Country Profile on Disability
Dominican Republic

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Abbreviations

ACICIRD	Asociación de Ciegos del Cibao de la República Dominicana	Association of the Blind of Cibao
ADOSID	Asociación Dominicana de Síndrome de Down	Dominican Down Syndrome Association
ANSORDO	Asociación Nacional de Sordos de la República Dominicana	National Association of the Deaf of the Dominican Republic
ASD	Autism Spectrum Disorder	
ASODIFIMO	Asociación de Personas con Discapacidad Físico Motriz	Association of Persons with Physical and Motor Disabilities
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	
CEACR	Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations	
CIMUDIS	Círculo de Mujeres con Discapacidad	Circle of Women with Disabilities
CONADIS	Consejo Nacional de Discapacidad	National Council on Disability
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child	
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	
ENHOGAR	Encuesta Nacional de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples	National Multi-purpose Household Survey
FDC	Fundación Dominicana de Ciegos	Dominican Foundation for the Blind
FENADID	Federación Nacional de Discapacidad de la República Dominicana	National Federation of People with Disabilities of the Dominican Republic
INFOTEP	Instituto Nacional de Formación Técnico Profesional	National Institute for Technical and Vocational Training
INDOCAL	Instituto Dominicano para la Calidad	Dominican Institute for Quality
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency	
La Red	Red Iberoamericana de Entidades de Personas con Discapacidad Física en la República Dominicana	Ibero-American Network of Organizations for People with Physical Disabilities in the Dominican Republic
MOSCTHA	Movimiento Sociocultural de Trabajo Humanitario y Ambiental	Sociocultural Movement for Humanitarian and Environmental Work
ONCE	Organización Nacional de Ciegos Españoles	National Organization of the Blind of Spain
OPD	Organization of Persons with Disabilities	
PLANEG	Plan Nacional de Igualdad y Equidad de Género	National Plan for Gender Equality and Equity
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals	
SINAC	Sistema Nacional de Evaluación de la Accesibilidad	National Accessibility Assessment System
SNS	Servicio Nacional de Salud	National Health Service

UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization

1. Basic Profile

1-1. Basic Indicators[1]

Gross Domestic Product[2] per capita	USD 10,875.7	2024

Government Expenditures by Sector

Healthcare (% of GDP)	4.5 %	2022
Education (% of GDP)	3.8 %	2023
Social protection (% of GDP)[3]	2.2 %	2023

Population

Total population	11,427,557	2024
Male (% of total population)	49.7 %	
Female (% of total population)	50.3 %	
Urban population (% of total population)	72.4 %	
Rural population (% of total population)	27.6 %	
Life expectancy at birth (total)	73.7 years	2023
Male	70.5 years	
Female	76.9 years	

Health

Prevalence of undernourishment (% of population)	3.6 %	2023
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	28.4	2023

Education

Education System[4]	
Primary Education	6 years
Compulsory education	13 years

[1] Based on World Bank data (https://data.worldbank.org/indicator) (Accessed: 19 January 2026).

[2] Hereinafter referred to as "GDP."

[3] Based on ILO (2024), World Social Protection Report, https://www.ilo.org/sites/default/files/2024-09/WSPR_2024_EN_WEB_1.pdf (Accessed: 19 March 2026).

[4] Under the General Education Act (Ley General de Educación No. 66-97, 1997), education became compulsory starting from the final year of preschool (for 5-year-olds). The Education Council Ordinance (Ordenanza No. 0, 2013) revised the system in the 2014 academic year to consist of six years of elementary education and six years of secondary education, making education compulsory through secondary school. Based on UNESCO (https://educando.edu.do/portal/ordenanzas-del-nuevo-diseno-curricular/ (Accessed: 12 June 2026).

Literacy rate (% of ages 15 and above)	94.0 %	2024
Adult Male	93.6 %	
Adult Female	94.4 %	

School enrollment		
Primary (% gross) (total)	101.9 %	2024
Male	103.4 %	
Female	100.3 %	
Secondary (% gross) (total)	76.3 %	2024
Male	72.3 %	
Female	80.5 %	
Tertiary (% gross) (total)	57.7 %	2024
Male	38.9 %	
Female	76.5 %	

Employment

Unemployment (total)	5.5 %	2024
Male (% of male labour force)	3.4 %	
Female (% of female labour force)	8.3 %	

1-2. Definition of Disability and Indicators on Disability

1-2-1. Definition of Disability[5]

The Organic Law on Equality of Rights of Persons with Disabilities (No. 5-13) (Ley Orgánica sobre Igualdad de Derechos de las Personas con Discapacidad), enacted in 2013, defines disability as "a condition resulting from the interaction between persons with physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments and environmental and attitudinal barriers present in their physical and social environment, which hinders their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others."

1-2-2. Indicators on Disability

In its combined second and third periodic State Party's Report (2023) [6], the Government of the Dominican Republic reports that, as part of "measures for data collection on the situation of persons with disabilities," the National Statistics Office regularly collects information using the following statistical surveys:

[5] https://www.sipen.gob.do/index.php/descarga/otras-leyes_2013_01_20191202121710.pdf (Accessed: 19 January 2026).
[6] https://docs.un.org/en/CRPD/C/DOM/2-3 (Accessed: 19 January 2026).

- 10th National Population and Housing Census 2022: This census incorporates the Washington Group Short Set of Questions. The results indicate that approximately 4.8% of the population aged five and above have at least one functional difficulty (mobility, visual, hearing, intellectual, etc.). The prevalence is higher among men (5.4%) than women (4.2%), and higher in rural areas (5.1%) than in urban areas (4.7%). By region, the highest rates are observed in Cibao Sur and Cibao Nordeste (both 6.2%), while the lowest are in Ozama and Yuma (both 4.3%)[7].
- National Multi-Purpose Household Survey ENHOGAR-2021: Conducted as a sample household survey, the 2021 round covered 28,095 households and collected socio-demographic characteristics and living conditions of household members, including the Washington Group Short Set of Questions. It reports that 4.9% of the population aged five and above have at least one disability (mobility, visual, hearing, or intellectual), with a slightly higher prevalence among women (5.3%) than men (4.5%)[8].

Number of persons with disabilities (aged five and above):	478,300	4.8 % of the population aged 5 and above[9]	2022
Male	205,887		
Female	272,413		

Table 1 Proportion of Persons with Disabilities by Functional Domain (2013)[10]

Functional domain	Proportion
Physical (legs, feet, toes)	24.6 %
Physical (arms, hands, fingers)	40.6 %
Physical (grasping objects)	12.3 %
Physical (difficulty walking)	32.2 %
Physical (difficulty getting up)	23.4 %
Intellectual	21.2 %
Visual	37.9 %
Hearing	13.8 %
Speech and communication	11.9 %

Source: Prepared by the study team based on ENHOGAR 2013 and reproduced from JICA (2021), "Country Profile on Disability."

[7] https://odismet.org/blog/la-poblacion-con-discapacidad-en-el-x-censo-de-poblacion-y-vivienda-de-la-republica-dominicana (Accessed: 19 January 2026).
[8] https://www.one.gob.do/noticias/2022/one-publica-informe-basico-de-resultados-enhogar-2021/ (Accessed: 19 January 2026).
[9] Based on the 10th Population and Housing Census (2022).
[10] As official statistical tables on the proportion of persons with disabilities by functional difficulty are not accessible for the Population and Housing Census (2022) and ENHOGAR (2021), this table reproduces 2013 data published in JICA's "Country Profile on Disability (Dominican Republic)" (2021). Note that individuals may have multiple functional difficulties; therefore, the proportions by type of functional difficulty do not sum to 100%.

Table 2 Number and Proportion of Persons with Disabilities by Region (2022)[11]

Region	Number of persons with disabilities (aged 5+)	Total population (aged 5+)	Proportion
Ozama	148,911	3,493,282	4.3 %
Cibao Norte	78,414	1,531,398	5.1 %
Cibao Sur	45,543	739,636	6.2 %
Cibao Nordeste	38,740	624,739	6.2 %
Cibao Noroeste	22,280	409,330	5.4 %
Valdesia	40,905	881,090	4.6 %
Enriquillo	18,523	365,852	5.1 %
El Valle	22,959	499,924	4.6 %
Yuma	32,618	761,016	4.3 %
Higuamo	29,407	587,837	5.0 %
Total	478,300	9,894,104	4.8 %

Source: Prepared by the study team based on the 10th National Population and Housing Census 2022.

