

Format for the Country Programme Performance Summary

A. Country Information		
Country name: Dominican Republic		
Category per decision 2013/31: Pink	Current programme period: 2012-2017	Cycle of assistance: 5th

B. Country Programme Outputs Achievement <i>(please complete for all your CP outputs)</i>			
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Output 1

National institutions and civil society have strengthened capacity to design, implement, monitor and evaluate sexual and reproductive health policies, programmes and services in order to promote maternal health, HIV prevention and family planning, including in emergency situations.

Indicators	Baseline	Target	End-line data
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costed integrated national sexual and reproductive health action plan developed. (NEW). 	<i>No</i>	<i>Yes</i>	No. A proposal for a National Policy on Sexual and Reproductive Health was developed, as a preliminary programming step towards the development of a costed integrated national sexual and reproductive health action plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A functional logistics management information systems for forecasting and monitoring reproductive health commodities established. (NEW). 	<i>No</i>	<i>Yes</i>	No. UNFPA is advocating for the availability of a functional logistics management information systems for forecasting and monitoring reproductive health commodities.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National system for maternal death surveillance and response established in the country. 	<i>No</i>	<i>Yes</i>	Yes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country has humanitarian contingency plan that includes elements for addressing sexual and reproductive health needs of women, adolescents and youth including services for survivors of sexual violence in crisis 	<i>No</i>	<i>Yes</i>	Yes

Key Achievements *(input also from the last CP evaluation)*

a) Achievements related to capacity building

The Dominican Republic Country Office contributed significantly to strengthening sexual and reproductive health services. This was made possible through technical and financial support for the development of normative documents, such as:

- “Educational guide for the generation of demand for birth control methods over the long term”;
- National Plan for the Reduction of Infant and Maternal Mortality 2012-2016;
- National Plan for the Prevention of Adolescent Pregnancy 2012-2016;
- Protocol established for the correct implementation of the Minimum Initial Services Package (MISP) in emergency situations and training provided to inter-institutional technical teams on its implementation at the beginning of a humanitarian crisis;
- National Strategic Plan for the response to HIV/AIDS 2015-2018, ensuring inclusion of the focus on community participation;
- Publication of the National Strategy for male condoms;

- Development of a Guide on obstetric violence, which proposes a new vision of violence as a health problem and inclusion of the obstetric violence as a violation of rights;
- Development of Guidelines, protocols and standards for the delivery of quality sexual and reproductive health services addressed to adolescents and youth; and
- Support for the development of tools and instruments for sexual and reproductive health management support (tools for handling of results, information systems, diagnostics of human resources, mobile access, etc.). Within the framework of the norms and guidelines established by the Ministry of Public Health, UNFPA contributed with the capacity building of:
 - Health providers: on clinical decisions and management of infant and maternal health, on Emergency Obstetric and Neonatal Care, post obstetrical events contraception and on the implementation of a Basic Perinatal Information System including provision of computers to the La Altagracia Maternity Hospital to record this information;
 - Managers of the health departments of the Cibao and East Region: on the importance of family planning and the need to increase the supply of birth control methods at the local level;
 - Coordinators of family planning programmes: on why, to whom and how to provide modern long-term family planning methods;
 - Representatives of the National Emergency Response Commission: on the importance of and how reproductive health response should be provided in emergency situations;
 - Key personnel of the Ministry of Public Health on the benefits and use of Logistics Information Systems.

UNFPA designed a proposal of a Logistic Information System to the Minister of Health's Family Planning Programme and a smartphone app "Protocols for Dominican Republic Minister of Health Attention", to be used by health providers. With UNFPA support, a Health Programme for Men was developed and officially launched. The programme aims to integrate men in sexual and reproductive health and family planning services and the development of a campaign of social networks on responsible fatherhood, including a workshop on masculinity with youths from networks and civil society organizations.

