basic living standards within four (4) days
5. 100% resettlement of individuals living in physically vulnerable locations
6. Less than 5% of gross domestic product (GDP) in losses related to an extreme weather event
7. Less than 50% agriculture and fisheries losses as a percentage of total losses
8. 100% functioning of critical Government and emergency services during and after an extreme climatic event
9. Seaports and airports functioning within one week of an extreme weather event
10. Sustained, sustainable and inclusive growth of minimum 5% achieved
11. 100% primary roads and bridges open within 3 days of an extreme weather event
12. 60% of the population with access to water and sanitation within 7 days of an extreme weather event
13. 90% of the population with access to power within 3 days of a climatic event
14. No more than 5% of schools and healthcare facilities severely damaged or destroyed by an extreme weather event
15. 100% of telecommunications restored within three 3 months of an extreme weather event
16. 100% of national budgeting policies in place and enforced, and Government performance measurement framework informed by resilience targets
17. 90% of the population able to identify the pillars of resilience and at least one measure undertaken by the Government, with specific focus on respect for people, planet and property and law and order maintained following significant disasters
18. 60% of agricultural land cultivated sustainably, supporting environmental protection and the sustainable development agenda
19. 50% increase in healthy coral reef coverage to support increased fish stocks, and protect coastlines and the ecotourism industry
20. Becoming carbon neutral through 100% domestic renewable energy production, and an increase of protected forest areas to 67 of Dominica's land mass

Life Below Water



## SDG 14: Life Below Water

**Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development**



### A Snapshot of Our Progress to Achieving SDG 14

Contribution of Marine Environment to GDP	25.4% (2019) <sup>103</sup>
Contribution of Fisheries to GDP	< 1% (2019)
Contribution of Tourism to GDP	37% (2019)
Exclusive Economic Zone	38 times larger than land area

<sup>103</sup> United Nations Development Programme. 2021. Blue Economy Scoping Study for Dominica

Length of Coastline	197 km
Km <sup>2</sup> Coral Reef	0.8
Km <sup>2</sup> Mangroves	0.8
# of fisherfolk, including fish vendors and boat boys	~ 2,000 <sup>104</sup>
# Registered fishers	800 <sup>105</sup>
# Persons Employed Directly and Indirectly to the Fisheries Sector	3,700 <sup>106</sup>
# Marine Parks	1
<b>Dominica's Resilience Targets... towards the world's 1<sup>st</sup> climate resilient small island developing state</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 50% increase in healthy coral reef coverage to support increased fish stocks, and protect coastlines and the eco-tourism industry</li> </ul>	

***“if effectively protected, managed and utilized, the Caribbean’s coastal and marine resources can potentially provide a sizeable resource base through which the region can realize sustained and sustainable economic growth. New and emerging blue economy growth industries (namely aquaculture, carbon sequestration, marine biotechnology, deep seabed mining, and ocean renewable energy) can profoundly transform the traditional ocean-based productive sectors found in the Caribbean (i.e. fishing, coastal tourism, offshore oil and gas exploration, and marine transport) while enhancing food security, promoting environmental conservation and mainstreaming integrated coastal/ocean management.”<sup>107</sup>***

Dominica is fully committed to sustainably developing its blue economy as it recognizes that its marine environment and its exclusive economic zones presents opportunities to help develop the full potential of the aquatic resources of the country, while at the same time building safe and resilient coastal communities, ensuring a healthy and productive marine environment, and creating sustainable and inclusive economic growth. Dominica already benefits from the use of the marine environment through several ocean-related activities including tourism, fisheries and ports and shipping. The island’s exclusive economic zone (EEZ) is approximately 28,500 km<sup>2</sup>,

<sup>104</sup> Turner, Rachel, McConney Patrick, and Monnereau, Iris. 2020. Climate Change Adaptation and Extreme Weather in the Small-Scale Fisheries of Dominica

<sup>105</sup> Ibid

<sup>106</sup> United Nations Development Programme. 2021. Blue Economy Scoping Study for Dominica

<sup>107</sup> Government of Dominica. 2020. NRDS

approximately 38 times its land area. The island EEZ is partially located in the Caribbean Sea (west coast) and partially in the Atlantic Ocean (east coast)<sup>108</sup>.

Dominica's marine environment has a diverse range of biodiversity, marine habitats and resources, including coral reefs, extensive seagrass beds, mangroves, wetlands and a variety of rocky and sandy habitats. Marine mammals and sea turtles are also found in Dominica's waters. A Study undertaken by the World Bank (2020) concluded that coastal and marine ecosystems contributed 25.4 percent of GDP in 2019. Dominica has many coral reef types, each providing important habitat. The Nature Conservancy Reports<sup>109</sup> that:

- At least 10-15% of live coral cover has been lost on many reefs since 2005
- Abundant *Diadema* urchins have reduced macroalgae
- Lack of large-sized female fish means fewer eggs to replenish populations
- Marine managed areas may be helping some fish to recover in those areas
- Reefs considered in better condition (H) in 2013 included Grande Savanne, Salisbury, Mero S, Mero W, Batali, Cachacrou, Plat Coubari and Hodges Reef

The marine environment as well as marine and aquatic biodiversity in Dominica is threatened by<sup>110</sup>:

- Extraction of coastal resources – sand, gravel, rocks.
- Coastal construction – Sea defenses and retaining walls for roads
- Negative impacts of ghost fishing
- Inappropriate fishing gear (example use of nets with inappropriate mesh size)
- Land-based sources of marine pollution.
- Invasive species such as the lionfish (*Pterois volitans*), sea grass (*Halophila Stipulaceae*)
- Pollution from domestic wastewater and sewage

Dominica's fisheries sector employs around 2,200 people, including full and part-time fishers, fish vendors and ancillary workers such as boat boys. The island also has several fishing cooperatives. There are approximately 800 registered fishers operating across 21 landings sites around the island, and approximately 440 of an estimated 650 fishing vessels are registered with the Fisheries Division<sup>111</sup>. The fishery is small-scale artisanal, with most of the catch used for domestic consumption. Although the fisheries sector contributes less than 1 percent to GDP it is important to livelihoods, employment and national food security. An estimated 1,000 tons of fish is landed annually by the small fleet scattered among the coastal communities.

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<sup>108</sup> United Nations Development Programme. 2021. Blue Economy Scoping Study for Dominica

<sup>109</sup> The Nature Conservancy. 2016. Commonwealth of Dominica Coral Reef Report Card 2016

<sup>110</sup> Government of Dominica. National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2014 - 2020

<sup>111</sup> Turner, Rachel, McConney Patrick, and Monnereau, Iris. 2020. Climate Change Adaptation and Extreme Weather in the Small-Scale Fisheries of Dominica



Tourism contributed about 37 percent of total GDP, 56.4 percent of total foreign exchange earnings and 34.4 percent of total employment in 2019.<sup>112</sup>

The development of Dominica's blue economy is expected to at the first level take into consideration fishing, tourism, shipping and employment. However, there are several new and emerging industries that the country is expected to assess. These include offshore wind, tidal and wave energy, aquaculture, seabed mining and marine biotechnology. Some of these industries are quite visible, providing renewable energy, fish protein and medicine. The Government will explore all opportunities available within the blue economy for economic development and transformation. Dominica's ocean already drives the country's tourism, trading and fisheries sectors.

