



## **Education Issues**

The Samana region of the Dominican Republic faces significant educational challenges due to poverty, lack of resources, and poorly trained teachers. The quality of education in the region is a significant concern. According to data from the Dominican Republic's Ministry of Education, in 2019, only 26% of students in Samana passed the national standardized test for language and math skills at the primary education level (grades 1-8). Additionally, the net enrollment rate for primary education in Samana was only 79% in 2019, compared to the national average of 90%. At the secondary education level (grades 9-12), the net enrollment rate was even lower, at 59%.

## **The solution/Plan for the school:**

To address these issues, we are opening a nature-based Christian school in the summer of 2023, using a US-based curriculum. The school will offer a holistic and experiential education integrating academic excellence, environmental stewardship, and spiritual formation. This innovative approach will seek to provide high-quality education to students in Samana, promote cultural understanding and respect for diversity, and prepare students for success in a global economy. In a country where daily survival can be so difficult, we hope to give the children the one thing no one can take away from them, the gift of education.