

DREAM PROJECT

Annual Report 2015-16



THE CHALLENGE

Many youth in the Dominican Republic are unable to reach their full potential due to low levels of education and high levels of poverty: Dominican students have the lowest educational outcomes in Latin America and more than 50% of children in the country live in families that survive on less than \$2 per day per family member.

Sources: UNESCO 2015, UNICEF 2012

OUR SOLUTION

DREAM provides Dominican children and youth living in poverty with access to high quality education and development opportunities, enabling them to enjoy productive, healthy and educated lives.

OUR DREAM

All children and youth in the Dominican Republic have equal opportunities to learn and realize their full potential through transformative education programs that combat the effects of poverty.

We believe that learning changes lives. Our programs extend from early childhood through young adulthood, empowering at-risk children and youth to create a better future for themselves and their families through high quality education, youth development, and community enrichment.

We ensure successful results through careful analysis, a commitment to learning, and continuous improvement. Our innovative approach effectively addresses local needs and can be replicated throughout high poverty global communities.

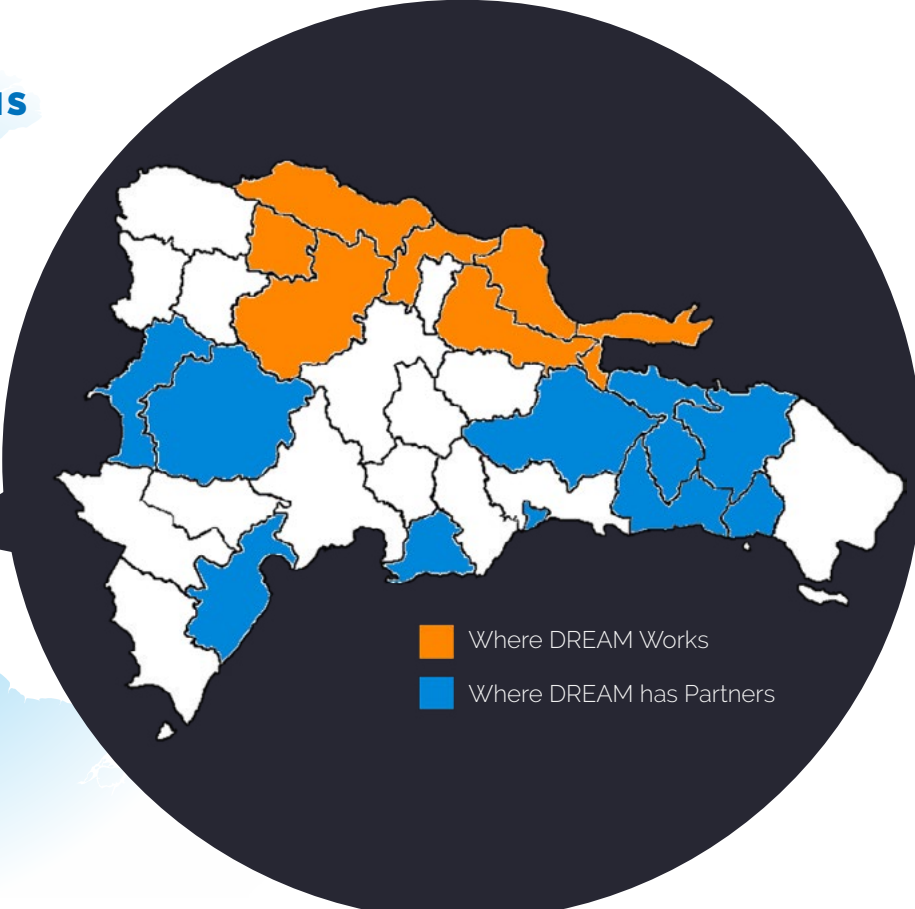
MISSION AND LOCATIONS

OUR REACH

Gulf of Mexico

North
Atlantic
Ocean

Caribbean Sea



5,415

Children reached by
DREAM programs in
2014-2015

6,015

Children to be reached
by DREAM programs in
2015-2016

670,150

Total hours of
instruction

\$16

Cost-per-child to
operate Deportes para
la Vida program

\$138

Cost-per-child to
operate academic
summer camps

\$346

Cost-per-child to
operate high-quality
Montessori classrooms



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Research shows that the first years of life are the most impactful time to invest in a child's education and development, enabling greater achievement in primary school and beyond. We believe that starting early provides the best educational foundation to form a lifetime of learning.