### **Transformational Initiatives – Building Back Better... From Vulnerability to Resilience**

Marine uses and ocean-related activities contribute significantly to the overall economy through direct economic activities, indirect support to service industries and the provision of environmental services. Tourism, the fishing sector and ports and shipping were identified as relevant activities that already contribute to the blue economy. Although projections are not readily available, indications prior to the COVID-19 pandemic had suggested that blue economies globally would continue to grow faster than overall rates of economic growth in the coming decades.

Much of the fisheries industry was destroyed following Hurricane Maria. This included processing and storage facilities at landing sites. The build back of the sector between 2018 and 2019 led to approximately 1.9 million pounds of fish landed in 2019, representing a 10 percent increase compared to the previous year, and the most fish recorded as landing during the same period in ten years<sup>113</sup>.



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<sup>112</sup> World Travel and Tourism Council. 2020. Travel & Tourism Economic Impact 2019: Dominica.







<sup>113</sup> Government of Dominica. 2020. Economic and Social Review for Fiscal Year 2018/19



## A Review of the SDG Targets under Goal 14 and Dominica's Progress

This dashboard shows at a snapshot how Dominica is progressing with respect to the achievement of the SDG targets under **SDG 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources and sustainable development**.

- Target met or likely to be met by 2030/substantial progress
- Fair progress but acceleration is needed
- Moving away from the target/deterioration
- No trend data available
- Limited or no progress
- Insufficient data/not applicable

SDG #14 – Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development	Dominica's Progress
By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution.	
By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans.	
By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics.	
By 2030, conserve at least 10 percent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information.	
By 2030, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation.	
By 2030, increase the economic benefits to small island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism.	

## National Strategies, Opportunities and Future Directions to 2030

### High Impact Climate Resilient Initiative Under SDG 14

#### **ResilienSEA Triple Bottom Line Blue Economy Investment Fund**

This Investment Fund will seek to support the development of viable and sustainable businesses based on or linked to Dominica's rich marine environment. It will tap private and social sector investment, steering it towards commercial or quasi-commercial ventures that support the overall climate resilience ambitions of the Government. Managed by a dedicated, objective and credible Investment Committee with experience in high-impact investing in the blue economy, it will provide social, environmental and financial returns (that is, a triple bottom line) to meet the expectations of a range of investors. It will be complemented by a technical assistance fund to support the development or expansion of innovative business in the sector.

**Fund operational through 2026**

**To advance the achievement of SDG 14, the Government of Dominica in partnership with its citizens and development partners will:**

- Enhance the adaptive capacity of the fisheries sector through the introduction of improved fishing technology, land-based operations and promoting practices that will reduce vulnerability, mitigate against and build resilience to the effects of climate change on the fisheries sector. Some of these include building resilience in the fishing fleet through better shore-based storage facilities; reduce post-harvest losses in the fisheries sector and improve sanitary standards; develop and strengthen the model of fishery co-management using existing cooperatives as a model; and develop new fishery-based products to diversify fish trade.
- Make the fisheries sector 'climate-smart' by supporting the local and national sources of fisheries innovation and adaptive capacity, promoting long-term social-ecological sustainability of coastal ecosystems and human communities through integrated risk management; identifying sustainable sources of disaster relief funding; and providing resilient infrastructure for protection of fishing vessels and the safe storage of fish.
- Strengthen the existing management frameworks for marine resources to promote opportunities for growth in the tourism and fisheries sectors, including undertaking the required assessments of the marine resources
- Enhancing the knowledge base around the blue economy and using data to make more informed decisions with respect to the management and use of marine resources
- Consider identifying and exploring emerging opportunities in aquaculture, ocean-related tourism and leisure activities, marine biotechnology and digital technology/information

and communications technology that are compatible with the island's developmental objectives

- Develop and implement fisheries conservation plan
- Create linkages between tourism and marine conservation, including stronger trade linkages between the fishery and tourism sectors
- Explore opportunities for strengthening management and protection of habitats, marine ecosystems and coastal areas, including declaring and expanding marine protected areas,
- Develop a conservation trust fund for the marine conservation and explore the development of a sustainable finance framework



*Dominica's marine environment has a diverse range of biodiversity, marine habitats and resources, including coral reefs, extensive seagrass beds, mangroves, wetlands and a variety of rocky and sandy habitats. A Study undertaken by the World Bank (2020) concluded that coastal and marine ecosystems contributed 25.4 percent of GDP in 2019.*

