



International Medical Relief

PROVIDING COMMUNITY HEALTH
TO POPULATIONS MOST IN NEED

HAITI



| HAITI

PRE-FIELD BRIEFING PACKET

Contents

ABOUT THIS PACKET	3
BACKGROUND	3
PUBLIC HEALTH OVERVIEW	4
COUNTRY OVERVIEW	8
GEOGRAPHY	10
Climate and Weather	12
Demographics	12
Economy	13
Education	14
Religion	14
Culture	15
Poverty	16
SURVIVAL GUIDE	16
Etiquette	16
LANGUAGE	17
SAFETY	19
CURRENCY	20
IMR recommendations on money	20
TIME IN HAITI	21
EMBASSY INFORMATION	21
U.S. Embassy Port-au-Prince	21
Haitian Embassy Washington DC	21
WEBSITES	22

ABOUT THIS PACKET

This packet has been created to serve as a resource for the Haiti Medical/Dental Team.

This packet is information about the country and can be read at your leisure or on the airplane. The final section of this booklet is specific to the areas we will be working near (however, not the actual clinic locations) and contains information you may want to know before the trip.

The contents herein are not for distributional purposes and are intended for the use of the team and their families. Sources of the information all come from public record and documentation. You may access any of the information and more updates directly from the World Wide Web and other public sources.

BACKGROUND

The native Taino - who inhabited the island of Hispaniola when it was discovered by Christopher COLUMBUS in 1492 - were virtually annihilated by Spanish settlers within 25 years. In the early 17th century, the French established a presence on Hispaniola. In 1697, Spain ceded to the French the western third of the island, which later became Haiti. The French colony, based on forestry and sugar-related industries, became one of the wealthiest in the Caribbean but only through the heavy importation of African slaves and considerable environmental degradation. In the late 18th century, Haiti's nearly half million slaves revolted under Toussaint L'OUVERTURE. After a prolonged struggle, Haiti became the first post-colonial black-led nation in the world, declaring its independence in 1804. Currently the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, Haiti has experienced political instability for most of its history. After an armed rebellion led to the forced resignation and exile of President Jean-Bertrand ARISTIDE in February 2004, an interim government organized new elections under the auspices of the UN. Continued instability and technical delays prompted repeated postponements, but Haiti inaugurated a democratically elected president and parliament in May 2006. This was followed by contested elections

in 2010 that resulted in the election of Haiti's current President, Michel Martelly. A massive magnitude 7.0 earthquake struck Haiti in January 2010 with an epicenter about 25 km (15 mi) west of the capital, Port-au-Prince. Estimates are that over 300,000 people were killed and some 1.5 million left homeless. The earthquake was assessed as the worst in this region over the last 200 years.



PUBLIC HEALTH OVERVIEW

Basic statistics

Indicators	Statistics	Year
Population (thousands)	10317	2013
Population aged under 15 (%)	35	2013
Population aged over 60 (%)	7	2013
Median age (years)	22	2013
Population living in urban areas (%)	56	2013
Total fertility rate (per woman)	3.1	2013
Number of live births (thousands)	264.6	2013
Number of deaths (thousands)	89.1	2013
Birth registration coverage (%)	80	2012
Cause-of-death registration coverage (%)	...	
Gross national income per capita (PPP int \$)	1710	2013
WHO region	Americas	2013
World Bank income classification	Low	2013

... Data from 2007 onwards not available.

Source:
Country statistics and global health estimates
by WHO and UN partners

For more information visit the Global Health Observatory
(<http://www.who.int/gho/en/>)

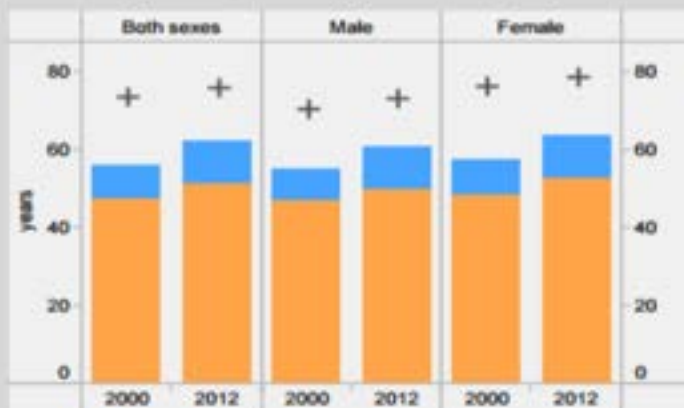
Last updated: January 2015

Life expectancy (years), 2012

		Country	WHO region	World Bank income group
Life expectancy	At birth	62	76	62
	At age 60	17	22	17
Healthy life expectancy	At birth	52	67	53

Life expectancy at birth for both sexes increased by 6 year(s) over the period of 2000-2012; the WHO region average increased by 2 year(s) in the same period.

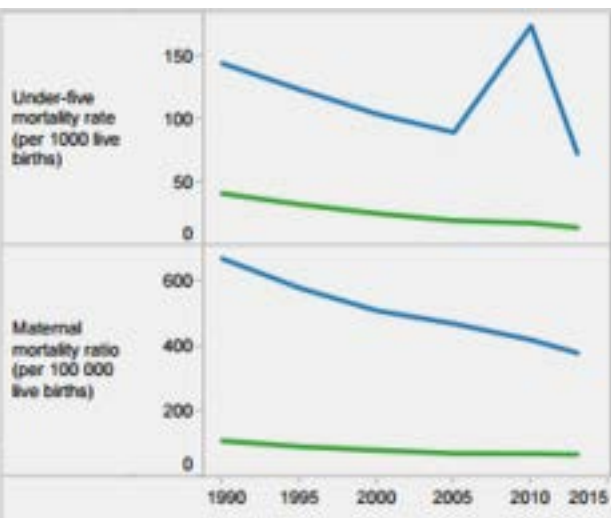
In 2012, healthy expectancy in both sexes was 11 year(s) lower than overall life expectancy at birth. This lost healthy life expectancy represents 11 equivalent year(s) of full health lost through years lived with morbidity and disability.



