U.S.-Dominica Partnership 2020

The United States of America works with Dominica to increase security, prosperity, and democracy in the Caribbean. A beneficiary of large regional programs like the FY20 US$20 million Caribbean Basin Security Initiative (CBSI) and small community-led grants, Dominica is a collaborative partner for Caribbean prosperity and development.

Security

- U.S. Southern Command virtually hosted the annual Caribbean National Security Conference for defense and public-security leaders to focus on regional mechanisms to mitigate the impact of disasters in a COVID-19 environment.
- The Florida National Guard hosted a military police subject matter exchange to share best practices and establish interoperability for responding to emergency situations.
- Construction is currently underway for new emergency operations centers and disaster relief warehouses in Castle Bruce and Portsmouth as well as an extension of the administration office at the Office of Disaster Management (ODM) with the support of US$4 million from U.S. Southern Command.
- Dominica Coast Guard interceptor vessels originally provided by the United States began a US$800,000 upgrade, including new engines, navigation technology, and parts, funded by CBSI.
- The U.S. Embassy hosted the first reunion for International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) alumni. The workshop advanced regional policing, sentencing guidelines, and international cooperation.

Prosperity

- Entrepreneurs Damian Lewis and Tridel Edwin were selected for the State Department's flagship entrepreneurship program, the Young Leaders of the Americas Initiative (YLAI).
- The Embassy partnered with the Global Entrepreneurship Network and YLAI alumna Avena Prince to convene a monthly "Startup Huddle" entrepreneurship incubator to foster networking, business pitching, and professional networking.
- Through the Embassy's small grants program, the Caribbean Science Foundation received more than US$20,000 to conduct coding classes and STEM workshops with Dominican secondary school students.

Health and Education

- The United States quickly mobilized more than US$11 million to fund PCR test kits through the International Atomic Energy Agency and distributed thousands of tests to Dominica's Ministry of Health and Environment.
- U.S. Southern Command delivered US$45,000 in critical personal protection equipment (masks, gloves, hazmat suits, sanitizer) to protect Dominican citizens.
- The CDC and USAID provided more than US$3million to PAHO and UNICEF's COVID-19 response in Dominica and the OECS.
- USAID's US$8.9 million Early Learners Program with the OECS trained 280 Dominica teachers and provided reading materials to over 3,000 local students. Reading at grade level increased by nearly 50 percent among participating primary school students.
- Schools throughout Dominica received over US$77,000 in grants to support teachers' activities such as parent workshops and supplemental instruction.

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