

THE SMARTEST SOLUTIONS FOR HAITI:

- ▶ REFORM ELECTRICITÉ D'HAÏTI
- ▶ MICRONUTRIENTS
- ▶ EARLY CHILDHOOD STIMULATION

Based on peer-reviewed analyses from dozens of top economists from Haiti and abroad, a panel of eminent economists have prioritized more than 80 targets in terms of their value-for-money. Their list shows where each gourde can do the most economic, social and environmental good for Haiti.

1. Reform electricity utility

Improving the legal regulatory framework to create the conditions for an autonomous, accountable and efficient electric utility. It will substantially reduce the losses experienced by Electricité d'Haïti. This will cost 2.25 billion gourdes. Benefits are worth 49.2 billion gourdes.

2. Wheat flour micronutrient fortification

Adding iron and folic acid to wheat flour during milling in Haiti. Spending 331 million gourdes to fortify 95% of wheat flour will avert 140 neural tube defect deaths and more than 250,000 cases of anemia annually. Benefits are worth 7.9 billion gourdes.

3. Early childhood stimulation

Providing two years of teacher-led education before primary school for 516,000 children. This will cost 7 billion gourdes annually. This will mean higher earnings for children when they grow up. Benefits are worth 115 billion gourdes.

4. Train first responders

Providing several days of first-aid training to volunteers across the country. This will cost 80m gourdes and save around 700 lives every year.

5. Immunization for children 0-1

Amplifying infant immunization coverage to 90% by 2020. This will cost 2.4 billion gourdes over five years. Over five years, 864,000 additional children will be immunized, and 16,000 lives saved. Benefits are worth 32.3 billion gourdes.

6. Maternal and newborn health

Providing healthcare for pregnant women and newborns. Reaching 95% coverage will cost 11 billion gourdes. This will reduce the maternal mortality rate by 65%, saving the lives of more than 500 mothers and 3,000 newborns.

7. Access to contraception

Expanding sexual and reproductive health services to meet 100% of unmet need will cost 1,500 million gourdes annually, cut under-5 mortality by 70%, reduce maternal mortality, and create a 'demographic dividend'.

8. Skilled assistance at delivery

Ensuring skilled midwives provide care at birth for normal deliveries, including neonatal resuscitation and clean postnatal practices. This will avert 1,700 deaths each year.

9. Expand mobile broadband

Increasing mobile broadband penetration to fifty percent over 5 years and installing an undersea cable to support the increased traffic will cost 56 billion gourdes. This will stimulate economic growth and reap benefits worth 685 billion gourdes.

10. Electronic port custom system

Computerization of procedures at the Port of Cap-Haitien to lower costs for port services, which will also increase customs revenue and decrease smuggling. The benefits are worth more than 5 billion gourdes.

PANEL OF EMINENT ECONOMISTS

Kesner Pharel, prominent economist, public commentator and chairman and CEO of Group Croissance

Ketleen Florestal, advisor to the Executive Director for Haiti at the World Bank Group and representative of Haiti at the International Monetary Fund's Board of Executive Directors

Raymond Magloire, ambassador, specialist in private sector and industrial economics affiliated with Haitian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Franco-Haitian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Association of Haitian Industries, and Association of Haitian Economists

Vernon L. Smith, professor of economics at Chapman University's Argyros School of Business and Economics and School of Law, and recipient of the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences

ACADEMIC EXPERTS

Abbie Turiansky, Mathematica Policy Research
Amien Sauveur, Ministry of Planning and External Cooperation

Anastasia Gage, Tulane University

Anke Hoeffler, University of Oxford

Atonu Rabbani, University of Dhaka

Bahman Kashi, Queen's University

Bertrand Joseph, Ministry of Planning and External Cooperation

Bjorn Larsen, Environmental Economist

Brian Hutchinson, RTI International

Charley George Granvorka, Consultant

Christine P. Stewart, University of California, Davis

Dale Whittington, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Damien Échevin, University of Sherbrooke and Laval University

Gene F. Kwan, Partners in Health and Harvard Medical School

George Psacharopoulos, Georgetown University

Hans-Peter Kohler, University of Pennsylvania

Jacques Philippe Estime, Ministry of Planning and External Cooperation

Jay Mackinnon, Limestone Analytics

Jean Edouard Pauyo, Energy Specialist

Jean Guy Honoré, University of Washington

Jeff Allien, Ministry of Planning and External Cooperation

Jimmy Verne, Ministry of Planning and External Cooperation

Juan Belt, Limestone Analytics

Karin Stenberg, World Health Organization

Katherine P. Adams, University of California, Davis

Ludovic Queuille, Panamerican Health Organization

Magdine Flore Rozier Baldé, Ministry of Planning and External Cooperation

Marc Jeuland, Duke University

Marcus Cadet, Ministry of Public Health and Population

Mark Radin, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Mélissa Torchenaud, Ministry of Planning and External Cooperation

