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FACTSHEET HAITI

Facts and Figures (27.11.2019)

With a population of around 11 million people, Haiti is the poorest country in the western hemisphere. It is primarily dependent on external financial support. Natural disasters such as the devastating earthquake on January 12, 2010 with a magnitude of over 7.0 and over 200,000 deaths as well as regular hurricanes, such as Matthew or Irma in the following years, have severely shaken the country. To date, people have not yet recovered from all these disasters. Moreover, the political situation is very fragile and confidence in the government is weakened. Corruption, violence and crime are omnipresent. President Jovenel Moïse, who has been in office since February 7, 2017, has not yet been able to stabilise neither the economic nor the political situation. The population protests massively against the grievances in the country and demands more participation and livelihood security as well as the abdication of the president.

WELTHUNGERHILFE IN HAITI

- Welthungerhilfe started working in Haiti in 1974. At present, about 100 local staff members, 3 international expatriates and 1 German staff member are working in the country.
- The organisation's country office is located in the capital Port-au-Prince. Project offices are located in Jean-Rabel und Ouanaminthe, in the north of the country. After the earthquake in 2010, there were project offices in the south, in Jacmel and Petit Goâve, which had been closed on completion of the reconstruction programme.

PRESENT SITUATION

- 10 years after the severe earthquake, Haiti is still depending on external aid. The country ranks 168 out of 189 countries on the Human Development Index/HDI (HDI 2017). On the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2019, Haiti's score of 34.7 reflects a serious food and nutrition situation, and ranks 111 out of 117 countries at the lower end of the scale.
- According to UN estimates, at present about 3.67 million people (35% of the population) are in urgent need of food assistance. Without humanitarian action, there will be about 4.1 million people (40% of the population) depending on humanitarian assistance from March to June 2020.
- In 2018, due to the effects of the El Niño climate phenomenon, Haiti suffered in large parts from a drought that reduced food production. Commodity prices rose by about 9% in 2018, and the current inflation of 19.5% further reduces people's purchasing power. This makes it particularly difficult for the population to adequately secure their daily food needs. This is particularly devastating for the poorest families in the country.

- Even two years after Hurricane Matthew, 1 million people are still dependent on humanitarian aid.
- With a budget deficit of 120 million US dollars in the first quarter of 2019 alone, the Haitian government declared the economic state of emergency on February 5, 2019.
- Violent riots and protests against the government regularly take place.

CURRENT WELTHUNGERHILFE ACTIVITIES

- The main focus of the project activities is: disaster preparedness, emergency aid and reconstruction, rural development, food security and improvement of basic infrastructure (especially irrigation and drinking water infrastructure/ WASH) as well as resource management and strengthening of civil society.
- Currently, Welthungerhilfe supports 6 projects together with long-standing Haitian and international partners: Ayiti Gouvènans, Concert Action, CFM, FONSADH. Furthermore, Welthungerhilfe closely cooperates with its European Alliance2015 partners ACTED, Concern Worldwide and Cesvi in Haiti and participates in coordination meetings with the government and national and other international partners.

WELTHUNGERHILFE ACTIVITIES AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE IN 2010

- Welthungerhilfe received around 22.5 million euros in private donations and around 7.7 million euros in public grants to help the people of Haiti. Around 13.3 million euros were invested in 2010, the remaining funds were spent for activities within a five-years plan for reconstruction and disaster prevention.
- After the earthquake in 2010, Welthungerhilfe in Haiti helped at 3 directly affected locations: Port-au-Prince, Petite Goâve and Jacmel in the south, while in the north, in Jean-Rabel, Cap-Haïtien and Ouanaminthe, people who had fled from the earthquake regions were supported. Emergency aid included food, tents, cooking material, hygiene kits and tools. In addition, workers were hired to clear around 27,000 m³ of rubble with cash-for-work activities. Over 800 houses were demolished and 84 km of canals and rivers cleaned. In rural regions, seed was also distributed. In cooperation with partner organisations, Welthungerhilfe implemented a five-years reconstruction plan: 893 more stable houses were built, 111 km of sewers built, drinking water infrastructure and roads repaired, river bank protections renewed, cholera prevention and disaster preparedness trainings provided, bricklayers and carpenters trained in earthquake- and cyclone-proof construction, and rural development supported. A total of 70 projects had been implemented and around 1.71 million people supported.

FINANCES

- In 2018, Welthungerhilfe funded 11 projects with a total volume of 1.15 million euros. The organisation thus reached a total of almost 233,000 people.
- For 2019, the United Nations estimates the financial need for humanitarian assistance at 126.2 million US dollars. Currently, only 31.7 percent of this need is covered. (as of November 2019)
- Since 1994, the EU has supported the country with some 401 million euros in humanitarian assistance. This makes Haiti the largest recipient of aid in Latin America and the Caribbean.

PERSPECTIVE

The situation in Haiti is very tense. The population's protests continue, and violence is on the increase. The president refuses to resign, but offers no solutions to his country's problems. The people of Haiti need more than urgent political stability and economic security. But the forecasts are not favourable. It remains to be seen whether the government and the opposition can find ways to diplomatically cooperate and take care of the population, or whether the country will slip further into the spiral of poverty and hunger.

Quellen:

- [FEWSNET, 2/2019](#)
- [FTS Financial Tracking Service, Haiti 2019](#)
- [ECHO, 2/2019](#)
- [Reliefweb, 2/2019](#)
- Global Hunger Index 2019
- Staff members in Haiti
- [ECHO Flash Report, 1/2019](#)
- <https://tradingeconomics.com/haiti/inflation-cpi>