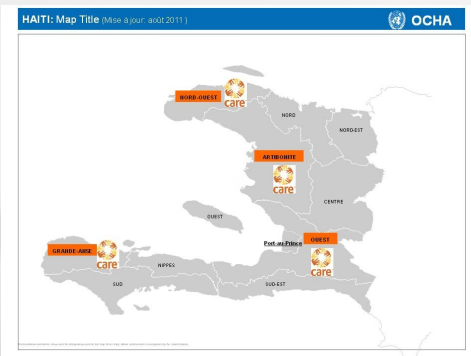


Haiti

CARE Country Office



Country Snapshot

Population:	10.1 million
Life expectancy at birth:	61.7 years
Adult literacy rate:	65 %
Undernourishment in total population:	58 %

Source: UNDP Human Development Index

Overview Haiti is the poorest country in the Western hemisphere, with the 2010 Human Development Index placing it 158 of 187 countries. As both cause and consequence to this poverty, Haiti is highly susceptible to natural disasters, with environmental degradation (especially deforestation) increasing the country's vulnerability to annual tropical storms and other disasters.

With a long history of political turmoil, violent and contentious regime changes, lack of State intervention and under-investment in social services, Haiti is classified as a fragile and/or failed state. An illustration of this State absence is the more than 80% privately run health clinics and schools which have ineffective or in-existent quality controls.

Political and economic power has been progressively and intentionally concentrated in the capital of Port-au-Prince resulting in a *brain-drain*, or the exodus of intellectuals and professionals, beginning with the 30+ years Duvalier regimes (father and son), and a less dramatic but equally devastating (public and private) disinvestment or *andeyò*. Combined with a near total lack of urban planning and/or zoning control, as well as increasing percentages of extreme poverty, the resulting urban migration has resulted in hundreds of thousands of people living in *bidonvilles*, or make-shift slums, of extremely high population density, mostly built in and along ravines and flood plains.

For more than fifty years, CARE has been fighting against poverty in Haiti and defending the human dignity of disadvantaged families. At the same time, CARE has assisted those affected by frequent natural disasters that regularly occur in Haiti. In the departments of the Artibonite, North West, South and Grand Anse, CARE partners with families, communities and local governments to support sustainable development and improve the quality of life. CARE Haiti invests in programs of economic and food security targeting women and youth, water and sanitation, basic education, sexual and reproductive health, inclusive and accountable governance, and building more disaster resilient communities.



Following the devastating earthquake of January 12, 2010, CARE extended its support to people in affected areas of Léogâne and Port-au-Prince, providing access to safe water and sanitation, housing and improved building skills. Following a cholera outbreak in October 2010, CARE has become active in rural areas to support Cholera treatment centers, conduct prevention activities, improve safe water and support medical facilities with needed materials.

Strategy CARE contributes to Haiti's National Development Plan by programs targeted at women and youth to:

- Build partnerships with public institutions, Haitian civil society, and private sector to develop replicable models of local development and decentralization
- Provide technical and financial assistance to community initiatives
- Support local advocacy efforts and actions to reduce poverty and social injustice
- Strengthen the capacity of Haitian institutions and society
- Advocate to policy makers in the international arena, in particular vis-à-vis donor governments, multilaterals and other key audiences for lasting and sustainable development in Haiti

Shelter Immediately following the earthquake, CARE helped build 2,550 transitional shelters for displaced families. CARE'S current Neighbourhood Improvement project works to rehabilitate damaged houses and put needed infrastructure in place and encourage a good construction practices.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) As emergency response, CARE delivered water and sanitation services to camps and then began similar services in communities of return, creating water committees and hygiene clubs to ensure sustainability. CARE has also integrated WASH needs with its Education program, providing safe water and hygiene promotion to schools.

Since the cholera outbreak in late October 2010, CARE stepped up its emergency response in affected (the Artibonite, Northwest and Grande Anse). Networks of volunteers promote proper hygiene in rural communities, with hygiene kits being provided to the poorest families and community water committees trained in chlorination.

Economic Development CARE helps communities boost their value-chains and promote cooperative marketing. Projects focus on soil conservation, improved agricultural practices, integrated water management, commercialization of agricultural production and savings-led microfinance. Via its innovative Village Savings and Loans project, CARE Haiti supports women and girls to achieve greater financial independence and access to business development services.

Sexual and Reproductive Health CARE provides quality obstetric and reproductive health to vulnerable women increasing safe pregnancy and deliveries. To overcome

the social and economic factors that influence women's access to health services, CARE works with young women and men to increase their ability to make informed choices about their sexuality and protect themselves from unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases. In the earthquake-affected areas of Léogâne and Carrefour, CARE Haiti integrated gender-based violence prevention with sexual and reproductive health outreach services. CARE also supports people living with HIV/AIDS to benefit from community-based services.

Governance CARE Haiti works with local governments, civil society organizations and marginalized groups to promote inclusive and accountable governance and build momentum for decentralization and socio-economic development. CARE supports the participation of marginalized groups, especially women and girls, in community decision-making while encouraging civic education.

Education In the aftermath of the earthquake, CARE provided psycho-social support to children of displaced families. Children received recreational kits while parents and teachers were taught about common signs of trauma and given guidance on how to support affected children. In addition, the project assisted schools and students with supplies and furniture to better accommodate classroom needs. On-going activities focus on supporting the Haitian Ministry of Education plan by training Teachers and Parent Associations on effective and inclusive school management and children's rights. The project works at the local level to build government capacity to provide quality education for all children in Haiti.