

HAITI PROTESTS EVOLVE INTO CONFLICT ZONE:

In a report last May, we shared, “As we approach Flag Day on May 18, the situation will become clearer as to whether the protests have calmed or if they will explode again, proving we are indeed going to have a humanitarian crisis in Haiti, not just for Port-au-Prince, but across the country. This holiday will be a real indicator of where Haiti is today. If a lot of violence and demonstrations are seen, we will be working in a very unstable Haiti. And then the cycle repeats itself.”

Our fears have come true. The cycle has continued to repeat itself. The crisis in Haiti has now evolved into a major humanitarian crisis. Haiti is the newest Conflict Zone and could erupt into civil war.

The seemingly endless demonstrations - often accompanied by violence in Haiti - have many people wondering why they should continue to help when the situation seems interminable and with no clear resolution. Billions of dollars have been donated and invested to help rebuild this nation again and again.

**However, it is critical to keep
at the forefront of our minds and our hearts,
that real people are dying there every day
as a result of this current conflict.**



This can no longer be looked at as a series of demonstrations, but rather Haiti has become a 'conflict zone' in the truest sense of the term.

Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere and one of the fifteen poorest countries in the world.

The conflict the world is witnessing today is affecting the lives of millions of people. This is a result of generations of corruption at the highest levels of government and a systematic oppression of a vast majority of the country's population.

This oppression has taken many forms:

1. Limiting access to formal education to ensure that people do not question the vast disparity of wealth in the country.
2. Little or no access to food or health care in many parts of the country and, when available, too costly for most to afford.
3. A widespread lack of clean water and sanitation leading to deadly diseases such as cholera, typhoid, hepatitis, infant and child diarrhea, among others.
4. Skyrocketing costs of fuel and other goods imported into the country.
5. No internal investment in the agricultural sector to help increase crop production and with it the ability of a population to sustain itself.
6. Weak and failing infrastructure throughout the country, i.e. poor electrical service, poor roads and much more.

What was a fragile nation state is now a failing nation state.

**People who were accustomed to hunger
are now starving.**

**People accustomed to even minimal services
are now without any food, water, fuel, electricity, etc.**

Haiti is in the midst, or at the very least on the verge, of an all-out civil war. We must not, [we cannot turn our backs on our neighbor](#). The humanitarian crisis is tragic.

**But most importantly,
once again it is the
children who are the
innocent victims
in this national struggle
for justice and equality.**



The following photos posted by the AP show the violent demonstrations, anger over corruption and inflation, and dwindling supplies of food, water and gas.



A police officer aims his weapon after demonstrators calling for the resignation of President Jovenel Moise broke through their lines.



Protesters led by the art community demand the resignation of Haitian President Jovenel Moise as they march through Port-au-Prince.



A relative of Rigueur Pierre Richard, who was killed in a drive-by shooting two blocks from the national palace, is overcome with grief, during a protest against fuel shortages and demanding the resignation of the President.



Protesters trying to break through a barricade leading toward the residence of Haitian President Jovenel Moise flee as police fire a water cannon.



A protestor holds rocks while walking in front of burning tires at a barricade, as protesters seek to paralyze transport and commerce in order to pressure President Moise to resign.



Paseus Juvenky St. Fleur, who trained as a lawyer and is now an activist working for social justice, drops to his knees as protesters trying to set up a barricade across a major road argue with police trying to stop them.



Protesters use paving stones and rocks to barricade a road that runs along the periphery of a park next to the presidential palace.



A man drives his motorcycle through a burning barricade during anti-government protests.



Charles Lewis, 25, repairs clothes on his sewing machine in front of the one-room home he shares with his wife and daughter.



Miland Pierre, 22, tends to her 11-day-old twins Milanda and Milo who were born in the one-room shack she, her husband, and their two older children share on the edge of a waterway heavily polluted with trash and human waste.



A woman leans against a truck as people wait for distribution to restart, after a federal government hand-out of food and school supplies was temporarily suspended when the lines turned into jostling crowds, at the mayor's office.



