

# Haiti, 10 years after the earthquake

Dignity for all



Development  
and Peace

CARITAS CANADA

# A look back at 10 years of action in Haiti

Still standing. That would be a good description of the Haitian people.

Ten years ago, on January 12, 2010, one of the worst natural disasters hit Haiti. A deadly earthquake struck the island, killing thousands of Haitians, leaving torn-down homes, collapsed buildings and uprooted trees in its wake. Beyond the destruction and injuries, the psychosocial impacts, too, were significant. In response to this exceptional situation, Development and Peace — Caritas Canada, which had been working with the most vulnerable communities in the country since 1972, expanded its scope to support survivors.



Ten years later, Haitians are more resilient than ever. In the face of multiple subsequent challenges— a cholera outbreak; three major hurricanes including Sandy, Matthew and the recent, Irma; droughts; and floods—the people are still standing. Their social movements have been most vigorous. Haitians have repeatedly mobilized against the rising cost of living and to demand transparency and accountability from their leaders.

The main lesson we have learnt over the past decade of implementing projects in Haiti is that it is more important than ever to systematically involve communities. This enhances acceptance and sustainability; ensures that projects are designed and implemented by the communities they target; and keeps the dignity of the person at the centre. Realized with local partners and in collaboration with impoverished communities, women’s groups, peasant groups, community radio stations, etc., Development and Peace’s humanitarian assistance and community development projects are bearing fruit today.

We thank our many supporters, our donors, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, religious congregations, our institutional donors including Global Affairs Canada, Quebec’s Ministry of International Relations and La Francophonie, the International Climate Cooperation Program and many others, for their generous contributions to Haiti over the past 50 years. We thank you warmly for your confidence in us. We will continue working with the poorest and most vulnerable people in Haiti and elsewhere in the world to build a world of justice together.

In solidarity,

Serge Langlois, Executive Director  
Development and Peace — Caritas Canada

# Your generosity has a lasting impact

Here is a look at all that we — Development and Peace, our partners and Haitian communities — have been able to accomplish together, thanks to your great generosity.

From the bottom of our hearts,  
**THANK YOU** for trusting us.

## In numbers

### Development and Peace's activities in Haiti from 2010 to 2020

Support for communities in all of Haiti's

**10** departments



**\$31,083,017**

invested in humanitarian and community  
development projects

**41** grassroots  
partners

including 8 that Development  
and Peace continues to support

We supported

**79** projects

in community development

*and*

**89** projects

in humanitarian aid



## Humanitarian aid

**1.2 million**

people received food aid

**24,443**

hygiene kits distributed

**563**

houses built or repaired

Health care and psychosocial support provided to

**102,849**  
**people**

**130 tradespeople**

(masons, foremen, woodworkers, carpenters and electricians) trained and involved in reconstruction after Hurricane Matthew

**5 schools** rebuilt serving **2,171 students**



## Justice for women

**3,868 women**

victims of violence provided legal, medical and psychosocial support

**534**

legal proceedings initiated against gender-based violence



## Ecological justice

**86,950 people participated**

in agriculture, entrepreneurship and ecology training courses

**12** social and solidarity enterprises established

**4** chicken coops built housing some **23,333** broiler chickens



## Democracy and citizen participation

**2** community radio networks comprising **67** radio stations supported

**4,159,177**  
**people**

reached through community  
radio broadcasts

**401,915**  
**people**

sensitized to the issue of children  
in domestic servitude

Jean-Claude, 53, and his children on the porch of their earthquake- and cyclone-resistant house whose keys they received on January 6, 2013, through a project led by Development and Peace and the Institute of Technology and Animation (ITECA), with financing from Global Affairs Canada. To 400 peasant families in the Ti-Boucan neighbourhood of the the Gressier commune, the project provided homes that have since withstood several hurricanes.

*“Others have not had this opportunity. For me, this [house] is a great asset. [We even have] an overhead tank that lets us store and use water.”*



## Emphasizing the dignity of the person

A popular Haitian proverb goes, “Behind the mountains, there are still mountains.” This bit of Creole wisdom certainly applies to the decade that has elapsed since the 2010 earthquake. Haiti has faced a dysfunctional government, a serious corruption scandal involving development loans from Venezuela, a Category 4 hurricane in 2016, extreme vulnerability to the impacts of climate change and frequent seismic tremors that augur the worst. Yet, Haitians seem to keep crossing, or at least getting around, these mountains.