[11] https://odismet.org/blog/la-poblacion-con-discapacidad-en-el-x-censo-de-poblacion-y-vivienda-de-la-republica-dominicana (Accessed: 19 January 2026).

2. Administration and Policy on Disability

2-1. Administration on Disability

<Central government>[12]

The National Council on Disability (Consejo Nacional de Discapacidad, hereinafter referred to as "CONADIS") is the national body responsible for coordinating disability-related policies. It is positioned as an autonomous and decentralized institution attached to the Office of the President. With legal personality and administrative, financial and technical autonomy, it is responsible for formulating, coordinating, supervising and evaluating policies, plans, programmes, projects and services related to disability[13].

Seven years after the enactment of the Organic Law on Equality of Rights of Persons with Disabilities (No. 5-13), institutional arrangements for CONADIS's governing bodies were strengthened in 2020. First, the National Council was established, followed by the National Executive Committee in 2021. Both are collegial bodies comprising representatives of government institutions and civil society, responsible for internal decision-making and coordination of policy directions within CONADIS. The National Council consists of 32 entities, of which 18 are organizations of persons with disabilities and service providers for persons with disabilities. The National Executive Committee comprises 10 entities, of which 8 are organizations of persons with disabilities and service provider organizations[14].

Entities responsible for disability issues

Table 3 Agencies responsible for disability in the Dominican Republic[15]

No.	Name	Overview
1	Office of the President (Presidencia de la República Dominicana)	Oversees CONADIS and the Cabinet for the Coordination of Social Policies (Gabinete de Coordinación de Políticas Sociales).
2	Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance (Ministerio de Salud Pública y Asistencia Social)	Obliged to compile statistics on disability in both public and private health facilities. It has signed an agreement between CONADIS and the National Health Service (Servicio Nacional de Salud, SNS) to establish three regional assessment units to conduct disability assessments and is progressively implementing a national evaluation and certification system (2025)[16].

[12] Compiled and edited from the State Party's Report (2021).
[13] https://conadis.gob.do/faqs/ (Accessed: 1 March 2026).
[14] https://docs.un.org/en/CRPD/C/DOM/2-3 (Accessed: 1 March 2026).
[15] Based on JICA "Country Profile on Disability" (2021), updated to reflect information from the State Party's Report and official websites of relevant ministries and agencies.
[16] https://conadis.gob.do/noticias/conadis-y-sns-acuerdan-llevar-a-cabo-la-implementacion-del-sistema-nacional-de-

3	Ministry of Labour (Ministerio de Trabajo)	Promotes the participation of persons with disabilities in the labour market.
4	Ministry of Education (Ministerio de Educación)	Promotes inclusive education. Based on the General Education Law and Ministerial Order No. 05-2024, it is implementing a plan to expand inclusive schools from 9 pilot schools to 100 schools.[17]
5	Ministry of Public Administration (Ministerio de Administración Pública)	It supervises the promotion of employment of persons with disabilities in the public sector.[18]

Source: Prepared by the study team based on official websites of relevant ministries.

Status of Coordination Mechanism

Name of committee	National Council on Disability (CONADIS)
Members	Ministers or representatives from the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Finance and Economy, Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Public Works and Communications, among others; representatives of organizations of persons with disabilities (hereinafter referred to as "OPDs") by type of disability; and representatives of disability support organizations.
Roles and implementation status	An autonomous and decentralized national body responsible for the formulation and coordination of public policies in the field of disability. Its mission is to ensure equality of rights, equal opportunities and the elimination of all forms of discrimination against persons with disabilities. In collaboration with relevant ministries and OPDs, it formulates, evaluates and monitors the implementation of disability-related policies, plans and programmes.

Source: Prepared by the study team based on official websites of relevant ministries.

<Local government>[19]

The Dominican Republic is divided into 31 provinces and the National District. Provinces are further subdivided into local administrative units such as municipalities. Central ministries facilitate administration by establishing local branches in the provinces.

valoracion-certificacion-y-registro-de-la-discapacidad/(Accessed: 13 March 2026).

[17] https://www.diariolibre.com/actualidad/educacion/2025/10/22/minerd-promete-ampliara-acceso-a-20-mil-estudiantes-con-discapacidad/3286544(Accessed: 1 March 2026).

[18] https://presidencia.gob.do/noticias/map-y-conadis-acuerdan-promover-la-inclusion-laboral-de-personas-con-discapacidad-en-el (Accessed: 1 June 2026).

[19] Compiled and edited from the State Party's Report (2021).

Entities responsible for disability issues

Name	Overview
Local branches of CONADIS	In addition to its headquarters in Santo Domingo, CONADIS provides services and carries out activities at the local level through "regional liaison officers" (enlaces regionales) assigned to each province.

Source: Prepared by the study team based on the official CONADIS website.

2-2. Laws and Policies on Disability[20]

Title	Organic Law on Equality of Rights of Persons with Disabilities (No. 5-13) (Ley Orgánica sobre Igualdad de Derechos de las Personas con Discapacidad)
Year of enactment	2013
Overview	Supervises companies and non-profit organizations with the aim of protecting and guaranteeing the rights and equal opportunities of all persons with disabilities and improving their quality of life.

The following presents newly introduced legal frameworks mentioned in the combined second and third periodic State Party's Report (2023), in reverse chronological order:

Title	Law No. 43-23 Recognising Sign Language in the Dominican Republic (Ley núm. 43-23 que Reconoce la Lengua de Señas en la República Dominicana)
Year of enactment	2023
Overview	This law officially recognizes Dominican Sign Language. It guarantees the communication rights of persons with hearing disabilities and promotes the use of sign language in education, administration, public services and employment.[21]

Title	Law No. 34-23 on Care, Inclusion and Protection for Persons with Autism Spectrum Disorder (Ley núm. 34-23 de Atención, Inclusión y Protección para las Personas con Trastorno del Espectro Autista (TEA))
Year of enactment	2023
Overview	Establishes fundamental principles such as autonomy, equality, inclusion, accessibility and promotion of social participation, and mandates the development of a national support system for children and adults with autism spectrum disorder (hereinafter referred to as "ASD") by public institutions.[22]

[20] Based on the combined second and third periodic report (2023).

[21] https://presidencia.gob.do/noticias/presidente-abinader-encabeza-promulgacion-de-la-ley-que-reconoce-la-lengua-de-senas-en-la(Accessed: 1 March 2026).

[22] https://presidencia.gob.do/noticias/poder-ejecutivo-promulga-ley-para-proteccion-de-personas-con-trastornos-del-espectro(Accessed: 1 March 2026).

Title	General Health Law (Ley General de Salud)[23]
Year of enactment	2001
Overview	Establishes general principles such as universality, solidarity, equity, efficiency, effectiveness, comprehensiveness and cooperation, as well as mechanisms for the prevention of disability and social reintegration. It also guarantees the right to health for persons with disabilities and the prevention of disability-related risks.

Title	Social Security Law (Ley de Seguridad Social)[24]
Year of enactment	2001
Overview	Establishes the social security system, defining its administration as well as the mutual rights and obligations between the State and citizens regarding funding mechanisms to protect against old age, disability, retirement due to age, illness, maternity, childcare and occupational risks.

Title	General Education Law (Ley General de Educación)[25]
Year of enactment	1997
Overview	Guarantees equal rights for all students, including those with special educational needs.

Title	Labour Code (Código de Trabajo)[26]
Year of enactment	1992
Overview	Guarantees the rights and equal opportunities of workers with disabilities under Articles 314 to 316.

