

DOMINICA

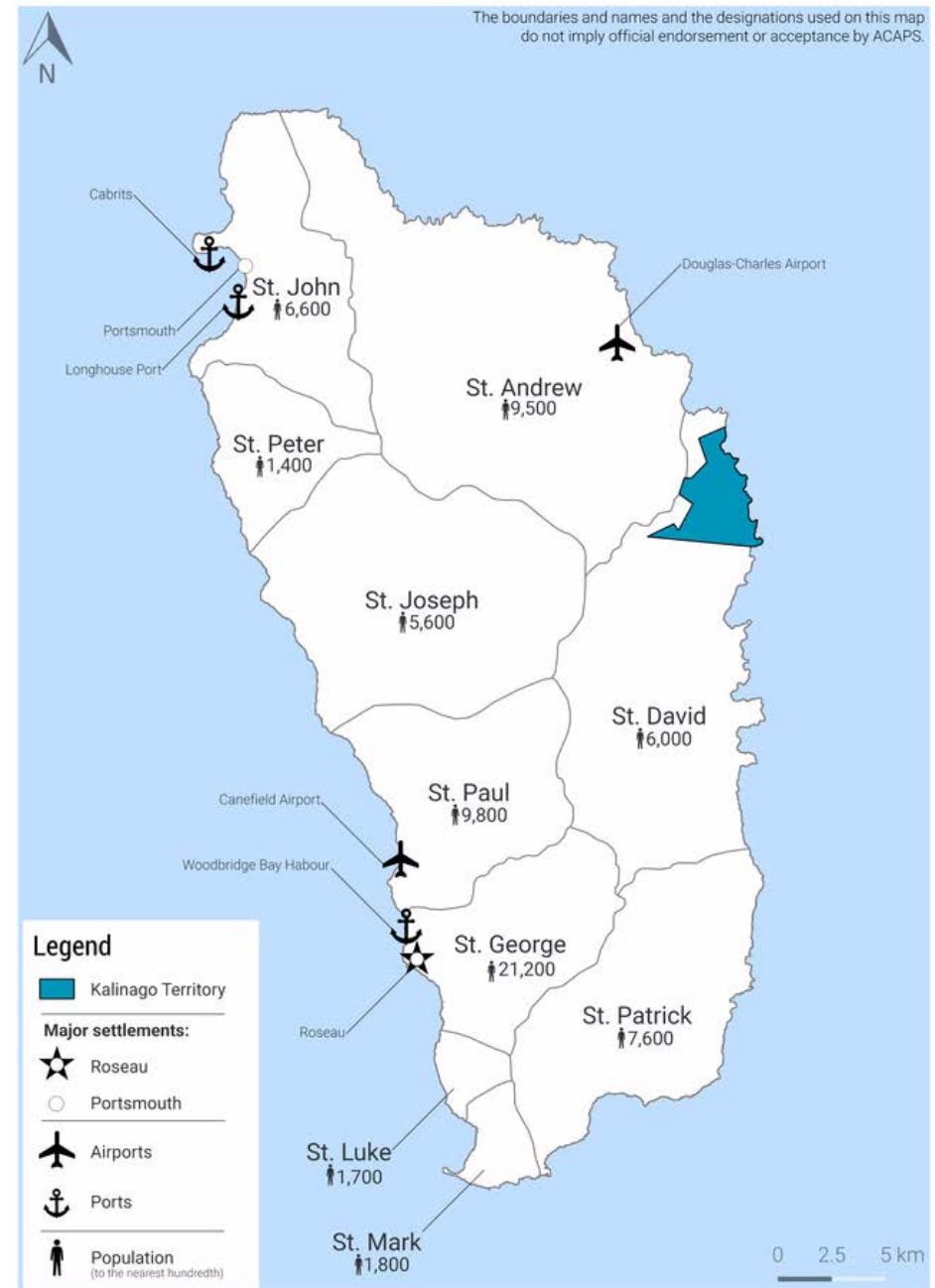
Country Profile

Summary indicators

Indicator	Value	Year
Population number (last census)	71,293	2011
Population number (projection)	73,000	2015
Population growth rate	0.5%	2016
Population density	105/km ²	2011
Urban composition	67%	2011
Average household size	3.02	2010
Age distribution (% under 15)	21.84% under 15	2016
Life expectancy at birth (years)	77 years (male:74 female:80.1)	2016
Under-five mortality	11/1,000 live births	2013
Maternal mortality	92 per 100,000 live births	2016
HDI ranking (value)	96 (0.726)	2015
Corruption Perceptions Index ranking (value)	38 (59)	2015
People below the poverty line	29%	2015
INFORM Risk Index Ranking (value)	113 (3.00)	2017
Literacy rate	91.8% (male:91.2% female:92.3%)	2015
Net migration rate	-5.4 migrants/1,000 population	2016
Immunisation Coverage	96%	2013

Sources: IFPRI 2015, Census 2011, World Bank 2016, Caribbean Development Bank 2010, CIA World Factbook; Transparency International

The Commonwealth of Dominica is a sovereign island country, part of the Windward Islands in the Lesser Antilles archipelago in the Caribbean Sea. The island lies - southeast of Guadeloupe and northwest of Martinique. Its area is 750km², and the highest point is Morne Diablotins. The island's vegetation is dense, a consequence of its elevation and very high rainfall, which varies from about 1800mm per year on the western coast to over 7,500mm in the mountainous interior. Dominica is a lower middle-income country and the poorest of the southeastern Caribbean islands. (Clarke G. Collin 1991).



NATURAL HAZARDS

Dominica is vulnerable to a wide range of natural hazards. The most common and historically most significant are tropical storms and hurricanes.

Tropical Storms and Hurricanes: Dominica is located in the Caribbean, one of the most disaster-prone regions in the world. Fifteen Caribbean islands are among the top 25 countries affected by tropical cyclone disasters. The probability of a hurricane hitting seven of them, including Dominica, is above 10% in any given year (IMF 20/07/2016). Most of Dominica's population and infrastructure is located on the coast, making them particularly vulnerable to strong winds and high seas (ODI 09/2001). The yearly hurricane season officially starts June 1 and ends on November 30. This represents the period when most cyclones form in the Atlantic Basin; however, the formation of tropical cyclones is possible at any time (DOWASCO). Although hurricanes and tropical storms affect Dominica almost every year, the following are noted as requiring international humanitarian assistance for recovery:

- Tropical Storm Erika** (August 2015): Dominica experienced heavy rainfall caused by Erika. The mountainous terrain and excessive moisture led to rainfall accumulation of up to 850mm in less than twelve hours. Grounds were saturated from previous rains, causing river basins to overflow and triggering floods that killed up to 30 people (CDEMA 30/08/2015). Accompanying mudslides dammed rivers and destroyed homes, leaving thousands displaced. The island suffered severe infrastructural damage, primarily transportation, housing and agriculture related, with the worst damage in the south and southeast parts of Dominica (UNDP 10/09/2015). Petite Savanne, a town in southeast of the island, was completely evacuated and eventually abandoned as a result of the damage. The village was isolated and due to unstable terrain the area was declared unsafe and off-limits for more than two months (The Guardian 30/08/2015) (Local news 22/10/2015). Damage and losses were estimated at USD483 million, equivalent to 90% of Dominica's GDP (IFRC 21/01/2016). Lessons learned from Erika included the need for a better and more adequate early-warning system should be in place, strengthening disaster risk management and investing in resilient infrastructure (UNISDR 04/09/2015); as well as better collaboration and more exchange of information between the Caribbean Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology, CDEMA and disaster management offices (Local news 27/09/2017).
- Tropical Storm Ophelia** (September 2011): This tropical storm produced more than 80mm in six hours, causing streams and ravines to overflow their banks. The

communities of Canefield, Massacre, Mahaut, Cochrane, Coulibistrie and Campbell were most affected (IFRC 11/10/2011).

- Hurricane David** (August 1979): A category 5 hurricane, David caused heavy rainfall that led to major landslides. The most damaged areas were the southwest and the capital Roseau. 80% of the homes on the island were destroyed, leaving a majority of the population displaced (NOAA 07/1980). The agricultural sector was the most affected, with 75% of the banana and coconut crops destroyed. 56 people died and 180 were injured. (Local News 29/08/2003).

