

Enabling Social Innovation in Dominican Republic



Country Snapshot

Social innovation: "the processes and outcomes of developing novel approaches to address societal challenges facing people and planet." ↓

This snapshot represents a descriptive, non-exhaustive overview of key highlights from the Dominican Republic 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 exists. It is broadly recognized and promoted in national policy documents (e.g., National Innovation Policy 2030).



Government Body for Social Innovation ✓

- No dedicated agency exclusively for social innovation. Key coordinating bodies are:
- **Innovation Cabinet (Gabinete de Innovación)** (2021–): Inter-ministerial taskforce coordinating the National Innovation Policy 2030.
 - **Vice Ministry of Innovation and Modernization (MAP)** (2012–): Promotes public sector innovation and modernization.



Government Strategy for Social Innovation ✓

- No standalone national strategy. It is embedded in:
- **National Development Strategy 2030 (END 2030)** (2012–): Mandates inclusive and sustainable development.
 - **National Innovation Policy 2030 (PNI 2030)** (2021–): Sets the national innovation agenda.



Policies, Laws & Regulations ✓ 🔗

- **Law No. 340-06 on Public Procurement** (2006–): Allows **social criteria** (e.g., quotas for women-led MSMEs). **Environmental criteria** are cited but not explicitly mandated in the law.
- **Law 57-07 on Renewable Energy Incentives** (2007–): Provides tax credits and exemptions for renewable energy projects.
- **Charitable Contributions Deduction (Tax Code)**: Allows tax deductions for donations to eligible nonprofits (up to 5% of net taxable income).
- **Environmental Tax on Vehicle Pollution (Law 253-12)** (2012–): Taxes motor vehicle CO2 emissions.



Official Statistics

No direct statistics are published on social innovation or social enterprises.

- **National Statistics Office (ONE):** Collects statistics on social activities.
- **Nonprofits/Foundations:** Government publishes counts of registered nonprofits (8,614 as of 2022).



Government Programs

- **Supérate** (2021–): National flagship social protection program providing conditional cash transfers for over 1.5 million households.
- **Banca Solidaria (BS)** (2012–): Government-led microfinance program for microentrepreneurs and MSMEs.
- **República Digital** (2016–): National program expanding digital public services and inclusion.

ECOSYSTEM



Stakeholders

- **Central/Regional Bodies (Non-Gov):** No centralized non-government body. Prominent actors:
 - **Trust for the Americas (DIA Dominican Republic Innovation Lab):** Fosters youth innovation and entrepreneurship.
 - **INICIA Educación:** NGO supporting educational innovation projects.



Sectoral Networks

- **Red Nacional de Emprendimiento (RNE):** Connects entrepreneurship support organizations.
- **Fundación Liderazgo en Tacones:** Supports women entrepreneurs.



Non-Financial Support Organisations

- **Incubators/Accelerators:** Centro de Emprendimiento e Innovación del INTEC, PROINDUSTRIA (PROINCUBE), Boost Acceleration Camp.
- **Multilateral/Bilateral:** UNDP Accelerator Lab, Caribbean Export Development Agency.



Support Initiatives

Common support: Digital skills training, incubation, workshops, and formalization assistance.

- **DIA Dominican Republic Innovation Lab:** Provides digital skills training and seed funding for youth-led projects.
- **Semana Mipymes:** Annual event for workshops and networking focused on innovation.
- **EU-LAC Digital Accelerator:** Offers acceleration for startups in clean tech and smart production.



Collaboration

Partnerships across public, private, and civil society are frequent.

- **'Communities of Care' Initiative:** Co-implemented by government ministries and UN agencies (UN Women, ILO, UNFPA, UNDP) for a National Care Policy.
- **Banco Adopem/BID Lab Dominican Republic:** Partnership for digitalization training for 5,000 women entrepreneurs.
- **Awards: Republic of Ideas Competition** (Government/partners) for innovative solutions.

FINANCE



Financing Schemes

No consolidated national estimate available. Funding relies heavily on microfinance and development banks.

- **Impact Investment:** \$50 million (2012) from IFC Taino Bonds (impact bonds) for low-income housing and MSME finance.
- **International Development Banks/Multilaterals:** CIF (\$85 million plan), IDB Invest (\$45 million financing in 2025), Joint SDG Fund (\$1.8 million program).
- **Public Subsidies and Grants:** Banca Solidaria, FONDOCYT (research grants).



Key Types of Financing

Public Sector | Grants/Subsidies: Banca Solidaria, Fondocyt (research).
International Debt/Equity: IDB Invest, CIF-ACT (clean energy, MSME finance).
Financial Sector Microfinance/Credit: Banco Adopem, Banca Solidaria.
Thematic Bonds: Banco Popular Dominicano Green Bond Issuance.



Financing Inclusivity

More **inclusive for women and micro-entrepreneurs** (e.g., Banco Adopem's 60% women beneficiaries). Severely lacking for marginalized communities (e.g., persons with disabilities and migrants) due to structural barriers.

SOCIETY



Public Awareness of Social Innovation

Discussed mainly under themes of **entrepreneurship, sustainability, and digital transformation**.



Research

- **Academic:** Conducted by universities (e.g., **Centro de Emprendimiento e Innovación del INTEC**) and **MESCYT**-affiliated institutions.
- **Practitioner/Official:** **MEPYD** and **ONE** publish official analyses. **UNDP Accelerator Lab** and **OECD** conduct relevant studies.



Education & Human Capital

- **Formal Programs (Dedicated):** Very few; noted example is **Diploma in Leadership in Social Policies** (ITLA).
- **Integration into Curricula:** Social entrepreneurship and impact measurement are integrated into some university degrees.
- **Informal Programs:** Widespread training via **DIA Dominican Republic Innovation Lab** and **Alerta Joven**.
- **Graduate Estimates:** Not available.

Entrepreneurship



EIU Business Environment:
Not available.



Innovation Capacity
Enabling environment for innovation (GII):
Not available.



Social entrepreneurship prevalence
(GEM): Not available.
Entrepreneurship is actively supported by government programs (PROMIPYME, Banca Solidaria).

Social & Environmental Consciousness



Solidarity
(World Values Survey):
Not available.



Political participation
High priority on governance, transparency, and citizen participation (Open Government Action Plans).



Volunteering
Not available.
CAF World Giving Index



Sustainability
Not available.
Strong policy commitment through the NDC and Law 57-07 for renewable energy.