



# USAID/HAITI EDUCATION

## FACT SHEET

January 2020

### OVERVIEW

- Duration : September 2014 - September 2020
- Prime Implementors : University of Notre Dame, UNICEF, and American Institutes for Research
- Sub-Partners : Episcopal Commission for Catholic Education (CEEC), Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Plan International, Care, Haitian Foundation for Private Education (FONHEP)
- Geographic Focus : West, North, North East, South East, South, Grand’Anse

### BACKGROUND

Currently, the majority of Haitians lack access to quality education; a prerequisite for sustained social and economic development. For the academic year 2019-2020, USAID has procured first and second grade materials through UNOPS for its 416 schools across seven departments for approximately 34,490 students. With the support of IDB, World Bank, Save the Children and other international organizations, USAID materials have also been distributed to an additional 402 schools serving approximately 35,760 students. Despite improvement, student enrollment and school access problems remain widespread. The Government of Haiti (GOH) is committed to strengthening public education and improving teacher training. Haiti’s Ministry of National Education and Vocational Training (MENFP) instituted a national training policy for teachers and educational personnel to improved educational services in schools nationwide in 2016. Additionally, the MENFP is currently developing a 10-year policy and operational plan in collaboration with local, international, and government partners.

### KEY CHALLENGES

**Low enrollment:** Primary school enrollment is roughly 85 percent – an improvement from earlier years but still low. The average Haitian, age 25 years or older, has less than five years of schooling. School fees can be prohibitively expensive for low-income families.

**Poor literacy rates:** A U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) 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 a single word. Further, only 61 percent of the adult population is literate.

**Lack of government oversight:** Most schools in Haiti receive minimal government oversight and are expensive relative to average earnings. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs), churches, communities and for-profit operators privately manage more than 85 percent of primary schools.

**Shortage of qualified teachers:** Half of public sector teachers in Haiti lack basic qualifications and almost 80 percent of teachers have not received any pre-service training.

## USAID STRATEGY & ACTIVITIES

USAID supports the GOH's education efforts and is committed to improving the quality of, and access to education for Haitians.

**Developing a new model for early grade reading and teaching:** USAID directly supports approximately 430 schools to improve early grade reading and writing in Haitian Creole and French for children in grades one through four. USAID activities also train teachers and school staff in modern instruction techniques and involve communities through outreach and partnership programs. In addition, USAID's unique materials, which are bilingual, phonics-based, scripted, use an innovative instructional model indirectly reaches many more students through numerous partnerships with the MENFP, other donors, NGOs, and the private sector.

**Promoting education for students with visual impairments:** USAID collaborates with local NGOs to increase access to quality education for children who are blind and visually impaired. A recent project integrated 217 students with visual impairments into mainstream classrooms as well as provided needed resources, including computer rooms with equipment for the visually impaired and 150 books in braille and audio.

## KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**Overhauled early-grade reading instruction:** Since 2010, USAID has provided more than 60,000 children and 2,000 teachers with innovative reading curricula that meet international standards for literacy instruction, and trained teachers and administrators on how to implement the curricula for Haitian Creole and French speakers. These critical resources were specifically designed for Haiti to best address unique challenges in the country's education system.

**Supplied books and teaching materials:** USAID designed, published, and distributed more than 468,000 books and workbooks, 23,800 teacher guides, and over 1,400 posters to first- and second-grade students at more than 1,000 primary schools since 2011.

**Boosted capacity at the Ministry of Education:** USAID strengthened the capacity of the MENFP to facilitate its reading improvement unit, to coordinate donor resources, and promote national-level implementation of reading activities.

**Provided immediate response to damage caused by Hurricane Matthew:** Coordinating with the Ministry of Education and UNICEF, USAID provided educational kits and materials for 45,000 students and 1,000 teachers, purchased school furniture for 50 schools and supported school cleaning, decontamination, and minor repairs in areas affected by Hurricane Matthew.



USAID.GOV/HAITI



FACEBOOK.COM/USAIDHAITI



TWITTER.COM/USAID\_HAITI