

## FACTS ABOUT HAITI

**Capitol:** Port-au-Prince

**Language:** French Creole

**Currency:** Haitian Gourde

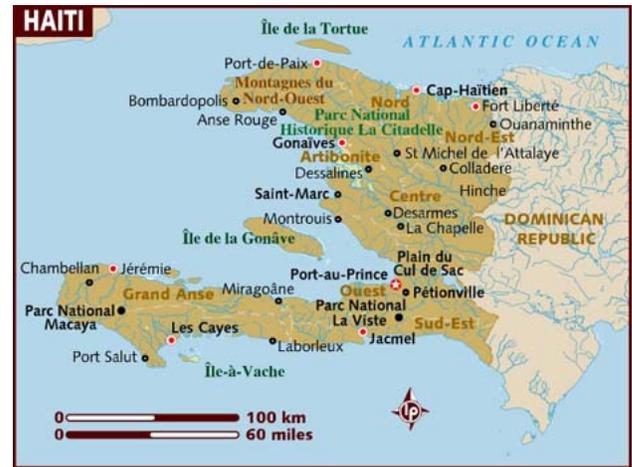
**Population:** 10.85 million

**Median age:** 22.2 years old

**Under 5 Mortality:** 46.8/1,000

**Life Expectancy (M/F):** 61.5/65.5

**Living Below Poverty Level:** 59%



### Additional Facts:

- In 1492, Christopher Columbus set foot on this island in the Caribbean and called it Hispaniola. Haiti is the western part of the island and the most mountainous country in the Caribbean.
- In 1804, after a successful slave revolt against the French, Haiti became the first black republic.
- Haiti is the second oldest independent nation in the Western Hemisphere, after the USA.
- Haiti was the first country in the Western Hemisphere to abolish slavery; 65 years before US.
- Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere with more than 6 million out of 10.4 million (59%) living under the poverty line (US\$2.41/day) and > 2.5 million (24%) living in abject poverty (US\$1.23 per day). Haiti suffers from high inflation, a lack of investment because of insecurity and limited infrastructure, and a severe trade deficit. Its main exports are apparel, oils, coffee, cocoa, and mango.
- Rice and beans are considered the national dish and are the most commonly eaten meal in urban areas. Traditional rural staples are sweet potatoes, manioc, yams, corn, rice, pigeon peas, cowpeas, bread, and coffee.
- Haiti has an area of 10,714 square miles, slightly smaller than the state of Maryland.
- On January 12, 2010, a 7.0 magnitude earthquake struck Haiti and devastated many areas of the country. An estimated 3 million people were affected by the quake, with an estimated 316,000 deaths, over 300,000 injuries, and more than 1 million people were left homeless.
- Cholera was introduced in October 2010, after the earthquake. The number of cases each year is falling. Up to Dec. 2017, there have been > 800,000 cases reported, taking > 9,300 lives.
- Haiti is vulnerable to natural disasters with > 90 percent of the population at risk. In 2016, Hurricane Matthew hit southern Haiti and became the most devastating disaster since the earthquake. It caused damages equivalent to 32% of GDP. Haiti has been taking proactive steps to get prepare for natural disasters. In 2017, Irma and Maria skirted the island, but initial assessments showed that the government was better prepared and had incorporated lessons learned from the experience with Hurricane Matthew. *(source: World Bank Group)*

*Facts and map courtesy of: World Health Organization, National Geographic, CIA, Encyclopedia of the Nations, US Department of State, World Bank, UNICEF, and World Atlas.*

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