OVERVIEW
Haiti is the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere and takes up 1/3 of the island of Hispaniola, which it shares with the Dominican Republic in the Caribbean Sea. Haiti has a population of over 9 million people, the official languages are French and Creole, and the following religions are practiced: 80% Roman Catholic, 16% Protestant, 1% none, and 3% other, but do note that roughly half of the population practices voodoo.

Haiti was a French colony until the late 18th century when the nearly half a million slaves revolted and eventually won their freedom in 1804, becoming the first black republic to declare independence. Political violence has plagued Haiti throughout most of its history, but Haiti did inaugurate a democratically elected president and parliament in May 2006.

A massive 7.0 earthquake shook Haiti on January 12, 2010 with an epicenter about 15 miles west of the capital, Port-au-Prince. Over 300,000 people lost their lives and over a million were left homeless. Haiti has been consistently rebuilding with the help of the government and several Non-Profit Organizations. Source: CIA The World Factbook Today, 2.1 million people live in food insecurity. 81,600 children under five are acutely malnourished; 20,000 of these suffer from severe acute malnutrition and are 9 times more likely to die than non-malnourished children. Source: United Nations

CONVOY OF HOPE IN HAITI
Convoy of Hope has been working in Haiti since 2007, which is when we received our first USAID grant. At that time, we started an ongoing partnership with Mission of Hope, on whose compound our 36,000 square feet warehouse was built in 2011. We served in Haiti for three consecutive years with that grant. The program started with around 5,000 children, but it grew every year and by the beginning of 2010 we had 13,000 kids enrolled in the program. There were always plans for the program to grow, but because of the open doors and opportunities that arose after the catastrophic earthquake in 2010, we had 45,000 kids in the program by the end of that year. We were even staged to do an immediate response to the earthquake because we had food and supplies we had stocked for our feeding program. Today we have over 60,000 kids in the program and we have set a goal of having 100,000 kids by 2015.

We are also thankful for our partnership with the Assemblies of God, Feed My Starving Children and other groups with common goals.

In another program in Haiti, we are working with farmers. We have been engaged with farmers since 2009, but took it to a new level in 2012. We are working with small- scale farmers in the mountain communities with seeds and training and with large-scale farmers (a couple thousand farmers) on bulk purchasing and training. Since the start of the program we have purchased from Haitian farmers over 3 million meals for the feeding program.

The feeding program helps the church, the community, and the schools grow. We are committed to feeding through schools, which has proven to get kids to come to school more frequently, which encourages education. We are committed to educating children by feeding through schools and to investing in Haiti by purchasing locally as much as possible.
**FACTS**

- 95% of the people are of African descent, 5% are of European descent.
- The official religion of Haiti is Catholicism, which embraces about 80% of the population. The practiced religion of many Haitians is voodoo. Approximately 16% of Haiti is protestant.
- 50% of the population does not get enough food to eat daily. Rice and beans are the staple food of the Haitian people.
- Haiti has an 85% unemployment rate. Daily minimum wage is $2.50 US.
- The major industries include sugar refining, cement, textiles, and tourism.
- Haiti has no public transportation system. Taxis and Tap-Taps (small pick-up trucks) are privately owned and are not big enough to meet all the needs of the population. For this reason many people walk where they need to go.
- Approximately 60% of Haiti’s population is under the age of 25.

**BRUSHING UP ON CREOLE**

You may want to brush up on your Creole before coming. Take a look at the phrases below!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HAITIAN</th>
<th>ENGLISH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mesi; Padkwa</td>
<td>Thank You; You’re Welcome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alo; M’ale orevwa</td>
<td>Hello; Good-bye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eskize’m...</td>
<td>Excuse me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonjou; Bonswa</td>
<td>Good morning; Good evening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonjou madanm; Bonjou Mesye</td>
<td>Good morning madam; Good morning, sir</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonswa manman; Bonswa Papa</td>
<td>Good evening mommy; Good evening daddy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ki jan ou ye?</td>
<td>How are you?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Byen mesi, e ou menm?</td>
<td>Fine thank you, and you?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tre byen, mesi</td>
<td>Very Well, thank you</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pa two byen</td>
<td>Not too well</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ki jan tout moun yo ye?</td>
<td>How is everybody?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tout moun yo tre byen</td>
<td>Everybody is fine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E ki jan fanmi ou yo ye?</td>
<td>and how is your family?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fanmi’yo byen, mesi’</td>
<td>My family is doing well, thank you</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M kontan we ou</td>
<td>I am glad to see you</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M’ale, n’a we pita</td>
<td>Goodbye, I will see you later</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Konbyen?</td>
<td>How much does this cost?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ki laj ou gen?</td>
<td>How old are you?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ko’ man ou rele?</td>
<td>What is your name?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shita</td>
<td>Sit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compe</td>
<td>Stand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vini</td>
<td>Come</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Souri</td>
<td>Smile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M pa Konnen</td>
<td>I don’t know</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TRAVEL TIPS


• LUGGAGE: Please limit your luggage to one bag per person. We recommend carry-on luggage only, unless necessary. If you must check your bags, we suggest packing a change of clothing in your carry-on just in case your checked baggage does not arrive on time.