Legend:
■ WHO regional life expectancy at birth
■ Healthy life expectancy at birth
■ Lost healthy life expectancy

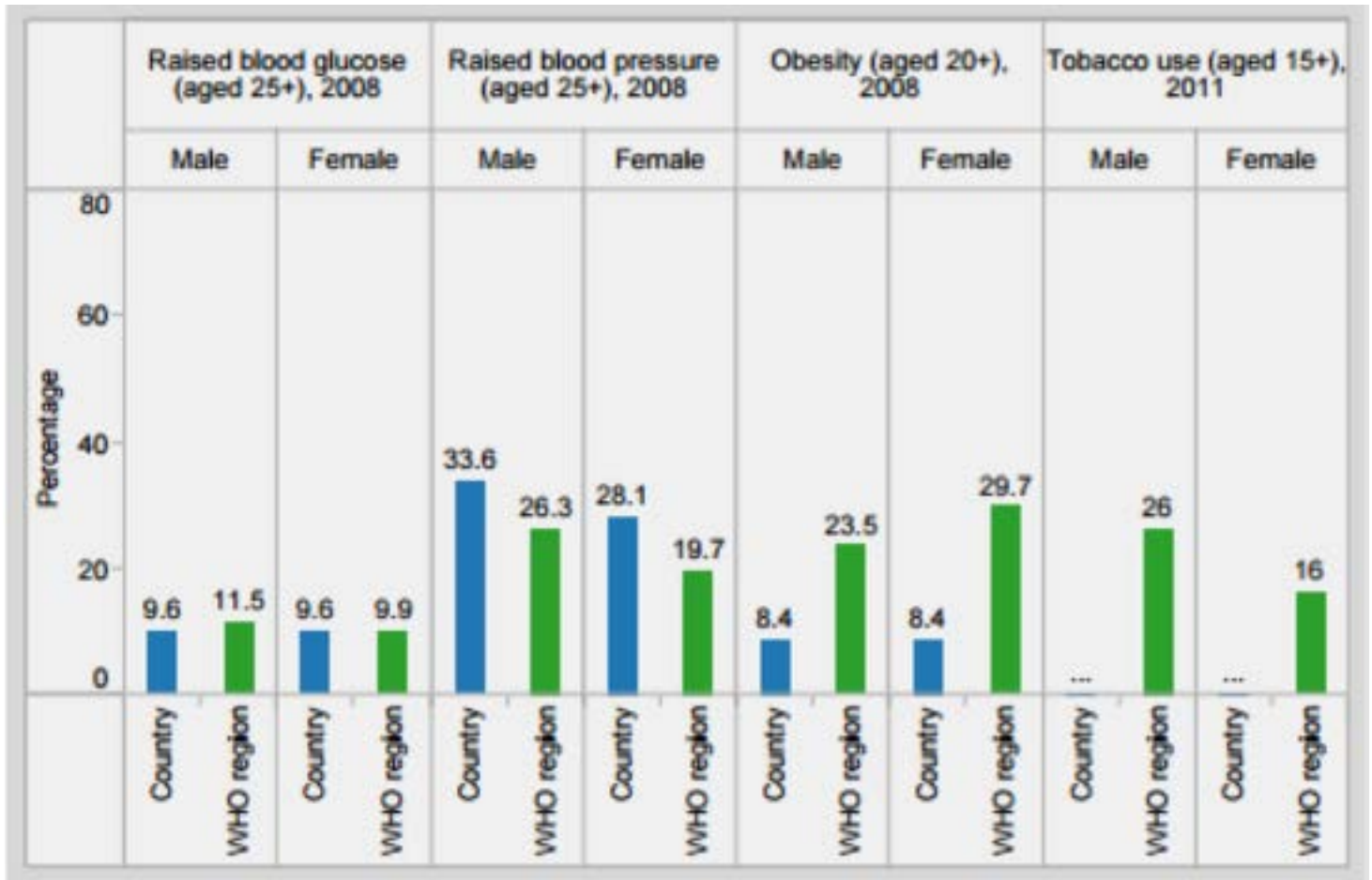
Indicators	Statistics	
	Baseline*	Latest**
Under-five mortality rate (per 1000 live births)	145	73
Maternal mortality ratio (per 100 000 live births)	670	380
Deaths due to HIV/AIDS (per 100 000 population)	177.4	72.9
Deaths due to malaria (per 100 000 population)	5.7	3.9
Deaths due to tuberculosis among HIV-negative people (per 100 000 population)	67	26

*1990 for under-five mortality and maternal mortality; 2000 for other indicators
 **2012 for deaths due to HIV/AIDS and malaria; 2013 for other indicators