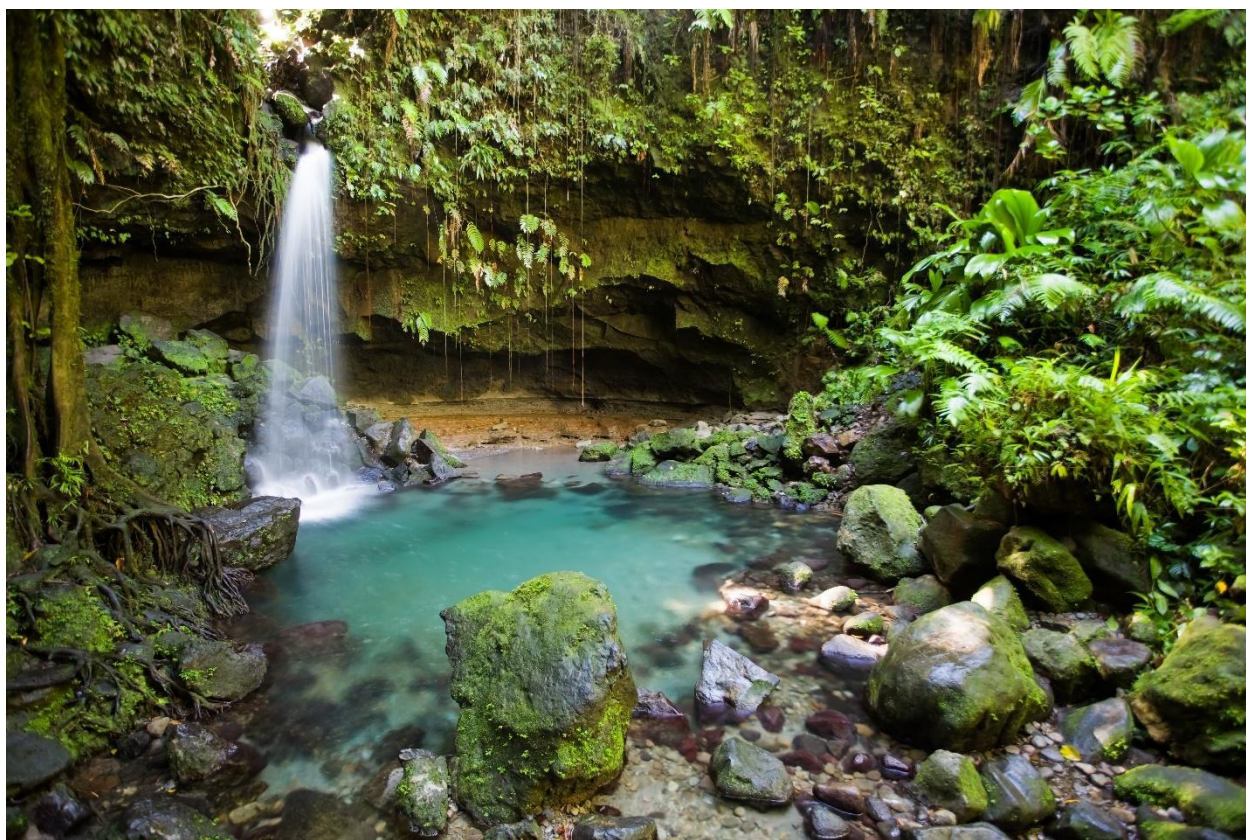


Life on Land



## SDG 15: Life on Land

**Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss**



### A Snapshot of Our Progress to Achieving SDG 15

Forest cover	60% of land area
Environmental Performance Index	44.5 (2020) <sup>114</sup>
Environmental Performance Rank	86/180 countries (near super performer) (2020)
# Protected Areas	6

<sup>114</sup> <https://epi.yale.edu/epi-results/2020/country/dma>

% of Forest Cover that is Protected	20%
Jobs linked directly or indirectly to forests	20% of all jobs <sup>115</sup>
<b>Dominica's Resilience Targets... towards the world's 1<sup>st</sup> climate resilient small island developing state</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Becoming carbon neutral through 100% domestic renewable energy production, and an increase of protected forest areas to 67 percent of Dominica's land mass</li> </ul>	

Dominica is colloquially known as the 'The Nature Isle' of the Caribbean and considers its natural resources as its foundation providing the substrate on which all social and economic development is built. We have a strong focus on the implementation of measures to protect its natural environment and ecosystems – forests, watersheds, and marine spaces. Dominica's natural park system protects much of the island's biodiversity and rainforests and supports eco-tourism.



*Dominica... The Nature Island of the Caribbean... We are called the nature island of the Caribbean because of our lush rainforests, flora and fauna, 365 rivers, the Caribbean's highest peaks, our Morne Diablotin.*

<sup>115</sup> Government of Dominica. National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2014 - 2020



Sixty percent of the land area is covered by dense forest and woodland of which 20 per cent is protected by the Forest Act of 1958 and the National Parks and Protected Areas Act, 1975<sup>116</sup>. Dominica is recognized as having one of the best remaining tropical rainforests in the Eastern Caribbean. The country's forests are of critical economic, environmental and cultural importance. An estimated 20 percent of jobs in Dominica are directly or indirectly linked to forestry. From an environmental perspective, the forest habitat hosts a considerable variety of birds and animals with many species unique to Dominica, in addition to providing critical environmental ecosystem services noted above. From a cultural perspective, Dominicans have deep historical connections to the forests – the forests having provided refuge to the Kalinago and the Negre Maron – and continue to play a central role in promoting Dominica as “the Nature Island”.

Protected areas include one marine park, two large forest reserves (Central and Northern), and three national parks, including the Morne Trois Pitons National Park which is the largest in the Eastern Caribbean with major positive implications for carbon sequestration, eco-tourism, and development of a thriving green economy.

The importance of environmental protection and conservation to the country is clearly articulated in the CRRP which has as one of its six results areas “Protected and Sustainably Leveraged Natural and other Unique Assets” and similarly, in the NRDS, one of the seven developmental objectives is to enhance the resilience of ecosystems and the sustainable use of natural resources. The “Nature Isle of the Caribbean” has in place several acts to protect its natural resources including the Forest Act (1958) and the National Parks and Protected Areas Act (1975). The conservation and protection of biodiversity is included in the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2000).

The National Forest Policy 2022 was recently approved by the Cabinet of Dominica and replaces the last formal policy for managing Dominica's forest resources which was adopted in 1949. It was developed with the assistance of the World Bank, as part of a suite of technical and investment support to Dominica to develop a strategic and modernized natural resource governance framework in line with global best practice, with particular focus on forestry and protected areas management. This new National Forest Policy is designed to facilitate long-term sustainability and resilience of Dominica's economic growth through a focus on natural resources management in the forestry sector.

The island's national Protected Area (PA) System consists of 6 terrestrial and 1 marine park<sup>117</sup>.

Dominican forests support the only population of the endemic parrot *Amazona imperialis* (Imperial Parrot) which is recognized as critically endangered with as an estimated population of

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<sup>116</sup> Government of Dominica. National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2014 - 2020

<sup>117</sup> UNDP Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean. Supporting Sustainable Ecosystems of Dominica's Protected Area System. Available at: “<https://www.bb.undp.org/content/barbados/en/home/projects/supporting-sustainable-ecosystems-PAS-dominica.html>”

250-350. The national park, Morne Trois Pitons, has been declared a UNESCO world heritage site. These forest resources are an important component of the Dominican tourism economy.



*Dominica's Endemic Parrot – Amazonal imperialis (Imperial Parrot) which is recognized as critically endangered with as an estimated population of 250-350.*

Dominica has a rich and diverse flora and fauna and accounts for 48 percent of local food supply<sup>118</sup> which comes in the form of wild meat, fish (from the rivers and sea), fruits, root crops and the wide range of domestic agriculture products. Additionally, biodiversity provides energy in the form of fuel wood and charcoal, raw material for the craft industry, timber for the local market, and a host of products that contribute to the quality of life in Dominica. Dominica's net greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions indicate that the country is a sink for GHG, due primarily to its lush green forest<sup>119</sup>. The country's biodiversity is threatened by human activity and natural disasters, nonetheless, major threats include:

- Deforestation
- Over-exploitation of wildlife
- Encroachment
- Unregulated development

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<sup>118</sup> Government of Dominica. National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2014 - 2020

<sup>119</sup> Ibid

- Introduction of foreign/invasive species
- Loss of agro-biodiversity
- Impacts from climate change
- Uncontrolled use of biotechnology
- Pollution
- Natural disasters
- Loss of traditional knowledge
- Outdated legal/institutional frameworks



*The Leptodactylus fallax frogs—a species nicknamed the “mountain chicken” is a critically endangered amphibian. Found only on the islands of Montserrat and Dominica in the east Caribbean Sea, the mountain chicken was once a local delicacy. It is one of the largest frogs in the world and appears on the official seal of Dominica. Years of overhunting and habitat loss, as well as volcanic eruptions in Montserrat, diminished the mountain chicken population. In 2002, the chytrid fungus (Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis) devastated the population in Dominica. Within one year, by 2003, over 85% of the frogs were lost. Today in 2022, through conservation efforts of the Forestry Division, and regional and international partners, there is a population of mountain chicken frogs on the island and will be conserved for their national, cultural and ecological value and symbolism.*

In addition, Hurricane Maria in 2017 resulted in uncalculated loss of ecosystem services provided by watersheds, wetlands and coral reefs. In the case of forests, the winds and intense rainfall from Hurricane Maria resulted in widespread damage to the forest system. Much of the forest was stripped of leaves and damaged and downed trees were widespread throughout the island.