In addition, at the country's main health center for maternal care and training of obstetricians –Maternidad Nuestra Señora de la Altagracia University Hospital –, with support of the private entity "Popular Foundation" (Fundación Popular), a maternal mortality reduction project is being implemented by UNFPA, which shows the following results:

- Establishment of a simulation room for management of obstetric emergencies and cardiopulmonary resuscitation through donation of anatomical models and cardiopulmonary resuscitation equipment, which facilitates teaching under a framework of respectful maternal care; All health personnel of the University Hospital and others were trained in obstetric emergencies and cardiopulmonary resuscitation, using the anatomical model;
- A team of obstetricians and perinatologists was certified in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation by the Emergency Care & Safety Institute (ECSI);
- For the first time, the University Hospital is implementing electronic recording of perinatal charts in the Perinatal Information System (PIS) through training and monitoring of health personnel;
- A report on the first user satisfaction survey is available;
- A computerized circuit of care to users has been established through donation of computers for these purposes;
- On-line surveys are conducted on quality of care through the use of tablets that were also donated through this Project;
- All health personnel were trained in obstetric emergencies, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, filling out of perinatal charts, perinatal emergencies, post-obstetric event planning and in updating of health care protocols.

UNFPA also supported the design of a guide on sexual and reproductive health in emergency response, which has been adopted by the Minister of Public Health. Training on its implementation has been offered across the country, as planned.

b) Achievements related to advocacy and policy dialogue

UNFPA Country Office was key in promoting discussions around sexual and reproductive health in the public agenda. Through advocacy actions and policy dialogue, the Dominican Republic Country Office achieved focus on population dynamics, reproductive health and gender equality in the National Development Strategy (END-2030).

Mainstreaming the gender approach in the Minister of Health Institutional Plan 2012-2017 and strategies for prevention, protection and response to gender-based violence into national sexual and reproductive health programmes as well as a comprehensive approach to sexual and reproductive health in emergency situations in the Maternal Child Health Programme.

UNFPA is an active member of the Commodities and Contraceptives Insured Committee “DAIA” and, as part of this, supported the elaboration of its regulations, its operational plan and the design of an advocacy plan to ensure availability of contraceptives methods.

Another important achievement was the design of a proposed legislative bill on sexual and reproductive health, which was submitted to the Dominican Congress.

c) Achievements related to the generation of knowledge

UNFPA Country Office supported several studies to strengthen the availability of sexual and reproductive health data, such as:

- Production, editing and printing of three maternal mortality studies: Audit of maternal deaths in selected health centers, Migration and Collective Health and The Case of Yesenia;
- Data analysis of adolescent pregnancy;
- Cost of adolescent pregnancy; and
- Cost-effectiveness Analysis of Family Planning vs. Pregnancy. The findings of these last two studies will provide evidence for the policy dialogue that will be required to achieve compliance with the coverage of family planning methods by health risk insurers.

Output 2

National institutions and civil society have strengthened their capacity to improve access to sexual and reproductive health information, education and services for adolescents and youth.

Indicators	Baseline	Target	End-line data
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of primary healthcare units supported by UNFPA that implement and offer youth friendly health services. 	<i>0</i>	<i>10</i>	17 primary healthcare units that implement Contraceptive Promotion Special Unit (UEPA) as a youth friendly strategy

Key Achievements *(input also from the last CP evaluation)*

a) Achievements related to capacity building

Dominican Republic Country Office supported social organizations in processes of social oversight and demand of rights. Two civil society organizations (New Environment Club Association (Asoclubnuam) and Community Action Institute IDAC), were strengthened to implement actions for the prevention of adolescent pregnancies by developing an action plan to increase access to contraceptive methods, particularly for adolescents and young people in the communities where the "Contraceptive Promotion Special Unit (UEPA)" project is being implemented. This was achieved by integrating community leaders in the delivery of condoms and birth control pills, as well as placing condom dispensers in primary health care units, grocery stores and other easily accessible locations on an ongoing basis. A growing number of primary healthcare units (from 5 to 17) were incorporated to this initiative in order to increase access to contraceptive methods, especially condoms. Success was possible due to local health authorities’ commitment and follow-up actions carried out by civil society organizations, which received funding from UNFPA to ensure community participation in social actions. Primary health care units supported are located in the provinces of San Cristobal (10), Santo Domingo Oeste (6) and Azua (1).

