

HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

THEMATIC PROFILE - GOAL HAITI

GOAL'S CONTEXT IN HAITI

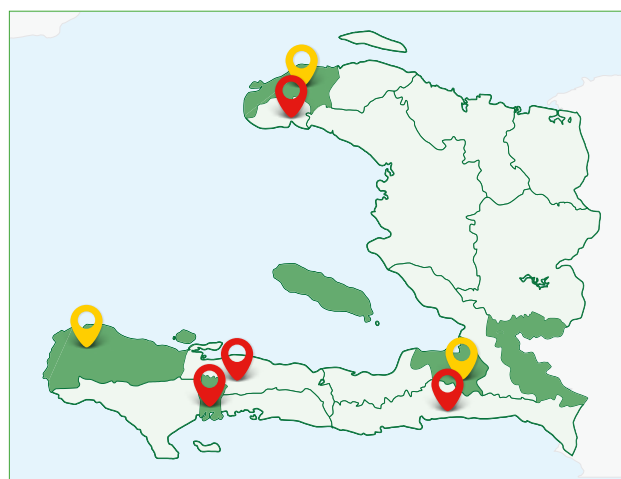
GOAL implements a broad range of humanitarian and development programs, with a strong focus on systems strengthening, partnerships, resilience, and inclusivity. In line with its organizational strategy, GOAL's programming is structured around four core areas : emergency preparedness and response, resilient health (including nutrition and WASH), food and nutrition security (FNS), and sustainable livelihoods. These pillars support a variety of innovative, often integrated, interventions that address the complex needs of communities.

GOAL remains committed to supporting vulnerable populations affected by overlapping crises and extreme poverty. By leveraging local capacities, delivering humanitarian assistance where needed, and strengthening the systems in which communities live and work, GOAL aims to build resilience and improve long-term well-being.

Present in Haiti since 2010 following the January 12th earthquake, GOAL initially focused its efforts in the West Department, providing food assistance, temporary shelters, and emergency cash support.

Its program gradually evolved into an integrated community development approach, centered on strong local engagement and a vision of transition from crisis to resilience.

GOAL's operational footprint includes a country office in Pétion-Ville and field offices in Carrefour, Jérémie, and Jean Rabel.



CURRENT / RECENT OPERATIONAL PRESENCE



NATIONAL OFFICE



POTENTIAL NEW OFFICE

SECURITY SITUATION IN HAITI

The security situation in Haiti continues to deteriorate, marked by the proliferation of armed groups, particularly in the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince (ZMPP). The withdrawal of state authorities and public security forces has allowed these groups to impose territorial control based on intimidation, extortion, and violence.

This instability severely compromises access to basic services, causes mass displacement, and exacerbates the vulnerability of affected populations. In many areas, humanitarian access now depends on prior negotiations with armed actors, exposing aid workers to high security risks and complicating the implementation of interventions.

RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Expanded access to high-risk areas

For over three years, GOAL has operated in multiple unstable neighborhoods within the ZMPP—including Carrefour, Martissant, Bel Air, La Saline, Croix-des-Bouquets, Canaan, and opened a humanitarian corridor to Fond Parisien—thanks to a strong community-based access strategy.

Concrete impact on communities

In 2024, GOAL Haiti supported over 55,000 people affected by political instability and gang violence with food and nutrition assistance. Additionally, more than 61,000 individuals benefited from WASH interventions.

Participation in the European Humanitarian Forum 2025

In May 2025, GOAL Haiti participated in the European Humanitarian Forum (EHF) in Brussels (May 19–20), a flagship event organized by the European Commission of the EU, focusing on humanitarian diplomacy and integrated approaches to fragility.

ACCESS TO GANG-CONTROLLED AREAS

GOAL adopts a proactive and inclusive community approach to access high-risk zones, especially those under the influence of armed groups. Prior to implementation, community meetings are held with all relevant stakeholders—including neighborhood committees, local representatives, and community structures—to present project objectives, beneficiary selection criteria, and key donor procedures. This upfront transparency helps reduce misunderstandings, build local trust, and prevent potential community tensions or security incidents.

The humanitarian team also relies on regular access reports that document contextual changes, local dynamics, acceptance levels, and operational constraints. This ongoing monitoring enables adjustments to intervention modalities, risk anticipation, and strengthening of protection measures for both staff and beneficiaries.

Risk management is based on clear internal protocols, combining strict security rules, close coordination with humanitarian actors, and continuous adaptation to the context. This approach ensures responsible interventions while maximizing humanitarian access to the most vulnerable populations.

HUMANITARIAN NEGOTIATION

Securing safe and sustainable humanitarian access largely depends on the quality of negotiations conducted with local stakeholders. At GOAL, humanitarian negotiation is a crucial step in the access strategy, carried out strictly in accordance with the humanitarian principles of neutrality, impartiality, humanity, and independence.

Our approach generally begins with dialogue involving local humanitarian actors already present in the area, notably Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), community leaders, and notable figures. These interlocutors play a key role in understanding the local context and can facilitate identification of influential armed actors, allowing a gradual and contextualized introduction.

From the first exchanges, GOAL clarifies its intentions: our sole priority is to respond to the urgent needs of vulnerable populations, without distinction, condition, or exchange. We make no promises or arrangements outside the humanitarian framework. Humanitarian principles are systematically reiterated to establish a transparent dialogue framework. Finally, clear “red lines” are set from the outset to define the limits of our engagement, especially regarding ethics, staff security, and compliance with international standards. This approach helps preserve the integrity of our mission while creating the conditions necessary for secure and accepted humanitarian access.

CBO NETWORK

GOAL actively collaborates with a network of over 100 CBOs to strengthen humanitarian access and anchor its interventions in local realities. These partners receive training and capacity-building support before being integrated into activity implementation.

Although they are not salaried, CBO members receive incentive fees to cover logistical needs (communication, transport, meals). This participatory approach builds trust reinforces local acceptance, and enables CBOs to play a key role in community advocacy and the continuity of humanitarian actions.





COORDINATION MECHANISMS

GOAL plays an active and recognized role in humanitarian coordination mechanisms in Haiti, especially on access issues. Its Security and Access Department is regularly called upon to provide contextual analyses, operational recommendations, and direct support to partners. GOAL is an influential member of OCHA's Access Working Group (GTA) and the humanitarian negotiators core group and actively participates in FOSSEC (Inter-NGO Security Forum) and INSO meetings. In 2024, GOAL was mobilized by UNDSS and OCHA to facilitate humanitarian evacuations along National Routes #3 and #8 and to secure a humanitarian corridor to Fond Parisien during an emergency response.

SAFETY AND SECURITY DEPARTMENT

GOAL Haiti's Security and Access Department is structured to ensure safe operations in high-risk zones. It is led by a Regional Security Lead covering Haiti, Niger, and Chad, supported by a national network composed of base managers (security focal points) and 11 agents distributed across field offices.

The team is supported by GOAL Global headquarters, particularly for risk management and strategic security analysis.

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