The cross-sectoral approach to environmental and biodiversity protection being pursued will secure environmental sustainability that will by extension, facilitate the social and economic prosperity of the island’s current and future generations. The Government continues to be committed to sustainable forest, ecosystem and natural resources management which provides opportunities for enhanced socio-economic development while contributing to climate change mitigation.



## Transformational Initiatives – Building Back Better... From Vulnerability to Resilience

Dominica recognizes the importance of undertaking timely updates of the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan to ensure the implementation of the country's obligations under the Convention for Biological Diversity, as well as serving as a strategic framework to guide the continued conservation and protection of Dominica's vulnerable natural resources and ecosystems.

### Dominica Forest Note: Using Effective Forest Management to Improve the Flow of Ecosystem Services and Benefit Dominica's Economy

The Dominica Forest Note approved by Cabinet aims to identify options for the short, medium and long term that would support the objective of robust forest governance and comprehensive environmental regulatory and management capacity building. It highlights several win-win opportunities for Dominica which could increase the direct economic contribution of the forest sector, enhance management of abandoned agricultural land; and lay out options for potential payment for environmental services (PES) schemes. The Forest Note sets out some short-term opportunities as salient to achieving these objectives and opening opportunities to mobilize dedicated financing resources to support interventions, including the following activities which are currently or have potential to mobilize financing:

- Rehabilitating trails and facilities within national parks and Waitikubuli National Trail
- Planning for forest resource management through a general national inventory
- Sustainable salvaging of timber
- Encouragement of adequate forestland management plans
- Updating management plans for national parks
- Increasing effectiveness of the reforestation programme
- Building capacity for forestry-related institutions





The Forest Note is an important framework to help guide dialogue with international, regional and bi-lateral partners related to the forestry sector, to establish a long-term vision for forestry governance that aligns with the vision set out in guiding documents, notably the NRDS.

### **Strengthening of National Forest Resources and Watersheds Resilience through Post Hurricane Maria Restoration & Reforestation Programs**



In an attempt to restore forest loss as a result of Hurricane Maria, the project, Strengthening of National Forest Resources and Watersheds Resilience through Post Hurricane Maria Restoration and Reforestation Programmes is being implemented. A major reforestation exercise is being undertaken dubbed ‘Million Tree Planting’ to reestablish lost forest wood resources, create local livelihood opportunities and build the aesthetics of the country by extension in order to respond to the challenges and devastating impact on the forestry sector posed by Hurricane Maria. The project is expected to result in a number of benefits, including:

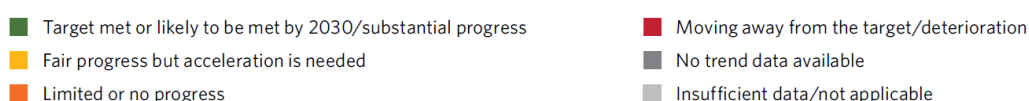
- Provision of employment for contractors and residents in communities where the nurseries were constructed and in the replanting of the forest in existing plantations within their districts
- Increase in farmers’ yield and expansion in livelihood opportunities by implementing agro-forestry systems/techniques in collaboration with Forest Rangers within the various districts



- Propagation of plants to help reduce the levels of crop depredation to farmlands
- Establishment of 'forest corridors' to make food more accessible for parrots and other wildlife in areas where crop depredation requires urgent intervention
- Propagation of ornamental plants to facilitate the national beautification program

## A Review of the SDG Targets under Goal 15 and Dominica's Progress

This dashboard shows at a snapshot how Dominica is progressing with respect to the achievement of the SDG targets under **SDG 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.**



SDG 15 – Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss	Dominica's Progress
By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements	
By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally	
By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development	
Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species	
By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts	

## National Strategies, Opportunities and Future Directions to 2030

To advance the achievement of SDG 15, the Government of Dominica in partnership with its citizens and development partners will:



- Develop a new updated national forest inventory to include a GHG inventory is needed for the country to be able to obtain relevant data, particularly as it relates to changes in the island's forest cover and carbon sequestration, especially following recent passage of severe storms such as Hurricane Maria and its devastating effect on the island's forestry sector.
- improving land management practices, including reducing threats such as unsustainable developments in agriculture, tourism etc.
- Developing and implementing ecosystem-based adaptation activities in collaboration with communities and the Kalinagos in areas such as integrated water and coastal resources management, including restoration of riparian forests and mangroves sites located in protected areas and/or key ecosystems that use nature as a solution to reduce vulnerability to climate change





# PEACE

FOSTERING A PEACEFUL, JUST  
AND SAFE DOMINICA



## SDG 16: Peace Justice and Strong Institutions

**Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels**



### A Snapshot of Our Progress to Achieving SDG 16

Safety of Country	3 <sup>rd</sup> in LAC; 33 <sup>rd</sup> in the world
Homicide rate per 100,000 people	26.6 (2017) <sup>120</sup>

<sup>120</sup> <https://data.worldbank.org/country/DM>

Voice and Accountability Index <sup>121</sup>	0.88 (2020) <sup>122</sup>
Control of Corruption Index	0.56 (2020) <sup>123</sup>
Rule of Law	0.74 (2020) <sup>124</sup>
Government Effectiveness and Efficiency	-0.18 (2020) <sup>125</sup>
Regulatory Quality	0.20 (2020) <sup>126</sup>
Political Stability and Absence of Violence and Terrorism	1.35 <sup>127</sup>
<b>Dominica's Resilience Targets... towards the world's 1<sup>st</sup> climate resilient small island developing state</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100% functioning of critical Government and emergency services during and after an extreme climatic event</li> </ul>	

Dominica has a stable political environment with a democratic political system which is based on free and fair elections. This has been supported by a stable macro-economic environment underpinned by an independent and sound judicial system and membership in an integrated OECS legal system known for efficiency, transparency, and reliability. The country places a strong focus on governance issues as it relates to rule of law, justice, transparency and accountability, the efficient and effective delivery of public goods and services and the participation of citizens in various developmental processes. With respect to the latter, Dominica signed and ratified the Escazu Agreement, in 2020 – the first international environmental agreement which guarantees Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) the right to access information, public participation and access to justice to reduce conflicts since it provides mechanisms for contributions to decision making. This is a clear indication that Dominica embraces the role and voice of CSOs in national development processes – this is key indicator of good governance.

