



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

FACTSHEET

March 2017

HIGHLIGHTS

12,092

Estimated number of individuals whose Dominican nationality was confirmed through the validation of birth certificates under Law 169-14 by end of 2015.

8,755

Number of applicants to the special registration under Law 169-14. Individuals will become eligible for naturalization after June 2017.

1,485

Number of Dominican-born individuals who did not apply under Law 169-14 and who have been identified and biometrically registered, with the support of the European Union.

1,341

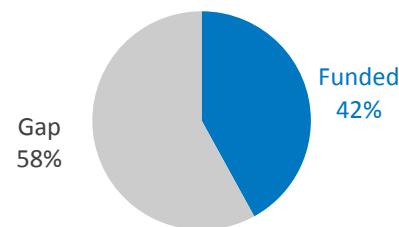
Number of refugees and asylum-seekers in Dominican Republic (30 June 2016).

Context Information

- In May 2014, the Government adopted Law 169-14 to address the consequences of the ruling on nationality handed down by the Constitutional Court in 2013.
- The Law instructed the Junta Central Electoral (JCE – Dominican Civil Registry) to validate the birth certificates of individuals born in the country and registered by the JCE between 1929 and 2007 (Group A) and accredit them as Dominican nationals.
- The Dominican Republic is one of the largest refugee-hosting countries in the Caribbean.

Funding requirements

USD 4.3 million requested



- UNHCR's Office in Dominican Republic is operationally and financially managed by UNHCR's Regional Office in Washington.
- In October 2016, the European Union gave a EUR 2 million contribution to identify Dominican-born individuals who did not benefit from Law 169-14.

UNHCR presence

Staff:

19 national staff
4 international staff

Offices:

1 Office located in Santo Domingo

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Map Sources: UNCS, UNHCR
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Printing date: 03 Mar 2017

WORKING WITH PARTNERS

- The Dominican Ministry of Foreign Affairs and UNHCR signed a Memorandum of Understanding in 2014 to set out a cooperation framework related to the implementation of Law 169-14 adopted in May 2014 to address the consequences of ruling 168-13 of the Constitutional Court, as well as UNHCR's support to activities of the national refugee status determination mechanism (CONARE, for its Spanish acronym).
- UNHCR is also working along with other UN agencies in the Dominican Republic within the framework of the UN Joint Program entitled "Building Citizenship: Measure to Support the Delivery of Documents for Beneficiaries of Law 169-14". This program is in line with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) as well as the Dominican Republic's twenty year Development Strategy, which includes an objective "protect populations in vulnerable situations and ensure social inclusion".
- UNHCR works closely with Civil Society Organizations in the implementation of activities on behalf of the target population of Law 169-14, as well as the refugee and asylum-seeking population.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Nationality issues

There is renewed momentum to attain solutions for "Group A" individuals. Since the release of a list containing the names of 55,000 individuals by the Dominican Civil Registry in June 2015, a new administrative directive (circular No. 24) was issued by the President of the Junta Central Electoral in November 2015, informing civil registry officers that issuance of civil documents to Group A persons on the list was compulsory. This has resulted in a significant increase of issued civil documents confirming Dominican nationality under Law 169-14.

UNHCR aims at achieving further nationality solutions in the Dominican Republic through the effective implementation of Law 169-14 and additional nationality solutions for individuals who did not avail themselves of said law, based on the assurances provided by the Dominican Government to UNHCR on 1 July 2015.

Refugee Protection

The Dominican Republic is a signatory to the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol. The country has an executive decree dating back to 1983 (Decree 2.330) and focuses exclusively on the national procedure for refugee status determination. This normative framework establishes an inter-ministerial eligibility committee (CONARE) and a national refugee office (ONR) within the Immigration Directorate.

UNHCR is grateful for the generous contributions of donors who have given un-earmarked and broadly earmarked contributions to UNHCR this year as well as the following donors who have directly contributed to the operation: [Sweden \(76 M\)](#) | [Netherlands \(52 M\)](#) | [Norway \(41 M\)](#) | [Denmark \(23M\)](#) | [Australia \(19 M\)](#) | [Switzerland \(15M\)](#) | [Germany \(12M\)](#)

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