



Project Overview:

GRUPO CLARA INC. is a community-based, non-profit organization created under Law 122-05 in December 2005, with RNC 430029688, headquartered at 43 Profesor Juan Bosch Street, Puerto Plata, in the northern region of the Dominican Republic, with an extension to the province of Montecristi, located on the country's northern border with Haiti.

Its origins date back to 1998, with the aim of supporting people living with HIV (PLHIV) through the formation of self-support groups. These groups helped develop comprehensive knowledge about HIV among their members and foster self-care practices at a time when antiretroviral therapy was still unavailable in the country.

After 23 years of service, GRUPO CLARA INC. offers a wide range of community development, health, and social empowerment services. In addition to PLHIV and their families, it also covers men who have sex with men (MSM), sex workers (TSX), adolescents and young people, women with low educational attainment, and migrant populations. Its core values are a gender perspective, environmental care, strategic partnerships, and communication for behavior change.

Its mission is to promote community development and improve the quality of life of people living with HIV/AIDS, their families, and populations in conditions of social vulnerability, through health and social empowerment programs.

Justification of the Funding Request

The withdrawal of USAID funds has halted efforts focused on supporting programs for people living with HIV and other vulnerable populations, resulting in the suspension of community care. At the Muñoz SAI, 82% of users are Haitian migrants, who live in extreme poverty and cannot afford the basic expenses to access health services.

The request for these funds is justified by an urgent need to continue supporting program users, preventing continued appointment failures and abandonment of services. It will also help rescue those who have dropped out. Visits, transportation to attend appointments, and rescue those who have dropped out are essential to guarantee continued access to treatment and achieve a suppressed viral load.

Project title:

Care for 200 PLHIV immigrants in Puerto Plata.

Topic: Physical Health

Project Summary:

This project will focus on strengthening community care for Haitian immigrants through key activities: 1. Rescue from abandonment, 2. Home visits, and 3. Providing transportation. The goal is to improve the quality of life of users attending the Muñoz Comprehensive Care Service. These actions will achieve: re-entry of PLHIV into services, delivery of medications in the communities, support in keeping medical appointments, and referrals to other services.

This initiative aims to maintain treatment continuity, reduce dropout rates, strengthen treatment adherence, and reinforce community ties and trust in the services.

Requested Amount: US\$3,000

US\$1,500 will be used for Home Visits to cover the following:

- Transportation for community or health personnel who make visits to users' homes.
- Basic support and personal protection materials (masks, gloves, gel, educational materials, and follow-up forms).
- Logistics coordination and communication (phone calls, appointment scheduling, visit scheduling, and community follow-up).
- Approximately 130 home visits are estimated to be conducted during the 90-day implementation period, which will allow for:
 - Assessment of health status and treatment adherence.
 - Identification of barriers to accessing services.
 - Provision of emotional, educational, and counseling support.
 - Referral or coordination of assistance to the health center when necessary.

US\$1,500 will be used to support transportation to attend services as follows:

For three months (90 days), this fund will enable 200 Haitian migrants living with HIV to attend the Comprehensive Care Services (SAI) at the Muñoz Community Health Center in Puerto Plata.

The resources will cover:

- Local transportation (motorcycle taxi, bus, or taxi) to attend consultations, sample collection for control tests (CD4 and Viral Load), and delivery of Medications and counseling.
- Logistics coordination to ensure efficient use of support, prioritizing the most vulnerable cases (pregnant women, older adults, and people without income).

This component ensures continuity of treatment and regular access to health services.