



The Children of Haiti Project is a nonprofit organization that designs, develops and delivers a progressive education to a specific group of underserved children in Haiti with the mission of creating Haiti's future leaders.

"OUR CHILDREN ARE EXTREMELY PASSIONATE ABOUT THEIR EDUCATION AND FUTURE. BECAUSE OF THAT THEY ARE BEING TENACIOUS DESPITE SOCIAL RESTRICTIONS, INDESCRIBABLE NATIONWIDE VIOLENCE, A PANDEMIC, AND BEING LOCKED IN FOR THE PAST YEAR AND A HALF. IN THE FACE OF SEVERE ADVERSITY THEY HAVE THE CAPACITY TO PERSEVERE, AND HAVE A DISCIPLINE TO DO THINGS BETTER THAN THEY DID YESTERDAY. THEY ARE BREATHING EXAMPLES OF TENACITY."

- DOMINIQUE PIERRE, PROGRAM DIRECTOR



Since 2010, under the outstanding leadership of Program Director, Dominique Pierre, the Children of Haiti Project (COHP) has been supporting a program of education, nutrition and health care for over 145 of the poorest children in Haiti since 2010. Thanks to our extraordinary benefactors and great leadership, the children in this program are thriving in terms of their education, their personal development and their health. **Our major challenge is sustainability.**

In order to meet our financial goals, we must raise significant funds every year to keep this program intact and to maintain our two rented facilities to run the program. A number of international schools, organizations and interested individuals are donors to this noble cause, which is creating Haiti's future leaders.

## SPECIAL CHALLENGES OF 2020

Haiti has been trapped in a cycle of political and economic dysfunction. Lives that were already extremely difficult, if not practically impossible, have become even more so.

Years of unrest around the country, coupled with rampant kidnapping , have led to a uncontrolled sense of insecurity and lawlessness that affects us all. These situations have often lead to what is called “Pays Lockdown”, or Nation on Lockdown, with people locked in, unable to move.

For the past three years many people have been killed either in the multiple demonstrations against poverty or by famine. A daily mantra heard all over the streets is that “there’s no life anymore, it’s unbearable, we are in agony”.

Most schools and hospitals have cut services or closed entirely. Widespread violence and kidnappings have compounded chronic poverty and misery.

An exodus of Haitians have fled the country, the majority who remain are simply trying to figure out where they are going to get their next meals.

One of our literacy students, Jerry, made the news when he recently was a victim of the unbridled violence that everyone is susceptible to, regardless of their socioeconomic status. He was severely attacked by a mob for no apparent reason. People in despair become violent.

April 26, 2021  
1:40 PM PDT

Americas

# 'Descent into hell': Kidnapping explosion terrorizes Haiti

7 minute read

Sarah Marsh



1/6

A woman who works as a peanut vendor and wants to remain anonymous, shows a photo of her five-year-old daughter Orlisina Janneus, who was kidnapped at her poor neighborhood and found dead days later, during an interview with Reuters in Port-au-Prince...

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A wave of kidnappings is sweeping Haiti. But even in a country growing into horrific abductions, the case of five-year-old Orlisina Janneus sparked outrage.

Orlisina was snatched off the streets of the capital Port-au-Prince in late January as she was playing. The child's corpse, bearing signs of strangulation turned up a week later, according to her mother, Nadege Saint Hilaire, a peanut vendor who said she couldn't pay the \$4,000 ransom. Saint Hilaire's cries for the airwaves as she spoke to a few local radio stations seeking help raising funds to cover funeral costs.

Saint Hilaire is now in hiding after receiving death threats, she said, from the same gang that killed her daughter. "I wasn't supposed to go to the radio to denounce what had happened," she told Reuters.

Police in her impoverished and crime-ridden neighborhood, Martissant, told Reuters...

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NEWS

## Haiti: Kidnapped Catholic nuns, priests freed

Nearly three weeks after being abducted from a road outside Port-au-Prince, several Catholic clergy members have been released. Their kidnapping sparked nationwide outrage and anger over a wave of recent abductions.



Date: 30.04.2021

Related Subjects: Haiti, Catholicism

Keywords: Haiti, Catholic church, nuns, priests, clergy, kidnapping

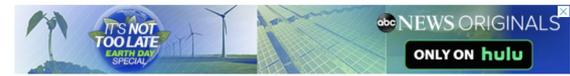
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Permalink: <https://www.dw.com/en/haiti-catholic-clergy-freed/a-56123456>



2020 IN THE NEWS



# Surge in violence rattles Haiti as poverty, fear deepens

A surge in violence is rattling Haiti and forcing families deeper into poverty to pay ransoms

By EVENS SANON and DÁNICA COTO Associated Press

April 16, 2021, 9:30 AM • 6 min read



On Location: April 30, 2021

Catch up on the developing stories making headlines.