UNFPA contributed to strengthen national capacities in the use and promotion of female condoms supporting a strategy for positioning the female condom in a local context. The strategy was implemented through a pilot model for the inclusion of female condom in the range of sexual and reproductive health commodities, with training of health service providers and community promoters on the correct use of the female condom, how to incorporate them in health services and how to promote informed demand for these condoms. In addition, training was provided for all primary health care units personnel and to community leaders (107 in total) participating in the UEPA Project.

b) Achievements related to advocacy and policy dialogue

UNFPA advocacy and policy dialogue efforts contributed to various achievements, including:

- Incorporation of the emergency pill and the female condoms in the family planning package distributed by the Ministry of Public Health (MSP) and purchased through UNFPA;
- Establishment of a technical group in the Ministry of Public Health to promote mainstreaming Respectful Maternal Care after the development and presentation of a poster at the UNFPA Regional Meeting which raised awareness of this issue among authorities of the country's main maternity hospitals;
- Strengthening of civil society's oversight on health services;
- With the support of the National Institute of Health (INSALUD), the Ministry of Public Health and the National Health Service, awareness was raised about the role of civil society in improving access to sexual and reproductive health information, education and services. As a result, authorities from the Ministry of Health's Maternal Child and Adolescent Division are planning to have a ministerial resolution developed for 2017 to provide guidelines to ensure involvement of civil society in this area;
- Establishment of the Maternal Mortality Observatory and a technical group to analyze trends in maternal health; and
- Establishment of a technical group to promote the Respectful Maternal Care in the main maternal and child public health centers.

c) Achievements related to the generation of knowledge

UNFPA Country Office began the systematization of the UEPA project experience, including enabling factors, barriers and lessons learned to facilitate its implementation elsewhere.

Output 3

Government institutions and civil society have strengthened their capacity to formulate and implement policies and programmes that promote the development of young people and ensure their participation in decision-making processes

Indicators	Baseline	Target	End-line data
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participatory platform exists, that advocates for increased investments in marginalized adolescents and youth, within development and health policies and programmes. 	No	Yes	Yes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National comprehensive sexuality education curricula are aligned with international standards. 	No	Yes	No. UNFPA supported the Ministry of Education in the process of revising their curriculum. However, since June 2015 the Ministry has stopped the process of revision and consultation.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of secondary schools that implement the sexual education programme. 	7%	11%	32%

Key Achievements (input also from the last CP evaluation)

Comprehensive Sexuality Education and youth participation in decision-making processes.

- a) **Achievements related to advocacy and policy dialogue**

A strategic achievement of the Country Office was the support on the analysis and exchange of experiences with other countries, for the consideration of the Human Rights approach, including comprehensive sexuality education and gender approach into the Programme of Sexual-Affective Education” (Programa de Educación Afectivo Sexual, PEAS). UNFPA also contributed with the Ministry of Education in the curriculum revision process to ensure the inclusion of content in accordance with international standards. Although this does not imply full institutionalization of comprehensive sexuality education, a relative consolidation process of the above-mentioned Programme is evident. UNFPA contribution to the development of a conceptual framework on sexuality education with a focus on human rights brought different stakeholders together. As an important result of this undertaking, we must consider the strengthening of multi-stakeholder policy dialogue, which prioritized topics that were already on the agenda, giving them a higher profile.

Another achievement of the Dominican Republic Country Office was the development of strong and effective awareness-raising campaigns on prevention of adolescent pregnancies, such as “You are not Ready for That” and “A time for everything, being a mother and father, too”.

UNFPA also supported youth organizations through different actions:

- Participation in the resource planning process of sexual and reproductive health aimed to them;
- Strengthening eight youth networks in Pedernales province to advocate for the inclusion of sexual and reproductive health and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Gender Based Violence (GBV) prevention into public policies;
- Submission of legislative proposals that advocate for the bill on sexual and reproductive health (now under review by Congress);
- Engaging in advocacy efforts for the inclusion of youth representatives in Dominican Republic’s official delegations to conferences most relevant to UNFPA mandate through discussion platforms among state institutions, civil society and youth networks vis-à-vis the International Conference on Population and Development (CIPD+20), and other conferences, such as the Montevideo Conference, the V Regional United Nations Youth Conference for Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) and the Global Youth Forum.

Other successful interventions include the support to the creation of Youth Councils in La Vega, Valverde, and Santiago Rodríguez, as well as the creation and strengthening of the National Youth Platform.

b) Achievements related to capacity building

The Dominican Republic Country Office contributed to the development of national capacities on comprehensive sexuality education through awareness-raising activities, as well as training and exchanging opportunities at regional level, especially through the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO).

c) Achievements related to the generation of knowledge

UNFPA supported the Ministry of Youth in the establishment of a monitoring system for public investment in youth, with emphasis on the investment at municipal level where a mandatory percentage of local budgets is required to be allocated for youth.

Output 4

The Government and civil society have strengthened their capacity to promote, manage and coordinate actions to prevent, detect, treat and issue sanctions against gender based violence.

