



HAITI COUNTRY PROFILE

MARCH 2017

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

OUR WORK

The U. S. Agency for International Development (USAID) works to build a stable and economically viable Haiti. U.S. assistance focuses 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.

ECONOMIC AND FOOD SECURITY

Today, 50 percent of the labor force relies on agriculture as a primary source of income, yet agriculture contributes less than 25 percent of GDP. To boost agricultural output and increase farmers' income, USAID, through the Feed the Future Initiative, focuses on increasing agricultural productivity, improving watershed protection and strengthening agricultural markets. To accomplish its goal, USAID introduced better inputs, new technologies, integrated natural resource management and linking farmers directly to end-buyers. With USAID support, farmers doubled and quadrupled yields in targeted key crops.

In partnership with the Haitian Government, USAID is also implementing a nutrition-focused safety net program to combat food insecurity amongst the poorest communes. The program, *Kore Lavi*, prevents malnutrition among pregnant and breastfeeding mothers and children under five by using a national system of food vouchers for locally-grown food, and by training communities on maternal and child nutrition. Outside of agriculture, USAID supports the creation of formal sector employment in agribusiness, apparel, and construction by providing worker's training and business development services to small and medium sized enterprises, as well as enabling local financial institutions to increase lending to micro, small, and medium enterprises.

HAITI FAST FACTS

59% of Haitians live on less than \$2.42 per day

53% of Haitians are undernourished

61% of adult Haitians are literate

Haiti ranks:

163 of 188 on the UNDP's Human Development Index 2014

181 of 190 on the World Bank Ease of Doing Business Index 2017

158 of 168 on Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index 2015

138 of 155 on UNDP's Gender Inequality Index 2014

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HEALTH AND EDUCATION

USAID, with support from U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), works to improve access to basic health services, prevent HIV, tuberculosis, reduce maternal mortality rates, and raise child survival rates. The Agency is also focused on expanding the Government of Haiti's capacity to regulate, operate and finance the health system and deliver essential healthcare services.

In education, a 2014 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 supports the foundations of learning through a comprehensive early grade reading program, which trains teachers in modern methods, develops new materials in Creole and French, and improves learning outcomes for students.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENERGY

USAID works to improve Haiti's capacity to attract international investment and increase trade through various infrastructure projects in particular in the northern region of the country. In this region, in support of the Government of Haiti's efforts to create an economic pole of activity, USAID is focusing on the provision of reliable energy and a modern port facility. In the housing sector, USAID provides support for urban planning, the development of new settlements in existing communities surrounding the capital, and the improvement of existing urban neighborhoods to help communities with their own rebuilding initiatives. USAID also pilots ways for the private sector to play a more prominent role in housing construction and finance.

GOVERNANCE AND RULE OF LAW

USAID supports a number of programs aimed at helping Haiti establish credible political and electoral processes, strengthen the justice system and increase access to legal aid, and promote improved local tax collection and municipal services. USAID also works to strengthen the operations of civil society groups, with a major emphasis on human rights-related issues. Through its Local Solutions Initiative, USAID builds 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 continuous presence in Haiti in order to focus on providing immediate humanitarian assistance to disaster-affected populations and supporting disaster risk reduction programs. These disaster risk reduction programs 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 multilateral institutions, to increase planning capacity and budget management, operational effectiveness, accountability, and transparency, to be responsible stewards of public finances.