Overall, for governance, the indicators show that Dominica performs relatively well. See chart overleaf on World Bank Governance Indicators. The World Bank Governance Indicators which show that of the seven indicators, six of them exceed a percentile rank 60, illustrating how Dominica compares with all countries in the world with 0 being the lowest and 100 being the highest. Dominica ranks relatively high on the World Governance Indicators, including voice and

<sup>121</sup> The 7 World Bank Governance Indicators range from – 2.5 to + 2.5

<sup>122</sup> World Bank Governance Indicators

<sup>123</sup> Ibid

<sup>124</sup> Ibid

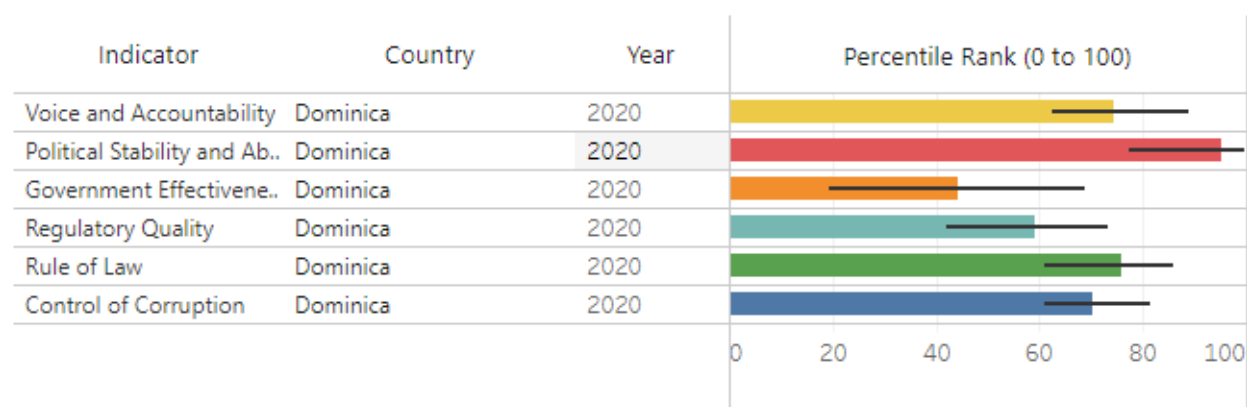
<sup>125</sup> Ibid

<sup>126</sup> Ibid

<sup>127</sup> Ibid



accountability index for example, which means that citizens feel empowered to hold leaders accountable to their demands and needs.



Dominica is the 45 least corrupt nation out of 180 countries, according to the 2021 Corruption Perceptions Index reported by Transparency International which measures how corrupt a country's public sector is perceived to be and for Dominica indicates that the country's leadership and governance structures are transparent and accountable to its people, communities and businesses. A similar set of scores were evident on the World Bank's Governance Indicators. Dominica ranks ahead of countries in the region such as Guyana, Trinidad & Tobago, Grenada and Jamaica. The Government remains committed to fighting corruption, money laundering and terrorism within the context of its resilient development.

In terms of efficiency and effectiveness of the public sector, the Government has committed to pursue a sound institutional foundation to support decision-making and improve service delivery at the national level by:

- Implementing a new Public Sector Transformation Strategy (PSTS)
- Updating the profile of public service departments to provide better services to citizens
- Modernizing the Public Sector through the deployment of digital technology
- Reclassifying and restructuring of the public service
- Implementing policies that are nationally envisioned and led, and most importantly adequately responds to citizens demands and realities
- Exploring means to improve the flexibility, innovativeness and solution-focused nature of national government processes that go beyond a narrow focus on basic service delivery to address the population's real needs
- Remaining open to dialogue and negotiations with partners and local counterparts
- Focusing on institutional strengthening to mainstream climate resilience

At the local level, the Government is working towards implementing reforms to strengthen local authorities and improve coordination across various sectors as well as implementing community-driven development projects that are participatory in nature, strengthens citizenship, builds

capacity for self-reliance, and facilitates collective actions. The local government system is very entrenched and active in Dominica.

The 2021 World Citizenship Report, which incorporates data from the Global Peace Index (GPI) 2021, and the World Governance Indicators (WGI), ranks Dominica third in the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) Region in terms of safest countries with a score of 77.3, making it the 33<sup>rd</sup> safest place in the world.”<sup>128</sup>. The Report considers indicators such as physical safety, rule of law, and political stability among others to determine the rankings. The Report further indicates that in LAC, Dominica placed behind Uruguay’s safety and security score of 82 and Costa Rica’s score of 79.

National security is at the core of social stability and an effective and well-managed security sector protects citizens and visitors alike. A sense of security also depends on confidence in the fair, equitable and transparent treatment of citizens before the courts to ensure adherence to the rule of law. It is important that the public is educated about their legal rights and avenues for redress and that they have access to legal services. In 2017, the homicide rate in Dominica was reported as 27 per 100,000.

## **National Strategies, Opportunities and Future Directions to 2030**

To advance the achievement of SDG 16, the Government of Dominica in partnership with its citizens and development partners will:

- Strengthen the institutional capacity for monitoring and evaluation
- Encourage the public’s participation in assessing the transparency, quality and reliability of services provided.
- Create the framework to enhance public-private partnerships.
- Increase the use of ICT and e-government in the delivery of services
- Strengthen the technical capacity of the public service and ensure that it becomes highly productive and innovative and operating at world-class standards.
- Enhancing institutional capacity in modern detection techniques and crime-solving
- Broaden the legislative framework to address new forms of crime
- Strengthening the institutional capacity of the justice system
- Ensure wider participation of the civil society in decision-making and governance






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<sup>128</sup> Caribbean Media Corporation. “Dominica ranks as one of the safest countries in the Caribbean- CS Global Partners”. Available at: <https://www.jamaicaobserver.com/latest-news/dominica-ranks-as-one-of-the-safest-countries-in-the-caribbean-cs-global-partners/>

## Dashboard of SDG Targets Under Goal 16

This dashboard shows at a snapshot how Dominica is progressing with respect to the achievement of the SDG targets under **SDG 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels**

- Target met or likely to be met by 2030/substantial progress
- Moving away from the target/deterioration
- Fair progress but acceleration is needed
- No trend data available
- Limited or no progress
- Insufficient data/not applicable

SDG Target #16 – Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	Dominica's Progress
Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere	
End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children	
Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all	
By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime	
Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms	
Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels	
Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels	
By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration	
Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements.	



# PARTNERSHIPS

IMPLEMENTING THE AGENDA THROUGH  
SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE PARTNERSHIPS



Partnerships  
for the goals



## SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

**Strengthen the means of implementation and  
revitalize the Global Partnership for  
Sustainable Development**



*United Nations Secretary General António Guterres, extends sympathies to Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit following the passage of Hurricane Maria which devastated the island of Dominica in 2017*

## Snapshot of Our Progress to Achieving SDG 17

Dominica recognizes that its vision of building the *First Climate Resilient Country in the World* can only be achieved through strong stakeholder engagement and partnerships, starting with its citizens and involving all stakeholders - civil society, private sector, trade unions, academia, Kalinago, and development partners. This is consistent with its philosophy of a people-centred approach to development. Dominica also collaborates with several other countries – the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, of which it is a member, CARICOM member countries and wider afield with several other countries in bilateral relationships. The country also collaborates with several other international development partners such as the UN Agencies, the World Bank among others and receives financial support, knowledge sharing and capacity development support. These partnerships are even more critical as the country seeks to achieve its ambition of becoming the world's first climate resilient SIDS and sustainably recover from the social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic as well as building resilience post Hurricane Maria and Tropical Storm Erika.

