

GARD

GET AIRPORTS READY FOR DISASTER



2024-2025 Years GARD in Review

145 
Participants

5 
Countries

7 
Airports





27-31 May 2024

Dominican Republic GARD at Punta Cana International Airport (PUJ)

Punta Cana International Airport (PUJ), the Dominican Republic's busiest airport and a critical gateway for tourism and emergency response, engaged in the GARD programme to strengthen its operational readiness for large-scale emergencies. The workshop built on earlier GARD engagements in the country at Las Américas International Airport (2014) and Cibao International Airport (2015), addressing remaining gaps at PUJ and supporting the government's broader preparedness objectives.

Thirty participants from the airport authority, the Ministry of the Presidency, the Vice-Ministry for Economic Affairs and International Cooperation, the National School of Risk Management, the Department of Air Transport (DoAT), the Department of Local Governance, UNDP, WFP, and other national partners conducted a comprehensive Airport Surge Capacity Assessment. The assessment examined passenger and cargo flows, terminal operations, fuel, water, electricity, and emergency systems, with a focus on risks linked to



the airport's coastal location and exposure to hurricanes, floods, storms, and earthquakes.

The process produced a detailed Airport Assessment Report and Action Plan with practical measures to strengthen crisis-time continuity of operations, including improved surge planning, drainage maintenance, rapid equipment repair, terminal staffing and evacuation procedures, enhanced customs and immigration capacity, and greater resilience of fuel, water, and electricity systems. Coordination with police forces and VIP-traffic contingencies was reinforced, and both the airport and government showed strong ownership of the results. The workshop received excellent ratings from GARD trainers and positive media coverage, setting a solid foundation for national follow-up and future simulation exercises that will help translate recommendations into sustained improvements and advance the Dominican Republic's overall aviation resilience.



19-21 November 2024

GARD Plus at Las Américas International Airport (SDQ), Cibao International Airport (STI) and Punta Cana International Airport (PUJ)

On the tenth anniversary of GARD in the Dominican Republic, GARD Plus marked a shift from airport-specific preparedness to a coordinated national approach. Representatives from the Ministry of the Presidency, national institutions, UNDP, WFP, and the three GARD-trained airports – SDQ (2014), STI (2015), and PUJ (2024) – came together to consolidate progress made over a decade of implementation.

The Ministry of the Presidency, the Vice Ministry for Economic Affairs and International Cooperation, the National School of Risk Management, the Department of Air Transport (DoAT), the Department of Local Governance, WFP, UNDP, and airport operators jointly reviewed existing action plans, mapped shared risks and interdependencies, and identified coordinated priorities to strengthen surge capacity and streamline emergency logistics across the airport network.



Through joint analysis and facilitated discussions, participants highlighted key areas for boosting resilience across the three airports, including interoperable emergency protocols, coordinated surge capacity planning, and standardized procedures informed by successful international models.

The process reinforced strong government leadership of GARD and advanced work toward a national protocol linking the three airports' GARD manuals, supported by planned simulation exercises. The workshop received an excellent performance rating, reflecting strong cross sector collaboration and commitment to sustaining a disaster ready national airport network.

23-27 September 2024

Philippines Mactan-Cebu International Airport (CEB)

GARD returned to Mactan-Cebu International Airport (CEB) to update preparedness arrangements following significant airport expansion since the first GARD workshop in 2014. Across five days, 37 participants from a wide range of stakeholders, including airport authorities, Cebu airport staff, the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP), the Bureau of Customs, the Bureau of Fire Protection/INSARAG, the Philippine Air Force, airline operators, airport police, the Office of Civil Defense, and other government and civil society partners reviewed current capacities for humanitarian operations.

The workshop produced an updated Airport Assessment Report and Action Plan, reflecting expanded infrastructure and evolving operational needs. Identified practical areas for improvement encompass more efficient cargo clearance processes, designated remote parking and unloading zones,

temporary warehousing options, improved passenger flow and access road management, enhanced customs procedures for relief goods, and better integration of medical, communication, and operational continuity arrangements. The process increased awareness of MCIAA's Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Plan, and encouraged a more streamlined, inter-agency approach to avoid overlaps. With the consolidated Airport Surge Capacity Assessment (ASCA) handed over to Alvin Pino, Rescue and Firefighting Division (RFD) as custodian, team leads are now positioned to take the action plan forward and strengthen CEB's role as a responsive hub for humanitarian relief into the Visayas.