Other disability-related regulations include:

Title	Ministerial Order No. 05-2024 Establishing Guidelines for Inclusive Education in the Dominican Education System (Ordenanza núm. 05-2024, que establece los lineamientos para la Educación Inclusiva en el Sistema Educativo Dominicano)[27]
Year implemented	2024
Overview	Provides specific operational guidelines for implementing inclusive education in educational settings, issued by the Ministry of Education and the National Education Council

[23] https://repositorio.msp.gob.do/handle/123456789/747(Accessed: 13 March 2026).
[24] https://repositorio.msp.gob.do/bitstream/handle/123456789/746/LeyNo.87-01.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y (Accessed: 13 March 2026).
[25] https://siteal.iiep.unesco.org/sites/default/files/sit_accion_files/ley_66_ley_general_de_educacion.pdf (Accessed: 13 March 2026).
[26] https://mt.gob.do/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/codigo_de_trabajo.pdf (Accessed: 13 March 2026).
[27] https://www.educando.edu.do/portal/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/ORDENANZA-05-2024-lineamientos-educacion-inclusiva.pdf (Accessed: 13 March 2026).

Disability-related policies

Title	National Disability Plan 2025–2035 (Plan Nacional de Discapacidad 2025–2035)[28]
Year implemented	2025
Overview	A comprehensive national policy outlining priority issues and action guidelines for the next decade to guarantee the rights and social participation of persons with disabilities. Based on a rights-based approach that views disability as an interaction with the environment, it systematically defines the responsibilities and roles of the government and society. It identifies six strategic action areas: equal opportunities, accessibility, inclusive education, culture and sports, health and rehabilitation, decent work and sustainable employment, and social protection and inclusion. Official portal: https://plandiscapacidad.conadis.gob.do/

Title	National Plan for Gender Equality and Equity 2020–2030 (Plan Nacional de Igualdad y Equidad de Género 2020–2030) [29]
Year implemented	2020
Overview	Identifies women with disabilities as a priority group requiring special attention. It positions measures such as improving access to sexual and reproductive health and rights and services for women with disabilities, and introducing solidarity pensions for persons with disabilities regardless of age, as key interventions to address inequality and poverty.

Title	National Development Strategy 2030 (Estrategia Nacional de Desarrollo 2030)[30]
Year implemented	2012
Overview	Defines the country's long-term vision, priority challenges, action guidelines, State responsibilities and various aspects of citizens' lives, including the disability sector.

2-3. Measures on Disability[31]

1) Healthcare

According to the State Party's Report (2023), the Government of the Dominican Republic stipulates, under Law No. 42-01 (General Health Law), that all persons have the right to receive health services without discrimination. Article 28 of the law requires health facilities to meet accessibility requirements for persons with physical disabilities before obtaining

[28] https://plandiscapacidad.conadis.gob.do/ (Accessed: 13 March 2026).
[29] https://mujer.gob.do/transparencia/phocadownload/Publicaciones/Planeg/PLANEG%20III%202020-2030.pdf (Accessed: 13 March 2026).
[30] https://www.riadis.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Ley-1-2012.pdf(Accessed: 13 March 2026).
[31] Based on the combined second and third periodic report (2023) and the concluding observations of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2023).

operating licenses. Many public health facilities face architectural constraints, necessitating budget allocations for renovation. Newly established primary healthcare facilities are required to comply with national standards on universal design. In addition, migrants with disabilities are guaranteed free access to emergency and primary healthcare services regardless of their migration status.

The government is also strengthening mental health services, including establishing disability-specific support groups, and is applying policies of inclusion and non-discrimination in the recruitment of healthcare personnel. However, shortages of healthcare staff capable of supporting persons with hearing impairments and of sign language interpreters remain a challenge.

The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities has expressed concern that persons with disabilities do not have adequate access to health services. In particular, shortages of healthcare facilities, equipment and information are pronounced in remote areas, and gynecological and obstetric services are not accessible for women with disabilities. The Committee has also noted the lack of regular training for healthcare professionals on disability from a human rights-based perspective.

The Committee recommends that the government, in collaboration with OPDs, take the following measures:

- Ensure that all persons with disabilities have nationwide access to high-quality, gender-sensitive health services through reasonable accommodation.
- Provide health information in accessible formats such as Braille, sign language and easy-to-read materials, and deliver training to healthcare workers on disability inclusion.
- Ensure that all healthcare facilities provide accessible gynecological and obstetric services for women with disabilities.
- Institutionalize training on a human rights-based approach for doctors and healthcare staff and involve OPDs in its design and implementation.

2) Education

According to the State Party's Report (2023), the Ministry of Education, with technical support from the United Nations Children's Fund (hereinafter referred to as "UNICEF"), has introduced the "National Inclusive Education Model," which is being implemented in mainstream schools, special education schools, and education centers. It also reports the establishment of multiple schooling options, including special education schools for children with severe and multiple disabilities, schools and classes for deaf children, inclusive classrooms within mainstream schools, transition classrooms aimed at independent living

and transition to employment (Aulas de transición a la vida adulta), and mainstream schools promoting inclusive practices.

As of March 2023, a total of 27,465 students with disabilities were enrolled in both mainstream and special education schools, representing 91.4% of the number of children with disabilities identified in 2021. In addition, the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology and CONADIS have concluded a cooperation agreement to integrate an inclusive perspective into higher education policies and system reforms. This includes providing training on university campuses and follow-up on disability inclusion initiatives and data collection using the Washington Group question sets at each university.

Regarding the transition from special education to inclusive education, the government has designated priority schools transitioning from segregated to inclusive models as "model schools" and is providing training to education officials at the national, regional and district levels, as well as to school administrators, support staff and teachers. In the previous year, 227 individuals from 7 centers received training, with plans to expand coverage to 37 centers and 2 vocational schools (Politécnicos) in the following year. In addition, the government aims to strengthen local support systems by expanding the coverage of the "Centres of Resources for Attention to Diversity" (Centros de Recursos para la Atención a la Diversidad), which support schools, teachers and families and promote inclusive education, to 18 regional education offices and 122 district special education officers.

Under the "Transition to Adult and Working Life Programme" (programa de Transición a la vida Adulta y Laboral), the first vocational school (Escuela Laboral) for students with ASD has been established, with new staff assigned and part of the disability center's facilities allocated to the programme.

In 2024, the Ministry of Education also introduced a new monitoring tool to identify students with disabilities enrolled in mainstream schools. This expanded the scope of data collection, previously limited to special education schools, to include mainstream schools. As a result, it has become possible to allocate budgets to mainstream schools that accommodate students with disabilities, and a system has been established for the Directorate of Special Education to collect information on needs by disability type. A total of 27,465 students with disabilities have been registered by disability type through the school management information system.

Additionally, in collaboration with the social protection programme for vulnerable populations "Supérate[32]," transition classrooms (Aulas de Transición) have been established within programme facilities, expanding transition support for students with ASD and other

[32] https://datos.gob.do/organization/about/superate (Accessed: 13 March 2026).

disabilities. An educational model for children with deafblindness and multiple disabilities has also been developed and introduced from the 2023/24 academic year. School transport support has been expanded by increasing the number of school buses for students with disabilities.

From a strategic perspective on inclusive education, the Ministry of Education has formally incorporated support for the education of children with disabilities into its summer in-service teacher training programmes, providing training to approximately 16,000 education personnel, including school principals, counsellors, psychologists and teachers. In collaboration with the National Institute for Teacher Training and Certification (Instituto Nacional de Formación y Capacitación del Magisterio) and other institutions, scholarships for master's and diploma programmes for special education teachers and teachers of deaf education have been established, along with specialized training courses on inclusive education, visual impairment and deafblind education. Plans have also been presented to establish a diploma programme in the education of children with hearing disabilities in written Spanish.

However, in its concluding observations, the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, while acknowledging progress towards inclusive education, has raised several concerns. Although the National Inclusive Education Model was approved by the National Education Council in 2024, its implementation has not yet been sufficiently extended nationwide, with resources concentrated mainly in the capital and major provinces. The lack of mechanisms to track and monitor implementation has also been identified as an issue.

The Committee also notes insufficient physical and environmental accessibility of school facilities, particularly the serious shortage of transport services for children with disabilities in rural and remote areas.