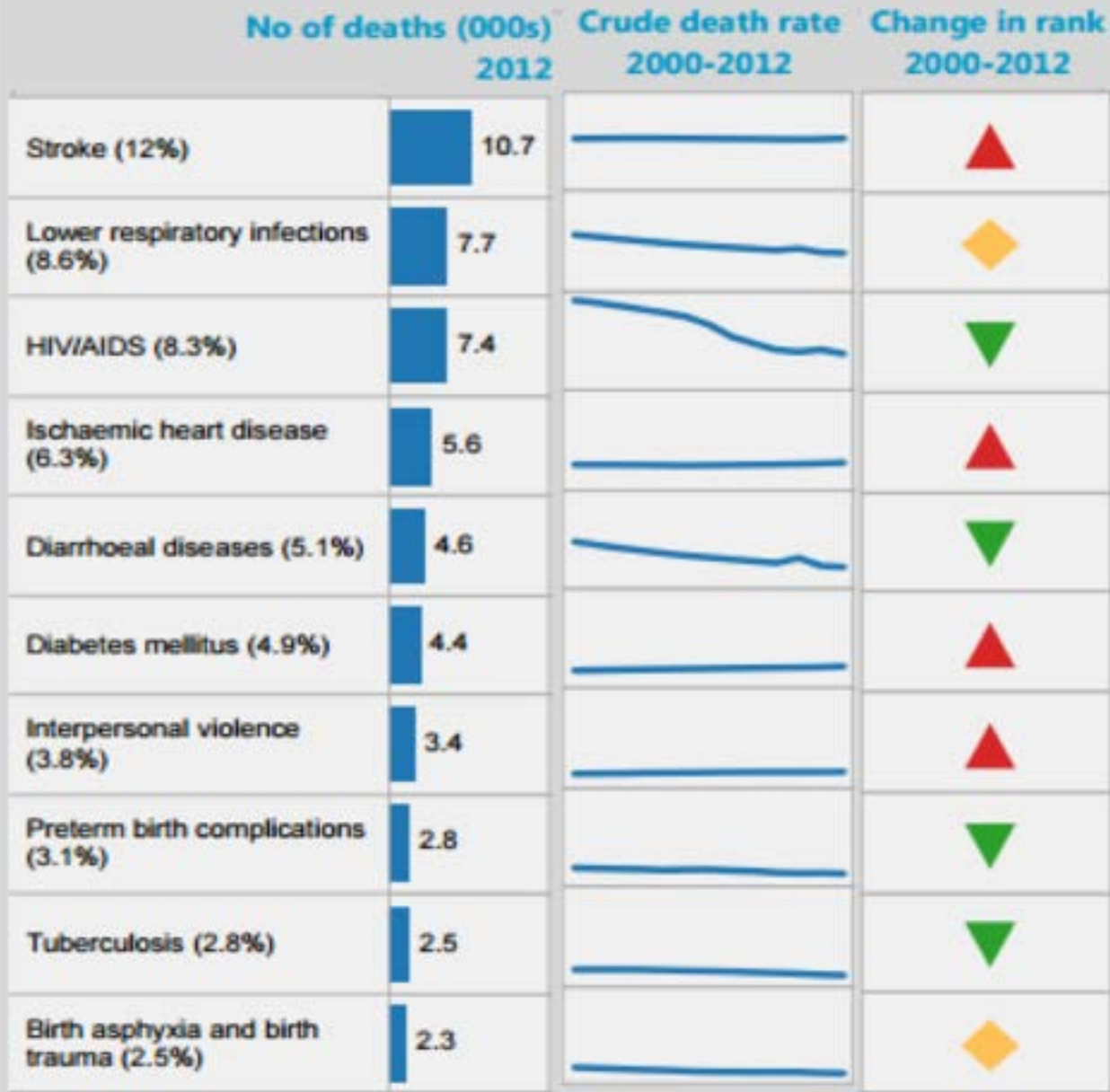
Legend:
■ Country
■ WHO region

ADULT RISK FACTORS



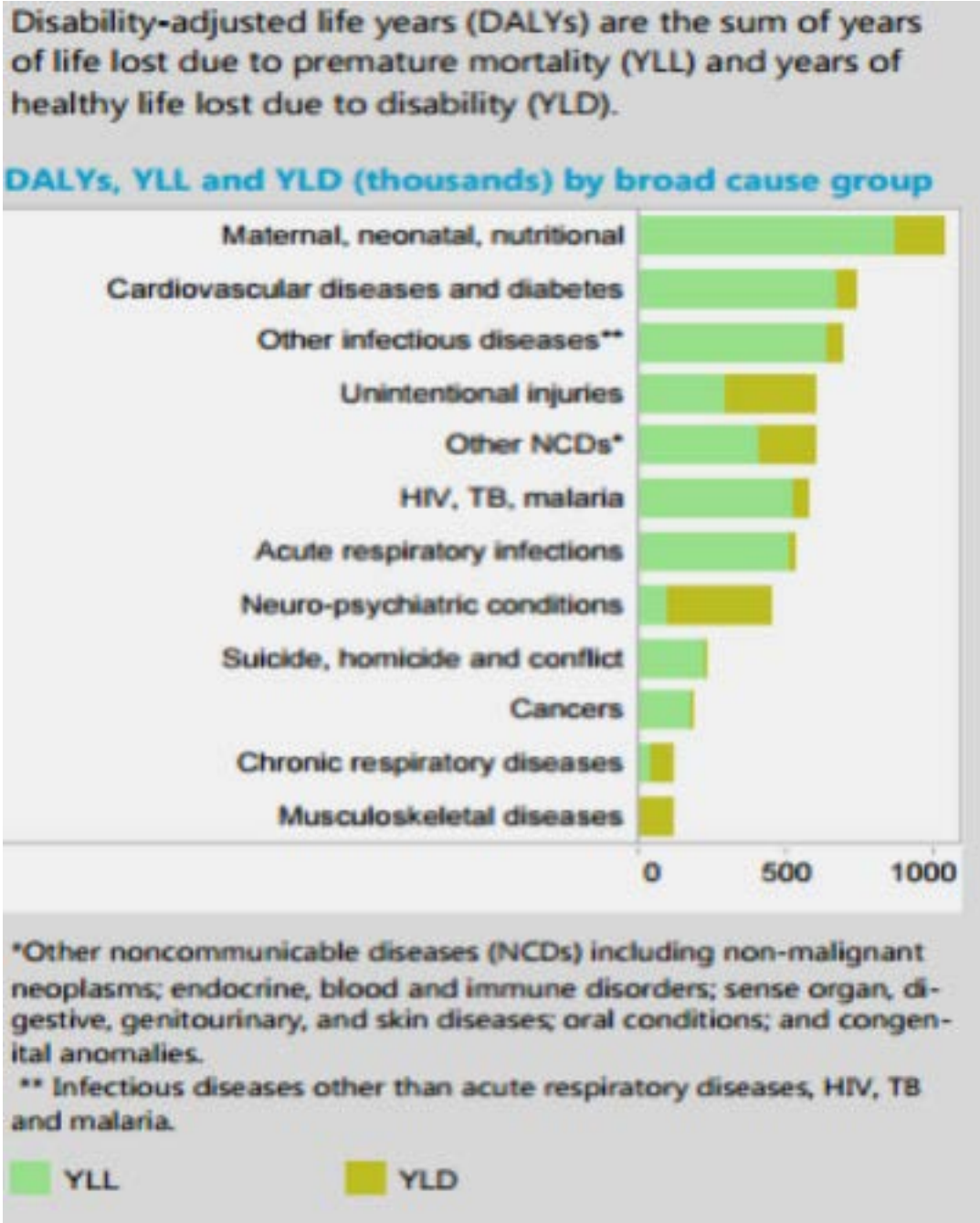
THE TOP 10 CAUSES OF DEATH

Stroke was the leading cause of death, killing 10.7 thousand people in 2012



Rank ▲ decreased ▲ increased ◆ no change

BURDEN OF DISEASE



COUNTRY OVERVIEW

History

Haiti forms part of the island of Hispaniola. Before the Europeans arrived a people called the Arawaks lived there. However on 6 December 1492 Christopher Columbus landed at Mole Saint-Nicolas on the north-west and called the island Espanola, which was later anglicized as Hispaniola.

Columbus built a fort on the island and he left 39 men to man it. However when he returned in 1493 he found the Arawaks had killed them. Yet Christopher's brother Bartholomew continued to explore the island and Spanish settlers came. A hundred years after Columbus discovered Hispaniola European diseases and war had almost exterminated the Arawaks.

Meanwhile the Spanish claimed ownership of the whole island but they settled mainly in the east. The west was left largely empty and in the 17th century the French settled there. In 1664 they founded Port-de-Paix. Finally in 1697 the Spanish and French signed the Treaty of Ryswick. France was given the western third of the island of Hispaniola. They called their colony Saint-Domingue.

In the 18th century Saint-Domingue (Haiti) became rich. The colony exported sugar, coffee, cotton, indigo and cocoa. However the prosperity depended on slavery. Huge numbers of black slaves were brought to work on plantations. By the end of the 18th century there were about 30,000 French people, about 27,000 people of mixed race and nearly half a million black slaves!

However after 1789 the ideas of the French Revolution such as liberty and equality reached the French colony of Saint-Domingue. On 14 August 1791 the slaves rebelled and a war ensued, which devastated the colony. However the war ended when France ended slavery in 1793.

One of the leaders of the Black rebels was a remarkable man called Toussaint L'Overture. When the war ended he joined the French army. The French were at war with Spain and they were fighting against the Spanish two-thirds of the island of Hispaniola.

In 1797 Toussaint was made commander of the French army in Hispaniola. By 1801 he was in control of the island. He declared all slaves free and made himself head of a new government. He also published a new constitution. Fearing they were losing their colony the French sent an army under General Charles Leclerc. Using a trick Leclerc captured Toussaint. However his army was decimated by fever. Furthermore a former slave called Jean-Jacques Dessalines continued the struggle against the French and on 1 January 1804 the island became independent. It was renamed Haiti.

