

# HAITI

One of the world's poorest countries, Haiti faces serious challenges around political governance, the rule of law, and social and economic development. Despite significant contributions in international assistance over recent years, its socio-economic indicators remain the lowest in the Americas.

The country has a population of 10.4 million and is ranked 163rd out of 188 countries on the UNDP's 2016 Human Development Index. Nearly 60% of the population still lives below the poverty line. The government's limited institutional capacities and corruption add to the country's difficulties and negatively impact Haiti's long-term development.

Haiti is particularly vulnerable to climate change, given its geographic location and limited level of development. It also has to contend with the additional challenges that arose in the wake of Hurricane Matthew on October 4, 2016. These challenges relate to food insecurity and the spread of cholera.

The February 7, 2017, inauguration of Jovenel Moïse as president of Haiti marked the country's return to constitutional order following a period of interim governance. It represents a major step in strengthening the democratic process. With this in mind, extensive sectoral consultations were held in 2016-2017 with Canada's support for the Haiti Consensus Roadmap project. This helped mobilize more than 500 people from the government as well as NGOs, businesses, multilateral organizations, and donors and scholars. Together, they worked to identify specific solutions to Haiti's development challenges.

A list of development priorities in Haiti has been prepared, and among the 10 interventions with the greatest impact, three are directly related to Canadian cooperation in Haiti (maternal and newborn health, access to contraception and skilled birth attendance).



In Haiti, 2016-2017 was a year of prolonged political uncertainty and transition. After the presidential elections were postponed, an interim government was in place from February 2016 until February 2017, when President Moïse took office. While the interim government was in place, Canada limited the development of new initiatives supporting the Haitian government.

Canada nonetheless continued its commitment to vulnerable populations in the following priority areas:

- gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;
- growth that works for everyone;
- inclusive governance; and
- peace and security.

Haiti is the poorest country in the Americas and faces significant challenges in all areas. It continues to be a priority country for Canada. Global Affairs Canada is pursuing its dialogue with the new Haitian authorities to determine how best to address the country's priorities.