Additionally, it highlights the very low number of children with disabilities identified at the pre-primary education level, indicating gaps in early detection and early intervention systems; the limited training provided to mainstream teachers on inclusive education, including rights-based approaches and assistive teaching methods; and the persistence of attitudinal and discriminatory barriers among teachers, school communities and families that hinder school attendance of children with disabilities.

In light of these challenges, the Committee recommends that the government strengthen the implementation of the National Inclusive Education Model, including in rural and remote areas, while ensuring the active involvement of children with disabilities, their families and representative organizations, and establish monitoring mechanisms to track progress. It also recommends improving accessibility in mainstream schools, providing assistive devices necessary for educational activities, improving and coordinating transport services for

children with disabilities, collecting comprehensive data on children with disabilities at all levels of the education system, particularly at the pre-primary level, and further integrating inclusive education into teacher curricula and teaching methodologies, alongside awareness-raising to address attitudinal barriers among education stakeholders.

3) Gender

In the Dominican Republic, the Ministry of Women is designated as the lead institution responsible for mainstreaming a gender equality approach across the administration. It has formulated the National Plan for Gender Equality and Equity 2020–2030 (Plan Nacional de Igualdad y Equidad de Género 2020–2030). The Plan identifies women with disabilities as a target group across multiple areas, including education for equality, comprehensive healthcare, economic autonomy, citizenship and political and social participation, violence against women, gender and environment, and empowerment through digital technologies.

The Plan includes three specific indicators related to women with disabilities: the proportion of women with disabilities of reproductive age receiving preventive and sexual and reproductive health services tailored to their needs; the proportion of women insured under the old-age, disability and survivors' pension scheme; and the implementation status of awareness-raising campaigns on the rights of women with disabilities.

In the area of violence against women, the "Strategic Plan for a Life Free of Violence against Women" has been adopted, which provides for service delivery based on a differentiated approach that considers the specific vulnerabilities and needs of women with disabilities experiencing gender-based violence. The Ministry of Women provides sign language training to staff, including those assisting survivors, and is working to ensure physical accessibility in shelters for women survivors and their children, including installing ramps and providing wheelchairs, crutches and walkers.

To address prejudice and stigma, the Ministry conducts awareness-raising and training activities and promotes dialogue on gender and disability to deepen understanding of multiple discrimination and violence faced by women with disabilities and to explore appropriate responses. It has also introduced the "Bono Mujer" housing subsidy, which covers part of total housing costs to support access to housing and economic independence for single women, survivors of violence, women with disabilities and women with dependents with disabilities. In addition, it seeks to ensure equal and non-discriminatory access to services through legal assistance, psychosocial support, shelters, sign language support teams and a hotline for women with disabilities.

However, the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities has expressed concern that legal frameworks, policies, programmes and measures to protect the rights of women

and girls with disabilities, particularly in relation to protection from gender-based violence, remain insufficient, and that the Strategic Plan for a Life Free of Violence against Women lacks provisions specifically addressing women with disabilities. It also notes the absence of nationwide measures to ensure independent access to protection mechanisms such as shelters and therapeutic services, and the lack of representation of women with disabilities in decision-making processes related to women's policies.

The Committee recommends, in consultation with representative organizations of women and girls with disabilities, the development and revision of laws, policies and programmes to protect their rights, particularly strengthening measures to prevent gender-based violence. It further calls for the establishment of accessible support centers and emergency shelters nationwide, the provision of necessary services, and measures to ensure the participation of representatives of women with disabilities in equality and equal opportunities councils.

The Committee also expresses serious concern regarding exploitative practices such as forced begging of children with disabilities and forced marriages aimed at subjugation, as well as the continued occurrence of all forms of violence against persons with disabilities, including gender-based violence. It recommends effective protective measures, including the investigation and punishment of perpetrators, the strengthened implementation of existing legislation and policies, the provision of effective remedies and compensation for victims, and the collection and monitoring of disaggregated data on violence by gender, age and type of disability, as well as disability-inclusive research.

In addition, the Committee expresses concern about reports of sterilization of women and girls with disabilities without their consent, based on requests from family members or decisions by medical personnel. It recommends ensuring strict implementation of relevant laws and guaranteeing free and informed consent. It also calls for restorative justice for women subjected to such procedures, investigation and punishment of perpetrators, provision of accessible gynecological and obstetric services in all healthcare facilities, and the introduction of effective measures, including reasonable accommodation, to address widespread unemployment and discrimination and structural barriers in the labour market faced by women with disabilities.

4) Vocational Training and Employment

According to the State Party's Report, the Ministry of Labour has formulated the National Employment Plan (2020–2024), which aims to create 600,000 decent jobs in the formal sector by 2024. The Plan sets strategic action lines and specific targets by sector and region, identifying women, single mothers, youth (including those not in education, employment or training) and persons with disabilities as priority groups, and was developed through

dialogue with various productive sectors.

Supporting this policy framework is the National Employment Service, operated under the Labour Code and the Employment Service Convention, 1948 (No. 88). Through a network of 40 employment offices across the country, jobseekers can register their CVs and be matched with vacancies listed by companies on the "RD Trabaja" portal. The Service collaborates with other public institutions to ensure access to employment services such as job placement and entrepreneurship support. The "Pathways to Employment" programme, launched in 2023, provides career guidance and inclusive job placement through locally based employment fairs, aiming at universal access and equal opportunities.

To promote employment of persons with disabilities, youth and women, initiatives include inclusive job-search skills workshops led by non-profit organizations specializing in disability support, job fairs with designated vacancies for persons with disabilities, and employment and entrepreneurship fairs in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth. Guidance is also provided to companies on the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the labour market. On the "Inclusive Employment Day" in November 2022, job placement activities in the hotel sector and job interviews conducted in sign language were implemented. Support has also been provided to initiatives such as the "Agora Programme" of the ONCE Foundation[33] and the Dominican Foundation for the Blind to promote employability and social participation of persons with visual impairments.

In vocational training, the Santo Domingo Vocational Training Workshop has provided training to 173 unemployed youth from vulnerable backgrounds (including 69 persons with disabilities) in areas such as crafts, special projects (painting, pointillism), plumbing, construction and carpentry, supporting their entry into the labour market. Under the temporary employment programme (Resolution No. 24-2021), the Ministry of Labour subsidizes the first six months of wages to facilitate labour market integration and reintegration. Under this scheme, four persons with disabilities officially certified by CONADIS obtained employment, representing the first cases of employment of persons with disabilities through such wage subsidy programmes. Additionally, the 2023 National Survey of Economic Activities included, for the first time, a section on persons with disabilities to strengthen data collection on their participation in economic activities.

However, in its concluding observations, the Committee expresses concern that unemployment among persons with disabilities, particularly women with disabilities, remains widespread. It also highlights low compliance with the 5% employment quota in the public sector established under Law No. 5-13, the absence of accountability mechanisms, and

[33] National Organisation of Spanish Blind persons (Organización Nacional de Ciegos Españoles)

insufficient budgeting, allocation and implementation of tax incentives intended to promote employment of persons with disabilities in the private sector.

The Committee recommends reviewing national employment policies in close consultation with OPDs and ensuring the effective realization of the right to work for all persons with disabilities, including women and those with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities. It further calls for strict enforcement of Law No. 5-13, establishment of monitoring mechanisms for compliance with the 5% quota in the public sector, imposition of sanctions for non-compliance, and proper budgeting and allocation of tax incentives to promote employment in the private sector.

5) Social Security, Social Service for Persons with Disabilities

According to the State Party's Report, the Dominican Republic has introduced a "Disability Assessment, Registration and Certification System" to ensure that persons with disabilities can access social services, benefits and comprehensive rehabilitation on an equal basis with others. In 2022, the basic structure of the system and age-specific functional indicators were established, and efforts are underway to digitize the information system to enable access across regions. Between January 2021 and September 2023, a total of 7,585 persons with disabilities (including 4,264 children and adolescents and 3,321 adults) received disability certification cards, which contain information necessary to access public services and programmes for vulnerable groups.