<i>Name of Event</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Affected</i>	<i>Deaths</i>
Erika	2015	15,951	13
Ophelia	2011	240	0
Dean	2007	7530	2
Marilyn and Luis	1995	5001	2
Hugo	1989	710	0
David and Frederick	1979	72,100	40

Floods: In December 2013, severe rains and high winds due to a low-level trough system caused floods and landslides on the island. Hundreds of people in Dominica were affected, mainly in the south. Along with St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Dominica activated their National Emergency Operations Centre to coordinate emergency response operations (CDEMA 03/01/2014).

Volcanoes: Dominica is geologically young and almost completely volcanic in origin, with nine active volcanoes: Morne au Diable, Morne Trois Pitons, Morne Diablotins, Morne Watts, Morne Anglais, Wotten Waven Caldera, Valley of Desolation, Grande Soufriere Hills and Morne Plat Pays (ODI 09/2001). There have been two steam explosions in the Valley of Desolation, in 1880 and 1997. Following a volcanic alert in 1998-9, its susceptibility to future volcanic activity is also currently a major cause for concern. Scientists predict at least one major eruption within the next 90 years (The Dominican 17/09/2007). Volcanoes also bring related risks of earthquake.

Landslides: Dominica is extremely vulnerable to landslides and mudslides. The most common landslides are debris flows. At least 2% of the total land area has been disturbed by landslides (ODI 09/2001). Between 1925 and 2015, 35 people lost their lives due to landslides. Because landslides are triggered by storms other than hurricanes, slide clearance and road repair has a long-term cumulative economic impact (World Bank CHARIM 01/05/2016).

Potential hazards include drought, floods, bush fires, and tsunamis (ODI 09/2001).

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Climate change could imply higher risk of natural disasters in the future. The average number of tropical cyclones is expected to increase as the climate and sea surface temperatures warm (IMF 20/07/2016).

Society and communities

Population: 71,200 (2011); 67% of people live in urban areas; growth 0% per annum 1990–2012, due mainly to the emigration of young people; birth rate 16 per 1,000 people (est. 26 in 1970); life expectancy 77 years (The Commonwealth). The population is mostly of African and mixed African/European descent, with European, Syrian and Carib (2.9% in 2001 census) minorities. There is a Carib reserve on part of the east of the island, referred to as the Kalinago Territory (The Commonwealth; CIA World Factbook).

Kalinago Community: The last survivors of the once-powerful Carib people, the original inhabitants of most of the Lesser Antilles, still reside in Dominica. Previously known as Caribs, their name was officially recognized in 2015 as the Kalinago (Kalinago people, Kalinago Territory) (Local News 25/02/2015). The Kalinago Territory in Dominica is the only reservation in the Caribbean archipelago (see more below). It has contributed significantly to the continued existence of the Kalinagos and to their ability to retain certain aspects of their culture. Nevertheless, the Caribs have lost their language, religion, and most of their rituals, and have shifted their primary income earning activity from fishing to cash crop agriculture. Canoe building, basket making, and traditional medicine have also managed to survive. After their language was lost, Kalinagos adopted English and French patois. The communal nature of their land tenure system has served to unify their community (Cultural Survival 09/1989).

Languages: The official language is English; a French-based Creole is spoken by most of the population (The Commonwealth).

Diaspora: Dominica ranks as one of the top five countries in the world with the highest nets of emigration. It is considered that every household on the island has at least one family member living abroad (The Dominican 2006). The size of the Dominican diaspora is more than double the country's existing population. It has been conservatively estimated that 150,000–160,000 Dominicans have migrated since the 1940s, to the UK, Canada, and the US. Studies have found that the value of remittances far exceeds the losses due to migration. The diaspora has contributed significantly to poverty alleviation by remittances, by providing food and other essentials to relatives, and by investments in real estate (see more below). The Dominican diaspora is considered to

be an active set of individuals and organisations that are instrumental to the development of the island, focusing on issues related to economic growth promotion, good governance, capacity-building, and conflict mitigation. For instance, expatriates set up a database of skilled Dominica diaspora in 2000, as well as an online diaspora magazine hosted by the Dominica Academy of Arts and Sciences (DAAS). Other diaspora-led projects include the Dominica Energy Sustainable Corporation (DSEC) and the National Development fund. There was a 'Dominica Diaspora in Development Process' conference held in 2001 in New York with the purpose to harness intellectual capabilities of the diaspora in the search of self-reliance and economic independence of Dominica. In the early 2000s Dominica diaspora was focusing on good governance with economic activities favouring local ownership for means of production, the right to vote for Dominica expatriates, and the building of a technologically advanced economy. In 2002 the same conference was held in Dominica in order to strengthen the connections between the diaspora and residents of Dominica, focusing on crime and education on the island (Education in the Commonwealth Caribbean 2104) (Local News 30/08/2002).

Religion: Based on 2001 census information, mainly Christians. Roman Catholic 61.4%, Protestant 28.6% (includes Evangelical 6.7%, Seventh Day Adventist 6.1%, Pentecostal 5.6%, Baptist 4.1%, Methodist 3.7%, Church of God 1.2%, other 1.2%), Rastafarian 1.3%, Jehovah's Witness 1.2%, other 0.3%, none 6.1%, unspecified 1.1% (The Commonwealth).

Gender: Women enjoy the same rights as men. There is little open discrimination against women but cultural discrimination does exist. Property ownership, for instance, continues to be deeded to head of households while the 2003 Country Poverty Assessment commissioned by the Caribbean Development Bank estimated that 37% of households were headed by women. The average size of these female-headed households is between five and six people—larger than most male-headed households (Centre for Inclusive Growth 10/2012). Dominica has a Bureau of Gender Affairs and a gender policy. The Institutional Framework of Gender Mainstreaming consists of a Gender Management System comprised of a Gender Management Team and Gender Focal Points. The Dominica National Council of Women also appears to be very active and could play a role in supporting women in agriculture but seems to have prioritised violence against women as a natural response to an unmet and growing societal need (Centre for Inclusive Growth 10/2012).

Historical background

Colonisation: At the time of Columbus's arrival on November 1493, the island was a stronghold of the Caribs from South America who were driving out the Arawaks. In

GOVERNANCE

Dominica is a parliamentary democracy with a non-executive presidency.

Executive branch: A president and prime minister make up the executive branch.

President: Dominica's head of state is the President. The President is nominated by the Prime Minister and leader of the opposition and is elected by the House of Assembly for a maximum of two, five-year terms. He or she appoints the Prime Minister, who consults the President in appointing other ministers. The President may dismiss the Prime Minister in the event of a no-confidence vote in the House of Assembly. The current President is Charles Savarin, of the labour party, who holds the position since October 2013.

Prime Minister: The Prime Minister is the head of government. The President, acting in accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister, appoints the Cabinet of Ministers. The Prime Minister supervises Cabinet meetings and is nominally 'Primus Inter Pares' or first among equals. The Prime Minister and Cabinet are responsible to the parliament and can be removed on a no-confidence vote. The current Prime Minister is Roosevelt Skerrit, of the labour party, who holds the position since January 2004.

Cabinet of Dominica: The Cabinet of Dominica is appointed from members of the House of Assembly. However, no more than three Senators may be members of the Cabinet. The current Cabinet of Dominica includes: Roosevelt Skerrit - Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, and Public Service; Levi Peter - Attorney General; Justina Charles - Minister for Youth, Sports, Culture and Constituency Empowerment; John Collin McIntyre - Minister for Planning, Economic Development and Investment; Reginald Austrie - Minister for Housing, Lands and Water Resource Management; Senator Miriam Blanchard - Minister for Public Works and Ports and Minister of state in the office of the Prime Minister for project planning and implementation; Johnson Drigo - Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries; Catherine Daniel - Minister for Social Services, Family and Gender Affairs; Ian Douglas - Minister for Trade, Energy and Employment; Rayburn Blackmoore - Minister for Justice, Immigration and National Security; Petter Saint-Jean - Minister for Education and Human Resource Development; Roselyn Paul - Minister for Commerce, Enterprise and Small Business Development; Kenneth Darroux - Minister for Health and Environment; Kelder Darroux - Minister for Information, Science, Telecommunication and Technology; Casius Darroux - Minister for Kalinago Affairs; Senator Robert Tonge - Minister for Tourism and Urban Renewal; Senator Francine Baron - Foreign Affairs and CARICOM Affairs; Ivor Stephenson -

1627 the English theoretically took possession without settling, but by 1632 the island had become a de facto French colony; it remained so until the English captured it in 1759. In 1660 the English and French had agreed to leave the Caribs in undisturbed possession, but French settlers kept arriving, bringing enslaved Africans with them. Dominica changed hands between the two European powers, passing back to France (1778) and again to England (1783). The French attempted to invade in 1795 and 1805 before eventually withdrawing, leaving Britain in possession (The Commonwealth).

