



▶ Haiti ILO Cooperation

Leveraging ILO's programming to support earthquake response

February 2022

▶ Background

Over a decade after the earthquake of 2010 and five years after Hurricane Matthew devastated the same region in 2016, Haiti was struck by another earthquake on 14 August 2021 that left over 2,200 people dead and 12,200 injured. Almost 53,000 homes have been destroyed and more than 77,000 have sustained damage.

Escalating gang-related violence and insecurity, including groups of affected people who are frustrated with a lack of assistance, continue to disrupt the transportation of relief supplies, with the risk of the southern peninsula becoming cut off from Port-au-Prince once again.

Two days after the earthquake hit, the national authorities mobilized the World Bank-United Nations-European Union tripartite partnership – joined by the Inter-American

Development Bank – to support the development of the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA). The PDNA was officially launched by Haiti's Prime Minister on 30 August 2021, with ILO working as a co-lead of the employment and livelihood sector.

Notably, the PDNA found that even before the earthquake, Haiti's labour market was often disrupted by natural and socio-political risks and characterized by widespread informality and inequality, fewer economic opportunities for women and the continued presence of child labour, including the worst forms of child labour. Additionally, household livelihood strategies are often directly dependent on land ownership.

The PDNA and the Recovery and Reconstruction Framework and action plan related to Employment and Livelihoods

The ILO co-led, with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour (MAST), the Employment and livelihood impact sector of the 2021 PDNA. It is estimated that a total of 10.8 million workdays (or the equivalent of more than 90,000 full-time jobs) and approximately 110 million HTG (about US\$1 million) in personal income were lost due to production losses in the agricultural and in non-agricultural sectors as a result of the disasters caused by the earthquake and tropical depression. The support to the National social protection policy for all (social protection floors) is highlighted as a priority under the Social Inclusion Sector.

The Recovery and Reconstruction Framework and action plan was developed on the basis of the PDNA and the main priorities for the employment and livelihoods sector post-earthquake are:

1. Coordination and alignment of livelihoods and employment interventions with decent work principles
2. Promotion of the participation of the workers and employers' organisations in the recovery process and reinforce social dialogue mechanisms
3. Support the relevant institutions and social partners to conduct a new living conditions and labour market national survey;
4. Respect of labour right and conventions, particularly child labour
5. Develop and implement a regional youth employment and entrepreneurship programme.

► Decent Work Country Programme

The first Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP) for Haiti (2015-20) was agreed by the Government as well as Haitian workers' and employers' organizations. Enhancing the access of Haitians to decent and productive work in conditions aligned with the Decent Work Agenda was identified as the national priority by consensus. The DWCP was built around four pillars:

1. Respect, promote and implement international labour standards
2. Create opportunities and promote decent working conditions and income for women and men
3. Promote a universal and non-discriminatory social protection floor
4. Strengthen tripartism and social dialogue

► ILO Development Cooperation in Haiti

► Better Work Haiti: Increasing Decent Employment in the Apparel Sector in Haiti – Phase III

Better Work is a collaboration between the ILO and the International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group, bringing together all levels of the garment industry to improve working conditions and respect of labour rights for workers, and boost the competitiveness of apparel businesses. This has significantly improved working conditions and, at the same time enhanced factories' productivity and profitability. Since 2009, Better Work Haiti (BWH) has:

Improved working conditions. All Better Work factories now pay the minimum wage.

Improved social dialogue and freedom of association: Prioritized worker-management relations by strengthening platforms for participation in social dialogue within factories.

Strengthened factory compliance with leave and holiday payments, as well as subscriptions to social security schemes.

Trained factory supervisors. Nearly 2,000 supervisors have been trained in Human Resources and people management skills. Training female supervisors has resulted in a 22% increase in factory productivity.

Increased access to health care. Workers' onsite medical care has improved dramatically since 2009 with a greater number of doctors and nurses in factories. The number of women reporting access to prenatal care has quadrupled in five years.



Built institutional capacity. Better Work has cemented a strong relationship with MAST, leading to a range of initiatives including a successful vocational training program for labour inspectors.

In order to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, the BWH team worked with MAST to develop a comprehensive set of guidelines on Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) focused on self-assessment and inspections visits to protect workers. These efforts also included tailored training for 48 doctors from factories' medical staff to address COVID-19 prevention and spread at the workplace as well as undertaking research on the impact of COVID-19 on the garment sector. This study focused on how to ensure business continuity and workers safety and well-being.