In terms of social protection, since 2019, a monthly solidarity benefit of 6,000 Dominican pesos has been introduced under the subsidized scheme of the social security system. This benefit targets individuals facing social exclusion or restrictions on participation due to overlapping vulnerabilities, including multidimensional poverty, disability, or caregiving responsibilities for children with disabilities (e.g., single mothers). Furthermore, in December 2022, Administrative Resolution No. 009-2022 established the "National Fund for Children and Adolescents with Disabilities," providing cash transfers to eligible households to improve living standards.

However, the Committee expresses concern that many persons with disabilities remain in poverty and that a comprehensive social security system ensuring access to an adequate standard of living, including disability-related costs, is lacking. It highlights the fact that the "Disability Fund" established under Articles 136 and 137 of Law No. 5-13 has not yet become operational, the limited number of beneficiaries of the Solidarity Pension (Pensión de Solidaridad), and restricted access to social protection services for persons with disabilities of Haitian origin and women heads of household with disabilities.

The Committee recommends adopting a universal social protection system that guarantees

an adequate standard of living for all persons with disabilities without other sources of income, including sufficient subsidies and allowances to cover disability-related costs. It also calls for the prompt operationalization of the Disability Fund, improved access to information on available benefits (including the Solidarity Pension), and continued and strengthened efforts to ensure access for persons with disabilities of Haitian origin and women heads of household with disabilities.

6) Transportation and Urban Development (including accessible urban planning)

According to the State Party's Report, the Dominican Republic has developed national standards and assessment tools to improve accessibility in the physical environment, information and transport. Through the National Accessibility Assessment System, public and private institutions can self-assess compliance with existing accessibility standards for the physical environment and develop barrier removal plans with corresponding budgets and timelines. To support this system, the Dominican Institute for Quality (Instituto Dominicano para la Calidad, INDOCAL), with technical support from CONADIS, has developed unified accessibility standards, including NORDOM 779 (general standards for the physical environment and universal design), NORDOM 826 (pedestrian signage and signals in urban and rural areas), Regulation R-007 (accessible architectural design), and Universal Accessibility Parts 1 and 2 (DALCO criteria and accessibility management systems), which have been approved, developed or are under review.

Additionally, NORDOM 881 and 882 establish accessibility requirements for road passenger transport systems and their fixed infrastructure and facilities, advancing accessibility standards in mobility and transport. In transport and urban space development, the National Institute for Traffic and Land Transport has implemented the "Safe Pedestrian Project," examining and coordinating improvements at high-traffic intersections to address the mobility needs of persons with limited mobility. The Ministry of Public Works and Communications has also introduced nationwide programmes to construct and upgrade inclusive pavements and curbs, improving accessibility in daily mobility environments.

At the municipal level, CONADIS, in collaboration with the Vice-Ministry for Relations with Civil Society of the Office of the President, municipal associations and the Mayor's Office of the National District, is promoting a roadmap for the development of "inclusive municipalities." As of 2023, 14 municipalities with inclusion units have been prioritized, with activities focused on supporting action plan development, raising awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities, and promoting ordinances that establish measures for equal rights and opportunities. These ordinances prioritize improving accessibility of public spaces and services and allocating budgets accordingly, contributing to the institutional foundation for

accessible urban development.

Additionally, shelters for women survivors of violence operated by the Ministry of Women are designed to be accessible even during emergencies such as hurricanes and the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring safe evacuation for women and children with disabilities.

However, the Committee expresses concern that, despite the existence of laws and standards including Decree No. 363-16[34], significant gaps remain in the accessibility of the physical environment and transport. It highlights that many public buildings do not meet national accessibility standards, that there are limited legal enforcement mechanisms for accessibility standards in existing buildings, goods and services, and that the "inclusive municipalities" roadmap is not fully effective because major public works fall under central government jurisdiction. The Committee recommends developing and implementing comprehensive accessibility measures, in close consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, to ensure equal access to the physical environment and transport in both urban and rural areas.

7) Information accessibility

In 2023, the government enacted Law No. 43-23, which officially recognizes the use and inclusion of sign language as a means of public communication for deaf persons in the country. The law aims to reduce communication barriers faced by deaf persons and guarantee access to information and communication by institutionally recognizing sign language in the public domain. The Committee welcomes these legislative and policy measures adopted in response to its earlier recommendations.

However, the concluding observations (2023) note that significant gaps remain in ensuring accessibility of information and communication. In particular, many public and private websites are inaccessible and fail to meet digital accessibility standards, limiting access to online information for persons with hearing, visual, intellectual and psychosocial disabilities. In addition, access to banking services remains discriminatory, especially for persons with visual impairments, who are often classified as "illiterate" and required to be accompanied by a witness for all banking procedures.

The Committee therefore recommends adopting and implementing comprehensive accessibility measures to ensure equal access to information and communication, including digital formats, in both urban and rural areas. This includes providing alternative and augmentative communication formats such as Braille, sign language, accessible digital formats, easy-to-read materials, audio description and video transcription in all judicial and

[34] Decree No. 363-16 establishing the Regulations for the Implementation of Law No. 5-13 on Disability in the Dominican Republic

administrative facilities, and ensuring their availability throughout legal procedures.

The Committee also expresses concern about the shortage of certified sign language interpreters despite the legal recognition of sign language, delays in implementing training strategies and certification systems, and insufficient attention to the communication needs of persons with deafblindness. It recommends increasing the number of national sign language interpreters through appropriate training and certification systems, in close consultation with OPDs, and establishing support measures to address the communication and information access needs of persons with deafblindness.

8) Disaster Risk Management

According to the State Party's Report, the National Emergency and Civil Defense Commission, as the national disaster management coordination body, has conducted awareness-raising campaigns on emergency support for persons with disabilities, persons with chronic illnesses and older persons, with support from an advisory group on protection, gender and age, and a consortium comprising Oxfam, Plan International and Habitat for Humanity.

CONADIS also participates as a member of the Emergency Operations Centre, the coordinating body for disaster response, and sign language interpretation is included in alerts issued by the Centre through mass media. In addition, CONADIS participates in technical committee sessions on risk prevention and mitigation and has completed draft documents, including a revised "National Disaster Risk Management Plan" that addresses the specific needs and risk awareness of vulnerable groups within the framework of the National Emergency Plan.

However, the Committee expresses serious concern that, during the COVID-19 pandemic, several United Nations agencies reported that persons with disabilities were unable to access information, emergency services and social protection programmes. This reflects insufficient integration of disability considerations into disaster preparedness and emergency response strategies. The Committee recommends that disaster risk reduction and emergency response plans at national, regional and municipal levels be developed in close consultation with OPDs and explicitly incorporate the specific needs of persons with disabilities in all risk situations.

It further calls for ensuring full accessibility of all communication channels, including emergency numbers and hotlines, and establishing 24-hour services using text messaging, video relay services and other accessible communication technologies, so that persons with disabilities can access emergency services in real time at all times.

3. International Treaties and International Cooperation

3-1. Status of Implementation Following the Ratification of the CRPD[35]

The Dominican Republic ratified the CRPD and its Optional Protocol on 18 August 2009 and submitted its initial State Party's Report on 5 December 2011. Following the review, the initial concluding observations were adopted in 2015. The combined second and third periodic report, originally due in 2019, was submitted on 30 October 2023. The constructive dialogue was held in March 2025, and the concluding observations were adopted on 17 March of the same year.

Key concerns raised by the Committee include the need to systematically review the entire legal framework to eliminate discriminatory concepts and terminology and align it with the CRPD; strengthen cross-government coordination mechanisms to ensure consistent protection and support nationwide; establish and strengthen consultation mechanisms to ensure the meaningful participation of persons with disabilities, particularly women with disabilities; and provide adequate financial and institutional support to enable OPDs to participate effectively in decision-making processes.

3-2. Status of Implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty

The Dominican Republic ratified the Marrakesh Treaty on 5 June 2018. It has been noted that, even prior to ratification, Article 44(3) of the Copyright Law provided for an exception allowing communication to the public for non-profit purposes for persons with visual and other disabilities (a "pre-Marrakesh exception[36]"). However, within the scope of this study, including desk research and questionnaire surveys using online sources such as the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and government websites, it has not been possible to confirm the existence of newly enacted or amended domestic legislation, implementing regulations, or the official designation of an Authorized Entity to meet the full requirements of the Marrakesh Treaty beyond this existing exception.

