

Plan's Work in Haiti

Having worked in Haiti for 36 years, Plan is well placed to know what assistance will be needed in the long term to ensure communities get back on their feet.

A brief look at Haiti



Haiti, located on the western end of the island of Hispaniola, is slightly smaller than Maryland. It's bordered to the east by the Dominican Republic.

Formerly a French colony with a substantial slave population, an 1804 revolt led by Toussaint L'Ouverture made Haiti the first independent black republic.

Today, Haiti is the Western Hemisphere's poorest country, paralyzed by political instability and

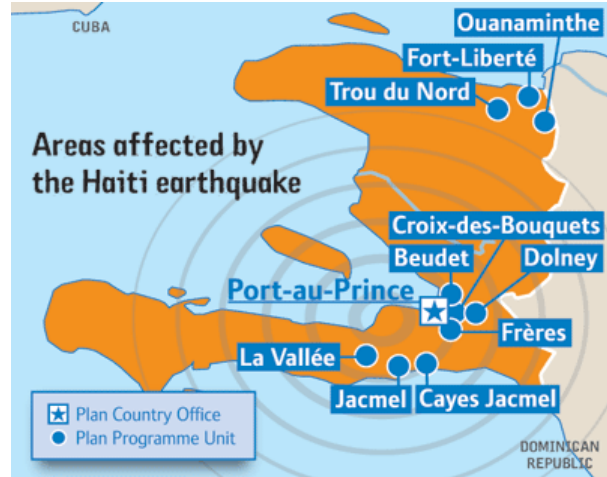
violence. Roughly two-thirds of the population is unemployed, and 80 percent lives below the poverty line. The majority of the rural population relies on agriculture — primarily through the production of sugar — to support themselves.

What does Plan do in Haiti?

- Plan has been operating in Haiti since 1973 (36 years)
- Plan has 10 program offices in Haiti. They are located in the Central Province, in the South-West and in the North-East.
- Plan has more than 143 staff working on projects that support over 42,000 children and their communities in Haiti in 92 communities.
- Plan's work in Haiti is in four main areas:
 1. Health care and basic nutrition
 2. Quality education for girls and boys
 3. Household economic security
 4. Youth and community leadership

The Earthquake

- The 7.3-magnitude earthquake struck shortly before 5pm January 12th.
- Estimates say 3-5 million people were directly affected by the earthquake.
- The areas that are most affected are the South West and Central provinces, which have a population of over 2 million people. The most affected cities are Port-au-Prince, Carrefour and Jacmel.



- Immediate priorities are search and rescue, medical services and supplies, clean water and sanitation, shelter, food, logistics (transportation and management) and communication.
- All Plan staff are reported safe, and all Plan staff in Haiti are now working on this response.
- The Dominican Republic is Haiti's neighbor and the Plan offices there will be helping with relief efforts in Haiti.

What is emergency disaster relief and how does it work?

Plan will split our work into two phases:

1. **Immediate aid** (this is the emergency phase for the first 90 days)
 - The focus in the emergency phase is: water and sanitation, shelter, food, health care and child protection.
2. **Long term efforts** over the following year (this is the recovery phase)
 - Along with the things that were focused on in the emergency phase, Plan will focus on providing children and the community support for psychological trauma, emergency education, Disaster Risk Reduction, and rebuilding in the community (things like schools and hospitals).
 - Plan does a lot of work helping to prepare communities for future disasters. In [Disaster Risk Reduction](#), communities prepare plans for what to do in case of a disaster, as well as how to rebuild after. They take action to make buildings safer, and to make crops more secure so that the damage during the next disaster won't be as bad and communities are more resilient.