10-12 June 2025

Barbados

Grantley Adams International Airport

Grantley Adams International Airport, home to the newly established Caribbean Regional Logistics Hub, engaged in the GARD programme to strengthen its role as a regional support platform for emergency air and sea operations. Twenty-one participants from Grantley Adams International Airport, the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), the National Airforce, WFP, ECHO, Airlink and other partners jointly assessed the airport's SURGE capacity needs, identifying constraints across ground handling, terminal operations, security screening, medical readiness, refueling, and infrastructure resilience.

Prior to the on-site workshop, participants completed the Airport Surge Capacity Assessment (ASCA) in working groups, providing a structured baseline of existing capacities and constraints as well as enabling participants to approach the airport walkabout with a clear focus on priority areas. During the workshop, participants leveraged their complementary expertise



to identify operational gaps and develop targeted solutions. Their shared analysis underscored the airport's strategic importance, with its ideal location thanks to a low exposure to hazards, and the need to refine systems to accommodate a sudden influx of humanitarian cargo and passengers.

The workshop produced clear operational priorities, aligned partners around priority operational improvements and reinforced coordination mechanisms needed to accommodate sudden increases in humanitarian cargo and passenger flows. Strong engagement and interagency collaboration translated into actionable planning for future simulation exercises to test response arrangements and create synergies within the Caribbean region.



24-26 June 2025

Peru Chachapoyas Airport

The GARD workshop at Chachapoyas Airport supported Peru's national effort, led by the National Institute of Civil Defense (INDECI), to establish a strategic network of disaster-ready airports, bringing the total number of GARD-trained airports in the country to twelve. A diverse group of 26 participants representing the Peruvian Army and Air Force, Chachapoyas Airport staff, the Peruvian Corporation of Commercial Airports and Aviation Inc. (CORPAC), INDECI staff, regional government officials, DENAGERD (regional office), the National Police, and other stakeholders convened to strengthen collective preparedness for humanitarian operations in an environment exposed primarily to earthquakes and floods.

Over the three-day workshop, participants outlined key recommendations to strengthen the airport's surge capacity, including developing a cargo terminal, expanding cargo transport and aircraft handling capabilities, and establishing on site customs facilities, alongside improvements to passenger service areas,



refueling points, and hygienic services to better support heightened operations; additional suggestions focused on enhancing press management space, increasing towing capacity for a broader range of aircraft, and adjusting control tower night operations, collectively offering a clear roadmap for improving the airport's operational readiness during emergencies.

The workshop demonstrated strong engagement and commitment from both airport authorities and regional government representatives, fostering a shared understanding of roles and capacities across institutions.

23-27 November 2025

Kingdom of Bahrain Bahrain International Airport

Following the [official launch of GARD initiative in the Kingdom of Bahrain](#) in August 2025, [Bahrain International Airport became the first in the GCC region to join the GARD-trained network](#) of airports, strengthening its readiness to operate as a humanitarian logistics hub during emergencies. The GARD workshop held in November 2025 focused on [assessing operational readiness, identifying capacity gaps, and reinforcing coordination](#) among airport and emergency response stakeholders.

Under the leadership of the National Committee for Civil Emergency Management, the Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications, and the Bahrain Airport Company, [the four-day GARD workshop](#) was delivered in partnership with UNDP and DHL Group, bringing together more than 40 professionals from airport operations, customs, immigration, security, cargo handling, and emergency management. Participants conducted a comprehensive assessment of surge capacity, passenger and cargo flows,



ground handling operations, warehousing arrangements, and regulatory procedures related to the facilitation of humanitarian assistance. As part of the programme, the Ministry of Interior led a simulation exercise involving all participants, centred on a scenario that tested the Airport's ability to function as a transit hub for humanitarian relief destined for a disaster-affected third country. This simulation marked an innovative addition to the standard GARD programme.

Based on the assessment, a comprehensive GARD Action Plan has been developed outlining key areas of improvement of the airport's preparedness level, including recommendations for reinforced collaboration and coordination with other national stakeholders and institutions involved in crisis management. This plan is a commitment to reinforced preparedness and a roadmap for ensuring that when crises strike, the Kingdom of Bahrain is ready to respond swiftly and effectively. [Watch the video](#) on GARD Bahrain.



About GARD

GARD is a public-private partnership between the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** and **DHL Group** to enhance airport preparedness for response capacities in disaster situations. Airports Council International (ACI) is a regional partner of GARD in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). GARD readies airports to operate as logistics hubs for incoming humanitarian aid, relief supplies, and personnel, supporting efficient and effective response efforts.

Contact



Ioana Creitaru

UNDP

Programme Manager GARD

ioana.creitaru@undp.org



Lisa Kaminsky

DHL Group

Programme Manager GARD

lkaminsky@dhl.com

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