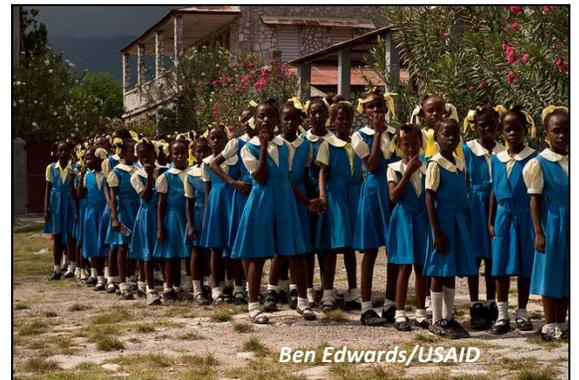




EDUCATION

The Challenge

Lack of access to education remains a key obstacle to social and economic development in Haiti. Surveys indicate that approximately 35 percent of Haitian youth are illiterate, and that the average Haitian child spends less than four years in school. An early grade reading assessment showed that 49 percent of Haitian children entering third grade are unable to read a single word. As indicated by these statistics, many Haitian children and youth are either illiterate or functionally illiterate, meaning a generation of Haitians does not possess the necessary knowledge and skills to enter the labor force. More than 90 percent of primary schools are privately managed by non-governmental organizations, churches, communities, and for-profit operators, with little to no government oversight. Approximately 75 percent of teachers lack adequate training. Annual school expenses account for about 40 percent of income for low-income families, serving as a financial burden for families with children in school. The January 2010 earthquake resulted in damage or destruction to 50 percent of primary and secondary schools, according to the Government of Haiti.



USG Strategy

Haitian President Michel Martelly has made free and universal education as one of the key priorities of his administration. During the fall of 2011, the Government of Haiti's Ministry of National Education and Vocational Training began the rollout of an operational plan to get 1.5 million students in school by 2016, improve curricula, train teachers, and set standards for licensing schools. The U.S. Government is committed to improving the quality of basic education in Haiti in support of these priorities.

Through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the U.S. Government's new education program, Tout Timoun Ap Li (ToTAL), focuses on improving reading skills for children in grades 1-3 in the Northern, St. Marc, and Port-au-Prince U.S. Government development corridors. Over the next two years, ToTAL will provide more than 28,000 children and 900 teachers in the three development corridors with innovative, evidenced-based reading curricula that meet international standards for best practice literacy instruction. ToTAL will also develop and implement innovative teacher training and community literacy activities. This initiative will eventually reach more than one million children nationwide as other partners extend the use of reading curricula and training methods beyond the development corridors. USAID will also provide targeted technical assistance to build the capacity of the Ministry of National Education to foster public/private partnerships and assist in the accreditation of schools.

Accomplishments

The U.S. Government continues to work to improve the quality of and access to education for Haitians. Since the earthquake, we have:

- Constructed more than 600 semi-permanent furnished classrooms, enabling more than 60,000 children to return to school following the earthquake.
- Provided teaching and learning kits to accommodate a double shift of students in each classroom, reaching approximately 60,000 students and 1,200 teachers
- Trained a total of 138 directors and supported the participation of 1,071 teachers in refresher training in Social Sciences in 2012, in collaboration with the Ministry of National Education.



Fast Facts on the
U.S. Government's work in

HAITI

- Supported 123 Parent Teachers Associations by providing training; these associations are now actively involved in school activities.
- Improved equitable access to quality basic education through USAID's Multi Year Assistance Plan (MYAP). This year, 39,214 primary students attended classes and received a hot meal each day of school.
- Developed five different grade level reproductive and sexual health modules in 2012; over 74,000 copies of which were distributed to schools and more than 990 distributed during small group prevention activities.
- Increased physical access in 19 primary schools for people with disabilities and provision of inclusive education training to 150 teachers and school principals.
- Completed the school sampling selection process and the student reading and school baseline assessments for ToTAL in 160 schools in two of the three U.S. Government-targeted corridors.
- Trained more than 90 evaluators and supervisors to use a new data collection system that quickly provided accurate data to the Ministry and stakeholders.
- Developed learning materials for first grade in Creole, which will initially be used this school year in 240 schools in the Northern and St. Marc Corridors.