

Dominican Republic

Fast Facts

- **Life Expectancy:** 71.9 years
- **Income Classification:** Middle Income
- **Population Below Poverty Line:** 21%
- **Region:** Caribbean
- **Drinking Water Source:** 97.2%
- **Sanitation Facility Access:** 96.3%



National Actions

The Dominican Republic has impressive coverage of basic water and sanitation services, however the major problem is that many of these treatment centers are not adequately run. There is a large disparity in access to clean water based on a communities socio-economic status. Many rural communities have less access to water that has been treated for bacteria, forcing poorer citizens to consume **polluted water**. There are high instances of waterborne diseases, including diarrhea, among these poorer communities, which can result in death if untreated. **Natural disasters**, such as hurricanes, have a devastating impact on the Dominican Republic's water and sanitation services, destroying existing pipelines and spreading contaminated water. Many people in the DR turn to bottled water to avoid **water pollution** and possible illness, with 40% of households spending one-eighth of their income on water. Infrastructure exists in the Dominican Republic, due to efforts over the past 10 years, however the issue of continuing to maintain and properly run these water treatment and sanitation systems remains, where only 53% of water treatment plants and 26% of wastewater plants are operating adequately.

International Actions

The Dominican Republic has received help from international organizations, receiving aid or technical assistance, which has helped them modernize their **water treatment and sewage systems**. This has specifically made clean water more accessible in rural areas. The DR received support through the Latin American Clean Water Initiative from 2008-2009, which aimed to provide access to clean water and sanitation systems, increase sustainable water supplies and train individuals to improve **water management**, and provide educational workshops on water conservation, sanitation, and hygiene to Latin American countries. Other non-profits, such as Surge for Water, have supported the country's initiative around clean water, by installing a number of water filters in various communities. In 2020, the Water and Sanitation in Tourist Areas Project, with support from the World Bank, has supported the Dominican Republic in improving ways to manage sanitation to help these plants improve their overall performance for communities.

Image: [Wikipedia - Dominican Republic](#)

Fast Facts: CIA World Factbook, World Bank

National Actions: [Clean Water in DR](#)/ [UN Dominican Republic](#)

International Actions: [Water supply and sanitation in the Dominican Republic](#)/ [Realizing sustainable goals for DR](#)

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