A woman fries up small fish coated in flour by the light of a cell phone in the Cite Soleil neighborhood where access to electricity is limited and sporadic.

View the AP article in full at: <https://apimagesblog.com/blog/2019/10/11/photos-show-political-turmoil-in-haiti>

HRI IS PREVAILING AMIDST THE CONFLICT:

Even through the turmoil and conflict in the country, HRI continues to carry-out our mission:

To improve and protect the lives of desperately poor children and families by building resiliency, fighting hunger, promoting family unity, and increasing self-sufficiency.

Unlike the millions of who are desperately fighting in the streets for basic necessities, HRI supported orphanages have NOT gone without food, clean water, fuel for cooking or other life-saving care.



Nutrition, Education, Sanitation and Transformation services through your partnership have all continued!



While many international organizations and ministries have closed their doors during this time of conflict, HRI has remained open as long as it is safe for our team members to travel. Many live long distances from our office and our programs, but this does not stop them from making often dangerous trips to ensure that the children who rely on HRI do not go without!

Our **HRI Nurse** and **Social Workers** have continued to travel the roads—during periods of calm—to bring lifesaving and life-transforming services to the children. The children continue to benefit from medical evaluations, first-aid, vitamins, de-worming and other medical services, albeit at irregular intervals.

Youth enrolled in our **Micro-Enterprise Training Programs** have completed their training but have not been able to launch their businesses at this time. The safety and security of our youth is a priority. The classes teach the youth small business development and management, financial literacy and money management, and more. When they leave the orphanage at age 18, they leave with marketable skills and a small business so they have immediate income.



The **academic year** that was supposed to begin on September 9th has not happened, yet another sign of Haiti being mired in conflict. However, in an effort to provide some 'normalcy' in people's traumatized day-to-day lives, HRI is continuing our programming with children and families in the Children First program. Just this weekend HRI launched the first planned weekly activities—including the Parent Training Program for over 80 parents. Activities for the parents and children will continue in the coming weeks and months, as security allows, and until the conflict is resolved.

Sadly, the approximately 125 children who attend one local public school and who usually benefit from HRI's **School Feeding Program** have missed out on the nutritional support and health care our nurse provides as a result of the conflict forcing schools to remain closed. We are currently looking at ways we can get food to the children without putting them or our staff in harms way. During civil unrest and in conflict zones—*which is exactly where we are working*—when it becomes known that specific populations are receiving food assistance, they often become fast targets for theft and physical violence at the hands of others who are fighting to save their own children from starvation. For now, we are serving meals at all of our trainings and other activities as we continue to see what we can do moving forward, should the schools remain closed.

Additionally, we are looking at how we can begin to address the compound, chronic **trauma** these children and families are living in—in the orphanages, the school and Children First families—so be looking for more information on how you can partner in those initiatives.

Safety of our team and the children and families we serve is our number one priority now that we are delivering services in a conflict zone, so we have been working with our executive leadership in Haiti and the U.S. headquarters office to develop multiple strategies and plans for every program to ensure no service is interrupted for more than 3-7 days and to deliver programs and services as safely as possible for all involved. After all, they need us now more than ever!

Many of our **communications** with our team in Haiti have been delayed due to loss of electricity, internet and phone service city-wide—and thus your reports have been delayed, but they have not stopped the vital work your giving makes possible!





Our team in Haiti is phenomenal!

They have been very flexible for many months, working late and working weekends, working whenever it is safe to serve the children, working when they can and while they can—knowing the roads will be cluttered, unsafe and impassable again soon. They are committed to the children in the orphanages, school and Children First programs. They are persevering through unbelievable circumstances to ensure the needs of children and families are met and to lead them into a better life through

training, leadership, mentorship, capacity-building and by providing opportunities for them to strengthen their family's resilience by improving their income and their ability to provide for their family. These are the very reasons people are rioting in the streets against the current political regime. But as for HRI, we will keep our heads down and our hands and feet at work improving the quality of lives, the dignity of people and providing opportunities for them to move forward – with or without the government's help.

HRI IS NOT STOPPING!

THANK YOU FOR NOT GIVING UP EITHER!