Financial resources for the country's development are derived from a range of sources – both internal and external, for example, external loans, local loans, grants, capital revenue and other receipts from multilateral creditors such as the Caribbean Development Bank, the World Bank and other development partners, including bilaterals. International development partners continue to provide financing for investment projects in areas such as climate change, renewable energy, infrastructure development and information and communication technology (ICT), among many others. As a member of the CARICOM and CARIFORUM, Dominica benefits from regional programmes funded under the Caribbean Regional Indicative Programmes. Remittances remain an important source of income for the country, with the Diaspora community much larger than the population of the country. Remittances amount to 13.5 percent of GDP.

Within the context of SDG 17, and its focus on the means of implementation the Government continues to find ways both internally and externally to mobilize resources. This requires fiscal prudence and building resilience for public financial management, reducing debt, accessing resources on concessional terms, strong tax administration, strong and efficient procurement practices among others. Therefore, as the Government seeks to build resilience and achieve the SDGs, it recognizes that the Ministry of Finance has a key role to play and must focus on:

1. *Reducing Debt and contracting debt on concessional terms:* The Government of Dominica has been successful in raising grant resources and contracting loans on highly concessional terms. This practice will continue. Debt obligations continue to be met in a timely manner.
2. *Enhanced Procurement:* The legal framework for procurement will be enhanced with the completion of a review of the existing legislation and possible replacement legislation taking into consideration the specific objectives that the Government would like to pursue such as community empowerment and building local capacity.

3. *Enhanced financial management systems*: to improve confidence in the Government financial system and raise the credibility of the state in managing projects financed by development partners.
4. *Establishing a Fund for Natural Disasters*, as more than half of the tropical cyclones affecting Dominica caused damages of over 50 percent of the country's GDP in the given year, highlighting the need to create a savings fund for emergency response, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction after natural disasters.
5. *Strengthening Tax and Customs Administration*: The Government of Dominica will continue to review existing tax legislation including, but not limited to the Income Tax Act, Value Added Tax Act, the Excise Tax Act and the Customs Act.
6. *Reducing discretionary expenditure*: to reduce wastage and better target the resources used to finance discretionary expenditure.
7. *A strong and well-regulated financial services sector*: that will allow Dominica to remain in good standing with its AML/CFT obligations as well as tax compliance obligations. All effort will be made to ensure that all institutions in the financial services sector are in good standing. This will require amendments to some legislation and legal reviews.
8. *A good statistical base to inform policy decision*: The structure of the Central Statistics Office is being reviewed with a view to determining the optimal staffing arrangements. ECLAC is providing assistance to Dominica to design and implement an institutional mechanism for mainstreaming the SDGs. The Government therefore recognizes that building national data and statistical capacity, will be important to the monitoring of the SDG indicators, as well as its own 20 resilience targets and will contribute to the processes taking place in parallel on mainstreaming the SDGs into national policy.

## **National Strategies, Opportunities and Future Directions to 2030**

To advance the achievement of SDG 17, the Government of Dominica in partnership with its citizens and development partners will:

- Establish a national coordinating mechanism that would manage the various responsibilities of SDG planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting in the country.
- Conduct a gap analysis of the country's capacity to collect data to inform a strategy for the collection and strategic use of the country's data.



*Government Officials, including the Honorable Prime Minister look on as Permanent Secretary in the Office of the Prime Minister, Mrs. Missi Henderson and CEO of Montreal Management Consultants Est., Dr. Anthony Haden signs the Agreement for the development and construction of Dominica's new International Airport*

## Dashboard of SDG Targets Under Goal 17

This dashboard shows at a snapshot how Dominica is progressing with respect to the achievement of the SDG targets under Goal 17: **Partnerships**.

- Target met or likely to be met by 2030/substantial progress
- Fair progress but acceleration is needed
- Limited or no progress
- Moving away from the target/deterioration
- No trend data available
- Insufficient data/not applicable

SDG Target #17 – Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development	Dominica's Progress
Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection.	



## Means of Implementation

The Means of Implementation focuses on the requirements and resources needed to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. These requirements and resources include:

- Financial resources
- Technology development and transfer
- Capacity-building
- Inclusive and equitable globalization and trade
- Regional integration
- The enabling environment at the national level, including a focus on localizing the SDGs

The Commonwealth of Dominica recognizes that the means of implementation requires both national efforts as well as partnership. Areas such as resource mobilization and financing requires that countries work collectively to better understand and implement new and innovative forms of financing to advance development that is sustainable, resilient, and equal and in which no one is left behind. Such forms of financing may include focus on non-traditional donors including philanthropies or organizations such as the Adaptation Fund to new and emerging financial instruments such as blue and green bonds, and blended financing.

In Dominica as with other SIDS, limited fiscal space, the multi-hazard environment in which the countries exist (countries are exposed to a myriad of hazards including natural, manmade, economic, technological and other hazards), limited technical capacity among people and institutions, climate change, present challenges to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We are pleased as a country that we have in place a clear roadmap for achieving the SDGs and through the implementation of the NRDS, CRRP and advancing the achievement of the country's twenty (20) resilience targets we will be simultaneously achieving the SDGs. What would be important for Dominica is the conduct of a UN Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support (MAPS) mission that would allow the country to have a clearer picture on the alignment of the 17 SDGs with our national documents – CRRP and NRDS. This would help us better prioritize and streamline our activities to ensure that we achieve the SDGs by 2030.

As we pursue this path to sustainable development, there is recognition that a sustainable future is not possible if there is no policy coherence. As such we continue to make attempts to address the integration of the social, economic and environmental dimensions of our development through our policy development processes. Policy coherence also requires strengthening the country's governance and accountability frameworks and the scaling-up of multi-stakeholder engagement and participatory processes. To this end, the Government is committed to creating an enabling environment to increase private sector involvement and investment in the development pathway while at the same time complementing fiscal reforms that will improve the ease of doing business and generate high and sustained economic growth. Public-Private partnerships will continue to be leveraged and scaled up in areas such as infrastructure, urban development, energy diversification among others to accelerate SDG delivery.

Our approach to stakeholder engagement and participation will be deliberate. The VNR will be used as a tool of engagement, to build awareness of the SDGs and the NRDS and CRRP on one hand and also the role of all stakeholders in advancing the country's development processes. Stakeholder engagement underpinned by participatory process would include civil society organizations, youth and children, private sector, academia, trade unions, development partners and the Kalinago all geared towards higher levels and more sustained ownership of the SDGs and the country's development planning processes. This will ensure that stakeholders are key to deciding the future that they want for themselves, the country and future generations as the Dominica will be based on a collective vision and consensus. The Government also acknowledges the strategic direction provided by the UN Secretary-General's High-level Panel to establish and engage in multi-stakeholder partnerships under each goal not only at the national level but also at the regional and global level and to agree responsibilities and accountability for implementation.

Recognizing that the public sector will play a key role in implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programmes and projects, emphasis will be placed on capacity building for people and for creating world-class public institutions that are designed to meet and exceed the expectations of our citizens in their delivery of public goods and service that is underpinned by good governance, creating higher levels of trust between the government and citizens.