Moïse Celicourt, Public Finance Reform Commission & Economic Governance

Nicolas Allien, Ministry of Public Work, Transportation and Communication

Pantelis Koutroumpis, Imperial College Business School

Pierre Michel Chéry, Académie du Créole Haïtien

Rachel Nugent, RTI International

Rachel Sanders, Avenir Health, Washington DC

Rachel Sklar, University of California, Berkeley

Reina Engle-Stone, University of California, Davis

Riphard Serent, Université Quisqueya and Radion Vision

Romy Reggiani Theodat, Ministry of Trade and Industry

Rudy Joseph, Ministry of Planning and External Cooperation

Ruolz Ariste, Laval University and University du Québec en Outaouais

Ruth Christina Daurisca, Ministry of Public Health and Population

Ryan K. McBain, Partners in Health

Samuel Philip Jean-Louis, Ministry of Planning and External Cooperation

Stanley Jean-Baptiste, Ministry of Public Health and Population

Stephen A. Vosti, University of California, Davis

Subir Bairagi, Institute of Policy and Social Sciences and International Rice Research Institute

Tarah Télusma Thelusme, Ministry of Planning and External Cooperation

Tim Josling, Stanford University

Travis J. Lybbert, University of California, Davis

Yvrose Guerrier, Ministry of Planning and External Cooperation

ADVISORY COUNCIL:

Camille Chalmers, State University of Haiti

Eddy Labossiere, President of Association of Haitian Economists

Kathleen Dorsainvil, formerly American University in D.C.

Pierre-Marie Boisson, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the SOGESOL

THE EMINENT PANEL 'S RANKING

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| 1. reform electricity utility | 29. rural community health centers | 59. hypertension campaign and full treatment |
| 2. wheat flour micronutrient fortification | 30. flood early warning system and shelters | 60. off-grid diesel for village |
| 3. early childhood stimulation | 31. rural borehole and handpump | 61. hydro power |
| 4. train first responders | 32. vocational training | 62. expand microcredit program |
| 5. immunization for children 0-1 | 33. better agroforestry | 63. wind power |
| 6. maternal and newborn health | 34. cholera 1 dose mass vaccination | 64. introduce crop insurance |
| 7. access to contraception | 35. digitize land records | 65. switch charcoal cookstoves to gas |
| 8. skilled assistance at delivery | 36. rural community led total sanitation | 66. packaging and conservation center |
| 9. expand mobile broadband | 37. performance pay in public service | 67. domestic violence helpline |
| 10. electronic port custom system | 38. diabetes treatment for children | 68. subsidize fertilizer for rice |
| 11. electronic registration of birth certificate | 39. expand urban ambulance network | 69. urban container based sanitation |
| 12. calcium and micronutrients in pregnancy | 40. expand graduation program | 70. solar photovoltaic power |
| 13. micronutrient powder ½-2 year olds | 41. road Gonaives to P-d-P | 71. bridge Les Anglais |
| 14. girls' retention in school | 42. e-voting | 72. local content procurement |
| 15. local child nutrition formula RUTF | 43. crop transport truck system | 73. agricultural R&D |
| 16. teaching children at the right level | 44. private schools subsidies | 74. pit latrines in urban areas |
| 17. standard child nutrition formula RUTF | 45. HIV test and treatment | 75. diesel, solar and battery for village |
| 18. decentralized government | 46. gas power ACC | 76. improved and intensified rice production |
| 19. distribution grid extension and upgrade | 47. cholera 2 dose mass vaccination | 77. switch wood cookstoves to gas |
| 20. digitize government processes | 48. promote improved cookstoves | 78. prevent teen dating violence |
| 21. shelters for women and children | 49. civic education for youth | 79. solar reflective power |
| 22. national power transmission grid | 50. clinics at each school | 80. vaccinate girls against cervical cancer |
| 23. train teachers | 51. teach in creole | 81. carbon pricing infrastructure |
| 24. manage childhood illnesses | 52. national legal aid system | 82. 20% rice tariff for ten years |
| 25. flood early warning system | 53. biogas scale-up | 83. increase public service pay 10% |
| 26. cholera 1 dose school vaccination | 54. establish national ambulance network | 84. increase domestic worker wages* |
| 27. conditional cash transfers secondary school | 55. coal power | 85. paid paternity leave |
| 28. mobile school clinics | 56. national patrol force | |
| | 57. free school uniforms | |
| | 58. off-grid hydro for village | |

*The Eminent Panel stresses the importance of increasing wages, especially for women, but the specific proposal considered was not sufficiently clear on the net benefits for the target group.