Independence: Within Dominica, the formation of the Dominica Labour Party (DLP) from the People's National Movement and other groups in the early 1960s spurred local demand for greater autonomy in internal affairs. Edward LeBlanc became Chief Minister in 1961. Under his leadership, in 1967 Dominica became one of the West Indies Associated States, with full internal self-government, while the UK remained responsible for foreign policy and defence. At LeBlanc's retirement in 1974, Patrick John succeeded as DLP leader and Premier. After winning a large majority at the 1975 elections, John pursued the course agreed by the Associated States to seek independence separately. In 1967 Dominica achieved Associate Statehood, giving the island total self-governance. Dominica was granted full independence on 3 November 1978 (Crask Paul 2007; The Commonwealth).

Political crisis: A series of crises took place between 1978 and 1981. They began with a number of repressive measures by the Dominica Labour Party government headed by Patrick John soon after independence, backed by a newly established defence force. It was then revealed that John had contracted with mercenaries in 1979 to invade Barbados, at the same time as conspiring with South African interests to lease up to a third of Dominica. After his cabinet resigned and he ordered the defence force to attack protesting crowds outside the government building in the capital, John was replaced as prime minister. Almost immediately Hurricane David struck. There were widespread allegations of corruption over the distribution of emergency aid, and building materials in particular. Compounding these allegations was evidence of proposals for yet another lease of a substantial part of the island to a US corporation with alleged South African connections. The election victory of Eugenia Charles and the Dominica Freedom Party in 1980 was therefore welcomed by many inside and outside of the region. In 1981 Patrick John was implicated in three armed attempts – involving the Ku Klux Klan, mercenaries, and elements of the defence force – to overthrow the government, the last involving fatalities. He received a long term of imprisonment, the defence force leader was executed for murder, and the force as a whole was disbanded. Eugenia Charles remained prime minister until 1995 (Clarke G. Collin 1991; Crask Paul 2007).

Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Health and Environment with specific responsibility for the Environment.

Legislative branch: There is a unicameral House of Assembly with 30 members plus the Speaker and Attorney-General. There are 21 directly elected members and nine senators. Representatives are directly elected in single member constituencies using simple majority. Elections are held at least every five years, with universal suffrage for adults. The Representatives in turn decide whether the Senators are to be elected by their vote, or appointed. If appointed, five are chosen by the President with the advice of the Prime Minister and four with the advice of the opposition leader. The current Senators are appointed. Alix Boyd Knights is the current Speaker of the House of Assembly, and was elected from outside the membership of the House. First elected on April 17, 2000, Knights is the longest to serve in that position (*The Commonwealth*).

Judicial branch and legal system: Dominica's legal system is based on English common law. The laws of the land are contained in locally enacted statutes and common law is applicable to area without statutory coverage. Dominica has a written constitution, which protect certain fundamental rights, including the right to life, to personal liberty, to protection against inhumane treatment, freedom of expression, and protection of the law. The Parliament is responsible for making the laws, and the judiciary is responsible for the interpretation and application of those laws (*OAS*). The Supreme Court in Dominica is the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court, which was established in 1967 and is responsible for administering justice in Dominica. The Supreme Court comprises the High Court of Justice and the Court of Appeals. The High Court has 16 judges, one of whom is in Dominica and sits in the Court of Summary Jurisdiction. Less serious cases are heard in district magistrates' courts. The Supreme Court has headquarters in Castries in St. Lucia (*Commonwealth Governance*).

Local government: Local governments in Dominica are a form of political decentralisation that intends to encourage local autonomy and population participation in Dominica's political decision-making process. These bodies, popularly elected, are responsible for basic services within their jurisdiction and are usually required to attend the development and maintenance of roads and parks, sanitation and public facilities, provide social and economic assistance, and undertake recreation and education programmes assistance. Dominica's local government system has evolved over the years from a single authority in the capital to a network of 41 local authorities. These are: three municipal councils (Roseau City Council, Portsmouth Town Council, Canefield Urban Council), a Kalinago Council and 37 Village Councils. As a creation of the central government, none of the councils are fully autonomous (*Government of Dominica*).

Roseau City Council: Comprising 13 members, eight of whom are elected and the rest appointed by the Minister for Local Government. They serve three-year terms and the council chairperson is designated the name of 'Mayor of Roseau'. The council is authorised to levy houses and land taxes, borrow money (albeit a limited amount), contribute to educational and charitable ventures, acquire land and buildings for public use, establish and regulate markets, alter or extend water-works, and provide and maintain parks and gardens. The establishment of utility service statutory bodies in the State has affected the council's function and therefore many of the services usually provided by the council are now distributed among national specialised agencies (*Government of Dominica*).

Portsmouth Town Council: Comprising 13 members, eight of whom are elected and the rest appointed by the Minister for Local Government. All members serve three-year terms.

Canefield Urban Council: Comprising eight members, five of whom are elected and three appointed by the Minister. All members serve three-year terms.

Kalinago Council: Comprising seven members, all of whom are elected including a Kalinago Chief for whom separate elections are held. All members of the council hold five-year terms. The Kalinago Council serves in a different manner than other local authorities: it functions as the official representative of the Carib people. Day-to-day affairs of the territory are its responsibility, as well as the administration of the unique communal land system.

37 Village Councils: Made up of eight members each, five of which are elected and three appointed by the Minister. All members serve three-year terms. They are authorised to govern affairs in respective village districts; nevertheless the ability to enforce many of these laws is affected by the centralisation of services formerly provided by councils (*Government of Dominica*). Atkinson, Bagatelle/ Fond St. Jean/ Pointe Carib, Bellevue Chopin, Bense/Anse de Mai/Anse Soldat, Boetica, Calibishie, Campbell/Despor, Castle Bruce/Tranto/Dix Pax, Clifton/Cocoyer/Capauchin, Colihaut, Coulibistrie/Morne Rchette, Delices/La Roche/Victoria Carib, Dublanc/Bioche, Giraudel/Eggleston, Grand Bay, Grand Fond, La Plaine/La Ronde, Loubiere/Madrelle/Fond Baron, Mahaut/Jimmit/Tarreau, Marigot, Morne Jaune/Riviere Cyrique, Morne Prosper, Paix Bouche/Belle Maniere/Moore Park/Dos D'ane, Penville, Petite Savanne, Petite Soufriere/San Sauveu, Pichelin, Pointe Michel, Soufriere/Scotts Head, St. Joseph, Tan Tan/Savanne Paille/Toucarie/Cottage, Tete Morne, Thibaud, Trafalgar/Shawford/Fond Canie, Vielle Case, Wesley Woodford Hill

Elections: Dominica has general elections every five years (*Clarke G. Collin 1991*). The last general elections were held on 8 December 2014 to elect the 21 members of the House

of Assembly. The result was a victory for the ruling social democratic Dominica Labour Party, which won 15 of the 21 seats, while the remaining six seats were won by the centre-right United Workers' Party (*The Sun* 08/12/2014). Elections to city, town, urban and village councils are held every three years. The Kalinago Council is elected every five years. Each urban and village council has five elected members and three non-elected members, the latter appointed by the minister with responsibility for local government from nominations put forward by the elected members. The latest council elections took place in 2014, though no information on which councils and turnout was available. In 2011/12, 23 council elections were held in 22 villages and one town with a voter turnout of 20%. The next elections will be held in 2017 (CLGF).