However the island was left devastated by war and Dessalines was assassinated in 1806. Then in 1809 the Spanish captured the eastern part of the island (it is now the Dominican Republic while the western part of the island eventually became Haiti). In 1822 President Boyer of Haiti captured what is now the Dominican Republic but the two separated permanently in 1844.

Meanwhile other countries were slow to recognize Haiti. France recognized Haiti in 1825. However in return the French demanded compensation for the land their plantation owners had lost in Haiti. The Haitians were forced to pay a large sum of money, which was not completed until 1887.

Britain recognized Haiti in 1833 but the USA did not follow until 1862.

Meanwhile President Boyar was overthrown in 1843. Afterwards Haiti had a long period of instability. Between 1843 and 1911 there were 16 rulers. Of them 11 were overthrown by revolutions.

In the early 20th century political instability in Haiti grew worse. Finally in 1915 the USA sent marines to occupy the country to protect American business interests there. Not surprisingly the occupation was resented by the Haitians and the US marines were finally withdrawn in 1934.

However there was no end to political instability in Haiti. In 1946 the president was removed by a military coup. He was replaced by Dumarsais Estime who was in turn overthrown by the military in 1950. He was replaced by Paul Magloire, who was forced to resign in 1956. A series of provisional presidents followed until the people elected Francois Duvalier (Papa Doc) in 1957.

Duvalier soon became a brutal dictator ruling Haiti with the help of his infamous secret police, the Tontons Macoutes. Under his rule trade unions were banned and the press were strictly controlled. In 1961 following a fraudulent election Duvalier was re-elected. In 1964 he made himself president for life. In 1971 he changed the constitution and gave himself the power to name his successor. He died the same year and his son Jean-Claude Duvalier (Baby Doc) became president of Haiti.

Baby Doc proved to be as repressive as his father. In the late 1970s and early 1980s many Haitians fled to Florida by boat to escape his rule and by 1984 economic conditions were so bad sheer desperation forced people to demonstrate. Duvalier lost support and in 1986 he went into exile.

However there was no return to democratic government in Haiti. After Duvalier went the army seized power in Haiti. Nevertheless protests at home and pressure from the USA forced them to hold elections in December 1990. Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide was elected president. However he did not rule for long. In September 1991 he was overthrown by a coup and forced to flee abroad.

Once again a brutal military dictatorship ruled Haiti and many people tried to flee from the country. Pressure from other countries forced the army to allow president Aristide to return.

