**WORLD WIDE HEAL**

**“The Health of Haiti: The Nation Still Standing”**

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Cúcuta, Norte de Santander, Colombia

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**INTRODUCTION**

In The Republic of Haiti after the earthquake of 2010, the healthcare capacity and infrastructures were destroyed, but since then, in Haiti significant changes have been made in rebuilding its medical capacity, thanks in part to funding from the American red cross. With the funds donated from the American public, have been used to repair multiple hospitals, like to install a new hydraulic system, rebuild the floor, construct a cold storage room for vaccines using solar energy, with these improvements the health center can take over 40 consultations per day when before they could only receive nine to fifteen patients a day. “The Red Cross provided essential equipment including a solar refrigerator for vaccines, chairs and examination tables, a tripod for serums, beds and other materials so the center could deliver high-quality service to patients. And thanks to the renovations, some previously suspended social activities will be reinstated for residents of Carrefour-Feuilles” (Haiti’s medical capacity continues to improve, 7 years after quake, 2017, 10 of January), the Haitian healthcare systems consist in a public sector and the private sector, the public one composed by the MSPP (Ministerio de Salud Publica y Población) and the OFATMA (Caja de Seguro de Accidentes de Trabajo, Enfermedades y Maternidad), the MSPP offer basic services to the non-paid population (Fene F, Gómez-Dantés O, Lachaud J. Sistema de salud de Haiti. Salud Publica Mex [Internet]. 8 de mayo de 2020) Through LAMIKA, the American red cross and Haitian red cross have managed a number of healthcare improvement projects, like donating materials and medical equipment, training more than 300 health workers, funding several national vaccination campaigns that have provided over 4 million vaccines, fighting against epidemics and preventing vector and water-borne diseases such as ZIKA and cholera (Haiti’s medical capacity continues to improve, 7 years after quake, 2017, 10 of January).

1. **A Country Affected by Its Geographical Position**

Thanks to the constant natural disasters in the country, The Republic of Haiti has not been able to restore the healthcare system completely. But with the help of multiple international organisms there have been changes, like the restauration of the hospitals or the national vaccination campaigns, another example of the consequences of the constants natural disasters is that in October of 2022, cholera began to spread around the whole country causing a “humanitarian crisis”, other than this problem, it does not help that the country is constantly affected by ”El Niño” phenomenon and the multiple disasters that come with it.

like in the fishing industry that finds itself affected due to the migration of the species to less hot areas, the agriculture system in other hand, seems affected due to he increase of the temperature and the humidity and also the floods or the reduction of tuber and fruits harvests, or the livestock industry that thanks to the phenomenon there’s less production of milk and meat, all this causing the country to be involve in a crisis due to food shortages and lets not forget that thanks to this phenomenon the hydroelectric power plants gets damaged due to the excessive flow of rivers. This phenomenon does not affect only the industries, but also brings with it multiple illnesses like dengue, malaria, cholera, influenza, meningitis, conjunctivitis or even mental health problems like anxiety, depression or even PTSD.

also a big part of the problems in Haiti are thanks to the geographical ubication that it has, being in the Caribbean sea means being in the way of the Hurricane Alley, meaning that the country is propense to tropical storms or hurricanes, it also doesn’t help that the country is in the intersection of two tectonic plates, these being the north American and the Caribbean, which are constantly moving, causing multiple earthquakes in the zone, saying all this we can conclude that the Republic Of Haiti is a country severely affected by its geographical position and the constant natural disasters.

1. **The Effect of the Colonialism Until This Day**

"This Caribbean country is not in debt; it is a creditor. It is France which owes it money." Jerome Duval, n.d. (cadtm.org)

The Republic Of Haiti became the first black independent republic in 1804, and it may sound like a really good thing, and it would be, if it weren’t for the 150 million gold francs that France forced Haiti to compensate, for its losses, the former colonist who had dominated the slaves, in 2003 the president jean-Bertrand Aristide demanded “restitution and reparation” for the damages caused by slavery and for the sanction demanded in 1825, he claimed $21 billion from France, recently, after the 2010 earthquake in The Republic Of Haiti The International Monetary Fund decided to grant "aid" of $100 million in the form of a non-interest-bearing loan to be repaid. Aid that falls far short of the $21 billion demanded by Aristide and social movements such as the Haitian Platform for Alternative Development (PAPDA) and falls far short of meeting Haiti's needs Jerome Duval, n.d. (cadtm.org).