3-3. Initiatives on Disability Issues within SDG-related Policies

With regard to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the following key points are not covered in the preceding sections. In its concluding observations, the Committee calls for strengthening institutional frameworks to prevent disability-based discrimination in line with SDG targets 10.2 (promoting social, economic and political inclusion of all, regardless of age, sex, disability, etc.) and 10.3 (ensuring equal opportunity and eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices). This includes establishing accessible and effective complaint and

[35] Based on the official website of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD Committee).
[36] https://www.arl.org/national-implementations-marrakesh/ (Accessed: 14 March 2026).

redress mechanisms, including within judicial and administrative systems, to provide remedies to victims and sanction perpetrators, as well as developing and implementing clear guidelines and procedures to ensure consistent application and enforcement of anti-discrimination policies across all institutions nationwide.

In addition, the Committee calls for the explicit incorporation of measures addressing intersectionality and multiple forms of discrimination into national strategies for implementing the Convention, ensuring that overlapping forms of discrimination based on gender, age, type of disability and other factors are addressed at a strategic level.

In relation to SDG target 16.3 (promoting the rule of law and ensuring equal access to justice for all), the Committee recommends effective implementation of Chapter VII of Law No. 5-13 on the equal rights of persons with disabilities, particularly to ensure access to legal aid. This includes removing all barriers to access to justice for persons with disabilities, including women, children and older persons, disseminating information on complaint and redress mechanisms, and ensuring the availability of multiple communication formats such as Braille, sign language, accessible digital formats, easy-to-read materials, audio description and video transcription throughout legal and administrative procedures. It also emphasizes the need for procedural accommodations, support services and free legal representation, as well as expanding training on the rights of persons with disabilities for all justice sector actors, including those in rural and remote areas.

3-4. Ratification of and Initiatives regarding Other International Treaties related to Disabilities and Development

The major international treaties, other than the CRPD, that the Dominican Republic has ratified in the field of disability and development, along with their key points and recommendations, are summarized below.

The government has ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (hereinafter referred to as "CEDAW"), and its eighth periodic report was reviewed at the 81st session in 2022. The CEDAW Committee expressed concern that women and girls with disabilities face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination based on disability and gender, and are more likely to be excluded from areas such as gender-based violence protection, access to justice and social protection. It recommended legal and policy reforms reflecting the intersection of disability and gender, improved data collection, and strengthened prevention of violence and support services[37].

[37]https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/TBSearch.aspx?Lang=en&TreatyID=3&CountryID=52(Accessed: 14 March 2026).

The government has also ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child (hereinafter referred to as "CRC"), and the most recent concluding observations relate to the sixth periodic report adopted in September 2023[38]. The Committee on the Rights of the Child strongly urged the State to adopt a human rights-based approach to disability and to develop a comprehensive strategy for the inclusion of children with disabilities. Specific recommendations include strengthening data collection and diagnostic systems; ensuring access to healthcare services including early detection and early intervention; establishing comprehensive national policies, indicators and monitoring mechanisms covering prevention, care, rehabilitation and social inclusion; legally establishing a national fund for children and adolescents with disabilities; ensuring access to inclusive education in mainstream settings and to quality services such as health, birth registration, social protection, early childhood development, childcare and violence prevention; training and deploying specialized teachers and professionals capable of providing individualized support to children with learning difficulties; and implementing awareness-raising activities targeting government officials, the public and families to eliminate stigma and promote positive perceptions of children with disabilities.

Additionally, the government ratified the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (Disabled Persons) Convention, 1983 (No. 159) of the International Labour Organization (ILO) in 1994[39]. Under this Convention, Member States are required to formulate, implement and periodically review national policies on vocational rehabilitation and employment of persons with disabilities in accordance with national conditions. The Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CEACR), which monitors implementation, reviewed the Dominican Republic in 2023 and issued a Direct Request[40]. It noted that employment policies for persons with disabilities are not being implemented in a comprehensive and systematic manner, highlighting insufficient effective consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities and a lack of statistical data to measure policy impact. It called for strengthened compliance with employment quotas and incentives, improved access to vocational training, and concrete and effective measures to facilitate the transition from sheltered employment to the open labour market.

[38]https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRC%2FC%2FDOM%2FCO%2F6&Lang=en(Accessed: 14 March 2026).

[39] https://treaties.un.org/doc/Publication/UNTS/Volume%201401/volume-1401-I-23439-English.pdf (Accessed: 14 March 2026).

[40]https://normlex.ilo.org/dyn/nrmlx_en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:13100:0::NO::P13100_COMMENT_ID,P13100_COUNTRY_ID:4288506,102930 (Accessed: 14 March 2026).

3-5. International Cooperation on Disability[41]

• The Government of Japan

- On 12 November 2025, a grant contract was signed for the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Project "Project for the Improvement of Medical and Braille Equipment for the National Association of the Blind in the National District.[42]"
- On 17 January 2024, a grant contract was signed for the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Project "Project for the Provision of Welfare Vehicles for the Rehabilitation Foundation of Santo Domingo East.[43]"
- Under the individual expert project "Strengthening Capacity for Formulation and Implementation of Sustainable Socio-Economic Development Policies" (September 2024 – September 2026), Japanese experts in the field of disability have been dispatched to conduct policy dialogue in this sector.

• Other donors

United Nations Development Programme: UNDP

- Through a memorandum of understanding with CONADIS, UNDP is positioned as a key partner supporting the implementation of the National Disability Plan 2025–2035, strengthening the registration and certification system, and promoting medium- to long-term disability-inclusion policies, including accessibility improvements[44].
- With the Ministry of Labour acting as coordinator and with support from UNDP, a multi-sectoral network "Red de Empresas Por Talento" (Por Talento Business Network) has been established, involving 18 large domestic companies, to share good practices and initiatives on the employment inclusion of persons with disabilities. A total of 443 persons with disabilities have benefited from job-search skills training, basic English and ICT training, and inclusive job fairs organised under this network[45].

United Nations Children's Fund: UNICEF

- In collaboration with the Ministry of Education, UNICEF has implemented pilot projects to transform inclusive education services and supported the development and expansion

[41] Project names are listed exactly as they appear in the original text. However, this does not apply in cases where there is no English name or the English name is unknown.
[42] https://www.do.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_ja/11_000001_00839.html(Accessed: 14 March 2026).
[43] *Ibid.*
[44] https://www.undp.org/es/dominican-republic/blog/un-futuro-sin-barreras-avances-y-alianzas-por-la-inclusion-en-la-republica-dominicana(Accessed: 14 March 2026).
[45] *Ibid.*

of the National Inclusive Education Model[46].

- Through restructuring plans for inclusive schools, teacher training, and the provision of accessible learning materials and digital textbooks, UNICEF promotes learning for children with disabilities in mainstream schools[47].

[46] https://dominicantoday.com/dr/health/2023/12/04/1-in-10-children-suffers-from-some-type-of-disability-according-to-unicef/(Accessed: 14 March 2026).
[47] https://presidencia.gob.do/noticias/minerd-da-otro-paso-de-avance-para-elevar-la-calidad-de-la-educacion-inclusiva(Accessed: 14 March 2026).