Achieving the SDGs and the country's 20 Resilience Targets will require adequate and sustained financing as well as the capacity to develop and implement policies, programmes and projects in a timely manner and within budget. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing made changes that are expected to enhance the financing landscape with new partners and financing sources including non-governmental organizations, climate funds, the private sector and foundations, innovative financing mechanisms such as innovative financing tools – blue and green bonds, and South-South cooperation initiatives. Private capital has also become an important source of financing, through a diversified range of instruments including shares, bonds, debt securities, concessional loans and risk hedging instruments (including guarantees), as well as workers' remittances and voluntary private contributions (ECLAC, 2017a). The Government will therefore actively engage in identifying resources to finance its development. Government also will look at internal resources such as possibly scaling up its Citizenship by Investment Programme which has proven to be an excellent resource in financing many aspects of the country's development post Hurricane Maria and also during the COVID-19 pandemic and has been a key conduit in helping Dominica to build resilience and build forward stronger.

Even within the context of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, access to financing in developing countries and SIDS is still being tied to GDP and GDP per capita. Both indicators are still being used as indicators of development without due recognition that do not sufficiently capture the complex challenges and multiple vulnerabilities facing SIDS across several social areas. The UN Secretary-General's has called for a reconsideration of this approach and in the Common Agenda reiterates that *"Efforts to find consensus on complementary measures to GDP could be reinforced by a global shift away from relying on GDP to determine access to concessional finance and support, led by*

*international financial institutions along with the United Nations. Indices of vulnerability to external shocks and systemic risk criteria could be given greater weight. Multilateral development banks could also revise their operations and asset management rules to increase their capacity to support investment in developing countries.”<sup>129</sup>.*

Achieving the SDGs requires localization in national processes. Dominica considers itself ahead of the game as it already has a clear road map for implementing the SDGs – its NRDS and the CRRP – which are relatively new and modern and therefore have been able to include and account for new development pathways and new and emerging issues and challenges that are confronting nations. The Government also is placing focus on ensuring that national policies and plans are aligned to the SDGs. In addition to the alignment of the country’s national plans to the SDGs is the need for a reporting monitoring and evaluation framework. This requires statistical capacity and enhancing the capacity of the country’s national statistical office to be better able to collect, analyze, and disseminate high-quality data on development parameters in a timely manner since this will help guide policy direction, intervention, policy coherence and a focus on continuous improvement. In 2020, Dominica scored 46.67 on the World Bank’s rating of the country’s Overall Level of Statistical Capacity, reflecting a relatively low capacity and signaling the need for improvements. The Government therefore recognizes that building national data and statistical capacity, will be important to the monitoring of the SDG indicators, as well as its own 20 resilience targets and will contribute to the processes taking place in parallel on mainstreaming the SDGs into national policy.

The task of achieving the SDGs may seem daunting, but the Government is guided by the UN, other development partners, its neighbours in the region and most importantly the citizens of Dominica that are keen on creating a resilient Dominica in which ‘no one is left behind’.

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<sup>129</sup> Chapter IV, page 55

## Dominica's Progress and Commitment to the SAMOA Pathway

### SAMOA Pathway Actions



The SAMOA Pathway aims to provide a comprehensive framework of actions to be taken in order to support the sustainable development of small island developing states. The SAMOA Pathway makes linkages between commitments focused on sustainable energy, natural resource management, an ocean based and green economy approach and partnerships, thereby providing a holistic view on adaptation measures for SIDS. The SAMOA Pathway has several areas of focus and the table below will provide examples of actions that Dominica has taken to meet its commitments:

SAMOA Pathway Area of Focus	Example of Actions Undertaken and/or Commitments Made by Dominica
Sustained, sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth	The Government has set targets and is implementing policies and programmes to ensure that there is no more than 5% of gross domestic product (GDP) in losses related to an extreme weather event. There also is a focus on sustained, sustainable and inclusive growth of minimum 5% to be achieved per annum.
Climate change	Dominica's 20 Climate Resilience Targets that are designed across its economic, social and environmental sectors to ensure that it is able to meet its resilience objectives and achieve the vision of a world's first resilient small island developing state.
Sustainable energy	Target set for 90 percent renewables in the energy mix by 2029 and a sleuth of projects are being implemented to achieve this.
Disaster risk reduction	Zero (0) fatalities from extreme weather events 100% resettlement of individuals living in physically vulnerable locations
Oceans and seas	<b>ResilienSEA Triple Bottom Line Blue Economy Investment Fund</b> – this Investment Fund will seek to support the development of viable and sustainable businesses based on or linked to Dominica's rich marine environment. It will tap private and social sector investment, steering it towards commercial or quasi-commercial ventures that support the overall climate resilience ambitions of the Government





<b>SAMOA Pathway Area of Focus</b>	<b>Example of Actions Undertaken and/or Commitments Made by Dominica</b>
Food security and nutrition	The Global Centre for Agriculture Resilience will transform the country into a model for best practice regionally and internationally, working across the value chain from farmers to end-users. This initiative will develop a scientific, and practical, approach to reducing the vulnerability of farmers and fisherfolks through the adoption of resilient practices, as well as the introduction of resilient crops and infrastructure.
Sustainable consumption and production	Country is focused on the 3Rs as well as investigating waste-to-energy options
Gender equality and women's empowerment	Programmes that are advancing women's economic empowerment as part of an overall human security approach
Biodiversity and forests Forests	The National Forest Policy 2022 is designed to facilitate long-term sustainability and resilience of Dominica's economic growth through a focus on natural resources management in the forestry sector.
Culture and sport	Green spaces are being factored into development and into communities and is viewed as an important component of a wider plan to create the nexus between work, play and improving lifestyles, helping to combat NCDs and reducing carbon emissions.
Social development	<p><b>Enhanced Social Safety-Net Initiative</b></p> <p>This initiative will put into place a data driven, computerized social protection system, with strengthened delivery teams, so that all vulnerable citizens receive the appropriate interventions.</p> <p>Dominica is one of the first countries in the Caribbean to indicate that it will develop a shock responsive social protection policy and strategy that links social protection to disaster risk management. Such a strategy will ensure that social protection systems are adaptive and contribute to improved resilience with focus placed on sound institutions, delivery and resourcing.</p>


## Dashboard of SDG Targets and Progress for the Commonwealth of Dominica



Using the key below we have sought to undertake a rough measurement or mapping of the country's progress across all goals – in other words to provide a snapshot of where we are:

<span style="color: green;">■</span> Target met or likely to be met by 2030/substantial progress	<span style="color: red;">■</span> Moving away from the target/deterioration
<span style="color: orange;">■</span> Fair progress but acceleration is needed	<span style="color: grey;">■</span> No trend data available
<span style="color: brown;">■</span> Limited or no progress	<span style="color: lightgrey;">■</span> Insufficient data/not applicable



SDG Goals	Targets	<span style="color: green;">■</span>	<span style="color: orange;">■</span>	<span style="color: brown;">■</span>	<span style="color: red;">■</span>
<b>SDG 1 – End poverty in all its forms everywhere</b>  	By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day.		<span style="color: orange;">■</span>		
	By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions.		<span style="color: orange;">■</span>		
	Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all.	<span style="color: green;">■</span>			
	By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services	<span style="color: green;">■</span>			
	By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters.	<span style="color: green;">■</span>			
	Ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions		<span style="color: orange;">■</span>		
	Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions		<span style="color: orange;">■</span>		
<b>SDG 2 – End hunger, achieve food security and improved</b>	By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.	<span style="color: green;">■</span>			


SDG Goals	Targets				
nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture 	By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older people.				
	By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers.				
	By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality.				
	By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels.				
SDG 3 – Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages 	By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births.				
	By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births.				
	By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases.				
	By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being.				
	Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol.				


