



## THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

# USING HUMANITARIAN CASH AND VOUCHER ASSISTANCE WITHIN EXISTING SOCIAL PROTECTION PROGRAMS TO RESPOND TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC HAS A RICH HISTORY OF SOCIAL PROTECTION. THE GOVERNMENT'S SOCIAL PROTECTION PROGRAM USES E-VOUCHERS THROUGH A NETWORK OF VENDORS OF SUPERMARKETS AND CONVENIENCE STORES. DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, WITH UNICEF'S SUPPORT, SCALED UP ASPECTS OF ONGOING SOCIAL PROTECTION PROGRAMS, THROUGH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM *INCLUSIÓN POBLACIÓN INFANTIL*, WHICH TARGETED FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES.

### KEY FINDINGS

#### ENABLERS

- The Government's eagerness to partner to strengthen humanitarian cash and voucher assistance and social protection preparedness.
- A strong data management and identification processes.
- The Government's flexible laws and norms for humanitarian cash and voucher assistance deployment.

#### CHALLENGES


- EXPAND THE USE OF REQUIREMENTS TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR HUMANITARIAN CASH AND VOUCHER ASSISTANCE IN EMERGENCIES.
- DIVERSIFICATION OF THE DELIVERY MECHANISMS IN ACCORDANCE WITH LOCAL PARTICULARITIES. (e.g. lack of electricity after a hurricane, etc.)
- IMPROVEMENT OF THE MONITORING PROCESSES TO PREVENT VICE ACTS.

#### OPPORTUNITIES

- Foster Government leadership in coordination.
- Institutionalizing an Emergency Preparedness Plan.
- Building on lessons learned from to continue expanding social protection program inclusion.
- Supporting regulatory reform.
- Inclusiveness of participants of all actors in cash and voucher assistance in the Dominican Republic.

#### IN CONCLUSION

Through *Inclusión Población Infantil*, the Government of the Dominican Republic and UNICEF took important steps toward linking for and preparing to deploy humanitarian cash and voucher assistance in emergencies and provides a clear example of shock-responsive social protection.




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