

## Formation of Local DRR Committees to address underlying drivers of risk in the Dominican Republic



Photo: SSID

Faced with the impact of flooding, the Dominican Republic has created national, sectoral and local emergency plans. The challenge is that beyond emergency response, many of the consequences of flooding at the local level reflect issues of pollution, waste management and vulnerability resulting from poverty, and plans have not been developed to address these consequences. *Frontline* findings suggest a lack of coordination by both local authorities and local communities, and propose local action to strengthen awareness, collaboration and coordination. As a result of these findings and recommendations, meetings have been organised by Servicio Social de Iglesias Dominicanas (SSID), a national NGO, to bring together communities, leaders and local authorities. Local Disaster Risk Reduction committees are being formed, which are identifying laws and policies which can be used to improve local risk reduction. While large disasters, such as the mudslides and floods which struck Jimani in 2004, attract national response, recent *Frontline* findings suggest that localised threats, for example water pollution in the Jimani urban area, are a more regular concern. It is these locally specific threats that the Committees intend to address.