

## Atlantic Baptist Women's 2024 Children's Mission Action Project

### *Caring for Kids in the DR*



Sharing a border with Haiti, children and adults from that country cross regularly into the Dominican Republic in search of work and stability, creating one of the world's fastest-growing economies. However, conditions of severe drought, and the lack of education and employment opportunities place children particularly at risk.

#### ***How does CBM work in the Dominican Republic?***

Canadian Baptist Ministries partners with the pastoral care network of IBAREDO (the Spanish acronym for Iglesias Bautistas de la República Dominicana—the Baptist Churches of the Dominican Republic). Together, they facilitate a commitment for national, regional, and local networks to mutually pursue two goals that will strengthen people in ministry: care for pastoral leaders with their families, and help pastors develop their ministerial competencies. Living in small rural and poorer urban communities, many of these pastors are bivocational, working another job while ministering to their congregations.

#### ***How does IBAREDO help children at risk?***

In the Dominican Republic, IBAREDO is impacting the lives of children and youth in three different cities through teaching skills (such as learning English, learning to play a

#### ***Dominican Republic - Snapshot Stats***

40% of the trafficked victims in Central America and the Caribbean are girls, one of the largest percentages of girl victims recorded globally.

84.5% of the DR's population is urban.

21% of the population lives below the poverty line. In rural areas, 51% of the population lives in poverty.

Tourism contributes to 17% of the country's economy.

musical instrument, hairdressing, etc.), assistance with schoolwork and school supplies, and helping to improve health habits through education and once-a-year medical consultations. This ministry also involves Bible studies for the children and youth, as well as an annual summer camp that takes place in July. At the camp, children and youth from all three regions can gather together to fellowship, participate in



fun activities, and grow in their faith. Some of the issues that people in these communities struggle with are having low income, having poor health and/or health habits, lacking health insurance, high rates of domestic violence, high consumption of harmful substances, and a lack of resources necessary for education. IBAREDO wants to give these children and their families tools that could improve their lives, and, in doing so, impact their communities and cities to enable them to change for the better.

#### ***How can I support children at risk in the Dominican Republic?***

**“Caring for Kids in the DR” is ABW’s 2024 Children Mission Action Project that can be used in any children’s program in your church, such as Sunday mornings, mid-week, and Vacation Bible School.** Collect small juice/water/pop bottles that the children can decorate or paint to use as offering containers. Brainstorm with children about simple fundraising ideas that involve your church.

*Send offerings to your ABW Provincial Treasurer, designated for the 2024 Children’s Mission Action Project, “Caring for Kids in the DR.”*

*Addresses for the treasurers are available by contacting the ABW office: atlanticbaptistwomen@gmail.com*