



**CROSS-BORDER  
ROUNDTABLES**  
(MDTS)



SYSTEMATIZATION OF GOOD PRACTICE

**CROSS-BORDER ROUNDTABLES (MDTS)**

# CREDITS

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# ABBREVIATIONS

|     |   |
|-----|---|
| CSO | Civil Society Organizations                     |
| GP  | Good Practice                                   |
| IOM | International Organization for Migration        |
| MDT | Crossborder Roundtable (by its Spanish acronym) |
| NGO | Non-governmental Organization                   |
| UN  | United Nations                                  |

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# GOOD PRACTICE SUMMARY

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| <b>Good Practice</b> | Cross-border Roundtables (MDTs by its acronym in Spanish) of the project “Integrated border management and reference mechanisms to improve protection between Haiti and the Dominican Republic.”  |
| <b>Description</b>   | Considering the high levels of human mobility, trade, and transportation in the border communities between the Dominican Republic and the Republic of Haiti, IOM developed the MDTs. This initiative seeks to establish spaces for dialogue between the communities of both nations at the four official authorized border crossing points to foster binational cooperation and avoid the escalation of conflicts through peaceful resolution. Additionally, the MDTs were established to facilitate harmonious coexistence, good neighborliness, and cultural exchange between both nations. |
| <b>Objective</b>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Strengthen cooperation processes between communities and authorities at official border crossings between Haiti and the Dominican Republic in a decentralized manner with the participation of multiple actors from both countries.</li><li>• Promote community participation in local development processes.</li><li>• Develop capacities among its members to strengthen knowledge and exchange of good practices on migration, trade, transport, environment, culture, climate change, education, and security, among others.</li></ul>            |
| <b>Location</b>      | Border communities near the four official crossing border points: Dajabón – Ouanaminthe, Elías Piña – Belladère,, Jimaní – Fond Parisien y Pedernales –Anse-à-Pitres  |
| <b>Beneficiaries</b> | Non-governmental organizations, Civil Society Agencies, United Nations System (UNS) Agencies, Centralized Government Institutions, local authorities (municipalities), business organizations, migrants, and their families.  |

## MAIN ACTIONS

1.   
Preparation of the Cross-border Roundtables

2.   
Establishment and strengthening of the Cross-border Roundtables

3.   
Promoting the sustainability of the Cross-border Roundtables

4.   
Communication of the Cross-border Roundtables

# INTRODUCTION

The Cross-Border Roundtables (MDTs by its Spanish acronym)<sup>1</sup> are an initiative developed by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in the Dominican Republic in close coordination with IOM Haiti to facilitate dialogue and peace between border communities in both countries. This good practice has been carried out with the technical and financial support of IOM field offices in the Dominican border.

The MDTs bring together around 100 actors, including civil society organizations (CSOs), government authorities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and local governments. This initiative aims to create the structure and facilitate a dialogue space between the Dominican and Haitian border communities to seek solutions to their shared problems and solve conflicts by preventing their escalation.

This Good Practice (GP) contributes to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda, focused on Goal 16, “Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions.” In addition, it contributes to objective 3, Health and Welfare, given the adaptations made during the COVID-19 pandemic<sup>2</sup>. Regarding the Global Compact

for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, the initiative contributes the following objectives: (11) Manage borders in an integrated, secure and coordinated manner, (16) Empower migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion, (18) Invest in skills development and facilitate mutual recognition of skills, qualifications and competences, (20) Promote faster, safer and cheaper transfer of remittances and foster financial inclusion of migrants (23) Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration<sup>3</sup>.

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# CONTEXT

The Dominican Republic and Haiti are neighboring countries in the Caribbean subregion, which share a 391 km border. In the border area, communities suffer from high poverty rates, natural degradation, and high unemployment<sup>4</sup>. This has led to a dynamic dependent on binational markets, which are held twice a week and are the main livelihood in the area. Therefore, the high migratory flow offers the possibility of generating a space for binational cooperation to promote peaceful coexistence between the two countries.

The MDTs are dialogue spaces in the communities surrounding the four official border crossing points between the Dominican Republic and Haiti. The first one was established in 2016 in Dajabón - Ouanaminthe as an initiative of the Montalvo Center<sup>5</sup> and the IOM;

this MDT was the foundation for the development of the others. Subsequently, starting in 2017, the Western Hemisphere Program (WHP) gradually shaped the other MDTs. As a result, MDTs were established in Belladère, Jimaní - Fond Parisien, and the last one was established in Anse-à-Pitres - Pedernales. Each of them has a unique context and conformation. For example, the MDT in the Belladère has a Board of Representatives<sup>6</sup> to fasten decision making, while the others convene all their members to reach agreements.

<sup>1</sup> The Cross-Border Roundtables were developed within the framework of the projects: 1. Western Hemisphere Program (WHP), funded by the United States Department of State through the Office for Refugee, Migration and Population (PRM) as well as, 2. “Integrated border management and reference mechanisms to improve protection between Haiti and the Dominican Republic” funded by the European Union..

<sup>2</sup> More information on the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda in [this link](#).

<sup>3</sup> More information in [this link](#).

<sup>4</sup> Support for the Management and Projection of Cross-Border RoundTables. Charlotte Ana Dalbin. More information in [this link](#)

<sup>5</sup> More information about the Montalvo Center in [this link](#).

<sup>6</sup> This board of representatives consists of a president, a vice president responsible for cultural and sports activities on both sides of the border, a treasurer, a general secretary, and four members.

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