Eminent Panel member Ketleen Florestal recused herself from the ranking of proposals relating to the energy sector in order to avoid potential conflicts of interest.

Like all nations, Haiti has limited resources and prioritization among potentially unlimited interventions is needed. Understanding the costs and benefits of different proposals can improve the public conversation about priorities. Haiti Priorise has worked with more than 700 sector experts representing the government, donors, think-tanks, universities and NGOs, and with 50 economists from Haiti and abroad to identify and study 85 concrete proposals that would improve the nation's social, economic and environmental wellbeing. Forty-five research papers have been written and peer-reviewed by academics and sector experts. These research papers have each been presented to an Eminent Panel in Port-au-Prince.

The Haiti Priorise research methodology

Haiti Priorise follows the Copenhagen Consensus approach, refined over thirteen years to improve global, regional and national spending priorities. It is undertaken with financial support from the Government of Canada.

In 2016, extensive stakeholder meetings were held with nearly 150 individuals representing government and donors, academia, NGOs, think tanks, and sector experts. The Strategic Development Plan for Haiti (Plan stratégique de développement d'Haiti) and international stakeholder reports were analyzed, to identify key topics for analysis. These topics were reviewed by two Reference Groups, comprising key domestic stakeholders and high-level representatives from the international donor community. Sector expert roundtable meetings were held, covering 18 topic areas.

This process led to the identification of more than 1,000 responses to national challenges. More than 700 representatives from the government and donors, think tanks, NGOs, universities and sector experts were invited to assess the best topics for cost-benefit research. With additional inputs from the Reference Group, a final short-list of interventions was identified for research.

Research papers were commissioned from local and international specialist economists, to analyze the costs and benefits of more than 80 specific proposals. Assumptions were standardized to allow for comparison between different proposals. Peer review was embedded into the research process, to ensure quality while capturing a broad range of expert perspectives. In addition, sector experts from Haiti provided reviews.

Eminent Panel approach

The Eminent Panel sought to address the research proposals with a view to answering the question: To which initiatives should additional resources be spent first? The Eminent Panel intends these findings to be informative not just to the Government of Haiti, but also to NGOs and to international donors.

The panel examined the proposals in detail. Each proposal was discussed with its principal author. The panel was informed by Sector Expert Review papers, and by their own critical appraisals and discussions on assumptions and methodology.

In ordering the proposals, the Eminent Panel was guided predominantly by consideration of social, economic and environmental costs and benefits.

The Eminent Panel acknowledged the difficulties that cost-benefit analysis must overcome, both in principle and as a practical matter, but agreed that the cost-benefit approach was an indispensable organizing method.

Each Eminent Panel member assigned his or her own ranking to proposals. Eminent Panel member Ketleen Florestal recused herself from the ranking of proposals relating to the energy sector in order to avoid potential conflicts of interest. The Eminent Panel's ranking was calculated by taking the median of individual rankings. The Eminent Panel jointly endorses the median ordering as representing their agreed view.

Ranking of Proposals

The Eminent Panel considers and prioritizes specific proposals to respond to challenges. This is different from ranking the challenges themselves. A low ranking of a proposal does not mean that the problem it addresses should be considered unimportant.

The ranking of certain proposals including national legal aid system, domestic violence helpline and digitization of government services were affected by factors including the availability of data, and may have been given a lower ranking among other reasons due to concerns that the proposals would not adequately resolve important aspects of the challenges they were designed to address.

However, the Eminent Panel stresses the importance of reducing domestic violence, resolving legal system shortcomings, and improving government services.

Regarding the challenge of domestic violence, the Eminent Panel specifically notes the beneficial effect that higher-ranked proposals are likely to have on this challenge, through financial empowerment of girls and women. Such effects were taken into consideration.

The Eminent Panel also notes the importance of improving wages, particularly for women, as well as the registration of birth and provision of identity documents. It recommends that a broad range of measures be studied, including improvements to the existing system, and that the electronic registration be not considered in isolation.

Careful attention should be paid to the institutional and financial arrangements for implementing these proposals, such as in the case of crop transport truck systems.

In setting priorities, the Eminent Panel took into account the strengths and weaknesses of the specific cost-benefit appraisals under review, and gave weight both to the institutional preconditions for success and to the demands of ethical or humanitarian importance.