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti -- The attack on the internet: Men carrying big guns walked through the streets, grabbing the pastor and three parishioners. They carried cameras.

For Haitians, it was a fearsome emblem of the violence that has victimized even impoverished neighborhoods in the streets.

Top Stories

At least 4 Americans among 45 killed in stampede in Israel  
Apr 30, 4:40 AM

On Location: April 30, 2021  
Apr 30, 3:57 PM

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Apr 30, 4:01 AM

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Apr 28, 3:58 AM

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Apr 29, 8:14 AM

Protect Yourself. Ask your doctor or pharmacist about shingles vaccination.

YouTube video player showing a street scene in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. The video title is 'Haiti Has Had Enough of Gangs, Kidnappings and Its President'. The video has 11K views and was posted on Mar 10, 2021.



16

ROOMS TOTAL

8

CLASSROOMS

5

BATHROOMS

2

KITCHENS

1

RECREATION/SPORTS AREA

6

BEDROOMS

We recently moved to a new locale, which helps us keep everything including dorms, on one property. We provide room and board for our students challenged by food security, personal safety, transport and home situations, especially during the Coronavirus. In these precarious times this has been a haven for 93% of our students.



+ The living conditions of the COHP children continue to be challenging. Most live in gang-infested areas, overcrowded one-room dwellings without toilets, electricity or running water in small concrete or metal shacks, cramped often 10 to a room.

+ A group of 47 students with families in the most dire conditions live on the COHP campus 7 days a week in seven dorm rooms and receive additional focused support. During covid-19 children have been segregated into groups of 10.



## 2020 PROGRAMS & SCHOOL STATS

11

Full/Part Time Teachers:  
French, English, Spanish, Creole, Social Studies, Geography, Biology, Chemistry, Geology, Physical Science, Physics, Math, Economics, Computer Literacy, Art, PE

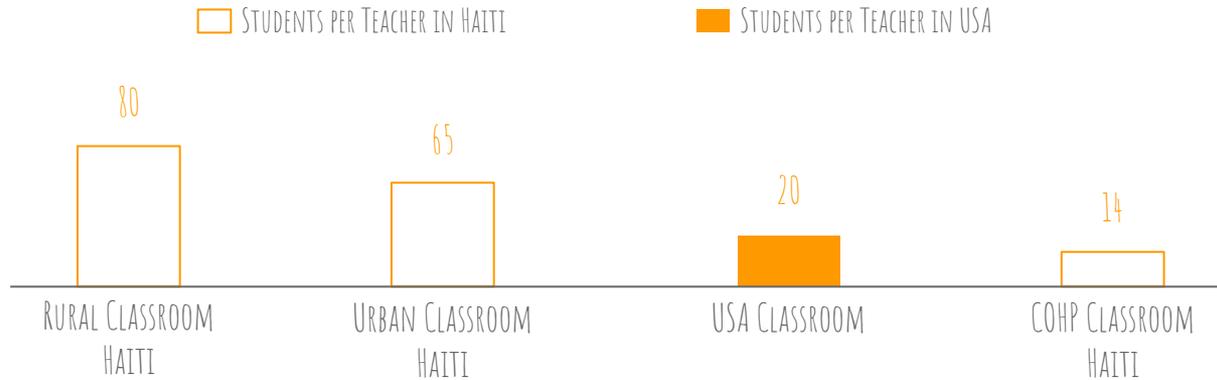
1

Teacher's Assistant

2

Special Programs:  
[Women's Empowerment], Carpentry, Sex Education, Hygiene & Health

# CLASSROOM STATISTICS



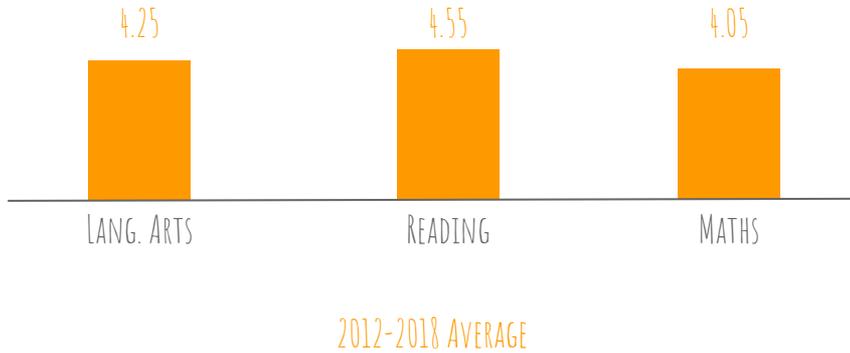
+ In the past five decades the extreme shortage of skilled teachers has led to extremely high illiteracy rates for Haiti, leading to an eventual unqualified workforce and leadership.