In the first five years after the earthquake, our programs focused on humanitarian assistance, reconstruction, human rights, food sovereignty and the social economy. Right from the day after the earthquake, our objective was to ensure the dignity of the disaster’s most vulnerable victims and to address the structural causes of poverty. This allowed us to consolidate our programming in Haiti at the end of the five-year reconstruction program (for details, see the *5 Years of Action* brochure on our website at [www.dev.org/en/emergencies/haiti](http://www.dev.org/en/emergencies/haiti)).

Today, the dignity of the most vulnerable people, especially small farmers, women and children, remains at the heart of our programming. Building on the successes of our reconstruction program, our efforts focus on addressing issues that endanger people and make them more vulnerable to disasters and socioeconomic crises like climate change, poverty and corruption.

Working with local grassroots organizations ensures that our projects include the voices of participants and seek to collaborate with local authorities. For instance, in the small town of Cavaillon, the mayor, municipal councillors and representatives of the environment and agriculture ministries were enrolled to support agricultural production and marketing management.

This strategy of involving government officials enhances their sense of responsibility toward citizens. It also moves away from the culture of assistance and aid-dependency that was fostered by the massive deployment of aid after the earthquake, with little or no participation from the Haitian people.



# Highlights of our current program

## A social and solidarity economy at the service of communities

The last component of Development and Peace's reconstruction programming in Haiti was helping launch a social and solidarity economy that fosters fairness while advancing enterprise. A dozen social enterprises that enjoy state recognition have been established. This program aims to reduce dependence on food imports and to help the most vulnerable people earn a reliable income. Profits from these businesses are reinvested in the activities of civil society organisations that benefit small farmers and women victims of violence.

In Haiti's Artibonite, Centre, West and South-East departments, the social and solidarity economy program supports and develops local poultry farming. Eggs produced near Cap-Haïtien city generate an income for small producers and street vendors who sell hard-boiled eggs, giving local children a nutritious, low-cost school lunch option.

In the capital city, Port-au-Prince, the Agrisol company sells locally-produced eggs to the Marriott and Montana hotels, the city's top pastry shop, select hotels in the nearby seaside resort town of Côte des Arcadins



Guerlande Agella, 38, from Jacmel, has been involved with Fanm Deside since 2011. Starting as a member, she became first a team leader in an agricultural project, then a facilitator and finally an agronomy technician.

*“The henhouse, which has existed for five years now, has had a positive impact on Fanm Deside. Thanks to it, we can feed the women victims of violence whom we welcome at the Magalie for Life shelter. Because of the henhouse, many women, including myself, are no longer unemployed. It pays us a salary and makes us independent.”*

and other local businesses that have chosen to buy local products rather than food imported from the United States or the Dominican Republic.

In Jacmel, women from Development and Peace's partner organization, Fanm Deside, augment their income by selling live birds and chicken meat. This empowers not only their organization, but also those who would rather not depend on imported frozen chicken.

In the North-East department, an agricultural micro-park helps small-scale organic coffee producers sell their products locally and on the international fair-trade market.

The social and solidarity economy program also supports a cassava processing company founded and managed by a group of women in the Grand'Anse department; two bakeries in the South-East department; and a fruit processing unit in the Nippes department.

Women working in an eco-friendly bakery set up with our partner, Youth in Action for Change in Haiti (JACHA). The bakery generates an income for JACHA and local merchants who buy bread at wholesale prices and resell it at a profit. By running its ovens on propane, the bakery also helps sensitize people to how relying on firewood contributes to deforestation. Some 500 local people benefit from the bakery in one way or another.





# An accountable government at the service of its people

The Petrocaribe scandal mobilized Haitians to demand greater governmental accountability. The scandal involved the embezzlement of development funds earned from the sale of petroleum products provided to some Caribbean countries at a discount under a Venezuelan aid scheme. Mass protests against this outrage paralyzed the country through most of 2019.

In the Grand'Anse department, women peasants supported by our partner, the Organization for Women Together in Grand'Anse (OFTAG), are at the centre of the movement that is calling for those involved in the scandal to be tried and sanctioned. In an area severely affected by Hurricane Matthew, OFTAG has worked with the poorest communities to repair damaged homes, grow vegetable gardens and clarify the link between government corruption and the people's poverty and vulnerability.