4. Disability-related Organizations and Activities

4-1. Organizations of Persons with Disabilities[48]

Name	Overview
National Federation of Persons with Disabilities of the Dominican Republic *(Federación Nacional de Discapacidad de la República Dominicana: FENADID)*	A non-profit federation bringing together organizations of persons with disabilities nationwide, promoting the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms and social inclusion of persons with disabilities.
Association of Persons with Physical and Motor Disabilities *(Asociación de Personas con Discapacidad Físico Motriz: ASODIFIMO)*	A national organization aiming to achieve equality of rights and opportunities, improve quality of life and eliminate discrimination through organization and social participation of persons with physical and motor disabilities.
Ibero-American Network of Organizations of Persons with Physical Disabilities in the Dominican Republic *(Red Iberoamericana de Entidades de Personas con Discapacidad Física en la República Dominicana: La Red)*	A network composed of organizations such as ASODIFIMO, CIMUDIS and ADIDE, focusing on access to basic services and social protection, employment support, social awareness and civic participation.
Dominican Foundation for the Blind *(Fundación Dominicana de Ciegos: FDC)*	A foundation promoting education, rehabilitation and social participation of persons with visual impairments, providing specialized support including Braille and assistive technologies.
Association of the Blind of Cibao *(Asociación de Ciegos del Cibao de la República Dominicana: ACICIRD)*	A regional organization in the northern Cibao region implements education, vocational training and social participation programmes to improve the quality of life of persons with visual impairments.
National Association of the Deaf of the Dominican Republic *(Asociación Nacional de Sordos de la República Dominicana: ANSORDO)*	An organization of persons with hearing impairments working to enhance their visibility in society, guarantee their rights and promote full inclusion.
Circle of Women with Disabilities *(Círculo de Mujeres con Discapacidad: CIMUDIS)*	An organization composed of women with various disabilities (physical, hearing, visual and intellectual), aiming to achieve genuine social integration through

[48] CONADIS maintains relationships with a large number of OPDs; the number of organizations invited to a single seminar alone amounts to around 100. This report covers organizations that have submitted parallel reports to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities since 2023 (i.e., those considered to be nationally active), as well as major support organizations. It also includes organizations listed by CONADIS but not falling into the above categories (e.g., Down syndrome associations), while ensuring no bias by disability type or organizational form.

	promoting participation, leadership, self-esteem, development and education.

4-2. Disability Support Organizations

Name	Overview
Sociocultural Movement for Humanitarian and Environmental Work *(Movimiento Sociocultural de Trabajo Humanitario y Ambiental: MOSCTHA)*	An NGO working with vulnerable populations such as Haitian migrants and their families to improve access to social protection and fundamental rights through human rights advocacy, healthcare, vocational training and education.
Dominican Down Syndrome Association *(Asociación Dominicana de Síndrome de Down: ADOSID)*	An organization providing support to enable persons with Down syndrome to make decisions about their own lives to the greatest extent possible and to lead fulfilling and dignified lives based on rights guaranteed under the CRPD.
Dominican Autism Foundation *(Fundación Dominicana de Autismo, Inc.)*	A foundation operating specialized support centers with multidisciplinary teams (medical, dental, psychological and educational), providing diagnostic assessments, psychoeducational interventions, various therapies, and training and awareness-raising for families of persons with ASD.

5. Barriers and Needs Faced by Persons with Disabilities[49]

5-1. Barriers to and Needs regarding Healthcare Services

A parallel report (March 2023) by FENADID and others indicates that approximately 95% of households, including persons with disabilities, lack sufficient financial resources to cover healthcare costs, and that there are significant disparities in health insurance coverage. It also reports shortages of accessible healthcare facilities and transport, and concentration of specialized medical services in the capital, increasing travel and financial burdens for persons with disabilities in rural areas. In addition, prejudice viewing disability as an "illness" hinder early diagnosis and appropriate care, and the lack of a gender perspective in health policies exposes women with disabilities to higher risks of illness and early mortality.

A parallel report (January 2015) by a network of five organizations, including MOSCTHA, highlights insufficient training and awareness among healthcare professionals to respect the decision-making of women with disabilities regarding their sexual and reproductive rights. It calls for comprehensive measures addressing multiple forms of discrimination, including training for healthcare workers, ensuring access to justice, raising awareness and improving data collection on these rights.

A further parallel report (January 2025) by FENADID and others identifies multiple barriers faced by women with disabilities in accessing healthcare, including urban concentration of services, inaccessible transport and roads, lack of equipment and discriminatory treatment. It also reports cases of sterilization of women and girls with disabilities without their free and informed consent. A participatory survey found that approximately 13% of respondents had undergone sterilization after childbirth without consent, sometimes as a means used by families to prevent future pregnancies. The report calls for universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights, legal and policy reforms including decriminalization of abortion, expansion of services through the public healthcare network, and adequate resource allocation for primary care, mental health, community-based services, professional training and monitoring mechanisms.

5-2. Barriers to and Needs regarding Education

A parallel report (2023) by FENADID and others notes that, despite some progress through participation of disability organizations in the national literacy plan, significant disparities in

[49] This section is based on: a parallel report submitted on 17 March 2023 by FENADID and nine other organizations; a parallel report submitted on 26 January 2015 by a network of five organizations, including MOSCTHA, addressing the rights of migrants, Dominicans of Haitian descent, people living with HIV, and women and girls; a parallel report submitted on 27 January 2025 by FENADID, CIMUDIS, and seven other organizations; and an interview conducted on 14 March 2026 with the President of ANSORDO.

educational attainment remain between persons with and without disabilities. Only around 20% of persons with disabilities reach secondary education, and reliable statistics on children with disabilities within the education system are lacking. As a result, the majority of children and young persons with disabilities aged 5–21 remain out of school.

Despite the construction of new educational facilities, many do not meet physical accessibility standards, and there is a shortage of classrooms and equipment necessary for inclusive education, particularly outside the capital. The absence of evaluation of the National Inclusive Education Plan, low numbers of special education teachers and limited coverage of inclusive classrooms suggest insufficient prioritization and investment. Attitudinal barriers persist among school leaders and communities, and families often assume that children with disabilities cannot receive education. In higher education, lack of curriculum adaptation and limited use of ICT hinder access, retention and professional training.

A parallel report (2025) by MOSCTHA and others recognizes the adoption of the Inclusive Education Guidelines (Ordinance No. 05-2024) as significant progress but warns that benefits may be limited to certain groups, leaving historically marginalized populations such as migrant women and girls with disabilities behind. It emphasizes that barriers in areas such as access to justice, employment, social protection and data systems are closely linked to education outcomes.

Another parallel report (2025) by FENADID and others highlights persistent regional disparities, with implementation concentrated in the capital and limited expansion to rural and border areas. It calls for not only training but also accessible complaint mechanisms, investigations, sanctions and remedies to address resistance within educational communities. It also notes low employment of teachers with disabilities and non-compliance with the 5% employment quota in the public sector. Accessibility assessments of the National Institute for Technical and Vocational Training (INFOTEP) reveal inaccessible facilities and low enrolment of students with disabilities, while the lack of accessible transport imposes additional costs on students and families. The report calls for increased investment in assistive devices, learning materials, itinerant teachers and interpreters to ensure inclusive education at all levels.

Interviews with the President of ANSORDO also identify education as the most critical issue, noting the limited number of teachers proficient in sign language in schools for the deaf and the very limited provision of interpretation and captioning in universities, which makes it difficult for deaf and hard-of-hearing students to understand lectures and progress or graduate.

5-3. Barriers to and Needs regarding Employment

Parallel reports highlight a gap between legal frameworks and actual implementation. A 2023 report by FENADID and others notes the absence of official data on compliance with employment quotas (5% in the public sector and 2% in the private sector under Law No. 5-13), indicating a lack of accountability. Many persons with disabilities remain outside the labour market, and those employed are often in temporary or precarious jobs, with less than half in stable employment. Women with disabilities face higher unemployment and lower employment rates than men. Early school dropout and exclusion from education further limit employment opportunities.

A 2025 report by MOSCTHA and others highlights persistent cultural barriers and stigma, including the perception of employment of persons with disabilities as charity rather than a right, and employers' lack of awareness of the benefits of inclusion. It also notes the failure to implement tax incentives under Law No. 5-13 as evidence of weak political commitment. The report calls for restructuring employment policies based on the good practices of OPDs and for ensuring the effective implementation of quotas and reasonable accommodation.

Interviews with ANSORDO confirm that employment remains a major challenge, with limited opportunities even for graduates. Stable employment is rare, and although a few cases of employment through platforms such as LinkedIn exist, most deaf persons are unaware of such tools.

