



## **Dominican Republic, North and East regions 'Solidarity in Production and Stronger Communities' - Training**

This is a huge professional reintegration project run by AIC Dominican Republic since 2014. More than 560 people who were excluded from the job market have benefitted from professional training as well as educational workshops on participative and cooperative management, human and family rights, etc. The objective is to find a job in the private sector or to create an income-generating activity from home.

*'We have achieved results beyond our hopes. This project has allowed so many people to appreciate and build on their skills'* says Olimpia, who is in charge of this systemic change project.

### **Context**

Numerous local communities have to contend with various situations of poverty, including limited access to drinking water, health services, decent accommodation and formal education. Women are often the sole heads of families. Many people (especially women from the migrant Haitian population) don't have the necessary education or training to find employment.



### **Project Theme**

This huge professional training and human development project established by AIC Dominican Republic in 2014 has helped more than 560 people: women, pregnant teenagers and young people unable to access education or the job market. The main objective is to find a job with a company or by creating an income-generating activity from home. Another objective is to strengthen community life and peoples' knowledge of their rights through a human development programme designed to promote individual and collective empowerment and thus improve quality of life.

## Activities

- Professional training in different sectors (agriculture, raising animals, artisanal products, making household products and items, etc.)
- Complementary educational workshops about participative and cooperative management and human, family and workers' rights, etc.
- Opening of community sports facilities

## Key Figures

- More than 560 people who were excluded from the job market (women, pregnant teenagers and young people) have followed the training sessions.
- The initial project has been implemented in 12 different sites in the North and East of the country.



## Local Partners

- Parishes
- Municipalities
- Local community organisations
- INFOTEP (National Institute of Professional Technical Training)

## Impacts

Overall, the project has already led to:

- The development of productive projects in different sectors that have increased the standard of living of many beneficiaries through the sale of goods;
- A better knowledge of citizens' and local communities' duties, obligations and rights, and the possibility for the beneficiaries to assert their rights with the local authorities and to be heard by local organisations;
- The strengthening of the beneficiaries' self-confidence and their ability to dream and realise their dreams;
- The creation of a network of women's organisations;
- Coordination with the Federation of Neighbourhood Councils, which meet to organise and receive ongoing training on different topics and work together to find solutions that meet the needs of the communities;

- The strengthening of AIC groups, their identity and their training;
- The elaboration of a brochure presenting the spirituality on which the project is based, as well as the objectives, strategies and practical actions that have been carried out to achieve them, so that it can be reproduced in other places;
- The formation of a team responsible for maintaining the spirit of the project and offering help to people who would like to replicate it;
- 4 youth teams have a space to practice baseball and take advantage of it to offer training to the children and adolescents in their community;
- Many young people from various backgrounds (mainly from the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Venezuela) have entered the tourism sector labour market;
- Replication in another community of systemic change projects for women and families.



## Prospects and Dreams

- Continuing to replicate the various systemic change projects in other communities, using the initial project as a model;
- The integration of new volunteers from AIC Dominican Republic into the project to accompany the target groups.