Security forces: The Commonwealth of Dominica Police have been the only security force since the Defence Force was disbanded in 1981. The police force, supervised by the Commissioner of Police, includes a Coast Guard unit and a Special Services Unit (SSU) - a small, paramilitary unit established in 1983 by the Regional Security System of the Eastern Caribbean States (*Global Security*).

Corruption: Officials sometimes were reported to engage in corrupt practices with impunity, but there have been no documented cases in recent years. In 2011, isolated allegations were publicly reported by members of the political opposition and related groups of corruption in the government, including accusations that some government officials engaged in property speculation. In 2012 the Integrity Commission rejected two parts of a three-part public complaint brought against the Prime Minister (PM) for abusing his office. The commission began an inquiry into the third charge: that the PM used his influence to secure concessions for a business concern in which he allegedly had an interest. In 2012, however, the Prime Minister's personal attorney accused the commission of failing to act fairly, calling on government to amend the law to change the composition of the committee. In 2014 the Prime Minister's personal attorney applied to the High Court for an injunction to prevent the commission from continuing its inquiry. The court granted the injunction pending the High Court's review of the matter, and a hearing in the case was set for November 2015; however, at the end of September 2016, the High Court had not heard the case.

The same opposition groups accused government ministers of receiving unreported money from foreign sources. No charges were filed and none of these allegations were proven in the court. The law provides criminal penalties for official corruption, and the government has generally implemented these laws effectively. The office of the public prosecutor is responsible for prosecuting corruption offenses, but it lacks adequate personnel and resources for complicated money laundering and public corruption cases. Dominica is an offshore centre with a considerable international business

company presence, and internet gaming. Money laundering cases involve external proceeds from fraudulent investment schemes, advance fee fraud schemes, and the placement of Euros related to questionable activities conducted in other surrounding jurisdictions. Domestic money laundering is chiefly linked to narcotics activities. (US State Department 2011; *Global Security*).

Freedom of expression: The constitution provides for freedom of speech and of the press, and the government has generally respected these rights in practice. An independent press, an effective judiciary, and a functioning democratic political system are combined to ensure freedom of speech and of the press (US State Department 2011).

POLITICAL STAKEHOLDERS

Dominica has a two-party system, which means there are two dominant political parties, with extreme difficulty for anybody to achieve electoral success under the banner of any other party. Dominica was once a three-party system, but in the past few years the Dominica Labour Party and the greatly diminished Dominica Freedom Party have built a coalition.

Dominica Labour Party: The Dominica Labour Party is a social-democratic political party founded in 1955 by Phyllis Shand Allfrey and Emmanuel Christopher Loblack. It is the oldest political party in Dominica. It has been the ruling party since 2000.

United Workers' Party: The United Workers' Party is a centrist political party. As of the 2009 general election, it is the only opposition party represented in the House of Assembly of Dominica, holding three of the twenty-one seats. Its past leader of the opposition in the Assembly is Hector John. The party now has a new leader, Lennox Linton, who is the current leader of the opposition. In the last general elections in 2014, the party won 6 seats out of the 21.

Dominica Freedom Party: The Dominica Freedom Party is a conservative political party in Dominica. The party lost all of its seats in the House of Assembly at 2005 general election, held on 5 May 2005. This was the first time since 1975 that the DFP was not elected in any seats. During the 2000 elections, the party won two of the 21 popularly elected seats with 13.6% of votes cast. The party subsequently joined a coalition government with the Dominica Labour Party (DLP), with the DLP not having enough seats to form a government on their own.

FOREIGN RELATIONS

The main priority of Dominica's foreign relations is economic development. The country maintains missions in Washington, New York, London, and Brussels and is represented

jointly with other Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) members in Canada. Dominica also is a member of the Caribbean Development Bank and the British Commonwealth. It became a member of the United Nations and the International Monetary Fund in 1978 and of the World Bank and Organization of American States (OAS) in 1979. In March 2004, Dominica established diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China. In January 2008, Dominica joined the Bolivarian Alliance for the Americas.

Dominica is also part of CARICOM (The Caribbean Community), a grouping of Caribbean developing countries, not all of which are islands; SIDS (Small Island Developing States), a global alliance and grouping used at the United Nations; OECS, an economic bloc, some of whose members have a common currency; ODA-eligible (Official Development Assistance-eligible): the richer parts of the Caribbean are not eligible for aid under the rules of the OECD, but developing economies are. This may influence sources and quantities of aid for relief and reconstruction (Irin 27/09/2017).

Dominica is a member of CDEMA – (Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency) – the region's disaster management authority, currently leading coordination and response in multiple locations (Irin 27/09/2017).

Economy

The Dominican economy has grown slowly over the past 20 years, with real GDP growth averaging just 2.5% annually between 1983 and 2013. Despite a stable macroeconomic environment, growth has been limited by natural disasters and by international economic developments. Using per-capita GDP, the island was ranked tenth among 15 comparators, with GDP per head of USD 8,930 (at PPP) in 2013 (Inter-American Development Bank 2013). Over 1970–2009, real economic activity in Dominica grew at an average rate of 3.8% (Jackman Mahalia 2014).

The small size of Dominica, its location within a disaster-prone region, and narrow production and export base make the country vulnerable to impacts from natural disasters and other shocks. Much of the island is mountainous and less than 25% of the country is under cultivation. Its location exposes it to tropical storms and hurricanes, which frequently cause severe damage to crops making up the country's economic base, particularly to bananas. There were three severe hurricanes in the 1980s, and in 1995 Hurricanes Luis and Marilyn caused severe damage. The country is also vulnerable in its dependence on banana exports to the EU.

From the mid-1990s, there was a period of modest economic growth, but by 1999 the economy had stalled, moving into recession in 2000, and shrinking by some 9% in

2001–03. The IMF agreed to financial support tied to tax increases and cuts in public expenditure and good growth resumed in 2004–05, driven by tourism, recovery in banana production, and a booming construction sector. This growth continued through 2007, when Hurricane Dean caused widespread devastation, until 2009 when the impact of the global recession was keenly felt, causing the economy to stall in 2010–13, before returning to growth of at least 1% in 2014 (The Commonwealth).

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Gross National Income per capita: USD 10,610 in 2016 (Knoema 2016)

GDP per capita: USD 7,144.45 in 2016 (World Bank)

GDP composition by sector of origin: agriculture: 14.7% industry: 15.5% services: 69.8% in 2016 (CIA World Factbook).

Currency: Eastern Caribbean dollar (XCD), 1 XCD is 0.37037 USD. The Eastern Caribbean dollar is the currency of all seven full members and one associate member of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS).

Inflation: The macroeconomic environment is fairly stable. There are no restrictions on capital flows and little exchange-rate uncertainty, as the island is part of the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union agreement. Inflation on the island is relatively low. Dominica's average annual inflation rate stood at 2.5% between 1983 and 2013, compared with around 8.5% on average in the benchmark grouping. In addition, between 2010 and 2013 average annual inflation was 1.7% (Inter-American Development Bank 2013).

Budget: USD 854 million in 2017 (Ministry of Finance 31/07/2017)

Debt: Dominica is affected by high public debt and fiscal sustainability challenges. Public debt is high at over 85% of GDP (IMF 2016).

Labour force per occupation: agriculture: 40% industry: 32% services: 28% in 2002 (CIA World Factbook).

Unemployment and informal sector: In 2016, Dominica had an unemployment rate of 23% according to latest data available, with young people between the ages 15-24 especially impacted. The rate of unemployment for poor households is 40% while non-poor households' rate of unemployment is 16% (Dominican News 23/05/2016).

Poverty: In recent years, there was a decline in the level of poverty (from 39% in 2008 to 28.8% in 2009) and the indigence rate (10% in 2003 to 3.1% in 2009). Causes of poverty include the decline of the banana industry, the increase in food and energy prices, the global economic crisis, and impacts of natural disasters. There is a

significant causal relationship between the environmental issues of national priority and the incidence of poverty (UNEP 2010; The Caribbean Development Bank 12/2010).

INVESTMENTS

In 2015, foreign direct investment was USD 36 million. In August of that year, tropical storm Erika caused damage measured at around 90% of GDP. In October 2015 Range Resorts of the United Arab Emirates began construction of the Cabrits Resort Kempinski, slated to open in 2018, and work began on the Tranquillity Beach Resort, another undertaking headed by the Hilton chain (ECLAC 2016). In 2013, Dominica attracted a mere USD 18 million in foreign direct investment as compared to USD 23 million in 2012 (Dominica News 02/06/2014).