+ A nation cannot progress without educated and analytical citizens who question and change the status quo.

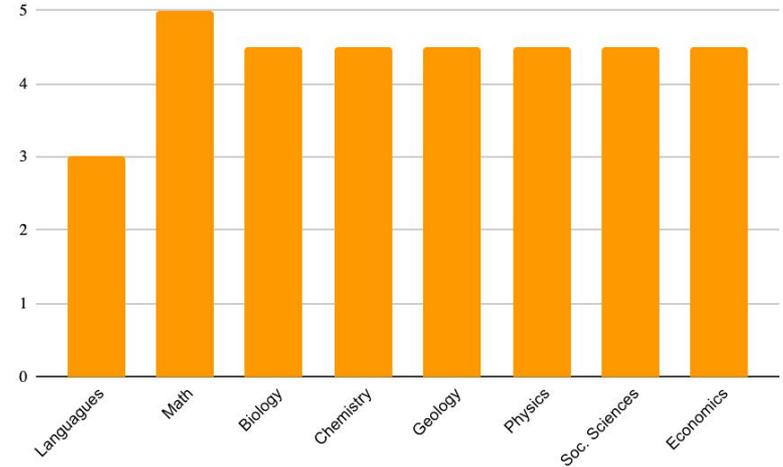
+ 36% of Haitian-schooled children drop out of school before reaching 6th grade

+ There are 4 times more students per teacher in public classrooms in Haiti than in public elementary schools in the US.

## EXTERNAL & INTERNAL EVALUATIONS



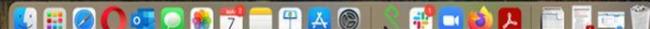
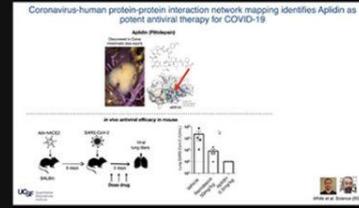
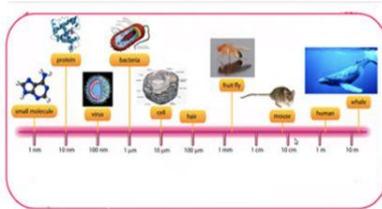
+ Starting in 2012 unadapted annual evaluations selected from a school district in Nantes, France, were given to the COHP students to compare their progress to that of their peers in France. Their **averages for 2012-2018** are compiled above. The highest possible score is a 5. In 2019 due to the unrest it was not possible to conduct external evaluations, nor in 2020 due to the pandemic.



+ In 2019 we sent our students to take Haitian National Evaluations at the Ministry. The national average was 76%, **COHP students averaged 92%**.

+ In 2020 the crisis in Haiti prevented any external evaluations, but we conducted **internal evaluations** as shown above, 5 being the highest score. We are currently addressing the lack of exposure to foreign languages with remote workshops.

## How Can We "See" Protein Machines?



+ In 2012 COHP started the **Inspirational Speaker Series** to expose the children to life options.

+ Successful professionals the children can identify with, are invited to share their life trajectory and experiences to open a dialogue for their future aspirations. Writers, politicians, business people, engineers, organization heads and scholars have visited since the inception of the series.

+ 2019 due to unrest we were not able to welcome anyone to the school. In March of 2020, Dr. Nevan Krogan, a systems biologist from the Quantitative Biosciences Institute at the University California San Francisco, gave the first virtual seminar for COHP, on COVID-19, its function, viruses and what to expect. A regular bi-monthly seminar series has continued into 2020 and beyond.

