

# Access to water in urban and rural Haiti and the Inter-American Development Bank's attempts at solutions

Katherine Bayard

UCLA Blum Center on Poverty and Health in Latin America

## Introduction

- ◆ Haiti is the poorest country in Western Hemisphere. In addition, the 2010 earthquake in Port-Au-Prince made inadequate access to water and sanitation worse than it already was.
- ◆ The recent cholera outbreak was the largest epidemic in years. It killed thousands of people and occurred as a result of the contaminated water in Haiti.
- ◆ The Inter-American Development Bank launched the Port-au-Prince Water and Sanitation Project II to address programs regarding water services, and to work with the government to propose effective solutions.



<http://www.rashmee.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/haiti-water.jpg>

## Materials and methods

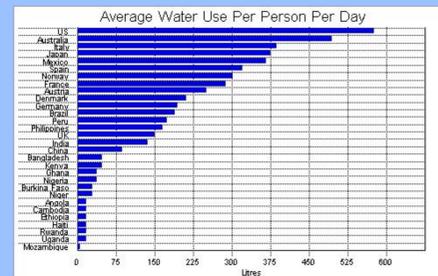
- ◆ The American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene did a case study on access to water
- ◆ They conducted survey in 40 isolated communities, and sampled household water and the community water source (Patrick et. al, 2013 p 3).
- ◆ Difficult to find the community's water source, demonstrating that even contaminated sources are hard to come by in certain areas
- ◆ Samples taken back to laboratories to be examined for the presence of different types of bacteria (Patrick et. al, 2013 p 3).



<http://blogs.worldbank.org/latinamerica/water-and-sanitation-in-rural-haiti-still-just-a-trickle>

## Results

- ◆ Two thirds of all samples were contaminated with *E. Coli* bacteria, even sources that were considered "improved" contained some level of fecal contamination (Patrick et. al, 2013 p 3).
- ◆ Of all clusters sampled, only 3.4% reported that they received their water from a reliable, private source (Patrick et. al, 2013 p 5).
- ◆ Majority of people treated their water with "Aquatabs" or treatments of chlorination.
- ◆ 25% of the population unknowingly under dosed their water and another 26% admitted to not knowing the proper dosage of chlorination to use (Patrick et. al, 2013 p 6).



Haiti in comparison to the rest of the world

[http://www.data360.org/dig.aspx?Data\\_Set\\_Group\\_Id=757](http://www.data360.org/dig.aspx?Data_Set_Group_Id=757)

TABLE 1  
Respondent and household characteristics in rural Artibonite Department in May of 2012

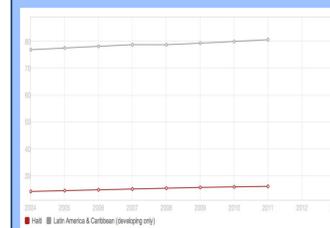
Variable (n = 433)	Number (%)
Mean age (years) of respondent (range)	41 (16–90)
Respondent able to read Creole phrase	183 (42.4)
Mean household size (range)	5.3 (1–12)
Mean number of children less than 5 years in household (range)	1.0 (0–5)
Household owns functional radio	161 (37.8)
Household owns functional cell phone	295 (69.0)
Median number of water storage containers in household (range)	3 (0–25)
Household currently using 20-L bucket for drinking water storage vessel	349 (89.1)
Drinking water vessel covered	373 (91.9)
Drinking water vessel has a tap	66 (15.0)

<http://www.ajtmh.org/content/89/4/647.full.pdf.html?tid=4c7aa67-2cc9-4b36-be46-50bc2319402>

## The Inter-American Development Bank's Solutions

- ◆ IDB continuously founded projects in Haiti both before and after the earthquake and is still helping with its newest program, Port-au-Prince water and sanitation project II
- ◆ Recently approved in July 2010: Port-au-Prince water and sanitation project II which aims to improve sanitation by rehabilitating existing facilities and expanding the services of currently operating water companies

### Outcomes:



- ◆ Increase in the quality of distribution services
- ◆ Noticeable improvement on the business management side of water distribution
- ◆ Stipulation of the water industry as a whole

<http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.STA.ACSN/countries/HT-xj?display=graph>

- ◆ The United States has already donated \$35.5 million dollars to the bank for use for this cause
- ◆ This project emphasizes the importance of maintaining people's access to basic services including sanitation and a clean water supply
- ◆ Also encourages community involvement in establishment of programs

## Conclusions

- ◆ The Inter-American Development Bank's initiative is very specific in its goals and procedures. Although it succeeded in helping to improve the situation of access to clean water and sanitation for many Haitian residents, it is clear that a lot still must be done in regards to these issues
- ◆ Haiti is still one of the Caribbean countries with the worst access to many essential resources.
- ◆ The IDB must continue funding projects in Haiti
- ◆ International donors must retain interest in the cause
- ◆ In addition, we should increase education regarding the treatment of water in a private household

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