



# HAITI COUNTRY PROFILE

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Measurable progress is beginning to take shape as Haiti moves from recovery onto a path to sustainable development.

The U.S. Government has committed \$4.2 billion in assistance since the 2010 earthquake to help Haiti transition from disaster relief to a long-term development plan. Key advancements in health services, investments in the agriculture sector, municipal governance and legal protections for vulnerable populations as well as investments in infrastructure amount to real improvements. And by holding long-overdue legislative elections and taking steps toward presidential elections, USAID assistance is making important strides toward meaningful change for Haitian government, private sector and civil society partners.

## OUR WORK

The U. S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is working to build a stable and economically viable Haiti. The focus of U.S. assistance is on long-term reconstruction and development, promoting economic growth, job creation and agricultural development, providing basic health care and education services, and improving the effectiveness of government.

## HEALTH AND EDUCATION

USAID, with support from PEPFAR, is working to improve access to basic health services, prevent HIV, TB, and raise child survival rates while reducing maternal mortality, and expanding the Government of Haiti’s capacity to regulate, operate and finance the health system and deliver essential health care services. In education, a recent Early Grade Reading Assessment revealed that roughly 75 percent of children at the end of first grade, and nearly half of students finishing second grade could not read. USAID is supporting a comprehensive early grade reading program, the foundation for all learning, which trains teachers in modern methods, develops new materials in Kreyol and French, and improves learning outcomes for students.

### HAITI FAST FACTS

Haiti ranks:

163 of 168 on the Human Development Index

180 of 189 on the World Bank Ease of Doing Business Index

161 of 175 on Corruption Perception Index

138 of 188 on Gender Inequality Index

“Alarming” on the Global Hunger Index

40% of urban population is unemployed

75% of Haitians live on less than \$2.00 per day

50% of adult Haitians are literate

40% of Haitians lack access to healthcare

## **ECONOMIC AND FOOD SECURITY**

Today, 50 percent of employed Haitians rely on agriculture as a primary source of income. To promote economic growth led by this sector, USAID, with support from the Feed the Future Initiative, is focused on increasing farming households' incomes through measures that strengthen natural resource management as well as attract private investments, upgrade farm-level technology and improve market access for key crops. To address food insecurity, USAID, in partnership with the Haitian Government, is implementing a nutrition-focused safety net program, Kore Lavi, aimed at preventing malnutrition among pregnant and breastfeeding mothers and children under five, using a national system of food vouchers for locally-grown food and training communities on maternal and child nutrition. Outside of agriculture, USAID supports the creation of formal sector employment in agribusiness, apparel and construction and is also enabling local financial institutions to increase lending to micro, small, and medium enterprises.

## **INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENERGY**

USAID is working to improve Haiti's capacity to attract international investment and increase trade through various infrastructure projects in the north of the country, focusing on the provision of reliable energy and a modern port facility. In the housing sector, USAID is providing support for urban planning, the development of new settlements or towns surrounding the capital, and the improvement of existing urban neighborhoods to help communities with their own rebuilding initiatives. USAID is also testing ways for the private sector to play a more prominent role in housing construction and finance.

## **GOVERNANCE AND RULE OF LAW**

USAID is supporting a number of programs aimed at helping Haiti establish credible political and electoral processes, strengthen the justice system and access to legal aid, and promote improved tax collection and municipal services. USAID also works to strengthen the operations of civil society groups, especially in regards to human rights issues. Through its Local Solutions Initiative, USAID is building capacity among a network of non-governmental organizations, professional associations, and service groups to enable Haitians to effectively participate in their country's development.

## **HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

Haiti is highly vulnerable to a range of hazards, including hurricanes and tropical storms, earthquakes, disease outbreaks, and droughts. Due to this high risk, the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance maintains a permanent presence in Haiti and is focused on both providing immediate humanitarian assistance to disaster-affected populations and supporting disaster risk reduction (DRR) programs that increase community resilience and promote national self-sufficiency in emergency preparedness and management.

## **LOOKING AHEAD: SUSTAINABILITY**

Focusing on long-term impact, USAID works closely with the Haitian government, as well as other international donors and multi-lateral institutions, to increase planning capacity and budget management, operational effectiveness, accountability, and transparency, to be responsible stewards of public finances.