Indicators	Baseline	Target	End-line data
• Gender-based violence prevention, protection and response are integrated into national sexual and reproductive health programmes.	<i>No</i>	<i>Yes</i>	Yes. There is a standard but is not widely implemented.
• Number of programmes preventing gender-based violence established and functioning.	<i>90</i>	<i>108</i>	65. There has been a significant reduction on resources available for gender-based violence programmes.
• Percentage of schools that have included in their curricula content aimed at preventing gender-based violence.	<i>7%</i>	<i>10%</i>	60%

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of civil society organizations supporting the institutionalization of programmes to engage men and boys on gender equality (including gender-based violence), sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights 	4	8	8
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Key Achievements *(input also from the last CP evaluation)*

Improved strategies for gender-based violence prevention and human rights and gender issues.

a) Achievements related to capacity building

The Dominican Republic Country Office contributed to the development of national capacities through awareness-raising activities, training of public servants and civil society organizations, and multisectorial partnerships aimed to prevent and address gender-based violence. However, additional efforts aimed at strengthening institutional capacities in this area are needed especially for the implementation of gender-based violence prevention, protection and response into de national sexual and reproductive health programmes.

The Country Office contributed to the development of a Training Plan regarding the National System for Comprehensive Attention to Gender-based Violence Victims, which aims to generate skills and knowledge of public servants of the Ministries of Health, Education, and Women, National Police, Ombudsperson and judges.

Authorities in national statistics were trained to analyse disaggregated data on gender-based violence and on adolescents and youth. Another contribution of the Country Office was the improvement of police agents' skills through trainings on gender-based violence.

The Units of Attention to Victims of Violence and Sex Crimes of the Office of the Attorney General strengthen the capacity of national staff in the area of psychology thorough south-south cooperation, with technical assistance provided from the National Institute of Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences of Colombia, with the participation of two specialists in the area of victims of GBV, domestic and sexual abuse;

b) Achievements related to advocacy and policy dialogue

The UNFPA's project "Gender-Sensitive Municipalities" together with PROGRESSIO, have accompanied 4 City Halls and civil society in 4 provinces (Navarrete, Elías Piña, Dajabón, and Montecristi) in a pilot experience of construction of political agendas on women, in order to address problems of Gender-Based Violence and Teenage Pregnancies.

The Dominican Republic Country Office played a leading role in positioning and sustaining gender rights in public debates, especially sexual and reproductive health and rights.

c) Achievements related to the generation of knowledge

The Dominican Republic Country Office collaborated with the development and publication of several materials regarding the strengthening of the gender-based violence response system, particularly:

UNFPA supported the Attorney's General office in:

1. Design of Management Model for Units of Attention to Victims of Violence and Sex Crimes of the Office of the Attorney General; the elaboration and standardization of the mission's processes and procedures for support of the Unit of Attention to Victims of Gender and Intra-Family Violence and Sex Crimes form the Province of Santo Domingo (UAVGIVSC);
2. Design of National Remote Assistance Service for victims of gender violence, domestic violence and sexual abuses with the Office of the Attorney General;

3. The production, launch and advocacy with the results of the study “Psycho-social factors in men imprisoned for the murder of women, in the New Model of Prison Management in the Dominican Republic”.
- Documentation on the link between gender based violence and HIV; The Second National Plan for Gender Equity and Equality (PLANEG II) 2007-2017 counts with a cost study.
 - Another achievement has been the “Research study on the situation of violence against women in public and private high schools”, which produced updated data on gender inequalities, especially on adolescents behaviors, attitudes and practices towards gender-based violence and helped to establish a baseline. This information is strategic as it provides evidence to support the need to define a national policy within the Ministry of Education, and to foster shared responsibility between men and women.

Output 5

National and local institutions have improved their capacity to generate, analyze and use population and development data and research in formulating, monitoring and evaluating national and local public policies.