When Aristide's term ended in 1996 Rene Preval was elected president. Unfortunately it was not the end of the political instability. There was a struggle between the two men, Aristide and Preval. In 2000 Aristide was elected president but the opposition refused to accept the result and would not recognize Aristide as president. Following protests in November 2003 Aristide promised new elections. However in February 2004 rebellion broke out and Aristide was forced to leave Haiti. An interim government then took over until new elections could be held. Finally in 2006 Preval was elected president. Hopefully he will bring some stability to Haiti.



GEOGRAPHY

Haiti comprises the western third of the island of Hispaniola, west of the Dominican Republic and between the Caribbean Sea and the North Atlantic Ocean. Haiti's geographic coordinates are at a longitude of 72° 25' west and a latitude of 19° 00' north. The total area is 27,750 km² of which 27,560 km² is land and 190 km² is water. This makes Haiti slightly smaller than the U.S. state of Maryland. Haiti has 1,771 km of coastline and a 360 km-border with the Dominican Republic. There has been a dispute between the United States and Haiti regarding Navassa Island (Navasse), which both countries claim. The Haitian claim relies on documentation that Navassa became part of Haiti after a 1697 agreement between France and Spain that gave France the western third of Hispaniola plus nearby islands, including Navassa Island. The United States claims the island pursuant to its own Guano Islands Act of 1856.

Haiti's lowest elevation is at sea level; its highest point is Pic la Selle at 2,680 m. Except for part of Haiti's longest river, the Artibonite, there are no navigable rivers; the largest lake is Etang Saumâtre, a salt-water body located in the southern region. Haiti also contains several islands. The famous island of Tortuga (Île de la Tortue) is located off the coast of northern Haiti. The arrondissement of La Gonâve is located on the island of the same name, in the Gulf of Gonave. Gonave Island is moderately populated by rural villagers. Île à Vache (Island of The Cow) is located off the tip of southwestern Haiti. It is a rather lush island with many beautiful sights. Also parts of Haiti are the Cayemites and Ile de Anacaona.

Haiti has a tropical climate with an average temperature of 81°F (27°C). Rainfall varies greatly and ranges from 144 inches in the western end of the southern peninsula to 24 inches on the western end of the northern peninsula. Haiti is vulnerable to hurricanes and tropical storms during the Atlantic Hurricane season.

In the early twentieth century, Haiti was a lush tropical paradise, with 60 percent of its original forest covering the lands and mountainous regions. Since then, the population has cut down all except 3.8 percent of its original forest cover, and in the process has destroyed fertile farmland soils, while contributing to desertification. Only some pine at high elevations and mangroves remain due to their inaccessibility. Erosion has been severe in the mountainous areas. Pictures from space show the glaringly stark difference in forestation between Haiti and the neighboring Dominican Republic. Most Haitian logging is done to produce charcoal, the country's chief source of fuel. The plight of Haiti's forests has attracted international attention, and has led to numerous reforestation efforts, but these have met with little success.

About 40 percent of the land area is used for plantations which grow crops such as sugar cane, rice, cotton, coffee, and cacao. Minerals such as bauxite, salt, gold, and copper exist although they are not in viable quantities.



Climate and Weather

Climate data for Port-au-Prince													[hide]
Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
Average high °C (°F)	31 (88)	31 (88)	32 (90)	32 (90)	33 (91)	35 (95)	35 (95)	35 (95)	34 (93)	33 (91)	32 (90)	31 (88)	32.8 (91.2)
Daily mean °C (°F)	27 (81)	26.5 (79.7)	27 (81)	28 (82)	28 (82)	30 (86)	30 (86)	29.5 (85.1)	28 (82)	28 (82)	27 (81)	26.5 (79.7)	27.96 (82.29)
Average low °C (°F)	23 (73)	22 (72)	22 (72)	23 (73)	23 (73)	24 (75)	25 (77)	24 (75)	24 (75)	24 (75)	23 (73)	22 (72)	23.3 (73.8)
Average rainfall mm (inches)	33 (1.3)	58 (2.28)	86 (3.39)	160 (6.3)	231 (9.09)	102 (4.02)	74 (2.91)	145 (5.71)	175 (6.89)	170 (6.69)	86 (3.39)	33 (1.3)	1,353 (53.27)

The climate is tropical with some variation depending on altitude. Port-au-Prince ranges in January from an average minimum of 23 °C (73.4 °F) to an average maximum of 31 °C (87.8 °F); in July, from 25-35 °C (77-95 °F). The rainfall pattern is varied, with rain heavier in some of the lowlands and on the northern and eastern slopes of the mountains.

Port-au-Prince receives an average annual rainfall of 1,370 mm (53.9 in). There are two rainy seasons, April-June and October-November. Haiti is subject to periodic droughts and floods, made more severe by deforestation. Hurricanes are also a menace

Demographics

Population: 10,497,847 (July 2015 est.)

Ninety-five percent of Haitians are of predominantly African descent. The remainder are White or of Mulatto descent, with some of Levantine, Spanish or mestizo heritage. A significant number of Haitians is believed to possess African and Taino/Arawak heritage due to the history of the island, however the number of native-descended Haitians is not known. There is a very small percentage within the minority who are of Japanese or Chinese origin.

As with many other poor Caribbean nations, there is a large diaspora, which includes a lot of illegal immigration to nearby countries. Millions of Haitians live abroad, chiefly in the Dominican Republic, Bahamas, Cuba, Puerto Rico, Canada, France, and the United States.

There are large numbers of Haitians who inhabit the "Little Haiti" section of Miami. In New York City, the Brooklyn neighborhoods of Flatbush, Crown Heights, and Canarsie are home to many Haitians. In New York's borough of Queens, Jamaica, Queens Village and Cambria Heights have large Haitian populations. Many successful Haitians move east to Long Island, where Elmont and other towns have seen many new residents.