There is still a long way to go, but Haitians have taken the first steps towards progress. In the 2018-2019 period, they questioned the government's management of their taxes and how much of the budget the government allocated to its own functioning versus to essential services like healthcare and education. Braving hardships caused by the ongoing political crisis, Haitians are rising up against the corruption that afflicts their country.

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*“The awakening of citizens who say they've had enough is massive. It affects the whole country. The social mobilization we are witnessing is mostly the work of young people who are instilling the idea of social change as an imperative.”*

— Chenet Jean-Baptiste, Director of ITECA, a Development and Peace partner in Haiti

With support from OFTAG, peasant women in Grand'Anse mobilized to protest government corruption.



# Facing climate change

According to a United Nations study, Haiti is the country that has suffered the most deaths (229,699) from natural disasters in the last 20 years<sup>1</sup>. Climate change and the country's vulnerability are increasing the frequency, intensity and impacts of natural disasters.

In partnership with ITECA, Development and Peace is implementing the PROCLIMA project to help agriculture in the municipalities of Cavaillon, Maniche, Saint-Louis-du-Sud and Aquin in the South department adapt to climate change. Funded by the Quebec government's award-winning International Climate Cooperation Program, the project aims to improve peasants' food sovereignty through adapted agricultural techniques and the development of sustainable bio-food sectors.

In the North-East department, Development and Peace is working with rural communities using agroforestry techniques to combat erosion and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

Our partner, the Institut de Recherche en Aménagement Technique du Milieu (IRATAM), is supporting a federation of rural coffee cooperatives that is training women for leadership.

"IRATAM has had a great impact on our lives by helping us get seeds to sow and sell our products at fair prices," said Junette Philistin, manager of a local cooperative in the remote mountain village of Dupity that is connected to the municipality of Sainte-Suzanne by a dirt road that is impassable during heavy rains. "Before, when we were alone, it never occurred to me to talk about our needs. But being organized in the cooperative has taught me to speak for myself and my community, instead of passively waiting to see what happens."



Hurricane Matthew devastated the southern part of Haiti, destroying up to 90% of some areas.



Fleurant Martha, 38, of Pliche, Manceau, is a farmer, an aviculturist, a secretary and the mother of four boys aged seven, 10, 13 and 16 years.

*"Planting is difficult because it is too sunny and it hardly ever rains. The situation is all the more difficult with people deforesting the area to produce coal. However, in the vegetable garden that we run with PROCLIMA, we grow pigeon peas, peas, corn, peppers, cabbages, eggplants, etc. I love planting and harvesting. This is my domain and that of my parents and, above all, it allows me to live!"*

<sup>1</sup> Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. "Poverty and Death: Disaster Mortality 1996-2015." CRED. 2019. Accessed January 6, 2020. [http://cred.be/sites/default/files/CRED\\_Disaster\\_Mortality.pdf](http://cred.be/sites/default/files/CRED_Disaster_Mortality.pdf).

# Protecting children in domestic service

## Haiti's "restavèk" children

Among the groups most affected by the 2010 earthquake were the *restavèk* children, mostly girls, who live in domestic servitude. Their parents send them to live in wealthier homes in the hope that they will be educated and cared for in exchange for performing household chores. Up to 300,000 children are estimated to be in precarious *restavèk* situations, often working without remuneration or the hope of going to school and suffering all kinds of psychological, physical or sexual abuse.

Foyer Maurice Sixto, founded in 1989 by Father Miguel Jean-Baptiste of the Archdiocese of Port-au-Prince, is an institution that supports children in domestic servitude. Its day centre serves *restavèk* children aged four to 18 years and youths from Port-au-Prince's working-class Carrefour neighbourhood. The Foyer aims to give them a chance to integrate into society by overcoming the exclusion they endure.

The day centre, which was a refuge for the children, had been destroyed by the earthquake. Several families in whose homes they lived had become destitute, leaving the children unanchored, without prospects and in great distress.

Louis Bertha, 20, was deeply marked by her years-long *restavèk* experience. She discovered her passion for the viola at the Foyer Maurice Sixto, which she has attended since 2010.



With the support of Development and Peace and other international partners, Foyer Maurice Sixto built a new, larger facility that lets them accommodate many more children in elementary and vocational school and expand other initiatives like the music classes that were offered before the earthquake.

To raise awareness of and to mobilize Haitians around the the issue of *restavèk* children, Development and Peace and Foyer Maurice Sixto are implementing a project that fosters civic engagement for the protection

of children. The Carrefour-area project educates the public and authorities about how poverty makes it unaffordable for some families to care for their children. Project activities promote children’s rights enshrined in national and international laws that remain unenforced in reality.

