

As Haiti Faces Dire Struggle, a \$44 Million Education Pact Offers a Glimmer of Hope

IDB, EAA, and GPE Rally to Support Haiti's Youth with an Ambitious Education Revival Plan Amidst Crisis

WASHINGTON, D.C., UNITED STATES, April 30, 2024 /EINPresswire.com/ -- In a powerful response to the acute humanitarian crisis gripping Haiti, where recent surges in gang violence have brought the nation to the brink of collapse, a coalition of global organizations has announced a pivotal educational initiative. The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), in partnership with the Education Above All Foundation (EAA) and the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), has unveiled a program that aspires to shield and educate 150,000 Haitian children, reinforcing the infrastructure of hope in a landscape marred by chaos.

"Our commitment to Haiti remains steadfast. Together with the Education Above All Foundation, the Global Partnership for Education, and other partners, we're increasing access for vulnerable youth to quality education, providing school feeding, remedial classes, and improving student retention in an effort to offer young Haitians a better future," declared IDB President Ilan Goldfajn. This initiative promises not only to educate but also to serve as a sanctuary amid the chaos in Port-au-Prince.

This ambitious project, announced on April 23, 2024, in the United States capital of Washington, D.C., is a response to the debilitating crisis that has led to soaring rates of malnutrition, displacement, and a widespread breakdown of basic services in Haiti. [Over 80% of the capital is under gang control](#), and essential services are critically undermined. The comprehensive five-year plan, supported by a \$44 million grant, is not just an educational program but an emergency intervention in a country where schools are sometimes the only safe haven left for children.

The initiative will empower the Ministry of National Education to revamp its curriculum and bolster sector management, while also addressing critical issues such as food and economic insecurity through school feeding programs and remedial classes. It aims to reintegrate out-of-school children, improve attendance and retention, and enhance the quality of education—a multifaceted approach that recognizes the complex web of challenges facing Haitian children.

"Supporting access to and retention of quality primary education in Haiti is not just a moral imperative but a strategic investment in the country's long-term stability and development," said Fahad Al Sulaiti, CEO of the Education Above All Foundation. "This partnership marks a

significant step forward in our mission to ensure that the most vulnerable children, regardless of their circumstances, have access to quality education."

The situation in Haiti has deteriorated into what the United Nations describes as [the worst humanitarian and human rights crisis in decades](#), with rampant gang violence leading to a catastrophic rise in hunger, particularly in Port-au-Prince's Cité Soleil neighborhood. This partnership not only aims to counter the tangible insecurity but also endeavors to restore a sense of normalcy and progress for Haitian children and their communities.

Laura Frigenti, CEO of the Global Partnership for Education, echoed the urgency of the situation: "Our support to the children of Haiti, through access to schools, textbooks, and qualified teachers, is more critical than ever to counter the impact of insecurity in the country." She emphasizes GPE's unwavering commitment to building a more resilient educational system for Haiti's children, allowing them to craft better lives for themselves and their communities.

As Haiti confronts this dire situation, marked by extreme violence and basic supply shortages, the initiative by IDB, EAA Foundation, and GPE stands out as a critical intervention. It underscores the power of education to combat instability and poverty, asserting the transformative potential of learning in the darkest of times.

The timing of this initiative could not be more critical. This educational undertaking is a bold stroke in the face of adversity, underscoring the transformative power of learning and collaboration in the most challenging of circumstances.

For more details on the EAA Foundation, visit www.educationaboveall.org.

For more about IDB, visit www.iadb.org

For more about GPE, visit www.globalpartnership.org

Tina Musoke
The Angela Solomon Agency
tina@angelamsolomon.com
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