OUR PROGRAMS: EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Montessori Early Childhood Education Program

Only 32% of Dominican children attend preschool, and only 16% of those children are from low-income families. DREAM's Early Childhood Education program targets children aged 3-7, using proven Montessori methods to foster learning and enable future success.

2014-15 Results:

- 454 students in six different communities
- Average attendance rate: 93%
- 78% of parents complete their monthly service requirements
- 363 house visits
- 3 year olds grow socio-emocional, kinesthetic, linguistic and cognitive skills with an average pre-test score of 35% and post-test score of 79%



Parent Education

Many young children enter school without key skills that enable learning, yet the first few years of a child's life provide incredible potential for brain development. DREAM's Parent Education program teaches parents evidence-based child development strategies, ensuring children are ready to learn from day one, and fosters parents' active involvement in their child's education.

2014-15 Results:

- 232 Montessori parents reached through monthly parent meetings
- 157 parents in Cabarete actively participated in summer camp parent sessions
- 203 parents reached through Young Stars parent meetings
- 31 parents participating in Escuelita de Padres program in three sites
- 12 community members trained to replicate Escuelita de Padres program in seven communities

Luceros Documentation & Human Rights Program

In the Dominican Republic, nearly 1 in 5 children under age 5 do not have a birth certificate. DREAM's documentation program helps families ensure that a lack of legal documentation does not close the doors to a better future for their children.

2014-15 Results:

- 80 documentation cases resolved
- 113 documentation cases in progress with local government
- 165 community members reached through educational workshops

HIGH-QUALITY PRIMARY EDUCATION

Effective primary education programs generate a love for learning among students, motivating them to stay in school and achieve significant academic results. We engage children and youth who most need additional support in the classroom, using innovative techniques to develop new knowledge and build excitement for learning.



OUR PROGRAMS: HIGH QUALITY PRIMARY EDUCATION

Young Stars

Providing basic education during the school year. Nearly half of all students in the Dominican Republic do not move past eighth grade. Complementing the education received in often overcrowded and underfunded public schools, the Young Stars program provides extra hours of high-quality education for 1st through 8th grade students, with a strong emphasis on literacy, innovative learning, and results.

2014-15 Results:

- More than 200 students from five communities
- Average increase of two reading levels for participating students
- 100% of teachers improved their teaching methods and applied new strategies
- More than five community activities completed at the largest DREAM site



Summer Schools & Camps:

Providing basic education during the summer. The academic school year is still not enough to keep young learners moving forward. High drop-out rates are a direct result of inadequate classroom time and individualized attention. Research shows that low-income students lose over two months worth of reading gains over the summer. DREAM's intensive summer schools and camps target students from low-income families who are most at risk of dropping out, increasing their potential to graduate from primary school and become lifelong learners.

2014-15 Results:

- More than 800 participants across eight sites
- 70% of students passed their math exam
- More than a third of students increased one full reading level in four weeks
- 100% of classrooms implemented positive discipline classroom management systems
- 20 minutes per day of dedicated reading time
- More than 90% average attendance level
- 100% of camps offered community engagement opportunities



OUR PROGRAMS: HIGH QUALITY PRIMARY EDUCATION



Library Programs

Many Dominican communities do not have access to the books, libraries, or trained teachers necessary to help children learn to read. DREAM provides intensive literacy interventions through (1) Community Libraries built directly in public schools and in our education centers, and (2) Mobile Libraries that bring books and teachers directly to communities most in need.

2014-15 results:

- More than 100 students at six sites benefited from small group instruction with Mobile Library
- Each participating school received 72 visits from the Mobile Library
- Two new libraries are in development thanks to funding from Premio Brugal Cree en Su Gente
- Average growth of one reading level throughout the year for participating students
- 100% of libraries increased diversity of high-interest books available for students to check-out



Teacher Training

One of the most important factors for student learning is a qualified teacher. In the Dominican Republic, more than half of teachers taking the entrance exam had only mastered 60% of the math curriculum (IDEICE, 2013). DREAM equips current teachers and teachers-in-training with the tools and strategies necessary to provide quality education to students in the public schools.