Indicators	Baseline	Target	End-line data
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of databases with population-based data accessible by users through web-based platforms that facilitate mapping of socio-economic and demographic inequalities. 	5	8	8. Yes achieved. The National Statistics Office has eight online public tools that allow for sub-national estimates on population and development issues.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population situation analysis (PSA) to identify priorities and formulate policies and programmes conducted. 	No	Yes	Yes. An extended version was received from the team of local consultants, as well as a more abridged version in 2016. Further review, updating and editing took place by an international expert in the first semester of 2017, while final publication is expected in the second semester.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of government official trained in the use of socio-demographic data at national and subnational levels. 	130	200	850. Local decision makers were engaged and sensitized on specific ICPD issues via decentralized academic events in which they had the opportunity to interact with high level opinion makers and experts on

			specific population and development topics.
<p><u>Key Achievements</u> <i>(input also from the last CP evaluation)</i></p> <p>a) Achievements related to capacity building</p> <p>An achievement of the cooperation of the Country Office was the capacity established in the National Statistic Office to carry out the First National Immigrants Survey (Encuesta Nacional de Inmigrantes - ENI 2012) through broad technical assistance (team of some 200 people) and financial assistance. Information from this survey was key in the definition of the first National Plan for Immigrants Regularization as well as the enactment of an special law to register the children of immigrants. Another important achievement was the consolidation of the vital statistics of the Ministry of Public Health, electoral registry of the Central Electoral Board, and the registry of the National Institute of Forensic Sciences in four provinces as a pilot experience for implementation at the national level. Financial and technical assistance was provided for the creation of the on-line Territorial Statistical Information System (Sistema Estadístico de Información Territorial - SEIT) and strengthening of the capacity for statistical processing by the National Statistics Office (ONE), providing a high velocity and high capacity Information Technology (IT) server.</p> <p>Another achievement of the country programme was the strengthening of the National Statistics Office (ONE) units responsible for processing and managing preparation, implementation, production, and exploitation of information and the expansion of the use of socio-demographic information and vital records. The Country Office made interventions that involved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for the National Statistics Office ONE in census reconciliation, population estimates and projections, including democratized access (on-line) to the information from the Population and Housing Census 2010; • Support to national and local institutions for the generation of information on population and development (drafting and discussing systematization, diagnostic and baseline studies, production of data, design of administrative protocols, formats and tools); • Preparation and dissemination of over 60 studies on population and development, through policy dialogue, technical and financial assistance; • Preparation, publication and dissemination of “Your Municipality in Numbers”, “Provincial Statistical Profiles” and “Cartographic Kit” for 155 municipalities of the Dominican Republic and training in their use via financial and technical assistance to the Health Information Unit (UINs) of the Ministry of Public Health and its articulation with the National Statistics Office (ONE) for information quality control; • Support for the development of Vital Statistics, Pregnancy and Childhood System (SEVEN) as an National Information System (SNIS) module that began with the Electronic Certificate of Live Birth (2007) and was later joined by the Electronic Death Certificate (implementation phase) and Perinatal Medical Record (testing phase); • Promotion of linkages between the National Statistics Office (ONE) and the National Migration Office to make statistical use of border crossing records and applications for residence in the country; and • Strengthening of provincial and municipal capacities to incorporate topics of population and development in their planning processes with the training in socio-demographic analysis of at least one technical level person of each Provincial Office of the National Statistics Office (ONE). <p>b) Achievements related to advocacy and policy dialogue</p> <p>UNFPA contributed to different efforts, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The definition of a roadmap to operationalize the Montevideo Consensus, including a national methodology and an articulation strategy with the sectorial partners through advocacy, policy dialogue and technical assistance; • A diagnostic of the current status of administrative systems for recording gender based violence cases given the integration of the data bases of the National Police, Ministry of Public Health, Office of the Attorney 			

General of the Republic, Ministry of Women and the Judicial Branch of each of the integration of same, serving as the basis for the improvement of the joint response;

- Incorporation of data and research on population into public policies and plans for national and local development as well as programmes with a focus on human rights and emphasis on youth;
- The revision of the legislative bill that promotes the creation of the National Statistical System and the establishment of a platform for agencies of the United Nations for political influence for the approval of the law through the generation of an alliance among UNFPA, UNICEF, UNDP, World Bank and FAO.

c) Achievements related to the generation of knowledge

UNFPA contributed to strengthen national and local institutions for the generation of knowledge and use of data in the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of public policies. Among some noteworthy achievements:

- National and local authorities were trained in statistics analysis, particularly in relation to disaggregation of data on Gender Based Violence (GBV) and on adolescents and youth. National Statistics Office (ONE) technical level staff in 60 provinces were trained through an online course on the use of Census data;
- Design of four generic models of Territorial Statistical Units, which serve as a basis for the installation of these units in each state institution, according to their capacities and needs;
- Setting up of the Technical Institute of Santo Domingo (INTEC) Socio-Demographic Studies Programme, which guided the re-structuring of the its Department of Research. (2012-2015);
- Informing public policies (National Plan for Immigrant Regularization and Law 169-14, which allowed to register the children of immigrants) and the national debate on nationality and immigration issues through analysis based on scientifically sound data and policy dialogue and technical assistance;
- Presentation of the proposal to improve the project of the Plan for the Regularization of Immigrants, in collaboration with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF), at the level of the Presidency, Ministry of the Presidency, Ministry of the Interior and Police and Immigration Authority.

