

WIEP Haiti



Water Infrastructure and Education Program for Haiti

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April 7, 2023

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Top Photo: Description: *Outside Port-au-Prince, Haiti, a woman arrives at Wharf Jeremie in August to fill her two containers with water that she will use to wash her dishes.* Photo By: Dieu Nalio Chery/AP. Seen in David Brown, "In rural Haiti, looking for a way to make clean water sustainable," *The Washington Post*, Oct 9, 2012, accessed March 31, 2023 https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/in-rural-haiti-looking-for-a-way-to-make-clean-water-sustainable/2012/10/09/33582536-b4e0-11e1-9e4c-5a6a137d65e1_story.html

Lower Photo: Description: Sanitation workers in Les Cayes, Haiti ensure the safe transportation and disposal of fecal sludge thanks to training and equipment provided by USAID. Photo By: Marc Steed. Accessed March 31, 2023 <https://www.globalwaters.org/HowWeWork/Activities/haiti-water-and-sanitation-project>

Executive Summary

To be implemented over a minimum of two years, the Water Infrastructure and Education Program (WIEP) is purposed with providing access to potable water and education for water safety and water treatment to Haitians. The program is oriented towards providing water infrastructure that can withstand natural disasters, provides checks on the transitional government's capacity to provide basic resources educations for the maintenance of sanitation services. This will reduce the effects of humanitarian crises, promote education in environmental issues, encourage transitional governance and promote economic development. The program will work in conjunction with the UNDP via NGOS for the provision, installation and maintenance of sustainable water, wastewater, and irrigation infrastructure. This work will be achieved through the Government of Canada's partnership with the UNDP, Haiti's transitional government and NGOs for reporting mechanisms and the provision of resources and education access.

Why Canada?

Given Canada's history of pouring resources and efforts towards the well-being of Haitians, Canada is positioned to be a leader for Haiti's stability and development. Through Canada's previous efforts, it has shown how it is committed to being a leading country. Canada shares similarities to Haiti's culture where the official languages of Canada are English and French which will be advantageous in communicating and building trust with Haitians. Since Canada is a Western country with strong ties to both the US and Europe, it is therefore able to bridge Haiti with stable, democratic countries. Overall, Canada can support bringing a fresh start to Haitians.

Incentives for Parties to Participate

Haiti faces a plethora of challenges that are deep-rooted and multi-faceted that need to be addressed. It is in constant need of humanitarian relief through frequent natural disasters. There are no legitimate, functioning government institutions that are able to provide basic goods and services. This is worsened through the effect of political elites and gangs that control much of Haiti's territory and economic activity. Furthermore, it is undesirable for Haiti's instability and gang violence to spillover to neighbouring countries and further destabilize the region.

Since Haiti faces these challenges, it presents itself as a great candidate for parties to participate to mediate these challenges. Haiti is a country that has had much intervention and resources poured into it. Because of this history of commitment towards stabilizing the country, there is the incentive to continue so that the desired results can finally be made. This commitment is to see the amount of resources and efforts be able to finally bring positive change to the country. Through this program's implementation, Haiti's status as a fragile state can be weakened through action rather than simply accepting this status.

Haiti poses as a great opportunity for actors to mitigate the effects of climate change's destruction. Because climate change cannot be charged to a single entity, climate change carnage is therefore a global responsibility including countries and organizations. As a result, this program involves the Canadian government with multilateral organizations and NGOs. This will be effective in delivery for the program in that it will sidestep political elite capture and gang involvement. The educational component of the program will empower Haitians so that this resource will last and not be taken away by others or through natural disaster. This program will provide a basic necessity for long-lasting and sustainable development for Haiti.

Stakeholders and Partners

This program will be led by the International Development team at Global Affairs Canada. The complex situation in Haiti may complicate the operational environment of this program, particularly stakeholder relations. Although elected officials lack legitimacy and government institutions have weak capacity they are still functioning to a degree.ⁱ Their functionality is dependent on local engagement and the support of NGOs and international organizations. Both the UN Environment Program (UNEP) and the UN Development Program (UNDP) have been recently engaged in supporting water infrastructure, environmental, and sanitation projects in Haiti through NGOs and the Haitian Ministry of the Environment.