HRI GUATEMALA:

HRI's work in Guatemala has also become more targeted and focused in recent months. We have concluded work in some communities and expanded work in others. The new villages we are serving, as those we have left, are in the "dry corridor" of the country, which makes them highly subject to drought which affects crops, access to water and income for families.

HRI programs in Guatemala focus on serving children and families more holistically at school and home. HRI school feeding programs and infant feeding programs ensure every child has a full tummy so children can focus at school and develop properly.



Infant & Toddler Nutritional Feeding Program (Pre-K)

Adequate nutrition in the earliest years of a child's life prevents stunted growth, chronic illness and is vital for healthy social and cognitive development. HRI leads a very small program for infants and toddlers in rural Guatemala where chronic malnutrition is a severe problem.

School Feeding Programs

Too many families struggle every day to feed their children – something, anything, let alone a nutritious meal. We know the stress these families endure on daily a basis, and that is why all of our programs support the fundamental goal of ending chronic hunger and resolving food insecurity for the long-term. In the interim, HRI's School Feeding Programs improve health, school enrollment, attendance, academic performance and gender equity. We ensure children receive the basic nutrition they need to learn, grow and thrive. At the same time, our work with families and schools focuses on developing healthier home and community environments. With the support of partners, HRI provides **water filters** to help prevent water-borne diseases, **modern latrines** to provide privacy, dignity and better health standards, and **safe cook stoves** that enable families to cook meals without fear of harm to their children's delicate respiratory systems. HRI pairs these services with community health, wellness and first-aid trainings for the best results.



**All of the above activities are made possible by
HRI partner churches and through your church mission trips!**

HRI continues to focus on our mission: *to improve and protect the lives of desperately poor children and families by building resiliency, fighting hunger, promoting family unity, and increasing self-sufficiency.*

We have shared much over the years regarding the importance of School Feeding Programs and the impact they have on children and families. As we maintain our laser focus on our mission, we know that education represents a large part of accomplishing our goals. **Education is truly the “escalator” out of poverty.**



We continue to see nearly all school-aged children enrolled in, and attending, school in our program. We see girls going to school every day, completing at least primary school, and many going on to a higher education. We observe children's health improving with daily nutritious meals and we know that their children will be healthier because they have received more and better education than their parents and grandparents.

You are truly **"changing a generation to transform a nation."**
(Dr. Claude Thomas)

We also are acutely aware that when together we alleviate the burden on parents struggling to earn just \$3/day, by providing a hot lunch and nutritious 'atole' to their children in school, it helps to keep families intact. Fathers unable to feed their children often suffer from depression, frustration and anger. These lead to domestic violence and abandonment of the family. By providing nutritious meals to their children, and other support, it serves as encouragement and results in stronger, more unified families. Over the years, we have seen increased numbers of men in the communities walk alongside HRI and you, our partners, to improve the quality of life within their homes and villages.

It is during these situations of abject poverty and continuing crisis that communities see a rise in:

1. Child Abandonment in Orphanages
2. Child Sex Trafficking
3. Self-Prostitution of Single Mothers
4. Child and Domestic Abuse
5. Youth Gangs
6. Drug and Alcohol Abuse
7. Refugees Fleeing the Country for a Better Life
8. And More



HRI programs continue to evolve to not only meet the most basic needs of children and families, but to also create Behavioral Change that will prevent some of the worst situations which result in abuse and maltreatment of children.



As part of HRI's **N**utrition, **E**ducation, **S**anitation and **T**ransformation services (NEST), HRI continues to lead multiple **Health Trainings** for the community.

Our community-based trainings primarily include health, sanitation and first-aid. We have focused largely on the importance of children and parents washing hands regularly, safe food preparation and storage, the importance of wearing shoes and maintaining good, clean sanitary facilities and basic first-aid. **We aim to improve the health and welfare of the children by promoting behavioral change through these trainings.**



In addition, HRI provided **new pots and pans** for all our school feeding programs this year. The moms who prepare the school meals were thrilled to have new, clean, quality pots and pans to cook for the children. We hope this will encourage the moms to keep them clean, which will create a healthier kitchen and meals for the children.