► PROFIT Project: Strengthen Agricultural Opportunities through Training and Technology Investment

With support from the Kingdom of Norway, the PROFIT Project supports the development of promising value chains in terms of market opportunities by maximizing added value in Haiti. The project is designed to favour Haitian and international remunerative markets in order to improve the living conditions of small cocoa and breadfruit producers in the department of Grande Anse. The project supports 1,000 young beneficiaries, half of whom are women, who will be registered on a virtual platform and trained in the best production and post-harvest techniques and will, in partnership with socially responsible companies, transform the raw material into high value-added products. Beneficiaries are structured into associations or cooperatives and trained in entrepreneurship (agricultural production and productivity, finance, marketing, etc.). The project encourages the creation of an agricultural extension service, the purchase of tools and equipment, and the training of technical trainers.



► Adapting to respond to the earthquake

The implementation of the PROFIT project was impacted directly by the earthquake, including two deaths, two missing and 86 injured among 1,500 affected families within the project's target communities. However, due to the ILO's existing strong presence through this project, earthquake response activities were able to move forward rapidly. These included accelerating the maintenance of 500 hectares of gardens (had already been planned before the earthquake) and the rehabilitation of public infrastructure such as schools and training centres as well as 50 kilometers of agricultural roads to facilitate the transport of produce to markets and distributions centres. An additional US\$ 2 million has been requested for further response efforts.

Partnering with UNAIDS to address HIV and AIDS in the world of work



ILO, in partnership with UNAIDS, has committed to accelerating progress on HIV and AIDS in the world of work. Through two projects in Haiti and using an inequality and gender lens, the ILO, in coordination with other UN agencies, is leading the work with the Ministry of Labour, Employers' and Workers' Organizations to promote rights, and provide HIV/AIDS capacity-building and HIV/AIDS information and services at or near the workplace. It includes 1) promoting and protecting fundamental rights at work, in particular ensuring equality and non-discrimination, irrespective of HIV/AIDS status, preventing and addressing violence and harassment and promoting the employment of workers affected by or at risk of HIV/AIDS. 2) Integrating HIV/AIDS assistance across other services extending the outreach of HIV prevention, care, information and action to a greater number of beneficiaries.

Thanks to the rapid adaptation of project activities after the earthquake, highly vulnerable women living with HIV, including women with disabilities and/or from the LGBTQ community, increased their economic resilience and their ability to generate livelihoods through training on entrepreneurial skills and HIV prevention. A business start-up fund was established to assist women's business ventures.

► New initiatives for post-earthquake Haiti

In 2021, an ILO- FAO-UNDP project funded by the Joint SDG Fund and designed to target Small Island Developing States (SIDS) was approved. Strengthening the actions already underway through the PROFIT project, this initiative aims to strengthen the resilience of young people and women to economic shocks, particularly in the Department of Grande Anse, through around 30 activities and the institutionalization of two public policies – the PNPPS and the National Policy and Strategy on food and nutritional sovereignty and security in Haiti (PSNSSANH). The joint project will help respond to national challenges, including ending poverty, hunger and inequalities as well as promoting access to decent work and economic growth. ILO's work under the two-year project is focused on two of three operational components: strengthening young people and women's capacities for economic participation in agriculture and agribusiness in support of improved food security and promoting sustainable and resilient investments in agriculture and agribusiness.

Decent work, employment and social protection across the Humanitarian-Development and Peace Nexus (HDPN) in Haiti: the role of the ILO

The ILO has been supporting its constituents in Haiti since 2010 to mainstream the decent work agenda into humanitarian response activities, including the participation of constituents in UN and national policy dialogues, as well as to implement quick impact activities embedded in a long-term inclusive development strategy.

The ILO is working along the humanitarian, development and peace nexus to support the development of resilient social security institutions that effectively implement the National Policy on Social Protection and Promotion (PNPPS) – a key success factor in Haiti's future. Building capacity around how to incorporate decent work into Haiti's broader socio-economic development and transformation, while boosting resilience and sustaining peace is key,

ILO's response in Haiti is in full alignment with the ILO's [Recommendation 205 on "Employment and Decent Work for Peace and Resilience"](#) (2017), the UN reform and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. All initiatives are complementary, aiming to create fast, conflict-sensitive and decent livelihoods for young Haitians after a disaster through employment intensive investments, vocational training activities fully embedded into a long term public employment and social protection policy.

Contact details

International Labour Organization
Route des Morillons 4
CH-1211 Geneva 22
Switzerland

T: +41 22 799 7239
E: @ilo.org