Canada will work with the transitional government and UN agencies to deliver funding through Haiti's Ministry of the Environment to support the work of Haitian government departments and NGOs in building capacity and resiliency for water management, delivery, and sanitation. Haiti's National Water and Sanitation Authority (DINEPA) has already launched training programs to educate communities, and community leaders, about the importance of this issue and increase domestic capacity to implement and maintain sanitation techniques.ⁱⁱ Project funding allocated for educational purposes will flow through DINEPA.

It is important that the infrastructure this program invests in be sustainable over time, despite weaknesses in government institutions and physical infrastructure. While engagement on this issue may help strengthen government capacity and engagement in these issues, the technology implemented in these projects must be accessible and sustainable under difficult conditions. Two projects of note have successfully remained engaged in providing fresh water to individual Haitian homes, communities, and agricultural practices despite the presence of armed gangs. They both have local staff members on the ground in Haiti and the technologies they apply are appropriate for the dynamics already outlined. These are Clean Water for Haitiⁱⁱⁱ which builds and provides sand-based filters for Haitian homes and New Life for Haiti which works primarily in the Grande Anse department.^{iv}

Pre-Project Risk Assessment

Preconditions

Haiti's economic and social development continues to be hindered by political instability, increasing gang violence, and unprecedented levels of insecurity. Haiti is also plagued by an extreme environmental crisis. In particular, access to clean, and freshwater, remain an issue in Haiti, where the cause of waterborne illnesses such as cholera are the cause of more than half of the deaths in the country each year^v. To add, the renewed wave of gang violence in Haiti has killed hundreds of people in recent weeks, further deepening this humanitarian, political and the human rights crisis in the country^{vi}. Conflict intensity has been increasing exponentially since the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse and government structures and agents have been unable to counter gang advancements^{vii}.

In addition, 260 kidnappings have been reported since the start of the year, with people abducted from their homes and even public places^{viii}. Gangs have grown more powerful since the July 2021 assassination, and already control an estimated 60% of Port-au-Prince. They also have been clashing in the central towns of Petite Riviere de l'Artibonite, Verrettes, Estere and Liancourt^{ix}.

Prime Minister Ariel Henry recently signaled that he is seeking to mobilize Haiti's military to help an under-resourced and understaffed police department fight the unrelenting gang violence, which has forced an increasing number of schools and businesses to shutter^x. Prime Minister Henry has also requested the immediate deployment foreign troops^{xi}. Canada has recently announced an additional \$100 million in aid to be directed to the Haitian national police to help address the security crisis in the country^{xii}.

Possible Impacts

Reduction of Humanitarian Crises: Public Health and Hunger

As noted in the War, Peace, and Security initiative water stress can be a key cause and exacerbating factor in conflict.^{xiii} WIEP will increase the durability of access to potable water for drinking and irrigation. Provision of more sustainable sources of fresh water will not only help alleviate the water crisis Haiti is experiencing, but reduce stress on irrigation sources for agriculture and should support better domestically sourced food security which many Haitians rely on. Better access to freshwater will help resolve the recent cholera outbreaks and other health crisis.

Promoting Education and Resiliency

The educational aspect of WIEP will increase local knowledge about water safety and water treatment and encourage resiliency in the face of the vulnerabilities the nation faces both institutional and environmental. This will allow citizens to become less reliant on gang-controlled sources of water as they will be given the education and ability to process their own potable water resources and apply sustainable irrigation practices in agricultural areas. In the event of an environmental crisis, more resilient water infrastructure will reduce the degree to which the disaster has an impact on humanitarian crises, which gangs and others can take advantage of leading to further violence and instability.