2014-15 Results:

- Six workshops reaching more than 50 public school teachers
- 16 university students participated in intensive teacher training internship program (FUTUROS)

HOLISTIC YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Adolescence is a critical developmental stage where the support and services received have a significant impact on one's life path. Programs focused on life skills, healthy decision-making, job training, and cultural enrichment are proven to help youth succeed in their personal and professional life.



OUR PROGRAMS: HOLISTIC YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

A Ganar: Job Skills and Training

High drop-out rates and lack of key soft skills among youth makes access to formal employment difficult. Nearly one third of Dominican youth are unemployed, and the majority of those employed work in the informal sector. Through intensive courses of 375 hours, our youth workforce development program provides youth aged 18-24 with the training, support, and skills to secure a job and/or re-enter the formal education system.

2014-15 Results

- 118 graduates from four sites (in past year)
- Nearly half of graduates surveyed reported that their income has increased since participating in the program
- 92% of graduates plan to continue their studies in the next year
- More than 70% of participants either return to school or become employed after graduation
- 20 local businesses collaborate with the program



Deportes Para La Vida: HIV/AIDS Prevention and Sexual Health

Many Dominican youth lack the knowledge about HIV/AIDS and sexual health required to make healthy life decisions, resulting in higher rates of sexually-transmitted infections, unplanned pregnancy, and risky sexual behavior. Through a collaboration with Peace Corps Dominican Republic, the Deportes para la Vida (DPV) program has a national reach, using sports, games and a peer leader approach to change the knowledge, attitudes, and practices of youth and encourage healthy decision-making.

2014-15 Results:

- 1,784 DPV graduates in 14 provinces in collaboration with Peace Corps
- 115 new DPV Coaches
- Five Master Coaches trained, reaching the highest leadership level for the first time ever
- DPV graduates are three times more likely than non-DPV participants to have adequate knowledge about HIV
- 176 HIV tests
- 73 girls from four communities graduated from pilot of new girls empowerment curriculum (UNICA)
- Nine workshops, trainings, and conferences hosted with youth leaders

OUR PROGRAMS: HOLISTIC YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Music Education Program

DREAM is proud to offer Contemporary Music and Bachata Music Programs in Cabarete, the first of their kind in the region. Children who participate in music programs are seven times more likely to graduate from high school. In addition, learning how to play a musical instrument instills confidence and a sense of responsibility.

The DREAM Contemporary Music Program focuses on the genres of jazz and rock. Our 2015 highlights include performing at the Hard Rock Hotel in Punta Cana, and an inaugural Music Summer Camp with 45 participants.

The iASO Bachata Academy @ DREAM formally cultivates talent for bachata, while also celebrating a music form central to Dominican culture and identity. The program aims to graduate professional musicians, especially female students, who will help preserve and advance the Dominican Republic's indigenous music style.



Volunteer Programs

- 5-Week Summer Camp positions for counselors and certified teachers
- 10-month Academic Year Internships in Education or Program Development
- 1-2 Week Global Connection Groups that provide hands-on service learning
- Short-term/Local Volunteer options

Learn more or apply online at:
dominicandream.org/volunteer



"DREAM is an excellent place to volunteer because the organization is committed to giving volunteers real responsibility and actively supporting their professional development. DREAM's Volunteer Coordinator organizes professional development days and ensures volunteers get as much as possible out of their placements, and also helps volunteers integrate in the community. Volunteers are seen as central to the organization's work and are a part of the DREAM family." - Will Merrow, Academic Year Volunteer