Citizenship investment program: Dominica has established since 1993, the Dominica Economic Citizenship Program which legally offers individuals and families worldwide an irrevocable second citizenship and passport in only four to six months with no visit to the country required. Passports are starting at only USD 100,000 (CIB 2017). Between 1991 and 1997, Dominica received about USD 15 million in investment and acquired some 750 new citizens – mainly non-resident Taiwanese – under its economic citizenship programme. In the latter 1990s, 200–300 Russians were granted economic citizenship (The Commonwealth).

China: In 2004, Dominica recognised the PRC's One-China Policy. In return Chinese firms established infrastructural projects worth USD 100 million. China was able to use the 2008 US economic recession as an opportunity to increase aid in the region, when the U.S. was not able to. This allowed China to be both a primary driver and beneficiary across the Caribbean. In 2011, China directly invested USD 8.15 million in Dominica (Stephenson Kimberly 2015).

Russia: Although no specific information on the amount of Russian investments in Dominica are available, the two countries have economic relations and the government of Dominica has suggested a mutual visa-free regime between the two countries (CS Global Partners 07/06/2017; Dominica News 26/06/2015; Dominica News 06/06/2017).

KEY INDUSTRIES

The island of Dominica currently depends on agriculture (17.6% GDP), government services (22.3%), financial services (15.7%), and transport & communication (14.3%) as the main drivers of the economy (UNDP).

Agriculture: Dominica's key industry used to be banana production. Since the beginning of 2000, the banana industry in the region has collapsed following the ending of preferential treatment in Europe, meaning that the government had to make efforts to

reposition the economy. Apart from banana production, the agricultural sector in general, traditionally a key source of foreign exchange, has contracted significantly in recent years. In 1980 agriculture accounted for almost 1/3 of all production on the island and it now accounts for only about 1/8 of total domestic activity. This is a result of successive governments that introduced measures to diversify the economy, encouraging a shift from traditional crops (such as sugar, coffee and cocoa) to new crops (such as citrus, melons, pineapples and mangoes).

Industry: In recent years, export-oriented small industries have been developed, notably garments and electronics assembly companies taking advantage of such preferences as the Caribbean Basin Initiative, which allows access to the US market (Commonwealth Network; The Caribbean Development Bank 12/2010).

Services: Tourism, education, transport, storage, and communications are the main drivers of activity in the services sector of Dominica's economy. Development of tourism and especially eco-tourism has been encouraged by the government. The key to expansion of tourism was seen in the 1990s as the construction of a new airport with a runway long enough for long-haul jets from North America and Europe, but it proved impossible to secure financial backing for the project. In 2012 travel and tourism made a direct contribution to the economy of 9.5% of GDP and 8.8% of total employment (around 3,000 jobs). Travel services are the only category of services trade in which the island runs a trade surplus. In the near to medium term, tourism is expected to be the principal driver in the economy. The government also encouraged development of an offshore financial-services sector, including company and bank registration and internet gambling (UNDP; Commonwealth Network; The Caribbean Development Bank 12/2010).

TRADE

In 2015, Dominica exported USD 81 million and imported USD 178 million, resulting in a negative trade balance of USD 97.7 million. During 2010-2015 the exports of Dominica have increased at an annualized rate of 4.7%, from USD 59.2 million in 2010 to USD 81 million in 2015 and the imports have decreased at an annualized rate of 11.2%, from USD 321 million in 2010 to USD 178 million in 2015 (OEC 2016).

Main export products: In 2016, the top exports of Dominica are refined petroleum (USD 40.5 million), soap (USD 7.42 million), medical instruments (USD 4.07 million), low-voltage protection equipment (USD 2.58 million) and gravel and crushed Stone (USD 1.54 million). Dominica's main export agricultural goods include bananas, cereal and pellets, tropical fruits, cassava, citrus, beer, pasta, spices, and vegetables (Commonwealth Network; OEC 2016).

Main export partners: In 2015, the top export destinations were the Bahamas (USD 44.3 million), Saudi Arabia (USD 8.34 million), Jamaica (USD 5.69 million), Guyana (USD 2.7 million), and Egypt (USD 2.52 million) (OEC 2016).

Main import products: Dominica is dependent on shipping in vital supplies, and is therefore a net importer of goods and services. The average tax on imported goods is 9.9%. Main imports include manufactured goods, machinery, cars, equipment, food and chemicals. (Commonwealth Network; OEC 2016). Dominica imports all of its fossil energy, around 1,000 barrels of oil products a day. It is purchased from Venezuela through the Petrocaribe Agreement (PDVSA)

Main import partners: In 2015, the top import origins were the USA (USD 54.9 million), China (USD 34 million), Thailand (USD 10.5 million), the United Kingdom (USD 9 million), and France (USD 5.68 million) (OEC 2016).

BANKING

The financial sector in Dominica is primarily served by commercial banks and insurance companies. Three international banks operate branches in Dominica: the Royal Bank of Canada, Bank of Nova Scotia, and First Caribbean International. There is one local bank – National Bank of Dominica, and one state-owned development bank – the Agricultural, Industrial, and Development Bank (Dominica Invest Authority).

Credit unions: Dominica has an extensive network of credit unions, the first of which was founded in 1951, and several other non-profit making organisations that are involved in microcredit and revolving loan activities. Credit unions have experienced particularly rapid growth in the past and play a prominent role in the Dominican financial system. They provide an important financial intermediation role, particularly for middle and lower income groups and other key segments of the population that might otherwise find it difficult to access credit through the commercial banking system. In 2014, 95% of the population had a credit union membership. The Dominica Cooperative Societies League, a formation of credit unions operating in Dominica, includes 16 credit unions and 11 cooperatives in 2017. During 2009–2014, the total assets size of the credit union sector increased from USD 172 million (35% of GDP) to USD 233 million (45% of GDP), with an average annual growth rate of 7%. This represents a faster expansion than that of commercial banks' assets, which increased to USD 462 million (88% of GDP) during the same period, with an average annual growth of about 5.5%. Credit unions have also extended proportionally more loans, as the loans to GDP ratio increased by about 7% to 31%, during 2009-2014, while the banking system saw a decline in credit. The National Cooperative Credit Union, the largest credit union, accounts for about 71% of credit unions' total assets, making them one of the

most prominent financial institutions in the country. The credit unions account for about 1/3 of the total bank deposits, which creates a potential risk for deposit withdrawals and financial contagion. (ODI 2001; IMF 07/2016; DCSSL 2017).

Central Bank: There is no national central bank. Instead, the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) acts as a currency board, conducts monetary policy for Dominica and all other members of the OECS, and is the sole supervisor and regulator of commercial banks in the member territories. By statute, ECCB is also a lender of last resort although it has never been approached to perform this role (ODI 2001).

Available commercial banking data suggest that natural disasters have had relatively little overall impact on the banking and credit sector in Dominica, but that the sector's ability to spread and transfer risk is also limited. There are obvious difficulties in analysing the impacts of natural hazards in isolation. Other factors have also contributed to sometimes considerable inter-annual or even inter-quarterly fluctuations in money and credit markets. Analysis is also limited by data availability, with readily available public statistics only since 1980, while data on rates of default and deferred payment are not available at all (ODI 2001).

REMITTANCES

Remittances into Dominica take the form of cash or in-kind contributions. A significant proportion of the remittances coming from the French Caribbean and the US Virgin Islands are in-kind (consumer products, groceries etc.). Dominicans residing in the US, particularly New York and Miami, also contribute in that form. Cash remittances into Dominica grew after the introduction of Western Union and MoneyGram, which added to the traditional means of transfer through banks and the post.

The level of remittances has consistently exceeded foreign direct investment and official government transfers and has equalled export receipts; reaching USD 40 million in 2004 (XCD 124 million). In 2008-2009, remittances accounted for 13% of all income to households in the lowest quintile and 12% of household incomes overall. Remittances were low in five communities, average in Roseau, Penville, and the Kalinago Territory, and high in Woodford Hill (The Caribbean Development Bank 12/2010; The Dominican 11/12/2006).