Encouraging Transitional Governance

The WIEP program is reliant on the continued movement of the current government to transition towards a stable government structure. This is realized in our project with a monitoring program in place to check and reassess where necessary. By providing support to stabilize a critical resource central to health, humanitarian, and environmental concerns, this project will support state stability and provide education for officials of the importance of maintaining the resiliency of managing this system. Increasing knowledge will help increase state capacity.

Promoting Economic Development

Skills and knowledge will be taught through the various aspects of the project which will develop knowledge about water treatment in its various forms. This will promote economic development since most of the Haitian economy is reliant on agriculture.

Relevance to Best and Worst Case Scenarios

WIEP is designed to support pursuit of the best-case scenario put forward by the Haiti 2023 Conflict Diagnostic.^{xiv} Providing resilient water programs and infrastructure that can withstand natural disasters decreases the severity of potential humanitarian crises should a natural disaster occur. Acting through the UN and local NGO's, WIEP will continue to deliver its services should the government continue to lack the ability to provide basic services. The program is also focused on working to support the Haitian government by working with the Haitian Ministry of the Environment with incentives to continue working on transitioning towards a more stable government. The success of this program can increase the legitimacy of the government and restore some faith in governing bodies.

WIEP will be provided in coordination with the Haitian people through local partnership, lending to a higher probability of its longevity once the primary project is finished which increases the capabilities of domestic

actors. Providing education for the population on water treatment removes some reliability on gangs for basic services such as potable water. Related to the work done by the Water, Peace and Security (WPS) initiative,^{xv} WIEP will help avoid the worst-case scenario by improving local knowledge and capabilities in accessing and managing access to water and its associated technologies. This will aid in preventing or mitigating future security issues and conflict.

Operational Limitations

Given the widespread gang violence and the weakness of the security apparatus' engagement in the project, it does carry some risk to any personnel involved and may cause difficulties in monitoring and evaluating the situation. However, despite the weakness of state institutions, international organizations and NGOs supporting similar projects have continued to engage in those projects despite the violence. Canada's continued commitment to providing funding and training for security services in Haiti, including the recently announced \$100 million dollars being committed to Haiti's national police force, should operate alongside the support of other international supports for security at the direction of the transitional government, to provide greater security to allow for the operationalization of our programs.

The WIEP program funding will be divided into two components. \$4.5 million dollars is reserved for the educational component which will flow through the UNDP to DINEPA to strengthen and expand educational programming at the grassroots level and higher to provide both training in the provision and maintenance of sanitation services and broader education, both to the public and civic leaders, about the importance of these programs. The remaining \$14.5 million in the program will be directed through the UNDP via NGOs and charities like Clean Water for Haiti and New Life for Haiti, for the provision, installation, and maintenance of sustainable water, wastewater, and irrigation infrastructure. This funding can be directed through those charities specific funding streams available for these specific project types.

The Government of Canada will work with the UNDP, the transitional government, and NGOs to determine regular reporting mechanisms to monitor the numbers engaged in the educational programs, and the units of water, wastewater, and irrigation systems distributed and maintained. Program funding will be distributed over two years. The Government of Canada will re-evaluate the program in Haiti after a twelve-month period.

Timeline

- **Fact Finding/ Coordination with Stakeholders** -May 2023-July 2023
- **Program Set Up**- July 2023-September 2023
- **Program Launch**- September 2023
- **Program Run Time** September 2023-September 2025
- **Year Evaluation (Determine recommendation for renewal)** – September 2024

Budget (CDN dollars \$)

	2023	2024	2025	TOTAL
Monitoring/Program Design/ Consultations	\$500,000	\$300,000	\$200,000	\$1,000,000
Educational Component	\$1,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$1,500,000	\$4,500,000
Water Systems Component	\$2,500,000	\$7,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$14,500,000
TOTAL	\$4,000,000	\$9,300,000	\$6,700,000	\$20,000,000

Monitoring and Evaluation

Before Program

In the pre-project phase, we will conduct a fact-finding mission and consult with stakeholders on the ground, along with the UNEP and the UNDP, and Haitian's Ministry of Environment to find best courses for implementing this project. At this time, through these consultations, we will work with local stakeholders to determine the most appropriate and effective process for monitoring the program's achievements. Regarding potential security concerns implementations could encounter, we hope that investments made in security by the Canadian government and others, will provide a safer environment in which our program will operate. This will diminish the degree of risk that people face in accessing it.

