

# Promoting local development

## Right to land and food



Haiti is one of the world's poorest countries. Some 60 per cent of its people live in poverty and at least 40 per cent can neither read nor write. The country's precarious situation is attributable to political instability, bad governance and the neglect of public investment. Moreover, the country was badly hit by a catastrophic earthquake followed by a cholera epidemic in 2010, and by Hurricane Matthew in 2016. Haiti's problems are being compounded by recurrent and alternating spells of flooding and drought.

All this directly impacts the efforts of its citizens to secure their supplies of food staples. For many years now, HEKS/EPER has therefore been supporting development projects to assist the people of very remote communes in the Grand'Anse Departement, which was hit especially hard by hurricane Matthew in October 2016.

### Objectives, priorities, activities

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The HEKS/EPER Country Programme in Haiti is helping to improve living standards for the residents of remote mountain regions of Grand'Anse. Access to basic services is to be improved by promoting higher incomes and greater food security, by upgrading rural infrastructure and encouraging dialogue between rural communities and local authorities. Besides, all projects aim to make project participants more self-reliant.

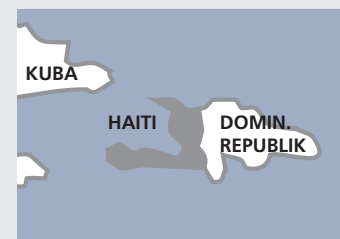
### Programme participants

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The residents of seven rural communities of Grand'Anse participate in HEKS/EPER activities.

## Haiti

HEKS/EPER Focus: Rural community development



### Population (2021)

11.5 million

### Area in km<sup>2</sup>

27 750



## Partnerships, networks, alliances, memberships

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Projects are implemented directly by HEKS/EPER, or jointly with local partners such as the «Programme de Réhabilitation Rurale de Jérémie» (PRR), the «Université Nouvelle Grand'Anse» (UNOGA), or the «Fondation du Paradis des Indiens». HEKS/EPER is a member of «ACT Alliance» and the Education Commission of «Cadre de Liaison Inter-ONG (CLIO)», an association of non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and is active on the platforms for coordinating humanitarian players in Grand'Anse and for dialogue between Swiss NGOs and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), both locally and in Switzerland. HEKS/EPER is also represented in Coordination Haïti–Europe through the Plate-forme Haïti de Suisse (PFHS).

## HEKS/EPER in Haiti

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HEKS/EPER operates a Coordination Office in Jérémie, from where projects are implemented and supported.

## Topics and working principles

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The HEKS/EPER Country Programme in Haiti fosters sustainable local development, especially access to basic services, the promotion of higher incomes and greater food security, the upgrading of rural infrastructure, and also the strengthening of civil society and governance. All projects take account of the cross-cutting issues of gender, resilience building and conflict sensitivity. To make local development sustainable, HEKS/EPER works on a participatory basis, with local players at the centre of its projects.

### Country:

Haiti

**HEKS/EPER No.:** 383.001

### Head of programme:

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