THE NUMBERS

FINANCIALS

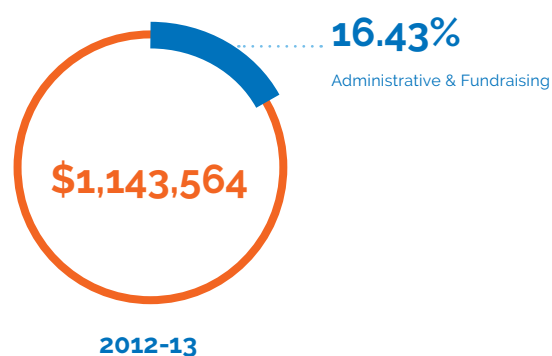
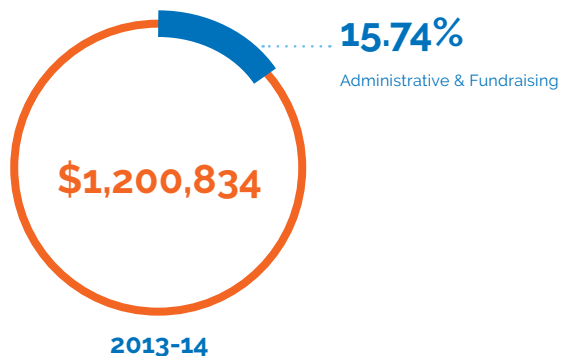
Audited Fiscal Year 2013-14

Through contributions from our Executive Board and select private donors, DREAM is able to cover 100% of overhead costs, allowing all other direct contributions to go straight to programs. We are committed to transparency and invite all supporters to learn how our finances are allocated for greatest impact.

Functional Expenses	Montessori Preschools	Youth Programs	Community Programs
Bank Fees	/	\$23	/
Brochures & Marketing	/	\$52	/
Community Support	/	\$3,665	\$81,672
Events and Trips	\$9	\$8,540	\$167
In-kind Goods	\$3,393	\$17,172	\$2,122
Insurance	\$232	\$671	/
Meals	\$13,590	\$14,435	\$1,288
Occupancy	\$4,074	\$25,403	\$6,111
Office	/	\$144	\$62
Payroll & Related	\$111,787	\$76,901	\$34,165
Phone & Internet	\$9	\$257	\$19
Postage & Shipping	/	/	\$11
Printing & Copying	\$81	\$347	\$382
Professional Fees	/	\$212	\$334
School Supplies	\$4,141	\$15,496	\$2,528
Staff Development	\$3,571	\$418	\$664
Travel & Transportation	\$3,553	\$15,429	\$6,273
Volunteer Stipends	\$3,024	\$33,507	\$6,284
Pro Bono Services	\$27,870	\$184,210	\$22,130
Overhead Allocation	\$41,174	\$85,158	\$37,983
Depreciation	\$6,778	\$9,075	\$17,245
Total			
	2013-14	\$ 223,286	\$ 219,440
	2012-13	\$ 231,712	\$ 180,472

THE NUMBERS: FINANCIALS

Total Expenses



Service Learning Trips	Total Programs	Management & General	Fundraising
/	\$23	\$ 2,947	/
\$1,476	\$1,528	\$672	\$4,428
/	\$85,337	/	/
/	\$8,716	\$373	/
\$745	\$23,432	\$1,600	\$2,235
/	\$903	\$448	/
/	\$29,313	\$512	
/	\$35,588	\$5,119	/
\$70	\$276	\$1,328	\$210
\$16,590	\$239,443	\$45,224	\$49,768
\$307	\$592	\$1,554	\$921
\$95	\$106	\$130	\$285
\$39	\$849	\$786	\$117
\$62	\$608	\$18,542	\$186
/	\$22,165	/	/
/	\$4,653	\$170	/
\$808	\$26,063	\$1,294	\$2,424
/	\$42,815	/	/
\$57,775	\$291,985	\$2,258	/
/	\$164,315	/	\$42,470
/	\$33,098	\$668	\$2,357
\$ 77,967	\$ 1,011,808	\$ 83,625	\$ 105,401
\$ 87,738	\$ 955,671	\$ 67,542	\$ 120,351

OUR DREAMERS

DONOR LIST 2014-15

Our DREAMers — the hundreds of donors who give every day, ensuring we continue to educate more and more children.

\$100K AND UP

IREO Management
My Very Own Library
Zaleski Family Foundation

\$25K TO \$75K

The Thomas Rosato Foundation
Kimball Family Foundation
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Alerta Joven (Entrena, SRL)
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OUR DREAMERS: DONOR LIST

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