



# USAID | HAITI

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

## Protection of Vulnerable Groups in Haiti

### USAID helps to end human rights abuses in Haiti.



USAID Staff

*Children are amongst the most vulnerable people in Haiti.*

USAID's support will decrease the incidence of human rights abuses, exploitation, and family separation, while expanding access to services to prevent and respond to these abuses.

Anticipated results include:

- Expanded access to quality services through referral and coordination networks.
- Priority laws and policies for the protection of vulnerable groups adopted and implemented.
- Expanded and strengthened services and support systems for victims and individuals at risk of abuse, exploitation, and family separation.
- Reduced frequency of gender-based violence, sexual exploitation, trafficking, and recruitment in targeted communities.

### Overview

Since the January 2010 earthquake, Haiti's population has faced heightened risks to their security and fundamental human rights. The more than 1.2 million people initially displaced to camps as well as those living in marginalized communities were subject to a high risk of crime, gender-based violence, and exploitation. The earthquake also exacerbated pre-existing vulnerabilities. Over the last decade, children, women, and youth have become increasingly vulnerable to human rights abuses, including gender-based violence, trafficking, sexual exploitation, child labor, domestic violence, and recruitment into crime or violence. With over 46 percent of the population under 18 years old, the protection of the rights of children, youth, and women is fundamental to the population's well-being as a whole and to its prospects for economic development. To strengthen the protection of vulnerable groups in Haiti, USAID is supporting efforts by the Government of Haiti, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and community organizations to prevent abuses and address the needs of victims, while strengthening their ability to address these challenges more effectively.

### Objectives

Through both prevention and response, USAID's program aims to protect children, women, and youth who are at risk or victims of human rights abuse.

### Activities

1. **Support integrated prevention and response networks** by building relationships among NGOs, the government, and communities in an effort to collect information, monitor abuses, improve advocacy, and help victims. Networks include hospitals, churches, schools, and government entities—including the Institute for Social Welfare and Research, Brigade for the Protection of Minors, the Office for the Protection of Citizens, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor, and the Ministry of Women's Affairs.
2. **Strengthen community capacity for prevention and response** by improving the ability of community associations, faith-based organizations, and the local government to support individuals and families who at-risk or the victims of abuses through a number of activities, including increasing public awareness of abuses and responses and referring victims to appropriate assistance and care.
3. **Strengthen Government of Haiti institutions, policy, and legislation** by targeting relevant institutions to improve their ability to monitor, regulate, and coordinate responses to abuse.
4. **Strengthen capacity of Haitian NGOs**, particularly specialized, local NGOs to provide quality services to individuals and families who are at risk or victims of abuse.
5. **Expand access to specialized services for vulnerable women, children, and youth through innovative interventions.** This component provides funds to Haitian NGOs and community organizations to support innovative, comprehensive, and integrated services to better meet the needs of victims and prevent abuse.

**Life of Project:** March 2012 – March 2017

**Implementing Partner:** CARE