

From April to June

158

naturalized individuals received original case files and guidance on rights and birth registration procedures.



223

government officials trained in International Protection, access to documentation, and response to gender-based violence (GBV).



800

people received counselling and legal assistance to access basic rights.



©UNHCR-Community sessions reaching beneficiaries with information on access to rights.

Situation

During the second quarter, enhanced border enforcement measures remained in place nationwide. The Dominican Republic's **General Directorate of Migration (DGM)** reported more than 196,000 deportations between January and June 2026 and announced plans to introduce biometric registration for access to the Dominican-Haitian binational markets.

A presidential commission also reviewed a draft reform of the **General Migration Law** (285-04), while the Government announced a **USD 20 million contribution** to support the Gang Suppression Force (GSF), which is expected to reach 5,550 personnel upon full deployment. Moreover, the government released the **2022 census** data, recording 441,272 Haitian nationals, up from 311,969 in 2010.

The Dominican Republic hosted the Annual Meeting of the Central American Commission of Migration Authorities (OCAM), a specialized body of the Central American Integration System (SICA). During the meeting, the country highlighted the launch of the OCAM Specialized Migration Module as a key achievement of its tenure and handed over the Pro Tempore Presidency of **OCAM to Belize**.

The Government confirmed the signature of a Third Country National Transfer Agreement with the US under the **Americas Shield** initiative. Officials clarified that the arrangement explores on a case-by-case basis, the temporary admission of a limited number of third-country nationals to facilitate return to countries of origin, excluding Haitians and unaccompanied children.

Highlights

- UNHCR trained 223 government officials, including personnel appointed at the Dajabón border point and in Santo Domingo, and from the Ministry of Women. The sessions focused on GBV referral pathways and International Protection.
- In coordination with partner Dominican Institute for Integral Development (IDDI), UNHCR held community sessions in Santo Domingo, Puerto Plata, Bahoruco, and Barahona communities, delivering original case files to Group B naturalized individuals (persons who acquired Dominican nationality under the national regularization and naturalization process established by Law 169-14), reaching 158 beneficiaries with information on
- In April, UNHCR held an information session with civil society organizations, reaching 20 people. During the event, the Agency shared updates on the national ID change and discussed its legal implications for people under its mandate, strengthening coordination with
- Through the ECHO-funded ANACAONA (Automated Analysis System for weather events and issuance of Operational Alerts) project, UNHCR and WFP strengthened disaster preparedness by enhancing early warning systems, community readiness, and vulnerability-targeting tools. Following heavy rains in Puerto Plata, UNHCR and partners conducted rapid
- UNHCR reactivated the Elías Piña–Belladère Dialogue Platform, a space that brings together key bi-national actors to reinforce coordination. The Agency also convened Caribbean Migration and Development Observatory (OBMICA), UNFPA, UNICEF, National Council for Children and Adolescents (CONANI), and local organizations to map community actors and coordinate responses. Through its engagement in OBMICA's study on displaced women's access to healthcare, UNHCR helped identify priority needs, including mobile clinics and health coordination.

Operational overview

UNHCR in the Dominican Republic prioritizes protection delivery, institutional support, and community-based approaches to address the needs of refugees, asylum-seekers, and individuals seeking a nationality solution. Established in 2010 following the earthquake in Haiti, the office operates in close partnership with the Government, UN agencies, civil society, and local partners.

Current priorities include protection monitoring, legal counselling, and guidance on asylum procedures and access to civil documentation, alongside capacity strengthening through training for authorities and civil society. UNHCR also advocates for and provides legal assistance to beneficiaries of Law 169-14, while promoting community resilience and inclusion through joint initiatives with FAO. Since September 2025, following a strategic restructuring, UNHCR's operations in the Dominican Republic have been coordinated by UNHCR's Multi-Country Office in Panama.



UNHCR trained 23 Ministry of Women staff on Gender-based Violence referral pathways.



On World Refugee Day, local university INTEC hosted 45 UNHCR specialists, academics, and students to reflect on the realities faced by refugees, displaced people, and those seeking a nationality solution.

CONANI receives minibuses donated by UNHCR; new vehicles will strengthen the institution's response capacity.



CONANI received three minibuses donated by UNHCR to strengthen its capacity to identify, assist, and respond to the needs of children and adolescents across the country. This initiative is part of a Letter of Understanding between UNHCR and CONANI, which provides a framework for technical and operational collaboration aimed at protecting the rights and well-being of vulnerable children and adolescents, including those in need of international protection.

For more information, please click [here](#).

UNHCR's Multi-Country Office in Panama is grateful for the critical and generous support provided by donors who have contributed with earmarked and unearmarked funding.



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Co-funded by
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An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha
Department of Foreign Affairs



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We thank the contribution of our private donors Italy and Republic of Korea and our global national partners, España con ACNUR and Japan for UNHCR.



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