C. National Progress on Strategic Plan Outcomes¹	Start value	Year	End value	Year	Comments
UNFPA's Contributions <i>Please provide contributions to those outcomes only to which the CP contributed. Not all outcome areas are expected to be covered under UNFPA contributions.</i>					
Outcome 1: Increased availability and use of integrated sexual and reproductive health services (including family planning, maternal health and HIV) that are gender-responsive and meet human rights standards for quality of care and equity in access					
Percentage in which at least 95% of service delivery points in the country have seven life-saving maternal / reproductive health medicines from the WHO priority list	NA	2012	NA	2016	Data not available. UNFPA is advocating for the availability of this information through the Single System for the Management of Medicines and Supplies (SUGEMI)
Contraceptive prevalence rate (total)	75.1	2007	55.1	2013	Source: Demographic Health Survey (DHS)
Proportion of demand for contraception satisfied (total)	86.5	2007	86.9	2013	Source: Demographic Health Survey (DHS)

¹ The format is aligned to the UNFPA Strategic Plan outcomes, 2014-2017.

Percentage in which at least 60% of service delivery points in the country have no stock-out of contraceptives in the last six months	NA	2012	NA	2016	During visits to several health facilities, nationwide, a shortage was noticed of some contraceptive methods, such as condoms. To ensure availability, there is a process in place for transferring the distribution of these supplies along with other health items, through the Single System for the Management of Medicines and Supplies (SUGEMI)
Percentage in which at least 80% of live births in the country are attended by skilled health personnel	97.8	2007	98.6	2013	Source: Demographic Health Survey (DHS)
Number of adapted and implemented protocols for family planning services in the country that meet human rights standards including freedom from discrimination, coercion and violence	0	2013	2	2016	In 2016, the Ministry of Health published adolescent care protocols that incorporated sexual and reproductive rights for this population.
Percentage of women and men aged 15-49 who had more than one sexual partner in the past 12 months who reported use of a condom during their last intercourse (female/male)	M:45.0 F:37.6	2007	M:45.8 F:34.9	2013	Source: Demographic Health Survey (DHS)
Has the country increased the national budget for sexual and reproductive health by at least 5 per cent?	<5%	2012	<5%	2016	The Ministry's budget increased but not by 5%

Summary of National Progress

The reported indicators show important progress in the country associated with sexual and reproductive health. The annual purchase of contraceptive methods, including female condoms and emergency pills in its last purchase, and their distribution free of charge through public health services is a clear commitment of the Dominican government to promote sexual and reproductive health. However, reporting on supply and use of Family Planning methods and many other sexual and reproductive health indicators remain a challenge due to lack of official monitoring mechanisms. With the transfer of contraceptives methods distribution to the single system of management of medicines and supplies and the intent to ensure availability and maintain up-to-date records on stocks and use of life-saving medicines and contraceptives in health centers, this is expected to improve.

UNFPA's Contributions

- With the support of UNFPA, a number of normative documents were developed and published, such as the "Technical Regulations on Sexual Health", the "Guidelines for Sexual and Reproductive Health Care in Emergencies, Contingencies and Disasters" which meet human rights standards including freedom from discrimination, coercion and violence.
- UNFPA has advocated for the assurance of the availability of contraceptive methods and facilitating their procurement, including emergency pills.
- At the country's main health center for maternal care and training of obstetricians – the Maternidad Nuestra Señora de la Altagracia University Hospital, a maternal mortality reduction project is being implemented, with support of the private sector the "Popular Foundation". This project includes capacity building of health providers, including obstetrics and perinatology specialist
- Digital platform for mobile phones developed with 49 health care protocols that facilitate access information by national health providers.
- Design of the "National Policy on Sexual and Reproductive Health" document. This proposal was presented to the relevant representatives of the Ministry of Public Health and to civil society organizations. It will be revised and validated in 2017 by all other health-sector agencies prior to its approval and official release the Ministry of Public Health.
- Monitoring of health services "veeduría" by civil society strengthened through the implementation of actions as a meeting aimed at raising the awareness of this component, developed jointly with the National Institute of Health (INSALUD), the Ministry of Public Health and the National Health Service. With the start of this activity, authorities from the MoH's Maternal Child and Adolescent Division are planning to develop a ministerial resolution next year to provide guidelines in this area.
- Development of information to guide maternal health actions through the production, editing and printing three studies: Audit of maternal deaths in selected health centers, Migration and Collective Health and Case of Yesenia