SDG Goals	Targets				
	By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes.				
	Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.				
	By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination.				
SDG 4 – Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all 	By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes.				
	By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education.				
	By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university.				
	By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship.				
	By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including people living with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations.				
	By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy.				
	By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development.				
	End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere				


SDG Goals	Targets				
SDG 5 – Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls 	Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.				
	Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate.				
	Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.				
	Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences.				
	Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws.				
	Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels.				
SDG 6 – Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all 	By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.				
	By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations.				
	By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally.				
	By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity.				
	By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate.				





SDG Goals	Targets				
	By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes.				
	Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management.				
SDG 7 – Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all 	By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services.				
	By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix.				
	By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency.				
SDG 8 – Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all 	Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances and, in particular, at least 7 percent gross domestic product growth per annum in the least developed countries.				
	Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors.				
	Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services.				
	Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production, with developed countries taking the lead.				
	By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and people living with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.				
	By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training.				



SDG Goals	Targets				
	Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment.				
	By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products.				
	Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all.				
SDG 9 – Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation 	Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and trans-border infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all.				
	Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and, by 2030, significantly raise industry's share of employment and gross domestic product, in line with national circumstances, and double its share in least developed countries.				
	Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets.				
	By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities.				
	Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries, in particular developing countries, including, by 2030, encouraging innovation and substantially increasing the number of research and development workers per 1 million people and public and private research and development spending.				
SDG 10 – Reduce inequality within and among countries	By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 percent of the population at a rate higher than the national average.				
	By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status.				
	Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard.				

SDG Goals	Targets				
 SDG 11 – Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality.				
	By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums.				
	By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, people living with disabilities and older people.				
	By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries.				
	Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world’s cultural and natural heritage.				
	By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations.				
	By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management.				
	By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older peoples and people living with disabilities.				
	By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters				

SDG Goals	Targets				
SDG 12 – Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	Implement the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, all countries taking action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries.				
	By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources.				
	By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment.				
	By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse.				
	Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle.				
	Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities.				
	By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature.				
SDG 13 – Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts 	Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries.				
	Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning.				
	Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning.				
SDG 14 – Conserve and sustainably use the	By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution.				
	By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and				

SDG Goals	Targets				
oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development 	take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans.				
	By 2030, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics.				
	By 2030, conserve at least 10 percent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information.				
	By 2030, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation.				
	By 2030, increase the economic benefits to small island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism.				
SDG 15 – Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss 	By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements.				
	By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally.				
	By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development.				
	Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species.				



SDG Goals	Targets				
	By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts.				
SDG 16 – Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels 	Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere.				
	End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children.				
	Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all.				
	By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime.				
	Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms.				
	Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels.				
	Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels.				
	By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration.				
	Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements.				
SDG 17 – Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development 	Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection.				

## Acronyms and Abbreviations

3R	Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
5Ps	People, Prosperity, Planet. Peace, Partnership
AML/CFT	Anti-Money Laundering/Combating the Financing of Terrorism
CALC	Country Assessment of Living Conditions
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CARIFORUM	Caribbean Forum
CBI	Citizen by Investment Programme
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CCRIF SPC	(formerly) the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility
CDEMA	Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CEDD	Community Economic Diversification and Development
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
CIM	Inter-American Commission of Women
CPA	Country Poverty Assessment
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CREAD	Climate Resilience Executing Agency of Dominica
CRRP	Climate Resilience and Recovery Plan
CSA	Climate- Smart Agriculture
CSEC	Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate
CSME	CARICOM Single Market and Economy
CSO	Central Statistical Office
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
CVQ	Caribbean Vocational Qualification
CXC	Caribbean Examinations Council
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
DAIC	Dominica Association of Industry and Commerce
DALYs	Disability-Adjusted Life Years
DAPD	Dominica Association for Persons with Disabilities
DIISH	Dominica Integrated Information Systems for Health
DOMLEC	Dominica Electricity Services
DOWASCO	Dominica Water and Sewage Company
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DRS	Disaster Resilience Strategy
DRS	Disaster Resilience strategy
DSS	Dominica Social Security
DSWMC	Dominica Solid Waste Management Cooperation
DTP	Digital Transformation Project

EC	Eastern Caribbean
ECD	Early Childhood Development
ECCB	Eastern Caribbean Central Bank
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EnGenDer	Enabling Gender-Responsive Disaster Recovery, Climate and Environmental Resilience in the Caribbean
EPI	Environmental Performance Index
FSU	Financial Service Unit of the Commonwealth of Dominica
GCAR	Global Centre for Agriculture Resilience
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GHG	Greenhouse gas
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
GPI	Global Peace Index
WGI	World Governance Indicators
HCI	Human Capital Index
HDI	Human Development Index
HIV/AIDS	The human immunodeficiency virus / acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IMF	International Monetary Fund
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
IWCAM	Integrating Watershed and Coastal Area Management
JECT	Joint Emergency Cash Transfer Programme
kWh	Kilowatt-Hour
LAC	Latin America and Caribbean
LGBTQI+	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex
M & E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MSMEs	Micro-small and Medium-Sized Enterprises
MW	Megawatt
NCD	Non-Communicable Disease(s)
NEET	Neither in Education, Employment nor Training
NEP	National Employment Programme
NRDS	National Resilience Development Strategy
NSS	National Statistical System
NTRC	National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission
OAS	Organization of American States
ODM	Office of Disaster Management
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OECS	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States
PA	Protected Area

PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
PAP	Public Assistance Programme
PDNA	Post Disaster Needs Assessment
PES	Payment for environmental services
PSIP	Public Sector Investment Program
PWDs	Person(s) with disabilities
PV	photovoltaic
RCF	Rapid Credit Facility
RDF	Refuse Derived Fuel
RE	Renewable Energy
S-REP	Sustainable and Resilient Energy Plan
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SEOP	School Emergency Operations Plan
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SIN	Safe in Nature
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
SSN	Social Safety Net
TES	Total Energy Supply
UAE-CREF	UAE- Caribbean Renewable Energy Fund
UN	The United Nations
UN-ECLAC	United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNESCO	United Nations Education Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund
US	United States
USE	Universal Secondary Education
TVET	Technical Vocational Education Training
VNR	Voluntary National Review
WGI	World Governance Indicators
WHO	World Health Organization
WFP	World Food Programme
WiFi	Wireless Network
WIN	Work in Nature
WTE	Waste-to-energy
WWTPs	wastewater treatment plants
YLDs	Years Lived with Disability

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