Inflow of Remittances: Data around remittances inflows relative to GDP are conflicting. According to IMF, remittances to Dominica are not officially recorded, but they likely account for over 10% of the country's GDP (IMF). In 2015, USD 24 million in remittances was sent to Dominica from other countries (Pew Research Center 31/08/2016; Knomad 2017). In 2004, remittances were estimated at XCD 80-90 million a year (USD 29 million), or about 12% of GDP (IMF). In 2006, Dominica ranked among the world's top 20 recipients

of remittances relative to GDP. Since 2001, the level of remittances to Dominica has more than doubled, keeping pace with the expanding migrant population, and it continues to exhibit an accelerating rate of growth (The Dominican 11/12/2006). The World Bank gives more conservative data (see table).

Year	Personal remittances as % of GDP (rounded)	Year	Personal remittances as % of GDP (rounded)
2016	4.55%	2005	5.88%
2015	4.55%	2004	5.34%
2014	4.46%	2003	4.23%
2013	4.63%	2002	4.28%
2012	4.78%	2001	4.18%
2011	4.56%	2000	4.03%
2010	4.64%	1999	5.84%
2009	4.52%	1998	5.66%
2008	4.96%	1997	5.65%
2007	5.34%	1996	5.81%
2006	5.65%	1995	5.99%

Source: (The World Bank 2017)

Outflow of Remittances: USD 6 million in remittances was sent from Dominica to other countries in 2015 (Pew Research Center 31/08/2016).

INSURANCE PAY-OUTS

Dominica is part of the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF), a risk pooling facility that provides parametric catastrophe insurance for Caribbean governments since 2007. It offers hurricane, earthquake, and excess rainfall coverage and is intended to include lower premiums, efficiency gains, segregated risk, increased cooperation and collaboration, and shared best practices and lessons learned. The CCRIF is designed to provide quick liquidity to governments following catastrophic impacts (CCRIF) (The Economist 14/09/2017). Following Hurricane Maria in September 2017, Dominica will receive a pay-out of USD 19 million under its tropical cyclone policy, to be disbursed two weeks after the hurricane hit (CCRIF 22/09/2017). In 2015 CCRIF made a payment of USD 2.4 million to Dominica under the facility's Excess Rainfall Programme

as a result of rains that occurred during Tropical Storm Erika. A special assistance was disbursed in 2016 for USD100,000 to be used for rehabilitation of the Douglas Charles Airport following damages caused by Erika. The first payout to Dominica was in 2007 under the earthquake policy (CCRIF 2016).

Infrastructure

Airports: There are two regional airports and no international airports in Dominica. The primary one is Douglas-Charles Airport located in Marigot, where most commercial flights arrive. A second airport, Canefield, is located in Roseau, the capital. Given its runway length, the Douglas-Charles airport is suitable for some commercial jet use. Six different airlines fly into Dominica (Easter Caribbean Civil Aviation Authority).

Roadway: Dominicans drive on the left. Roads run primarily along the coastline and along river valleys. The Edward Oliver Leblanc Highway connects Roseau with Portsmouth and the Dr. Nicholas Liverpool Highway connects Pond Casse with Douglas Charles Airport (Local News 06/11/2014) (Local News 01/06/2015). Roads are known to be treacherous, with very steep terrain, narrow and winding with multiple blind curves. Driving short distances can take a long time. Small roads are not marked with central centre or edge lines. (Dominica Living). Minibuses travel routes from Roseau, Marigot / Melville Hall airport, Ross University and other prominent island locations. Landslides are an issue, particularly given the mountainous terrain and frequent rainfall.

Ports: There are three main ports that provide for large cruise ships and transportation of goods in and out of the country: Roseau, Woodbridge Bay and Portsmouth. They are regulated by the Dominica Air and Sea Ports Authority (World Port Source).

Electricity: The electricity system is 220-240 volts, 50 cycles. Power outlets are three-prong English style. Dominica is highly dependent on global oil prices and has the highest electricity tariffs in the Eastern Caribbean. The majority of the island's electricity is produced via small diesel generators by two power stations at Fond Cole and Sugar Loaf, followed by hydropower plants. The dry season can have a severe impact on the hydropower plants and climate change may compound this problem (UNEP 2010). Dominica Electricity Services uses hydropower from three plants on the banks of the Roseau River. The three stations together provide 6.6MW of power and about 3 - 3.5MW during the dry season. The hydro stations provide 20% of the island's annual electricity generation in a dry year and up to 28% in a year with good rainfall (Energy and Infrastructure).

Fuel: Households and restaurants depend heavily on fuel for daily activities (Local news 2015). Gas stations are scattered in the island, with three in or near Roseau and two located in Portsmouth. There is an additional gas station in the central west coast in St. Joseph, in Kimmit and two on the northeast coast. The island frequently runs out of

gas and diesel, which are replenished only when the next tanker transport arrives with new supply (Dominica Living).

MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION

The media system in Dominica is relatively young and small. Most of the 50 or so journalists who work in the newsrooms in Dominica do not have a degree, either in journalism or another field, when they begin (University of Leeds 2011).

Radio: Radio is the dominant medium in Dominica. It started in 1978 when the state-owned Dominica Broadcasting Corporation (DBS) was established. DBS continued as the sole radio station until the 1990s when Kairi FM and Q-95 started broadcasting (University of Leeds 2011). The radio scene is made up of public and private stations. DBS Radio, Q95 FM, Kairi FM and Voice of Life Radio ZGBC are the most popular. In the December 2009 election campaign, the opposition claimed that the government blocked its access to the main government-owned radio station and purchased all the advertising time on the largest private station, restricting the opposition to a smaller private station that only reached about one-quarter of the country (US State Department 2010).

Print: Dominica has no daily newspapers and its press consist of weeklies: The Chronicle, The Times, The Sun and Tropical Star. The Chronicle and The Sun have a circulation of about 3,000 and 2,000 respectively (University of Leeds 2011). There's also a number of online newspapers: The Chronicle, Dominica News Online, The Independent, Caribbean News Now, The Dominican.net, Dominica Vibes, The Times, Times of Dominica (BBC).

TV: Cable television signals began broadcasting in the 80s with Marpin Telecommunications, with the only competition arriving almost 20 years later with SAT Telecommunications. Each of these cable companies uses a channel for local broadcasts of events, programs and news. The Government Information Service (GIS) also uses a channel of each of these cable companies to run government programs (University of Leeds 2011) (BBC)

Internet: The Internet penetration rate is reported at 67.6% (Freedom House). High-speed cable and wireless service is available in most hotels, bed & breakfasts, etc. Internet cafes can be located in Roseau and Portsmouth (Dominica Living). According to the International Telecommunication Union, there were 42 Internet users per 100 inhabitants in 2009. There have been no government restrictions on access to the Internet or reports that the government has monitored e-mail or Internet chat rooms (US State Department 2010).

Telephone: Under normal conditions the island has very dependable cell phone service. Companies providing landlines include Cable & Wireless, Marpin Telecoms, and Orange. Three companies provide cellular services including LIME, Cingular/AT&T and Orange (Dominica Living).

Humanitarian and development stakeholders

There is no permanent presence of UN agencies or INGOs on Dominica, even though they have participated in previous hurricane responses, usually under the leadership of the Red Cross. The Dominica Red Cross Society has been active since 1983.

Food security and livelihoods

Food security: Since 1990, there has been a growing reliance on foreign sources of food for domestic consumption in Dominica (FAO 2007). In 2012, the country imported about USD 24 million worth of food. Village women grow most 'provisions' (sweet potato, yam, cassava, dasheen) and some vegetables, herbs, and spices but rely on import markets for rice, sugar, flour, lentils, milk, oil, meat, onions and garlic (Centre for Inclusive Growth 10/2012). For Dominicans, fish protein represents 13% of their diet, a far greater share than Caribbean (7%) and world (6%) averages. (Centre for Inclusive Growth 10/2012).