• PASSPORT: Please make sure you have a current passport. If applying for a new passport, please allow 4-8 weeks for this process. Remember to keep your passport on you at all times.

• ARRIVAL IN FLORIDA: Our team will be staying in Miami and meeting for dinner on the first evening at the:

Hilton Miami Airport
5101 Blue Lagoon Drive
Miami, FL 33126
1-305-262-1000.
The Hilton offers a free airport shuttle. Please meet in the Coral Café’s private dining room located in the lobby at 7pm for dinner.

• CUSTOMS FORMS: Onboard the flight to Port Au Prince you will receive a customs declaration form (white) and an immigration form (fill out the green side). Please fill out the bottom green stub at the same time you fill out the top portion, and keep it with your passport in a safe location! When indicating your destination in Haiti, please write:

Best Western
50 Angle Rue, Louverture & Geffrard
Pétion-Ville • Port-au-Prince, Haiti

• ARRIVAL IN HAITI: IMMIGRATION: When you arrive at PAP, you will walk off the plane and make your way to the immigration stations. You will make your way to the Tourist Entry Visa booth to pay the $10 Visitor Fee for all non-Haitian residents. Please make sure that you have $10 cash per person (exact change is best). You will then make your way to the immigration department, you will be asked for your passport and immigration form. If you did not get an immigration form on the plane, you can get one at the service counter. To insure a smooth transition through the immigration line, please have your passport and completed immigration form readily available for the immigration officer. The immigration officer will give you your passport and the bottom portion of your immigration form (green) back to you. IMPORTANT! Keep the returned portion of the immigration form (green stub) with your passport and place them in a safe location. You will need both of these to leave the country.

CUSTOMS: Please have your completed customs form (white) readily available for the customs agent. The customs agent will take the form from you and then
clear you to depart the airport. The Convoy of Hope staff will provide direction for departing the airport.

SAFETY TIPS
The following lists some basic safety guidelines to be aware of when traveling in Haiti. While we do not anticipate any issues, we like to minimize any safety risks while you travel with us. In short, the goal is to blend in and always stay with our group.

- Wear comfortable clothing that does not stand out.
- Avoid wearing flashy jewelry such as watches, diamond rings, or other gem-studded items. You do not want to draw attention to yourself.
- Make sure you always stay close to our group, always within eyesight.
- Carry the majority of your cash in as private/secure location as possible. Divide out small amounts of spending money in advance and keep in another location.
- If you would like to purchase souvenirs, bring smaller bills such as $20 or less. Avoid pulling out all of your money at once. With vendors, it is always best to act like you don’t have much money.
- Keep valuables such as iPhones and cameras out of sight when stopped at a location.
- Always be aware of who is around you. If you spot something unusual, please report it to Convoy of Hope staff immediately.
- Avoid giving money to beggars. If you feel overly compelled, please do so through one of our Haitian staff.

WHAT TO PACK
We strongly encourage you to use a carry-on bag, instead of checked baggage. This will help the team to get on the ground faster after our arrival in Haiti. The weather will be HOT and tropical. Durable, lightweight clothing is desirable.

- Modest, light weight shirts, pants and/or shorts
- Comfortable walking shoes, closed-toe recommended.
- Passport – Please check to confirm that you passport has not expired and will be valid for at least six months after our trip ends.
- Camera
- Any unique item necessary for your good health, such as an EpiPen, or insulin shots. Be sure to pack these items in your carry-on luggage.
- Prescription medications must be in the actual bottle with the prescription label. Never pack prescription meds in an unmarked container.
- Insect repellent
- Water bottle
- Daypack
- Over-the-counter medications like sunburn ointment, band-aids, Pain relievers such as Tylenol or Advil, cough drops, Pepto-Bismol, Senokot, Imodium, contact lens care kit, etc.
- Personal hygiene items
- Sunscreen
- Chapstick
- Hand sanitizer, Wet Ones antibacterial hand wipes
- Small flashlight
• Snack items such as Clif bars; trail mix, Crystal Light single serve sticks, Gatorade single serve sticks, etc.

**MISC NOTES**
We do not recommend carrying large amounts of cash.

Basic cellular coverage is available in scattered parts of Haiti. Please check with your carrier regarding international calling and data plans. Without an international package, cellular usage will be very expensive.

Although we will be staying in safe accommodations, we don't recommend bringing laptops or other expensive equipment. However, high-speed internet access is available at the Best Western Hotel.

Voltage is the same as the US (110-120 volts) you may need an adapter if you are using grounded three-prong or polarized plugs.

**EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Accommodations in Miami:**
Hilton Miami Airport
5101 Blue Lagoon Drive
Miami, FL 33126
305-262-1000

**Accommodations in Haiti:**
Best Western Premier Petion-Ville
50 Angle Rue Louverture & Gefflard
Pétion-Ville • Port-au-Prince, Haiti
509 2814 2222

US Office: (417) 823-8998
Travel Issues: Leah Mills 417-851-4439
Trip Coordinator: Kimarie Page 410-207-2476