5-4. Barriers to and Needs regarding Transportation

A parallel report (2023) by FENADID and others points out that, despite the development of legal frameworks, nationwide implementation and monitoring of mobility and physical accessibility remain significantly delayed. In addition, although it is envisaged that a National Plan for Universal Accessibility covering buildings, public spaces and public transport (including the Santo Domingo Metro, bus rapid transit lanes, and intra- and inter-provincial transport) would be formulated by integrating existing regulations such as Ministry of Public Works Regulation No. 363-16, this plan has not yet been developed. The report criticizes that the obligation to adopt and implement an accessibility plan within ten years, as required under the implementing regulations of the Organic Law on Equality of Rights of Persons with Disabilities (No. 5-13), has effectively not been fulfilled. It also notes that measures related to physical accessibility are concentrated in mass transit systems in the capital, while in other regions persons with disabilities are still compelled to rely on inaccessible private transport. Combined with the severe poverty experienced by persons with disabilities, this situation makes mobility itself a major barrier.

The National Accessibility Assessment System (Sistema Nacional de Evaluación de la

Accesibilidad: SINAC), operated by CONADIS, provides a framework for accessibility audits and self-assessment. However, as it relies on voluntary applications from public and private institutions, fewer than 100 companies nationwide have actually received support, limiting its impact on the physical environment. In addition, regarding the development process of national universal accessibility standards promoted by CONADIS and the Dominican Institute for Quality (Instituto Dominicano para la Calidad: INDOCAL) under Decree No. 363-16, it has been pointed out that participation from civil society is insufficient and that diagnostic studies and draft standards already prepared by organizations have not been adequately shared. The report recommends adopting a bottom-up approach that reflects differences in gender, age, type of disability and place of residence.

Although certain national standards exist, such as Regulation R-007 on accessible architectural design and NORDOM 779, 826, 881 and 882 relating to the physical environment and mass transport, these are not uniformly mandatory for public institutions at national and local levels or for the private sector. It is also noted that effective inspection and sanction mechanisms are lacking, including the ability to refuse the handover of public works or to reject construction projects on the grounds of non-compliance with accessibility standards. As a result, facilities and infrastructure that do not meet accessibility standards continue to be constructed. In particular, for inter-provincial transport and travel from marginalized areas to urban centers, the absence of accessible pavements, step-free infrastructure and transport options imposes additional financial and time burdens on persons with disabilities and their families.

In light of these circumstances, these organizations call for the prompt adoption and mandatory application of national universal accessibility standards, the establishment of implementation mechanisms at the national level accompanied by monitoring, sanctions and budget allocation, and strengthened coordination among the central government, municipalities, the Ministry of Public Works, and housing and construction authorities to effectively advance physical accessibility in both urban and rural areas.

5-5. Barriers to and Needs regarding Information Access

Parallel reports (2023, 2025) by FENADID and others indicate that, although the government adopted web accessibility standards and national standards on information and communication accessibility (No. 153101 and NORDOM 826) in 2017, these are not mandatory for all government institutions at national and local levels or for the private sector. Additionally, mechanisms to monitor and evaluate compliance, as well as sanctions for non-compliance, have not been established. As a result, many government websites and online services remain inaccessible, and there are no mechanisms to prevent the procurement and

delivery of public facilities and services that fail to meet accessibility standards. In addition, these guidelines and standards do not incorporate a gender perspective, raising concerns that differences in the needs of women and men with disabilities are not adequately reflected in the design of information provision and physical and virtual spaces in sectors such as public health, social protection and transport. The reports also recommend that accessibility plans, including those related to information and communication, be developed with measurable short- and medium-term targets and deadlines, accompanied by sanctions for non-compliance, and that the government be required to disclose the total budget allocated to the implementation of accessibility regulations and its proportion within the national budget.

Regarding the official recognition of Dominican Sign Language under Law No. 43-23, FENADID and others (2025) acknowledge it as an important advancement but point out significant challenges in its implementation. Publicly provided sign language interpreters are limited to the judicial sector, and their role is largely confined to supporting court proceedings. Consequently, when accessing other public services, deaf persons are often required to bring their own interpreters and bear the associated costs. As a result, many deaf persons must rely on family members for interpretation, which restricts their autonomy and privacy and increases their financial burden. Additionally, since national standards on information and communication accessibility (No. 153101 and NORDOM 826) are not mandatory, many government web portals remain inaccessible, and the private sector is not required to comply with universal accessibility standards. As a consequence, numerous cases have been identified across nearly all public service networks in which deaf and deafblind persons are denied access to services without accompanying persons or receive significantly inadequate services, which is strongly criticized as clear discrimination.

The reports also refer to discrimination against persons with visual disabilities in the financial services sector. Although the government cites Resolution No. 4 of the Monetary Board dated 30 September 2015 as a measure to ensure equal access to banking services for persons with visual impairments, in practice, individuals who cannot read standard text are classified by banks as “illiterate” and are required to be accompanied by a witness even for simple procedures. This practice is criticized as discriminatory, as it undermines the autonomy and confidentiality of persons with visual impairments under the pretext of protection.

In light of these issues, the reports identify the prompt adoption and mandatory enforcement of national standards on information and communication accessibility, as well as the establishment of mechanisms to monitor implementation and impose sanctions for violations, as priorities.

5-6. Barriers and Needs regarding Gender

A parallel report (2023) by FENADID and others points out that women with disabilities face specific disadvantages in both employment and exposure to violence. Women with disabilities encounter greater barriers than men in obtaining adequately paid employment, and there are very few concrete programmes in the country to promote empowerment, inclusion and non-discrimination. In addition, although organizations of women with disabilities participated in the formulation process of the "Strategic Plan for a Life Free of Violence against Women" (2020), it is highlighted as a serious issue that the specific needs of women with disabilities who are survivors of violence, as well as women with disabilities resulting from acid attacks, firearms or intimate partner violence, are not adequately reflected in the Plan.

A parallel report (2023) by MOSCTHA and others indicates that women and girls with disabilities face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and vulnerability in three key areas: access to justice, sexual and reproductive health, and employment and poverty. With regard to access to justice, although improving access for women with disabilities is included in the strategic plan of the judiciary, this has not been adequately realized due to physical barriers, the absence of interpreters, attitudes of justice sector personnel, and lack of information on rights. In terms of sexual and reproductive health, the report notes the absence of specific measures targeting women with disabilities and the lack of training for doctors and nurses to ensure respect for their decision-making and provision of appropriate advice. It therefore calls for professional training, awareness-raising, guaranteed access to justice, and improved collection and dissemination of information on rights. It also emphasizes that the prevalence of violence against women with disabilities remains high and that exclusion is exacerbated when additional vulnerabilities, such as migrant status, are present.

A parallel report (2025) by FENADID and others cites the National Plan for Gender Equality and Equity 2020–2030 (PLANEG III) and notes that the budget of the Ministry of Women accounts for only 0.09% of the national budget, significantly constraining the effective implementation of the Plan. It further points out that insufficient coordination between the Ministry of Women and CONADIS, as well as the absence of mechanisms within CONADIS to ensure gender and intersectionality perspectives, results in inadequate consideration of the needs of women with disabilities in areas such as health, safety, employment and social protection.

The report also highlights specific forms of gender-based violence affecting women with disabilities, including intimate partner violence linked to low social status and high dependency, as well as violence involving firearms, knives and acid attacks. It notes that many

women acquire disabilities as a result of such violence, yet the government has not produced official data on the prevalence of gender-based violence against women with disabilities or disabilities caused by violence. It further identifies barriers such as limited access to public mental health services due to prejudice and multiple barriers, shortages of professionals capable of providing communication support, and widespread impunity, with many cases not investigated or prosecuted even when reported. It also raises serious concerns that prejudice among healthcare professionals restricts access to family planning information and contraceptive methods, that abortion is criminalized without exception, having particularly severe consequences for women with disabilities who are survivors of sexual violence, and that cases of sterilization without consent following childbirth continue to occur.

In light of these circumstances, these organizations call on the government to urgently develop equality policies and measures to address gender-based violence that explicitly include women with disabilities; provide training for justice sector personnel, healthcare workers and employers; strengthen data systems on violence and sexual and reproductive health and rights; establish free, high-quality and universally accessible mental health services; and integrate disability and gender perspectives into care policies alongside increased budget allocation.

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