# CREATING HAITI'S FUTURE LEADERS

## + The Extreme Challenge:

Financial sustainability

## + Our Organization's Strategy:

Fairly paid, above average Haitian teachers; excellent and transparent leadership and operations

## + Our Impact:

Measurable results in academics, health, social behavior

## + Lessons Learned:

Slow and steady partnerships, formed over years of effort give back after long-ranging outcomes are shown



# DAILY ROUTINE

## + Schooling:

7 hours every day in Modern languages: French, English, Spanish, Haitian-Creole, Reading, Writing, Math, Science, Technology, Art, Social Studies, Economics, Sports

## + Literacy Program:

7 hours of literacy every day

## + Weekend Reading Activities:

4 hours of reading enrichment activities every Saturday for COHP students, and community children

## + Peer Tutoring:

Daily after-school support every day, for students





## MEAL PLAN & HEALTH

- 1 Hour daily lunch break
- 3 Meals a day
- 1 Snack daily
- 60 Vitamins distributed daily
- QTYLY Health check ups and comprehensive inoculations

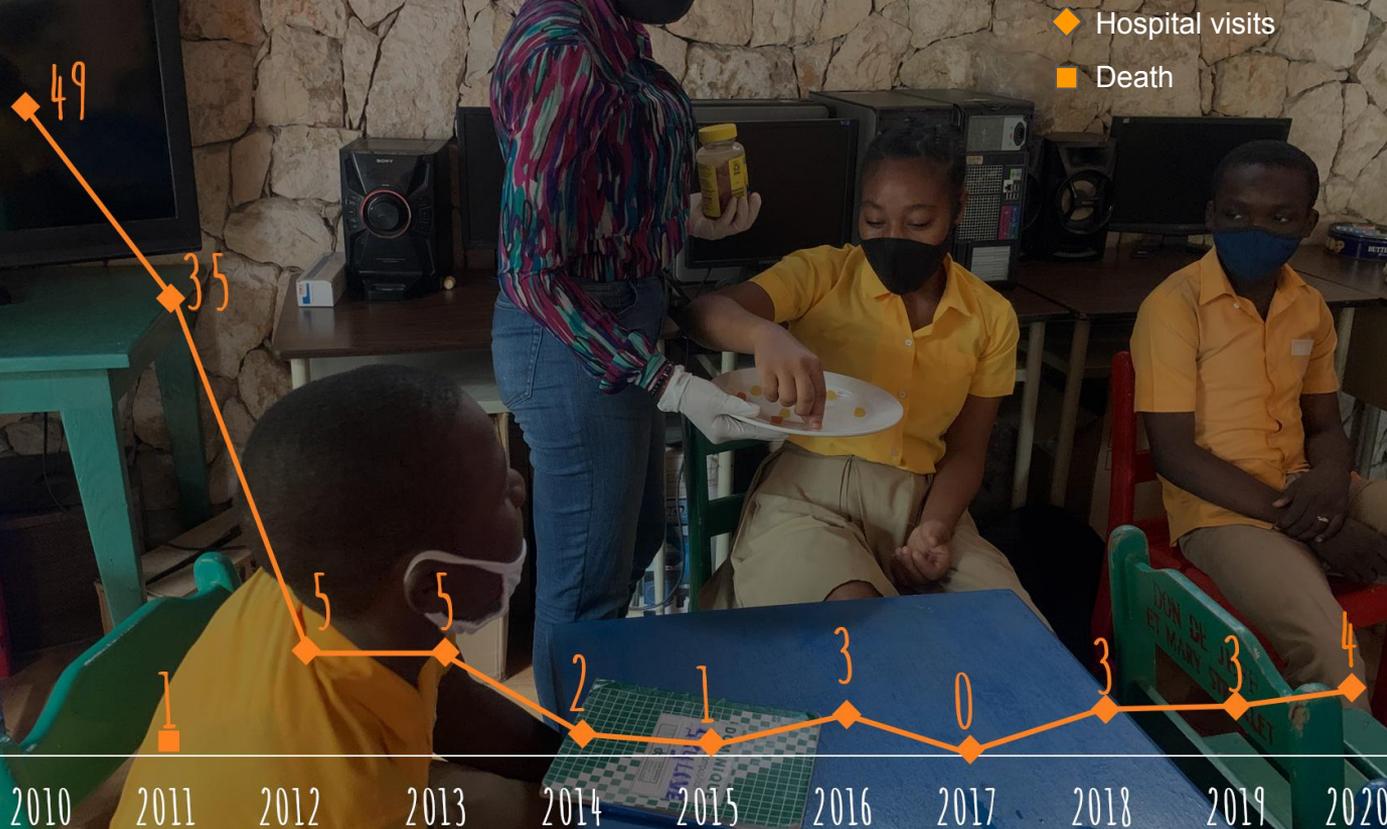
## HEALTH IN 2020

The first 2 years following the earthquake showed severe health problems, after which there was a sharp decrease due to the nutrition program and medical initiatives on the school premises.

