

Promotion of Community Driven Local Development

Overview

Haiti is one of the poorest countries in the world. Around 60% of the population lives in poverty and at least 40% can neither read nor write. Some of the main causes of the country's precarious situation are political, economic and ecological instability, poor governance and neglect of public investment. In addition, the country was hit hard by a devastating earthquake in 2010 and a subsequent cholera epidemic, and several hurricanes in recent years. In fact, recurrent natural disasters and increasing food security linked to drought, shocks and instability have been constant threats to people's livelihoods. HEKS/EPER has therefore been working at the nexus between development cooperation and humanitarian aid to help the population of very remote areas in Grand'Anse developing and showcasing their community initiatives for more resilience, well-being and autonomy.

Goals, Focus, Activities

Our Country Program in Haiti is helping to improve living conditions for the population in the remote mountain areas of Grand'Anse. Access to basic services is being improved through improvements in rural infrastructure. Families generate better incomes through improved agroecological production, value-addition, marketing and protection and sustainable use of coastal and terrestrial biodiversity. Community governance is strengthened and a rights-based dialogue between rural communities and the local authorities is promoted. All projects also aim to strengthen the autonomy and resilience of local families.





Target Groups

HEKS/EPER's program supports the population in rural communities in Grand'Anse. Our projects aim at building strong synergies, capacities and connections to support community initiatives and create interesting models for upscaling.

Partnerships, Networks, Alliances, Memberships

The projects are implemented by HEKS/EPER and 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" as well as of the Education Commission of the NGO association "Cadre de Liaison Inter-ONG (CLIO)" and is actively involved in the platforms for the coordination of humanitarian actors in Grand'Anse and for exchanges between Swiss NGOs and the Swiss Agency for Development and Co-operation (SDC) on the ground and in Switzerland. HEKS/EPER is also represented in the "Haiti - Europe Coordination" via the "Haiti-Switzerland Platform".

HEKS in Haiti

HEKS/EPER has been in Haiti since 1973 where it is legally registered. Our program and projects are managed by our local team in Jérémie with support from within the region and from the headquarters in Switzerland.

Sectors and Principles

HEKS/EPER in Haiti promotes sustainable local development, in particular access to basic services, better incomes and food security, community resilience and the strengthening of civil society and governance. In all projects, the cross-cutting themes of gender, resilience and conflict sensitivity are taken into account and we work through a human-rights based approach and aiming at systemic change. In order to make local development sustainable, HEKS works in a participatory manner and places local actors at the center of its projects. As a full member of the Core Humanitarian Standards Alliance, we live up to and actively promote mutual accountability, coordination among actors and other principles of the international aid effectiveness agenda.

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