Livelihoods: Fishing remains central to Dominican culture, employing thousands of fishermen and supplying successive generations with sustained economic possibilities (Centre for Inclusive Growth 10/2012). Agriculture makes a significant contribution to the livelihoods of close to 40% of the population who are engaged in varying degrees of farming and related activities. Tourism is also an important source of wealth, with one out of every eight employed persons work in tourism and related activities (UNDP 2015). The level of poverty in the rural areas, and especially among the indigenous Kalinago, is reported to be relatively high. Most men and women in the Kalinago community are involved in subsistence farming and fishing as their primary occupation (Centre for Inclusive Growth 10/2012; Cultural Survival 09/1989).

Coping mechanisms: Policies and priorities have focused on diversification of crops from a banana monoculture to fresh produce, livestock, cocoa, coffee, and citrus. Production of these items is incipient and fraught with problems including adverse weather conditions. Subsistence farming has been encouraged and funded. Food safety is monitored through meat inspections at the abattoir, sampling and testing of imported canned goods at ports of entry, and inspections of food establishments (PAHO 2012).

Health

Health system: Health services in Dominica are made up of a network of 52 health centres and two district hospitals. The Princess Margaret Hospital in Roseau is the

national referral hospital, providing all types of services (PAHO 2002). Following a termite infestation in 2014 and a mould and fungus infestations in 2016, the hospital was recently upgraded, thereby reducing the number of people seeking medical services abroad. There is a smaller hospital in Portsmouth and two cottage hospitals in Marigot and Grand Bay. Primary care service is of high quality, secondary care is limited and tertiary care is unavailable, which is a concern as lack of tertiary care poses a significant risk to the health of Dominicans.

Dominica is a participant of the Eastern Caribbean Drug Service, which assists in the importing of pharmaceuticals and medical supplies. This has enabled the island to maximise the value of healthcare services in the country through bulk buying along with neighbouring islands (Commonwealth Network). The health system is made up of a mix of public and private healthcare providers but is dominated by public provision of services (PAHO 2002). 72% of healthcare costs in 2012 was covered by the government (constituting 5.9% of the GDP at the time). In 2000, there were 8.3 physicians per 10,000 inhabitants and 48 nurses per 10,000 (PAHO 2002).

Maternal health: 97% of women use antenatal services with an average of five visits per pregnancy. Most deliveries are attended by a trained health care professional, and 99.7% occur at a health facility (PAHO 2002). The leading causes of infant mortality are slow foetal growth, foetal malnutrition and immaturity, congenital abnormalities, and hypoxia, birth asphyxia, and other respiratory conditions. In children under five, there is a low number of deaths due to diarrhoeal diseases and acute respiratory infections (PAHO 2002).

Vaccination: The expanded programme on Immunisation offers vaccines for diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, polio, tuberculosis, measles, mumps and rubella. Hepatitis B vaccines were introduced in the early 2000s. The programme is available at every government clinic (PAHO 2002).

Mosquito Vector Diseases: Mosquito vectors for diseases of concern (e.g., dengue, malaria, chikungunya) are endemic and are affected by temperature and precipitation. Dengue fever is endemic, with one large outbreak in 2000 and 500 cases in 2010 (Pacific Prime) (PAHO 2002). Malaria was believed to be eradicated on the island in 1962; however, during 1997 – 1999 six cases of imported malaria were reported. (Pacific Prime) (PAHO 2002). Over 70 cases of Leptospirosis were recorded from 2010 to 2015, and a Chikungunya outbreak was reported from 2014 to 2015 (Local News 03/06/2015).

NCDs: Non-communicable diseases accounted for around 85% of all mortality in 2008, with the most prevalent being cardiovascular diseases (36%). Cancer accounted for 21%, respiratory diseases 5%, and diabetes contributed to 9% of deaths (Commonwealth Network).

HIV: A government paper on HIV/AIDS reported a cumulative 410 HIV cases (150 of which resulted in death) in the period 1987–2013 (Commonwealth Network). In 2009, 70% of HIV patients were male. The group at the highest risk of contracting the disease are men that have sex with other men. There were 77 HIV-related deaths recorded between the years of 1997 to 1999 by the Health Information Unit (Pacific Prime). Access to contraception and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS, is widely available (US State Department 2011).

TB: Estimated incidences of TB have halved in the period 1990–2012, while estimated mortality decreased slightly during this time. (Commonwealth Network)

Nutrition

Overweight (weight for age) appears to be a bigger, and growing problem than undernutrition among pre-school children in Dominica. Iron is the main micronutrient deficiency of public health concern in Dominica. The consumption of foods from animals and fat/oils (especially as part of condiments) is high among Dominicans. In fact, high status is accorded to the consumption of foods from animals (FAO).

In 2014, 63% of females and 54% of males, a total 58% of the population, were overweight and 33% of females and 19% of males were obese (IFPRI 2015).

WASH

Water and Sanitation: 44 Water System Areas provide water to 95% of the country. The largest of these sources is in Roseau with a capacity of 11 million litres per day. Four of them rely entirely on ram pumps or electrical pumps for their supply of water. The Ministry of Lands, Housing, Settlements and Water Resource Management manage the sector. The government is sole owner of the Dominica Water and Sewerage Company Limited (DOWASCO), which in turn is responsible for the entire water infrastructure in the country. Since surface water is used to generate hydroelectric power, any threat to that resource will impact negatively on this initiative and on economic gains realised by lowering dependence on fossil fuels (UNEP 2010). Dominica is recognised as having abundant surface water resources. These water resources have been commercialised for export through bulk sales to cruise ships and bottled spring water. DOWASCO has the power to protect catchment areas or gathering grounds, by requiring these to be retained on State lands as forest reserves or on private land as protected forests. Activities such as cultivation and animal husbandry can be forbidden or regulated if this is necessary for protecting the sanitation or production capacity of these areas.

Additionally, DOWASCO is allowed to request relevant agencies to enforce forest laws, if this appears to be necessary for the protection of water resources (FAO 2013).

Waste management: The Dominica Solid Waste Management Corporation has the responsibility of developing solid waste management facilities for storage, collection, treatment and disposal of solid waste (DSWMC). They have two community programs: Adopt a Block (in Roseau) and staff Education and Training. DSWMC has an online schedule showing waste management collection times and locations throughout the island. There are two official landfills: Portsmouth Sanitary Landfill and Stockfarm Sanitary Landfill (Solid Waste Management Act 2002). Solid waste was cited as a problem of national priority. In addition to poor behavioural patterns by residents with regards to littering, the origin of most of waste is from manufactured and imported products. In the case of liquid waste, the infrastructure for sewage treatment needs attention. Most of the population rely on pit latrines and septic for the disposal of sewage while others are without acceptable disposal facilities. Even where there are existing sewage systems, they are often inadequate. In the absence of facilities, sewage is dumped in the rivers, sea, or on land (UNEP 2010).

Vector control: A national action plan was launched in 2015 for mosquito control to be implemented under the Ministry of Health and Environment. There have been clean-up campaigns, education walk-through in communities with high mosquito infestations, and workshops on pest management. Additional vector control activities include promotion of composting and re-use of solid waste, limiting use of toxic chemicals in food production, consumption of wholesome foods, increasing production of organic foods, avoiding pollution of rivers and marine waters with waste, soil and chemicals, keeping water containers covered, and adoption of cleaner energy to reduce the impact of climate change (Local News 03/06/2015) (Local Radio 03/06/2015).

Shelter and land

Shelter: Housing standards and the provision of basic infrastructure in Dominica are generally reasonable. Over 60% of houses are built entirely or partly in concrete. Many wooden houses are solidly constructed. 80% of houses use gas as their principal cooking fuel (IMF 2006).

Land tenure: More than 11% of agricultural land is rented or occupied rent-free. 11% of the land is classified as family land (FAO 2013). Dominica is the first OECS country to have introduced a system of registered title, via the Title by Registration Act, enacted in 1883. However, registration of title under this Act is not mandatory and the system of land registration coexists with a system of deeds registration governed by the

Conveyancing and Law of Property Act, and the Registration of Records Act. Few land transactions are carried out by deeds of conveyance, which are primarily used to prove title for the purposes of first registration of land under the Title by Registration Act. The determining factor in this system appears to be the policies of financial institutions, which do not grant mortgages unless the land is held under the secure Certificate of Title, rather than any of the practical advantages theoretically associated with a system of land registration. Leasehold interests are usually created by deed of lease rather than by registered lease, because financial institutions do not accept long-term leases as collateral (FAO 2013). In 2011, the government launched a Land Tenure Administration Reform Programme (LTARP), which focuses on improvement and modernisation of legislative, institutional and administrative systems governing land administration and tenure. The LTARP laid the ground for the foundation of a Unified Land Information System (ULIS). ULIS is a computer system infrastructure automating operations and procedures pertaining to the administration of government settled estates and private land. The goal is to improve clarity and transparency in the operation of the land market through effective land administration and registration processes, thus facilitating ownership, tenancy of land, and increased private sector investment (Local News 27/07/2011).

