

# Enabling Social Innovation in Commonwealth of Dominica

## Country Snapshot



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**Social innovation: "the processes and outcomes of developing novel approaches to address societal challenges facing people and planet." <sup>2</sup>**

This snapshot represents a descriptive, non-exhaustive overview of key highlights from the Commonwealth of Dominica's social innovation ecosystem.

Direct focus on social innovation   Connected but indirect focus on social innovation   No focus on social innovation

## INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

### Official Definition of Social Innovation

**No official legal definition of "social innovation"** exists in Dominica. Government documents emphasise resilience, social protection, and inclusive development but do not define the term formally <sup>1, 2</sup>.

### Government Body for Social Innovation

Climate Resilience Execution Agency of Dominica (CREAD), which was established under the Climate Resilience Act (2018), coordinated national resilience-building, including social, economic and infrastructural initiatives that indirectly support social innovation <sup>3</sup>. With the close of the functional operation of CREAD, responsibilities are subsumed in the Climate Resilience Executing Office (CREO) established under the Ministry of Finance, Economic Development, Climate Resilience and Social Security. Additional enabling institutions include the Ministry of Health, Wellness and Social Security, the Ministry of Public Works & the Digital Economy, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, the Ministry of Blue & Green Economy and the Office of the Prime Minister <sup>4</sup>.

### Government Strategy for Social Innovation

There is no dedicated national social innovation strategy. Dominica relies on resilience and development frameworks—National Resilience Development Strategy 2030 (NRDS), Climate Resilience and Recovery Plan 2020–2030 (CRRP), the Low-Carbon Climate-Resilient Development Strategy (LCCRDS), medium term Public Sector Investment Programme, and several programmes which cater to social resilience (housing, education, health, lands and livelihoods—which emphasise inclusive national food safety, digital transformation and climate adaptation <sup>1, 2</sup>.

### Policies, Laws & Regulations

- **Climate Resilience Act (2018)** — established CREAD and the legislative basis for resilience governance <sup>3</sup>.
- **NRDS 2030 / CRRP 2020–2030 / LCCRDS/Annual Budget & Programming** — central policy frameworks supporting inclusive and socially innovative development
- No specific laws or tax incentives explicitly targeted at "social innovation" were found <sup>1, 2</sup>.
- No specific laws or tax incentives explicitly targeted at "social innovation" were found, at least with the precise terminology, but the government's legal and regulatory frameworks were amplified under various ministries and agencies of government.

### Official Statistics

No official statistics on social innovation are collected. Broader data is available on social development, resilience indicators, and labour markets, but no dedicated social/solidarity economy dataset exists <sup>1</sup>.

## Government Programs

- **Dominica Youth Business Trust (DYBT)** — youth enterprise incubation and training (c. 2004–present) <sup>5</sup>.
- **National Employment Programme (NEP)** — youth and community employment/skills development <sup>6</sup>.
- **Work Online Dominica** — career development and remote-work training (Government + UNDP + IsraAID + Dominica State College)
- Many programmes are implemented through resilience and SDG delivery partnerships. No national social-innovation-specific funding programme was identified. <sup>7</sup>

# ECOSYSTEM

## Stakeholders

Government: CREAD; Ministry of Digital Economy; Ministry of Blue & Green Economy; Ministry of Social Services.  
Civil society: Dominica Red Cross, Lifeline Ministries, Social Center, and other NGOs central to community-led innovation.  
International partners: UNDP, CDB, World Bank, IsraAID and others play outsized roles in co-creation and delivery of social innovations <sup>4 7 8</sup>.

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Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica

## Sectoral Networks

Dominica participates in regional networks (Caribbean Development Bank and Eastern Caribbean Central Bank networks, CARICOM, OECS, CDEMA, youth enterprise networks, agriculture platforms). No dedicated national social enterprise network was found <sup>5</sup>.

## Non-Financial Support Provides

Key types: enterprise incubators (DYBT), digital-skills programmes (Work Online Dominica), agricultural extension, community organisations, universities (Dominica State College), and international organisations providing technical assistance <sup>5 7 8</sup>

## Support Initiatives

Leading initiatives include:

- Youth enterprise and incubation (DYBT)
- Digital livelihoods and remote-work training (Work Online Dominica)
- Climate-resilient agriculture and community development programmes (UNDP, CDB, government) <sup>1 5 7</sup>

## Collaboration

Cross-sector partnerships are common in resilience, digital transformation, and community development (e.g., Government–UNDP–IsraAID partnership on Work Online Dominica)  
No prominent national social-innovation awards were identified. Events tend to focus on resilience, climate action and sustainable development rather than social innovation specifically <sup>4 7</sup>.

# FINANCE

## Financing Schemes

There is no consolidated national estimate of annual funding for social innovation but substantial allocations are included in the budgets of specific line ministries. Funding flows mainly from:

- International development banks (World Bank, CDB, GCF) via grants and concessional loans or a combination thereof
- UN agencies and bilateral donors (UNDP, UN Women, [2] UNECLAC, UNICEF, WFP, IOM, Canada, UK, US, other friendly governments and organizations etc.)
- National budgets for resilience, social protection, youth enterprise and agriculture [2]
- Community-based finance (credit unions, microfinance) <sup>8</sup>

No evidence of social impact bonds or dedicated impact funds operating domestically. <sup>1</sup>

## Financing Inclusivity

Financing initiatives frequently target children, women, youth, elderly persons, persons with disabilities, rural communities and the Kalinago Territory (e.g., youth enterprise funding, women's entrepreneurship support) <sup>1 5</sup>. However, public reporting does not quantify inclusiveness across groups.

# SOCIETY

## Public Awareness of Social Innovation

Public discourse emphasises climate resilience, community recovery and inclusive development. Social innovation is referenced indirectly through themes like resilience, empowerment, digital access and sustainability <sup>4 2</sup>.

## Research

Academic research specifically on social innovation is limited. Most research originates from multilateral organisations (ECLAC, UNDP, World Bank, CDB, IMF) and focuses on resilience and social protection <sup>1 8</sup>.

## Education & Human Capital

At least under the subject of social innovation, no dedicated degree programmes were identified. Social innovation-related skills appear in entrepreneurship education (DYBT), tertiary programmes (Dominica State College), adult education and vocational training, and digital skills programmes <sup>5 7</sup>.

## Entrepreneurship

6<sup>th</sup> / 82 countries

### EIU Business

**Environment:** No public ranking available for Dominica (EIU data proprietary).

EIU Business Environment Ranking 2024

51<sup>st</sup> / 133 countries

**Global Innovation Index:** Dominica is not included as a standalone economy.

Global Innovation Index 2024



**GEM-Global Entrepreneurship Monitor:** Dominica is not a participating economy in recent GEM datasets

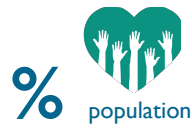
## Social & Environmental Consciousness



**Solidarity**  
**World Values Survey:** Dominica not included.



**Participation**



**CAF World Giving Index:** No individual score available



**64<sup>th</sup> / 180 countries**  
**Sustainability**  
Environmental Performance Index: Dominica is not included as a separate ranking but national strategies indicate strong commitments to carbon neutrality and renewable energy <sup>1,2</sup>.