Residents of the Foyer Maurice Sixto participate in a cabinetmaking workshop.



# Protecting women and girls from violence

Understanding that poor Haitian women are doubly discriminated against, Development and Peace has prioritized working with partners who value and promote women's dignity and rights.

One of our objectives in Haiti is to address violence against women through awareness campaigns conducted by our partners and by supporting women who are the victims of abuse.

Fanm Deside, who organize anti-gender-violence workshops for men, are often asked to mediate in family disputes, indicating that men are less inclined to resort to violence. Encouragingly, too, Haitian government statistics show that the percentage of men who believed beating a spouse was justifiable fell from 20 in 2005-2006, to 15 in 2012 and 11 per cent in 2018.

Development and Peace also supports the Haitian Women's Community Radio Network (REFRAKA). Radio is an especially important medium in Haiti, a country where 45 per cent of men and 49 per cent of women are illiterate. Founded in 2001, REFRAKA has 25 member stations in nine of Haiti's 10 geographical departments. The network has trained about 150 women as journalists, show hosts and production technicians. REFRAKA helps women from its member radio stations produce programs on local issues. It also produces programs at the national level that are syndicated on member stations. With the support of Development and Peace, REFRAKA produced a special radio series on climate change.



Faced with increasing violence against women forced into displacement camps after the earthquake, Fanm Deside organized protective patrols and held safety awareness sessions.

## The prevalence of violence against women in Haiti

Twenty-nine per cent of Haitian women aged 15 to 49 years have experienced physical violence since the age of 15. Among women in couples, the violence was perpetrated by husbands or partners in 45 per cent of the cases. One in eight women (12%) report having been victims of sexual violence.

Surveys conducted in 2016-2017 revealed that 17 per cent of women and 11 per cent of men thought it acceptable for a man to beat his partner if she burnt food, neglected children, went out without informing or refused sex.

Yet, it was only in 2005 that rape became a punishable offence and that too, only by a ministerial decree issued after a long battle by the women's movement. Little progress has been made on criminal code reforms that were proposed to Parliament in April 2017 to close legal gaps in the protection of women.

Source: Minster of Public Health and Population (MSPP) of the Republic of Haiti. *Enquête Mortalité, Morbidité et Utilisation des Services (EMMUS-VI) Haiti 2016-2017*. Accessed January 8, 2020. <https://www.dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/FR326/FR326.pdf>. (French only).



## The future

The dignity of all remains our priority. We will focus on grassroots communities, placing them at the centre of our projects so that people can take charge of their own development. We will continue to work primarily in rural areas with partners who will push officials and elected representatives to do their job and serve local populations. Our program will aim to ensure that decision-makers in the capital, Port-au-Prince, hear the voices of impoverished rural communities.

In the domain of agriculture, we will increasingly focus on mitigating the impact of climate change on vulnerable communities. We will work with partners to introduce more robust crops and techniques that increase resilience to recurrent droughts. We will continue raising public awareness of the impact of climate change through Creole-language community radio programming.

We will also continue developing new social and solidarity enterprises that benefit local communities, with an emphasis on training in small business management. Farmer-owned businesses will enhance local agricultural production, reduce dependence on food imports and politically strengthen the peasant movement.

Last but not least, we will continue our work to empower rural women by encouraging their participation in local community organizations and income-generating projects. We will continue to support women victims of violence and intensify our efforts to promote responsible role models for husbands and fathers, focussing especially on younger-generation men.

# The impact of your donation

Donors can be reassured that their contributions have a lasting impact on the lives of the most vulnerable Haitians who have suffered from several disasters in recent years.

## Financial transparency 2010 - 2019

Humanitarian aid	\$3,611,085	12%
Reconstruction and community development program	\$23,715,674	76%
Administrative expenses	\$3,756,258	12%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$31,083,017</b>	<b>100%</b>

By funding the building or repair of houses and schools, the money entrusted by donors to Development and Peace supports people whose needs are often not met by the government or other organizations.





For nearly 50 years, Development and Peace — Caritas Canada has been helping Haiti's most vulnerable people work towards self-sufficiency. Together, we are building a better world based on the values of social justice, equality, responsibility and solidarity. Through partnerships with grassroots organizations and people-centred projects, Development and Peace is helping generate wealth for marginalized populations and creating conditions conducive to socioeconomic development that has human dignity at its centre.

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