Administration of State Lands: Unallocated State land exceeds 60% of the island, and yet the administration of State lands is considered to be a major problem. All State land is property and under the authority of the President and he/she also has the power to dispose of State lands by grant, sale, exchange or lease. In practice the power is exercised on the advice of the Minister – not the Minister of State Lands, but the line Minister responsible for the use to which to land is to be put (i.e., agriculture or housing). This results in incoherent policies around the development of State lands. In practice little land is leased, as the policy is to transfer title to persons to whom State land is allocated. Persons to whom land is allocated occupy the land before title is transferred and transactions are often not completed and therefore the State does not collect payment. It is reported that in 2012 around USD3.4 million was owed to the State for lands allocated and occupied. Adverse possession is also a problem, as State Lands Regulations provide for the regularisation of persons squatting on State land for more than 12 years. A dispensation is also given to persons squatting for less than 12 years who have made land improvements. This Regulation is an incentive for the unauthorised clearance of State land, including marginal land. Issues have been raised also regarding several laws that actually encourage squatters to deforest unallocated State lands. The legislation relating to the conservation of wildlife is weaker and does not target the conservation of flora and fauna of importance to agriculture (FAO 2013).

Building Codes: The Development and Planning Corporation enforces building codes. It is necessary to obtain an outline planning permission from the Corporation in order to

initiate a building permit request. The first step of building requests is a planning permission. After that is obtained, and according to the Building Code, nine inspections on the building set-out should be conducted during a construction process, but usually just three of these occur in practice. The next inspections will review the substructure, and later the framing for the roof. After this has happened, companies can request water and sewage services to be connected; these are later inspected. Once the inspection of the water and sewage infrastructure is cleared, the services will be approved and received. The Physical Planning Division then carries out a final inspection before obtaining a certificate of occupancy. This process can take a total of 175 days to complete. Individuals are not required by law to obtain insurance and neither the builders nor the government agencies in place are held liable for structural flaws or problems in the building once in use. There are also no qualification requirements for professionals responsible for verifying that architectural drawings and plans are in compliance with existing building regulations (Doing Business, 06/2016). After problems caused by lack of properly trained construction workers, the Ministry of Employment, Trade, Industry and Diaspora Affairs, along with the Builders and Contractors Association of Dominica (BCAD) in 2014 initiated a certification program for training and upgrading construction workers (Local News 06/06/2014).

The Kalinago Territory: (previously referred to as Carib Reserve): The Kalinago Council holds all the land within the Kalinago Territory, an area of approximately 3,700 acres (1,497 hectares), as communal land and administers it in accordance with the provisions of a special Act. The fact that the land is communally owned affects the occupants' access to credit and investment in agriculture. The administration of this area is governed by the Carib Reserve Act Chap. 25:90 22, which makes provision for the election of a Kalinago Chief and Kalinago Council. The council is empowered to make by-laws for the occupation and use of land in the reserve, which is vested in the council for and on behalf of the people of the reserve. As custodians of the land, the council may demarcate, apportion, allot or exchange lands in the reserve to members of the Kalinago community, for agricultural or other approved purposes. However, the Government of Dominica retains responsibility for the overall development and planning of the Kalinago Territory. Since the land is communally owned and there is a tradition of cooperative labour or "coup de main" associated with Kalinago society, these circumstances are regarded as major hurdles to investment in agriculture, as they affect the individual's access to credit (FAO 2013).

Education

Education is free and is provided by both government and denominational schools. There are 12 years of compulsory education starting at age five. The system is modeled after the British (levels) and North American (grade) structures. Primary school comprises seven years and secondary school is five years. The school year starts in September. The Caribbean Examinations Council, an agreement among 15 English-speaking Commonwealth Caribbean countries, provides examinations and certification at secondary and post-secondary levels. Qualifications offered by the Council include the Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate; Caribbean Advanced Proficiency; Caribbean Vocational Qualification; and Associate Degrees. Children with special needs are catered for by specialised institutions (Commonwealth Network; National Accreditation Board; Commonwealth Education).

Poor physical conditions in many primary schools are reported to affect the quality of education. In 2007, some 89% of pupils completed primary school and gross enrolment overall was 74.5%. Poverty and work on family banana farms has a negative effect on school attendance (Commonwealth Network; National Accreditation Board; Commonwealth Education).

There are two public universities: Dominica State College and the University of West Indies; and six private universities: All Saints University School of Medicine, International University for Graduate Studies, New World University, Ross University School of Medicine, Western Orthodox University and Ballsbridge University (National Accreditation Board).

Protection

Human rights problems have been reported in a few areas, primarily an overcrowded prison, domestic violence against women and children, and adverse conditions experienced by indigenous Kalinago (Carib) (US State Department 2011).

Children: Child abuse has been a pervasive problem. In 2010, the Welfare Department of the Ministry of Social Services, Community Development, and Gender Affairs handled reports of child abuse; 80% of the victims were girls. Judicial magistrates and other officials estimated that 60 – 70% of child welfare cases sent to the high court involved sexual abuse of children (US State Department 2011). Lack of resources and trained staff continues to hamper enforcement of children's rights laws.

Sexual violence: A 2010 report highlighted that, sexual violence and domestic violence cases were common, and the problem became more apparent as government officials participated in public awareness and outreach programmes. Although no specific laws

criminalise spousal abuse, spouses could bring charges against their partners for battery. However, victims were often reluctant to press charges due to their reliance on financial assistance of the abuser. Shelters were operated in private homes to preserve the privacy of the victims, but the location of a shelter was hard to keep secret. The law criminalises rape, but not spousal rape. Police were not reluctant to arrest or prosecute offenders; whenever possible, female police officers handled rape cases. The law does not prohibit sexual harassment, and it remained a problem. Government enforcement was not an effective deterrent. (US State Department 2011).

Minorities: A 2010 reports by the US State Department, the Kalinago people continued to suffer from low levels of unofficial and societal discrimination. Unemployment in the territory generally was higher than in the rest of the country, and mean income was below the national mean. There were few jobs in the territory, because of the decline of the agricultural sector and the inability to obtain bank financing due to the lack of collateral in terms of privately owned land. Many Kalinagos who moved to the capital city of Roseau did not report any significant discrimination. The vast majority of Kalinagos have intermarried, and it was not always easy to identify someone as Kalinago (US State Department 2011).

Government Social Protection Programmes: The Government has administered several social protection programmes that target various strata of the population. Starting from as far back as 1940 and escalating in number following the 2003 Country Poverty Assessment, the programmes are designed to provide support to the poor and vulnerable towards meeting critical needs, thereby creating safety nets and buffers against economic shocks. The programmes are managed by different ministries and there is no central beneficiary registry, gender aware beneficiary analysis, or costing and budgeting framework.

Chances: provides transitional housing to children who have been removed from their homes as a result of abandonment, violence, neglect, or abuse until alternative family or foster care arrangements can be made for them (Government of Dominica).

Yes We Care Programme: provides personal homecare to selected house-bound elderly and handicapped who have no one to care for them. Launched in 2009, it currently provides care to close to 200 persons with more than 40 caregivers (Government of Dominica).

Basic Needs Trust Fund: provides resources to poor communities to improve access to basic public services, enhance employability, and reduce social vulnerability. It is jointly funded by the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and the Government of Canada through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). The Fund provides the means for direct delivery of basic public services to people living in poor

communities in a sustainable and gender sensitive manner. Its method of implementation allows for a more socially inclusive development process. Using participatory methods, community members from targeted communities are involved in the assessment and prioritisation of community development needs to inform sub-projects to be funded (Government of Dominica).