Other enclaves that contain Haitians include Cambridge, Massachusetts, Chicago, Illinois, and Newark, New Jersey, and its surrounding towns.

Unsanitary living conditions and a lack of running water to three-quarters of all Haitians cause problems such as malnutrition, infectious and parasitic diseases, an infant mortality rate that is the highest in the Western Hemisphere, and the prevalence of HIV/AIDS. This, along with a shortage of medical staff and medicines is responsible for the high death rate in Haiti.

Education in Haiti is free and compulsory for children between the ages of 6 and 11. In rural areas especially, education is not possible due to the distance a child must travel to the nearest school as well as the cost of books, uniforms and the availability of teachers. This has resulted in a literacy rate of only about 55 percent nationwide.

Along with two other private institutions, the University of Haiti is the only public institution of higher education. Many of Haiti's university level students leave Haiti and to foreign universities.

Economy

Haiti remains one of the least-developed countries in the Western Hemisphere and one of the poorest in the world. Comparative social and economic indicators show Haiti falling behind other low-income developing countries (particularly in the hemisphere) since the 1980s. Haiti now ranks 154th of 177 countries in the United Nations Human Development Index (2006). About 80 percent of the population lives in abject poverty, ranking the country second-to-last in the world for that metric. However, since the recent presidential seating, Haiti's economy has been increasing, and may be on the upsurge.

Nearly 70 percent of all Haitians depend on the agricultural sector, which consists mainly of small-scale subsistence farming. The country has experienced little job creation over the past decade, although the informal economy is growing. Haiti consistently ranked among the most corrupt countries in the world on the Corruption Perceptions Index.

Under the second Aristide administration and the Alexandre-Latortue administration, difficulty in reaching agreements with international sponsors denied Haiti badly needed budget and developmental assistance. In addition to these geopolitical obstacles, another major impediment to development during the last 20 years has been the repeated episodes of violence that have rocked the country. While there was relative calm under the governments of Fanmi Lavalas, this may not have been sufficiently long-lived to convince foreign investors to commit significant capital to Haiti.



However, Haiti has benefited in a rather solid economic partnership with Venezuela. This recently-forged friendship between Venezuelan president Hugo Chavez and Haitian president Rene Preval has resulted in various economic agreements. After a visit by Chavez in March 2007, Venezuela and Cuba announced the creation of a \$1 billion fund to develop energy, health, and infrastructure in Haiti. As part of this deal, four power plants will be constructed in Port-au-Prince, Cap-Hatien, and Gonaives, increasing the country's power production by 160 MW by the end of 2007. An oil refinery will also be constructed in Haiti, with a production capacity of 10,000 barrels of oil per day. In the meantime, Venezuela has increased the amount of petroleum it provides Haiti to 14,000 barrels per day. Venezuela's assistance to Haiti is founded upon a historic act where

the newly-independent Haiti welcomed and tended to first Francisco de Miranda, then to Simón Bolívar and provided both with military assistance in the liberation of much of South America. Haiti's Latin American alliances provide the country with much of its needed aid. Cuba has thanked Haiti for consistently voting in the United Nations General Assembly against the embargo put upon Cuba by the United States. Since Preval's induction, the economy has been on a sizable increase.

Education

Formal Education rates in Haiti are among the lowest in the Western Hemisphere. Haiti's literacy rate of about 61% (64.3% for males and 57.3% for females) is below the 90% average literacy rate for Latin American and Caribbean countries. The country faces shortages in educational supplies and qualified teachers. The rural population is less educated than the urban. The 2010 Haiti earthquake exacerbated the already constrained parameters on Haiti's educational system by destroying infrastructure and displacing 50-90% of the students, depending on locale.

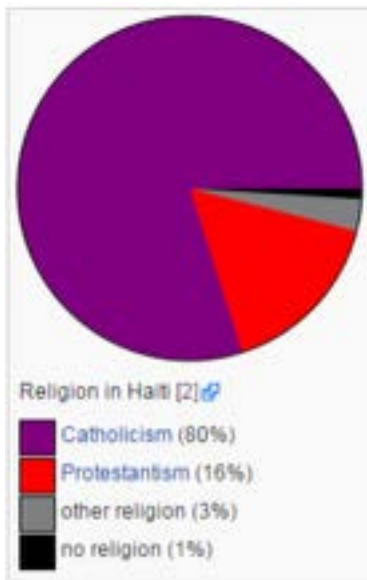
International private schools (run by Canada, France, or the United States) and church-run schools educate 90% of students. Haiti has 15,200 primary schools, of which 90% are non-public and managed by communities, religious organizations or NGOs. The enrollment rate for primary school is 88%. Secondary schools enroll 20% of eligible-age children. Higher education is provided by universities and other public and private institutions.

The educational sector is under the responsibility of the Ministre de l'Éducation Nationale et de la Formation Professionnelle (MENFP). The Ministry provides very little funds to support public education. As a result, the private sector has become a substitute for governmental public investment in education as



opposed to an addition. The Ministry is limited in its ability improve the quality of education in Haiti.

Despite the deficiencies of the Haitian education sector, some Haitian leaders have attempted to make improving education a national goal. The country has attempted three major reform efforts, with a new one in progress as a response to the earthquake.



Religion

The 2015 CIA Factbook reported that around 80% of Haitians profess to being Catholics while Protestants made up about 16% of the population (Baptist 10%, Pentecostal 4%, Adventist 1%, other 1%). Other sources put the Protestant population higher than this, suggesting that it might have formed one-third of the population in 2001. Haitian Cardinal Chibly Langlois is president of the National Bishops Conference of the Catholic Church.