Year after year we see solid health improvements. In 2017 we had no hospital visits.

Both children and their families benefit from the healthcare program, and open drives include extended family members (except during the pandemic).

### COHP STUDENT HOSPITAL VISITS PER YEAR



## CONTINUING PROGRAMS



### SCIENCE

A program to enable students to understand and evaluate information that is scientific in nature and of **making decisions that incorporate information appropriately** - which is lacking throughout Haïti.



### ENGLISH/ SPANISH

Our children are exposed to a variety of academic disciplines for their success in a competitive global climate. **Language acquisition** sometimes online, in a place like Haïti is a matter of survival and access to opportunities.



## WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT 11-MONTH WORKSHOP INITIATIVE STATS:

+ In 2011, to reinforce the economic autonomy of women in the community, we launched an 11-month literacy and sewing workshops to women. In 2017 we added crafts. The political instability of 2019 and the 2020 pandemic imposed a temporary hold on these activities in order to keep the campus virus-free.

+ 108 Graduates since 2012

+ 86% Graduates working since 2012

+ 6 Returned to school in 2016

+ 8 Years of program

+ 3 Literacy hrs/week

+ 6 Sewing/craft hrs/week



## CARPENTRY WORKSHOP

+ In 2015 year we initiated Carpentry and Electricity workshops, in 2017 we included girls. The children often opt to make useful pieces for their homes to offer their parents. In their home communities the children teach others these crafts for independent livelihoods.

+ In 2020 due to the Coronavirus pandemic the carpentry teacher has not been able to come to the premises. However after 5 years of experience, the children have taken over the workshop themselves in the meantime, and continue with various woodworking activities.



## VOLUNTEERS 2020

+ In 2011 we started a robust **Volunteer Program** where we were lucky to host various international school students, French professors, American teachers, New Zealand specialists and various individuals who came to contribute and immerse themselves in COHP.

+ Due to unrest in 2019 and COVID-19 in 2020, we could not welcome volunteers in-person. One of our volunteer families, continued **volunteering over Zoom** from San Francisco, offering various workshops for the COHP students to better their English skills.

# FINANCIALS

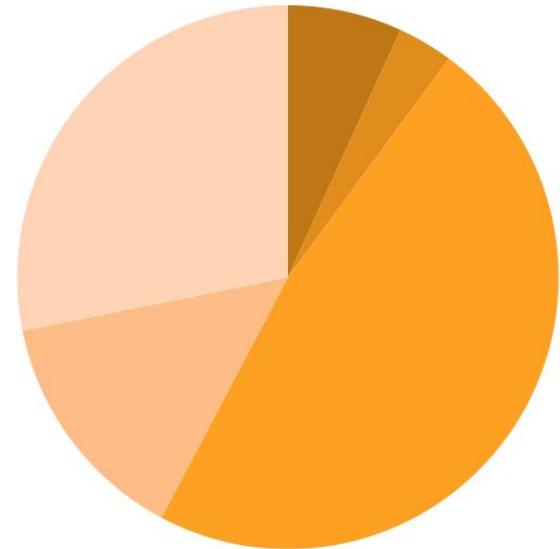
## TOTAL DONATIONS 2020

In 2020 COHP raised, (through International Schools around the world, TIE, PTC, the Kenbe La Foundation and private donors):

\$140,762

Of which 100% went to the school in Haiti. However, we spent \$165,150. We had to use some of our limited reserves to make it through 2020, leaving us in a precarious position for the remaining few years.

## COHP



■ Utilities & Maintenance ■ Didactics & Activities ■ Teachers  
■ Health & Nutrition ■ Operations

## BEFORE & AFTER 2010 -2020



**Sarafino** has become one of our top 2 students; a sharp analytical thinker in both math and science.



**Mikerlange** is one of our best students and is incredibly creative, gifted in reading, writing and art.



**Jerry**, a Literacy Program student, graduated with excellence, and is continuing his education.



**Makir & Michel-Angelo** remain great tech-oriented students and the best of friends. Michel-Angelo has been studying remotely due to COVID-19.

# LOOKING FORWARD - 2021 AND BEYOND



## ASPIRATIONS

11 Years ago we started with a base of 50 children aged 4 and 5 to create Haiti's future leaders. Today they have progressed beyond our wildest expectations, and we are propelling them through with a **High School Program**.

## CHALLENGES

We need to raise an **additional \$30,000 per year** to continue making the high school program a reality. After 10 years of hard work, we have achievement statistics in our favor - as well as a group of gifted students **Their future is bright**.



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