Outcome 2: Increased priority on adolescents, especially on very young adolescent girls, in national development policies and programmes, particularly increased availability of comprehensive sexuality education and sexual and reproductive health

Percentage of young women and men aged 15-24 who correctly identify ways of preventing the sexual transmission of HIV and who reject major misconceptions about HIV transmission (female/male)	40.8	2007	44.6	2013	DHS
Does the country have laws and policies that allow adolescents (regardless of marital status) access to sexual and reproductive health services?	Yes	2012	Yes	2016	

Summary of National Progress

Dominican Republic has no legal barriers to access to the laws, services in the field of sexual and reproductive rights of adolescents and youth. Clinical guidelines have been developed and there are adolescent-friendly health spaces at the Health System level. Despite progress, the country lacks a National Sexuality Education Programme. It is necessary to continue advocating for his implementation and promote the use of sexual and reproductive health services by adolescents and young people.

UNFPA’s Contributions

- Technical assistance for the elaboration of the law on sexual and reproductive health, which was submitted to the National Congress during the previous administration. It needs to be resubmitted for consideration by the present Congress..
- Implementation of a strategy for the prevention of teenage pregnancies by developing an action plan to increase access to contraceptive methods, including condoms as dual protection method (STI and pregnancy), particularly for adolescents and young people in the communities where the "Special Unit for Contraceptive Promotion (UEPA)" project is being implemented. This project integrates community leaders in the delivery of condoms and birth control pills to the adolescent population, and also involves placing condom dispensers in the Primary Health Care Unit, grocery stores and other easily accessible locations on an ongoing basis. These UEPAs are supported by local health authorities and follow-up actions carried out by 2 Civil society organizations (Asoclubnuam and IDAC), which have received support from UNFPA to ensure community participation in social actions.

Outcome 3: Advanced gender equality, women’s and girls’ empowerment, and reproductive rights, including for the most vulnerable and marginalized women, adolescents and youth					
Does the country have the gender equality national action plans that integrate reproductive rights with specific targets and national public budget allocations?	Yes	2007	Yes	2016	The gender equality national action plan (2007-2017) integrates reproductive rights with specific targets, but does not include specific national public budget allocations
Proportion of actions taken by the country on all of the Universal Periodical Review (UPR) accepted recommendations on reproductive rights from the previous reporting cycle					
Percentage of women aged 15–49 who think that a husband/partner is justified in hitting or beating his wife/partner under certain circumstances	3.9	2007			2013 DHS did not offer the information.

Summary of National Progress

A joint space formed by several women's organizations and feminist academics and experts for advocacy that advance approval of legal frameworks has been formed, especially the draft law to Prevent, Treat, Punish and Eradicate Violence Against Women and the draft Law on Sexual and Reproductive Health.

UNFPA's Contributions

- UNFPA has managed to consolidate a space for inter-institutional articulation to overcome one of the most notable weaknesses in the system of attention to victims of violence against women in this country: the lack of coordination of the initiatives promoted. Thanks to the efforts and accompaniment of the team from the UNFPA country office Inter-institutional Mechanisms were strengthened in order to ensure a coordinated response by the State to fight violence against women. This mechanism served as a space for dialogue, articulation, consensus, and development of agreements to improve the impact and quality of attention to victims. As a result, together with the Ministry for Women, the Public Ministry, the Health Ministry, the National Police, and the Judicial Power, there now exists a common statement of principles for action that permit a point of departure to operationalize with quality the overseeing of the services offered. The entities have requested UNFPA to maintain this table of dialogue and coordination, in the interest of providing follow-up to the implementation of the agreements, and developing other similar experiences, which will allow continuous improvement of the system for integral attention.
- A Competency Assessment conducted with UNFPA support, allowed the government to learn the weaknesses presented by the system of attention to victims of violence against women, making known the capacity of public servants in the handling of cases. As a result, a national training GBV plan was executed and launched, strengthening the Technical Committee for Inter-Institutional Coordination for the management of gender-based, to offer a comprehensive response and improve the quality of services offered by the Dominican State to survivors of these crimes.
- UNFPA supported a baseline Study on gender-based violence among students in the second cycle of primary education and secondary grades in public and private schools in Dominican Republic" was successfully concluded, with the technical support of the Ministry of Education (MINERD), UNFPA support. The Ministry of Education institutionalized a programme to address gender-based violence in schools, based on the results of the pilot programme of social work in the Ministry of Education, involving adolescent's boys and girls in the early prevention of risk behaviour.

