



TOGETHER WOMEN RISE

Collective action for global gender equality

DREAM

August 2021 Featured Project

Introducing DREAM

Implementation of the Única Girls Empowerment Mobile Application

The “dream” of Dominican Republic Education and Mentoring Project (DREAM) is that all children and youth in the Dominican Republic (DR) have equal opportunities to learn and realize their full potential.

DREAM believes that learning changes lives. Its transformative education programs extend from early childhood through young adulthood, empowering at-risk children and youth to create a better future for themselves and their families and breaking the cycle of poverty.

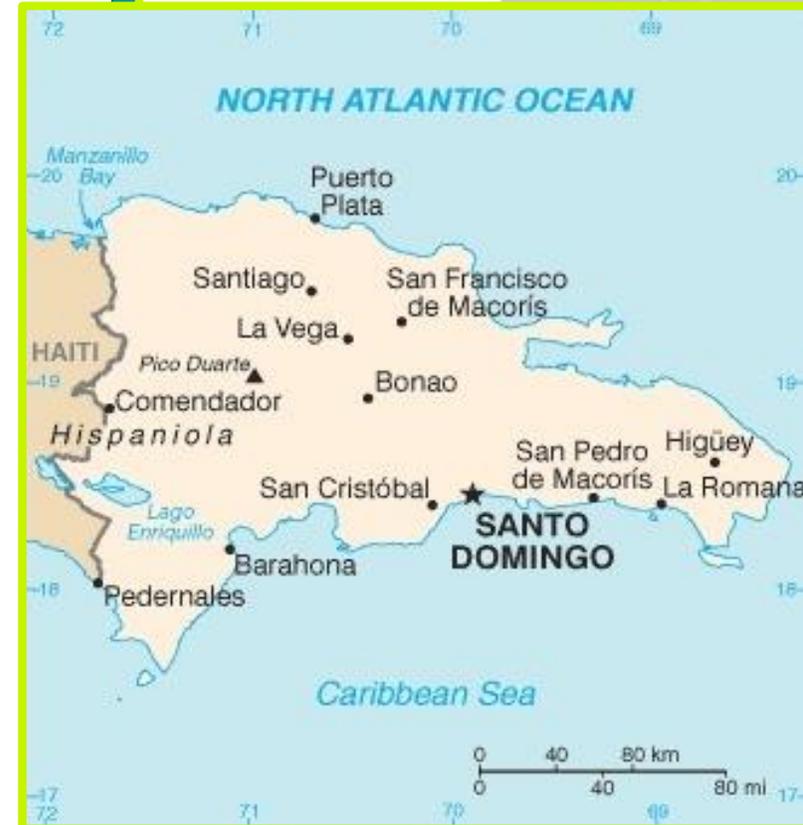


Dominican Republic

The Dominican Republic (DR) is a tourist-dependent country located between the Caribbean Sea and the North Atlantic Ocean, east of Haiti.

The literacy rate is 93.8% for both men and women.

Many of the youth in the DR are unable to reach their full potential due to low levels of education and high levels of poverty. In 2015, only 34.87% of the population over the age of 25 had completed upper secondary school, and 12.38% had completed post-secondary.



Life Challenges

Although The World Bank describes the DR as an upper-middle income country, its income inequality is one of the worst in the Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) region:

- 50.1% of the income is concentrated in the richest 20% of the population
- the income-share held by the lowest 20% is only 5.8%
- 2.8% of the population lives in poverty.



Life Challenges

The DR consistently falls in the highest category of risk regarding girls' and women's sexual and reproductive health. There is a widespread lack of accurate information, and no access to comprehensive, scientifically accurate, age-appropriate sexual and reproductive health education in the school system.

The DR is currently first in LAC in early unions and marriages. Twelve percent of women ages 20 - 24 were married or in a union before age 15, and 36% before the age of 18. Much higher proportions exist in the poorest quintile, where 51.7% of women ages 15 - 19 reported being or having been married or in a union.

The DR also has the highest rates of adolescent fertility in LAC. Pregnancy, child marriage, and motherhood exclude girls and women from schools.

The Project

The purpose of this project is to successfully implement and monitor the new Única App for adolescent girls (ages 12 - 18) and women.

DREAM's existing Única program seeks to dismantle traditional gender norms and develop girls' and women's skills in leadership, critical thinking, problem solving, and communication.

The traditional program trains adolescent girls and young women in a specifically designed, culturally-relevant curriculum consisting of 10 activities focused on sexual education and female empowerment.

The Única App is an innovation in the Única program that allows for the existing curriculum to be transformed into dynamic, digital content that Dominican girls and women can access anywhere, with the information necessary to exercise their sexual and reproductive rights, make autonomous decisions about their sexual health, and gain self-confidence.

Budget

Item	Description	Cost
Personnel	Includes a portion of salaries for the Única coordinator and sub-coordinator, DR payroll taxes, a stipend for trainers, and a graphic designer/videographer.	\$20,764.86
Non-Personnel Costs	Includes transportation for coordinators and trainers, printing, and telephone/internet service for trainers.	\$6,726.32
Administration	Includes 15 percent of program administration costs.	\$4,123.68
TOTAL		\$31,614.86

About DREAM

In 1995, DREAM founder Michel Zaleski brought a group of Dartmouth College students to the DR to run educational activities to supplement teaching at two local public schools. As word of the work and its results spread, additional donors became inspired to construct classrooms, libraries, and bathrooms to support the efforts. With the understanding that the public education system would continue to need support, DREAM built its own facilities and registered as both a US and Dominican non-profit in 2002.

Today, DREAM has grown from one small community on the North Coast to 27 throughout the country, educating more than 8,000 children, youth, and young adults through a variety of innovative programs. DREAM offers literacy, early childhood education, youth leadership, the Bachata Academy and community programs to ensure that all children and youth within their partner communities never lack access to necessary resources again.



Share your thoughts

How can the emergence of digital technologies change the landscape of global healthcare?

How does gender inequality affect healthcare?

Can quality assurance and safeguarding be assured with digital apps?

What other creative strategies could be used to reach adolescents?

What are the benefits of digital vs. traditional learning approaches?





TOGETHER WOMEN RISE

Gardens for Health International

August 2021 Sustained Grantee
Maternal Health Program

Gardens for Health International works to end chronic malnutrition in impoverished communities in Rwanda.

Thirty-eight percent of children in Rwanda are malnourished mostly due to lack of proper nutrition. By focusing on pregnant women and mothers of young children, GHI hopes to prevent malnutrition before it begins.



Gardens for Health International

- Pregnant women will be educated on key nutrition and health topics. They will also be encouraged to attend regular prenatal care check-ups.
- GHI's innovative One Pot One Hour lesson demonstrates how to cook a healthy meal with limited time and resources so that every mother can provide her children with the nutrients they need to thrive.
- Mothers also learn to identify symptoms of common illnesses, promote family planning, and discuss difficult subjects like traditional medicine and GBV.

Direct Impact: 9 840 women and girls: Indirect