This meaning that Haiti is a country that is constantly marginalized due to its colonial past, and thanks to this debt with the Republic of France, the money funds of the Caribbean country can’t go in its total to improve the healthcare system because the country is still paying the wrongful debt that the French colonizers claim as fair just because the slaves stood up to their “owners”, this explaining a part of the health crisis that this country has faced for decades and even centuries.

1. **Armed Violence Intensifies Malnutrition**

In Haiti the constant violence in the country, especially the armed violence has intensified the number of children in Haiti suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM)

“In Haiti, more and more mothers and fathers can no longer provide appropriate care and nutrition to their children, and parents cannot take them to health centers due to increasing horrific violence caused by armed groups,” said Bruno Maes, UNICEF Representative in Haiti, “Combined with the ongoing cholera outbreak, more children are suffering from severe wasting more rapidly, and will die if urgent measures are not taken.”

In Haiti the violent environment has shown that it no only affects the safety and the integrity of the Haitians but also their health, and due to the poor management that the government has gave combating these two problematics (the malnutrition and the armed violence), it is estimated that 115,600 children are expected to suffer severe wasting in 2023, compared to 87,500 last year, the conflict caused by armed groups has restricted children’s access to basic nutrition, health services and safe water, hygiene and sanitation condition, coupled with worsening food, insecurity and civil unrest, the crisis has led to a far-reaching deterioration of the nutrition crisis across, apart from this, the nutrition crisis is further compounded by a persisting cholera outbreak. (Armed violence plunging children into severe acute malnutrition in Haiti, unicef.org, 2023)

Having said the above, it is intended to explain that due to the insecurity in the country, not only the integrity but also the mental and physical health of the Haitian population is affected, there have been attempts to find solutions to this but due to the lack of resources in the nation, with international aid there have been attempts to eradicate this without any effective solution.

1. **The Persistence of the Cholera in Haiti**

After the massive earthquake in 2010 there were many consequences, one of the worst of them was the huge cholera outbreak, this cholera outbreak was the worst in history, with almost 820.000 cases and nearly 10.000 deaths, when the outbreak of cholera happened, many organizations helped, highlighting CDC worked with the ministry of public health and population (MSPP) to control the epidemic and reduce its impact in the nation.

And with these international aids, like the Direction Nationale de l'Eau Potable et de l'Assoinissement (DINEPA), The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO and the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) thousands of deaths were prevented, this cholera epidemic persisted until early 2019, though cases and deaths declined steadily since 2016, and after 3 years with almost no cases, national authorities have reported another cholera outbreak in October of 2022.

The MSSP reported over 600 confirmed cholera cases and over 6,500 suspected cases in the greater Port-au-Prince area, CDC and partners are responding rapidly and coordinating with MSSP to prevent another massive cholera epidemic like the one from 2010-2019 from spreading any further.

But even if the government and international aids wanted to do something about this cholera outbreak, it would be almost completely inefficient because eventually it would come back, it is believed that the cholera outbreak in Haiti was started near an UN camp because this camp discharged its waster directly into the river but even if this was true, the epidemic is still fault of the government because of the lack of adequate sanitation and access to safe drinking water.

1. **The Nation Abandoned by Its Government**

Haiti has been a country that has been hammered by many factors as already mentioned, but the most important is the government's neglect of its own people.

the Republic of Haiti is the only country in America with more than 20 governments in less than 35 years and that currently has no president due to the assassination of president Jovenel Moise, the Republic of Haiti has been considered a completely and tremendously unstable nation due to its political, economic, sanitary instability as well as its mortality rates or its famine rates and even due to the multiple natural disasters and how prone the nation is to them.

this aforementioned is related to the poor health in the Republic of Haiti due to its terrible management of multiple cholera epidemics in the country, to this is added to that thanks to the absence of drinking water that according to statistics it is said that only 64.5% has access to drinking water in the Caribbean nation, this meaning that the population has to be maintained by streams, This being a danger to their health and being one of the reasons for the frequent health crises in the country, another problem is the lack of sanitation, also adds to the fact that less than a third of the population has an improved toilet, a bargain for the Vibrio cholerae, the bacillus that causes a tremendous acute diarrhea that would stay at that with good health care.

to all this, the aid from the government itself has been scarce and those that have been made have been insignificant due to the accumulation of problems throughout the country, which means that the Haitian people have continued with their nation’s health problems due to the negligence of their own government.