Behavioral Change is something that takes immense time, patience and energy. We are working towards the modification of long held cultural norms for whole communities.

Nevertheless, we are confident that once the children and their parents grasp the messages and incorporate new practices into their daily lives – such as hand washing, we will see remarkable improvements!

This all begins with the school feeding and infant nutrition programs that you provide!

Additionally, HRI continues our **Youth Leadership & Development** program in the city.

Our Guatemala safe spaces and youth activities offer youth a sense of belonging and a chance to regularly participate in positive activities. These programs help keep youth and children safe, decrease gang involvement, and create new opportunities for younger generations and their communities.



HRI PARTNERS HAVE PROVIDED THESE SERVICES IN GUATEMALA THIS YEAR

JAN-SEPT PROGRAMS	TOTAL PROVIDED	# OF ADULTS	# OF YOUTH
Youth Trainings	72		1,645
Adult Trainings	34	651	
Water Filters	58		
Latrines	16		
Compost Toilets	2		
Safe Cookstoves	31		

JANUARY – SEPTEMBER STATS FOR YOUR PERSONALLY SPONSORED PROGRAM

ORPHANAGE	CHURCH	# OF CHILDREN	1Q-3Q MEALS
Etablissement de Bienfaisance des Orphelins (EBO)	First Church	23, 23, 24	19,113

JANUARY – SEPTEMBER HRI PROGRAM STATS FOR HAITI & GUATEMALA

Program	Number of Meals	JANUARY TOTAL	CUMULATIVE TOTAL JAN
Haiti- Orphanage Feeding	95,046	119,171	119,171
Haiti - Children First	3,125		
Guatemala- School Feeding	19,530		
Guatemala- Early Childhood	1,470		

Program	Number of Meals	FEBRUARY TOTAL	CUMULATIVE TOTAL JAN-FEB
Haiti- Orphanage Feeding	85,848	108,503	227,674
Haiti - Children First	3,125		
Guatemala- School Feeding	19,530		
Guatemala- Early Childhood	0		

Program	Number of Meals	MARCH TOTAL	CUMULATIVE TOTAL JAN-MAR
Haiti- Orphanage Feeding	95,046	117,701	345,375
Haiti - Children First	3,125		
Guatemala- School Feeding	19,530		
Guatemala- Early Childhood	0		

Program	Number of Meals	APRIL TOTAL	CUMULATIVE TOTAL JAN-APR
Haiti- Orphanage Feeding	79,650	100,955	446,330
Haiti - Children First	3,125		
Guatemala- School Feeding	18,180		
Guatemala- Early Childhood	0		

Program	Number of Meals	MAY TOTAL	CUMULATIVE TOTAL JAN-MAY
Haiti- Orphanage Feeding	82,305	104,540	550,870
Haiti - Children First	3,125		
Guatemala- School Feeding	18,180		
Guatemala- Early Childhood	930		

Program	Number of Meals	JUNE TOTAL	CUMULATIVE TOTAL JAN-JUN
Haiti- Orphanage Feeding	79,650	100,955	651,825
Haiti - Children First	3,125		
Guatemala- School Feeding	18,180		
Guatemala- Early Childhood	0		

Program	Number of Meals	JULY TOTAL	CUMULATIVE TOTAL JAN-JULY
Haiti- Orphanage Feeding	82,305	103,610	755,435
Haiti - Children First	3,125		
Guatemala- School Feeding	18,180		
Guatemala- Early Childhood	0		

Program	Number of Meals	AUG TOTAL	CUMULATIVE TOTAL JAN-AUG
Haiti- Orphanage Feeding	82,305	103,610	859,045
Haiti - Children First	3,125		
Guatemala- School Feeding	18,180		
Guatemala- Early Childhood	0		

Program	Number of Meals	SEPT TOTAL	CUMULATIVE TOTAL JAN-SEPT
Haiti- Orphanage Feeding	79,650	97,830	956,875
Haiti - Children First	0		
Guatemala- School Feeding	18,180		
Guatemala- Early Childhood	0		