Vodou, a religion with African roots similar to those of Cuba and Brazil, originated during colonial times in which slaves were obliged to disguise their loa or spirits as Roman Catholic

saints, an element of a process called syncretism and is still practiced by some Haitians today. Since the religious syncretism between Catholicism and Vodou, it is difficult to estimate the number of Vodouists in Haiti.

Minority religions in Haiti include Islam, Bahá'í Faith, Judaism, and Buddhism.

Culture

When entering a yard Haitians shout out onè ("honor"), and the host is expected to reply respè ("respect"). Visitors to a household never leave empty-handed or without drinking coffee, or at least not without an apology. Failure to announce a departure, is considered rude.

People feel very strongly about greetings, whose importance is particularly strong in rural areas, where people who meet along a path or in a village often say hello several times before engaging in further conversation or continuing on their way. Men shake hands on meeting and departing, men and women kiss on the cheek when greeting, women kiss each other on the cheek, and rural women kiss female friends on the lips as a display of friendship.



Young women do not smoke or drink alcohol of any kind except on festive occasions. Men typically smoke and drink at cockfights, funerals, and festivities but are not excessive in the consumption of alcohol. As women age and become involved in itinerant marketing, they often begin to drink kleren (rum) and use snuff and/or smoke tobacco in a pipe or cigar. Men are more prone to smoke tobacco, particularly cigarettes, than to use snuff.

Men and especially women are expected to sit in modest postures. Even people who are intimate with one another consider it extremely rude to pass gas in the presence of others. Haitians say excuse me (eskize-m) when entering another person's space. Brushing the teeth is a universal practice. People also go to great lengths to bathe before boarding public buses, and it is considered proper to bathe before making a journey, even if this is to be made in the hot sun.

Women and especially men commonly hold hands in public as a display of friendship; this is commonly mistaken by outsiders as homosexuality. Women and men seldom show public affection toward the opposite sex but are affectionate in private.

People haggle over anything that has to do with money, even if money is not a problem and the price has already been decided or is known. A mercurial demeanor is considered normal, and arguments are common, animated, and loud. People of higher class or means are expected to treat those beneath them with a degree of impatience and contempt. In interacting with individuals of lower status or even equal social rank, people tend to be candid in referring to appearance, shortcomings, or handicaps. Violence is rare but once started often escalates quickly to bloodshed and serious injury

Poverty



Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere and one of the poorest countries in the developing world. Its per capita income – \$ 250 – is considerably less than one-tenth the

Latin American average. About 80 percent of the rural Haitian population lives in poverty. Moreover, far from improving, the poverty situation in Haiti has been deteriorating over the past decade, concomitant with a rate of decline in per capita GNP of 5.2 percent a year over the 1985-95 period.

The staggering level of poverty in Haiti is associated with a profile of social indicators that is also shocking. Life expectancy is only 57 years compared with the Latin American average of 69. Less than half of the population is literate. Only about one child in five of secondary-school age actually attends secondary school. Health conditions are similarly poor; vaccination coverage for children, for example, is only about 25 percent. Only about one-fourth of the population has access to safe water. In short, the overwhelming majority of the Haitian population is living in deplorable conditions of extreme poverty. In the face of this daunting reality, Haiti's population continues to grow at a high rate estimated at almost 200,000 people per year.

SURVIVAL GUIDE

Etiquette

Personal greetings are very important to Haitians. When entering a room or joining a group, a person is expected to physically greet each individual. Haitian men usually shake hands, women throw kisses when meeting a new acquaintance. Everyone else, from relatives to friends and casual acquaintances, receives a kiss on each cheek. The most common verbal greeting is *Bonjou, kouman ou ye? Sakapfet or Sak pase?* Meaning (Good day, how are you?). The response usually is *M pa pi mal, e ou menm?* Or *Map Boule Piti Piti* (I am okay, and yourself? or Not bad). Haitians address superiors or persons of status by title (*Monsieur, Madame, Doctor, etc.*) followed by the last name. Friends use first names or nicknames, which are usually related to that person's name, in order to address each other.

An older person might be called "aunt" or "uncle" as sign of respect even if not related to the speaker.

Gestures Haitians are animated people who enjoy impromptu gatherings wherever they may be; they use gestures to make themselves understood correctly whether at the market, in the street, or at the movie theater. At such gatherings, people engage in loud conversation and laughter.

Hand gestures usually accompany discussion or storytelling. If one is too busy to talk, one will greet a passerby by nodding the head up. To get someone's attention, especially a woman, Haitian men often say "psst." Clicking the tongue, called a *chipe*, is a sign of protest or disgust and considered impolite.

LANGUAGE

Haiti's official languages are French and Haitian Creole (Kreyòl Ayisyen). Nearly all Haitians speak the latter, a creole based primarily on French and African languages, with some English, Taino, Portuguese, and Spanish influences. Spanish is spoken near the border with the Dominican Republic, and is increasingly being spoken in more westward areas, as Venezuelan, Cuban, and Dominican trade influence Haitian affairs, and Haiti becomes increasingly involved in Latin American transactions.

English	Kreyòl ayisyen (Haitian Creole)
Welcome	Byen venu V byenvini N bèlantre
Hello (General greeting)	Bonjou
How are you?	Sak pase? Koman ou ye? Ki jan ou ye?
Reply to 'How are you?'	Mwen byen (<i>I'm well</i>) N'ap boule M ap boule (<i>I'm fine, lit. 'I'm on fire'</i>) Kon si, kon sa (<i>So, so</i>) M ap viv (<i>I'm living</i>) et ou (mem)? (<i>and you?</i>)
Long time no see	Sa fè lontan Sa fe lon temps nou pa we
What's your name?	Koman ou rele? Ki jan ou rele? Ki non ou? Ki non w?
My name is ...	M rele ... Mwen rele ... Non m se ...
Where are you from?	Ki kote ou sòti? Kote ou sòti?
I'm from ...	M'soti ...
Pleased to meet you	Anchante M'kontan fè konesans ou Mwe kontan fe konesana ou Se youn plaisir fè konesans ou!
Good morning (Morning greeting)	Bonjou Bon maten
Good afternoon (Afternoon greeting)	Bon apre-midi
Good evening (Evening greeting)	Bonswa

