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The Difference You Make Advocates for World Health



Haiti

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Haiti is the most impoverished country in the Western Hemisphere. Close to 60 percent of the population lives below the poverty line, searching for enough food to eat, clean water to drink, and a safe place to live.

Haiti is a bleak place for children. One-fifth of all Haitian children suffer from malnutrition, and 67 of every 1,000 children die before reaching their fifth birthday. Life expectancy is a mere 62.9 years for men and 68.3 years for women.

Clean water for drinking, cooking and bathing is in short supply, which continues to fuel the spread of various waterborne diseases.

With so many families focused merely on survival, many Haitian children never get the chance to receive even a basic education. Haiti's literacy rate is a dismal 61.7 percent.

The situation in Haiti has worsened and is commonly described as volatile. The country, already in turmoil, reached a new level of instability with the assassination of the country's president in 2021, followed by a widespread gang crisis and civil unrest among the general population.

In present day Haiti, thousands are trapped as gangs battle for control in the capital city of Port-au-Prince, while thousands of others continue to fall victim to increased kidnappings. Hunger levels are rising unabated as persistent political instability, growing inflation and recurrent disasters continue to conspire against the people of Haiti, according to the United Nations.

Food For The Poor began working to help poverty-stricken children and families in Haiti since 1986. Today, the organization is one of the country's largest providers of emergency relief and sustainable development projects.

Donation of Medical Equipment Helps Hospitals During Crisis

Rising gang-related violence continues to threaten the people of Haiti. Many residents, even while injured, are afraid to leave their homes for fear of getting shot. Incidents of sexual violence against women and young girls, as well as boys being recruited by gangs, have been reported in Haiti and homes have been destroyed by fire.

This is present-day Haiti.

"Without donor support, I don't know how we would be able to assist the growing needs in Haiti," explained Valentine Guirand, our in-country partner representative.

"Thankfully, Centre Hospitalier de Fontaine [hospital], located in Duvivier and just 10 minutes away from the intense combat, has been able to treat the many who present with life-threatening injuries due to the gunfight," Valentine said.

"Today, it is just as likely for someone to get the flu as it is of getting shot in the city of Cité Soleil.

"Thanks to this donation of assorted medical equipment, Centre Hospitalier de Fontaine is now equipped to provide better medical assistance," Valentine said.

Our in-country partner also reported that following the outbreak of war between the Haitian criminal gangs, L'Hôpital Foyer St. Camille [hospital] established a program to provide medical assistance to all those who had been injured in the violence. Orthopedic doctors, among others, contributed their time to perform much-needed surgeries.

Thanks to this generous donation from FFTP's generous donor **Advocates for World Health**, the hospital had the necessary durable medical equipment to assist in patients' recoveries.

Dr. Laurent Pascal, the director at L'Hôpital Foyer St. Camille, expressed much gratitude to the donor who, through FFTP, provided the medical equipment that the facility needed.

"These contributions were truly a blessing," Dr. Pascal said. "The deterioration of the situation in Haiti, coupled by the surging violence, has made it almost impossible to be able to provide adequate health care without the provision of donations such as this."



Surgeons in Haiti prepare for an operation. The patient is one of many in the island nation who require orthopedic surgery and who will benefit from the use of durable medical equipment provided by Food For The Poor's generous in-kind donor Advocates for World Health.

Food For The Poor

Food For The Poor, one of the largest international relief and development organizations in the nation, does much more than feed millions of the hungry children and families living in poverty primarily in 17 countries of the Caribbean and Latin America. This interdenominational Christian ministry provides emergency relief assistance, clean water, medicine, educational materials, homes, support for vulnerable children, care for the aged, skills training and micro-enterprise development assistance. For more information, please visit www.FoodForThePoor.org.