After Program

The post-project impact assessment phase will mostly consist of monitoring: are people able to access our water infrastructure as an alternative to gang-controlled resources? Are the educational aspects of the project still ongoing? Are people attending and are they engaged? Canada will re-evaluate the progress in twelve months to determine the direction of the program. In addition to that, through working with local NGOs (since they are still able to operate), we will work to build trust by simultaneously working with the transitional government to implement the project.

Sustainability

Since workshops and courses will also be provided, there will be a local capacity to educate people. NGOs will be providing locally driven workshops and programs and encourage the participation of women to ensure knowledge is spread to everyone. Educational campaigns will also be made. This educational component will also permit a long-term natural development and will build institutional memory. This institutional memory will be incorporated into the transitional government's plans moving forward.

ENDNOTES

- ⁱ 4 “BTI 2022 Haiti Country Report,” BTI 2022, accessed January 28, 2023, <https://bti-project.org/en/reports/countryreport?isocode=HTI&cHash=ba58937f66e98b58e5bc45fb29b68497>.
- ⁱⁱ DINEPA and Zami Lasante, and DAI , “Lessons Learned from Twelve Years of Urban Sanitation Work in Haiti,” USAID and DINEPA, April 2022, accessed March 31, 2023, https://www.globalwaters.org/sites/default/files/lessons_learned_in_urban_sanitation.pdf
- ⁱⁱⁱ Clean Water for Haiti, “Annual Report: 2022,” accessed March 31, 2023, <https://cleanwaterforhaiti.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/2022-Annual-Report.pdf>
- ^{iv} New Life for Haiti, “Who We Are: Frequent Questions,” accessed March 31, 2023, <https://newlifeforhaiti.org/who-we-are/frequent-questions.html> Note: New Life for Haiti is a charity through the Lifespring Community Church based in Plainfield, Illinois. They minister various projects in Haiti the funding of which is compartmentalized, so funding could be directed strictly to their water and agricultural projects for example. The objectives and aims of these projects and the Church itself appear compatible with Canadian government policy decisions and Canada’s international development assistance objectives.
- ^v Katherine Sentlinger, “Water Crisis – Haiti,” *The Water Project*, (2021). Retrieved from <https://thewaterproject.org/water-crisis/water-in-crisis-haiti>
- ^{vi} Kenneth Roth, “Haiti Events of 2021,” *Human Rights Watch World Report*,” 2022. Retrieved from <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2022/country-chapters/haiti>
- ^{vii} Ibid.
- ^{viii} Ibid.
- ^{ix} Ibid.
- ^x Widlore Mérancourt, “Haiti to seek foreign military intervention amid crises, officials say,” *The Washington Post*, 2022. Retrieved from <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/10/07/haiti-military-assistance-us-un-crisis/>
- ^{xi} Ibid.
- ^{xii} Peter Zimonjic, “Liberal government announces \$100 in aid to shore up police forces in Haiti,” *CBC News*, May 2023. Retrieved from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/trudeau-haiti-funding-gang-violence-1.6789606>
- ^{xiii} “WPS Global Early Warning Tool December 2022 Quarterly Analysis,” *Water Peace and Security* 14 December 2022. <https://waterpeacesecurity.org/info/global-tool-update-december-2022>
- ^{xiv} Chiappetta, Edge, Rail, and Voitic, “Haiti: Conflict Analysis 2023,” Country Indicators for Foreign Policy (CIFP), accessed March 31, 2023, <https://carleton.ca/cifp/wp-content/uploads/Haiti-Conflict-Diagnostic-2023-1.pdf>
- ^{xv} “WPS Global Early Warning Tool December 2022 Quarterly Analysis,” *Water Peace and Security* 14 December 2022. <https://waterpeacesecurity.org/info/global-tool-update-december-2022>