Good night	Bòn nui Bonswa Bonswa et bon rev
Goodbye (Parting phrases)	Adye Orevwa Babay N a wè pi ta A pi ta (<i>see you later</i>) A demen (<i>until tomorrow</i>)
Good luck	Bòn chans
Cheers! (Toasts used when drinking)	Ochan! Sante! Onè Respè!
Have a nice day	Pase yon bònn jounen Bònn jounen
Bon appetit / Have a nice meal	Bon apeti
Bon voyage / Have a good journey	Bon vwayaj
Do you understand?	Ou konprann? Eske ou konprann?
I understand	Mwen konprann
I don't understand	Mwen pa komprann
Yes	Wi
No	Non
Maybe	Petèt
I don't know	Mwen pa konnen
Please speak more slowly	Souple pale dousma Ou ka pale dousman souple?
Please say that again	Ou ka repete souple?
Please write it down	Es'ke ou ka ecri'l, tanpri?
Do you speak English?	Eske ou pale angle?
Do you speak Haitian Creole?	Eske ou pale kreyòl?
Yes, a little (reply to 'Do you speak ...?')	Wi, piti piti Wi, on ti kal
How do you say ... in Haitian Creole?	Kijan ou di ... an kreyòl? Kij an yo di...an kreyòl? Kòman ou di ... an Kreyòl??
Excuse me	Eskize mwen Eskize m
How much is this?	Konbyen?
Sorry	Dezole! Mwen regret sa! Padon!

Please	Souple
Thank you	Mesi Mesi ampil
Reply to thank you	Merite Padekwa De ryen
Where's the toilet?	Kote twalèt la?
Would you like to dance with me?	Eske ou vle danse?
I miss you	Mwen sonje w
I love you	Mwen renmen w
Get well soon	Fè mye talè
Go away!	Ale vou zan!
Leave me alone!	Ki te'm anrepo'm!
Help!	Anmwe!
Fire!	Dife!
Stop!	Rete!
Call the police!	Rele la polis!
Christmas and New Year greetings	Jwaye Nowèl e Bòn Ane
Easter greetings	Bòn fèt pak
Birthday greetings	Bonn fèt Erez anivèsè

SAFETY

Haiti is a fairly safe country. Haiti's crime rate compares to Long Beach California's crime rate, so it's a pretty safe country. Haiti ranks around being the 7-5th safest countries in the Caribbean, which trumps some other popular Caribbean destinations.

When traveling to Haiti, be sure to keep up with latest news. Demonstrations can happen, but aren't very common.

It's not the best to travel at night, but there are tourist, police, and UN officers marching around, especially during the night.

Be sure not to carry large amounts of money, or show in some way that you have a lot of money on you. Though it does not happen much, you can risk being mugged or injured. Be especially careful when carrying money around beggars.

CURRENCY



Credit cards:

Credit cards are widely accepted. At least one local bank chain has ATMs in Port au Prince, but they are frequently out of order and there have been reports of over charging accounts.

ATM:

At least one local bank chain has ATMs in Port au Prince, but they are frequently out of order and there have been reports of over charging accounts.

Traveler's cheques:

Apart from at banks, these are often difficult to exchange. To avoid additional exchange rate charges, travelers are advised to take traveller's cheques in US Dollars.

Banking hours:

Mon-Fri 0900-1300 and 1500-1700. Some banks open Sat 0900-1300.

IMR recommendations on money

- Bring only the amount that you intend to spend on gifts or small personal articles, including snacks
- IMR does not pay for alcohol. If you intend to purchase alcohol, you are required to obtain and pay with a separate bill.
- You will be able to change money upon arrival. Please do so. We do not guarantee that you will be able to change money in small towns or during clinic.

TIME IN HAITI

At the specified time, local time in HAITI is GMT/UTC+0:00 (standard time). The time zone abbreviation is EDT (Eastern Daylight Time). Haiti has a single time zone. We always recommend for people that will have a greater than 6 hour time difference that you try to adjust your body as much as possible prior to travel and on the airplanes.

EMBASSY INFORMATION

U.S. Embassy Port-au-Prince

Open Monday - Friday
7:00 A.M. - 3:30 P.M.
Tel: 011-509-2229-8000
Tabarre 41
Route de Tabarre
Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Haitian Embassy Washington DC

Tel: (202) 332-4090
2311 Massachusetts Ave NW,
Washington, DC 20008

NOTE: For your safety, this information is also available on the back of your IMR badge.

WEBSITES

The following websites provide information on the country you are visiting. IMR highly recommends and encourages you to view these sites prior to departure. They are frequently updated and are a tremendous resource:

- ◆ Embassy of the United States for Haiti: <http://haiti.usembassy.gov/>
- ◆ Embassy of Haiti for USA: <http://www.haiti.org>
- ◆ State Department Travel Warnings: <https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/alertswarnings/haiti-travel-warning.html>
- ◆ CIA publication: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ha.html>
- ◆ Travel Health online: <http://www.tripprep.com/>
- ◆ World Health Organization: <http://www.who.int/>
- ◆ Center for Disease Control: <http://www.cdc.gov/travel/>
- ◆ CDC for Haiti: <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/haiti>
- ◆ CNN Weather Report: <http://www.cnn.com/WEATHER>
- ◆ Official Haiti Tourism Site: <http://www.haititourisme.org/>
- ◆ WIKI: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Haiti>
- ◆ UNICEF Statistics: http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/haiti_statistics.html
- ◆ Lonely Planet: <https://www.lonelyplanet.com/haiti>