Outcome 4: Strengthened national policies and international development agendas through integration of evidence-based analysis on population dynamics and their links to sustainable development, sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, HIV and gender equality

Has the country had at least one census of good quality that was processed, analyzed and disseminated following internationally agreed recommendations (during the last 10 years)?	Yes	2010	No	2016	
Has the country collected, analyzed and disseminated a national household survey that allows for the estimation of key population and reproductive health indicators (in the last 5 years)?	Yes	2007	Yes	2013	2013 DHS, 2014 ENHOGAR
Has the country completed evaluations on strategic interventions around sexual and reproductive health and adolescent and youth?	No	2012	No	2016	
Proportion of new national development plans that address population dynamics by accounting for population trends and projections in setting development targets			4	2014	National Development Strategy 2030, the National Plan for Adolescent Pregnancy Reduction, The National Plan for the Reduction of Maternal Mortality and the National Statistics Plan

Summary of National Progress

During the last years the country has carried out an important effort to disseminate the Census, household and health surveys data including a territorial breakdowns at provincial and municipal level, as well as population projections until 2050.

Complementary studies and analysis have been produced with the Adolescent pregnancy costing study amongst the more relevant. National and local institutions have more knowledge on how to utilize data in the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of policies.

There is an ongoing process to create a National Statistical System in order to strengthen the production, processing and dissemination of vital statistics to support medium and long term national strategies, plans and programmes. A proposal of law is under discussion by the legislative branch of the government. The UN agencies support a leading role of the National Statistics Office.

The First National Immigrants Survey (2012) was completed, analyzed, published and disseminated. The national debate on nationality and immigration issues was informed via analysis of the data gathered to strengthen public policy (National Plan for Regularization and Law 169-14). The design and planning of the Second National Immigration Survey completed with the collection and processing of information to take place in 2017.

A Population Situational Analysis (*Análisis Situacional de Población - ASP*) has been carried out in coordination with key government partners with the aim of guiding public policy related to population and development

UNFPA's Contributions

- UNFPA supported a process of cleaning up of the database of the Housing and Population Census 2010 and contributed to enable access to any institution or citizen (on-line) to its information and . Training of some 700 technicians from the public sector, civil society and academy on the handling of statistics in decision making
- UNFPA backed the production, publication and dissemination of the 2050 population projections which serves as the basis for all the household based surveys, budget allocations, etc., and supported the preparation and dissemination of over 60 studies on population and development using statistical data of the 2010 Census, 2013 DHS, 2014 ENHOGAR and the 2012 ENI I.
- The country office coordinated the design, collection, analysis and dissemination of the First National Immigrants Survey. Produced complementary studies, placed the immigration theme in the public and political agenda and informed the national debate and contributed to public policy, ie. National Plan for Regularization and Law 169-14.
- Through its communication strategy the CO placed key population data on the media (press, tv, radio and digital media) and put in place a media campaign to position the issues of the CIPD on the national agenda.

D. Country Programme Resources						
SP Outcome Choose only those relevant to your CP	Regular Resource (Planned and Final Expenditure)		Others (Planned and Final Expenditure)		Total (Planned and Final Expenditure)	
	Increased availability and use of integrated sexual and reproductive health services	2.3	0.5	2.5	0.4	4.8
Youth policies and programmes, and increased availability of comprehensive sexuality education	-	0.2			-	0.2
Advanced gender equality, women's and girls' empowerment, and reproductive rights	0.8	0.3	1.3	0.1	2.1	0.4
Strengthened national policies and international development agendas through integration of evidence-based analysis on population dynamics	1.2	0.5	1.7	1.3	2.9	1.8
Programme coordination and assistance	0.5	0.3			0.5	0.3
Total	4.8	1.8	5.5	1.8	10.3	3.6