

March 2022



CONSULAR NEWS LETTER

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During March, Women's History Month, USAID/Haiti is proud to have taken an active role in the [U.S. Embassy's International Women's Day Festival](#) honoring the talents, creativity, and entrepreneurship of Haitian women. We continue to be impressed by the dedication of Haitian women to promoting Haiti's culture and economy through their arts and businesses. USAID reinforces our commitment to working with and empowering women every day, especially through our Haitian partner organizations.

I enjoyed visiting our USAID partners' booths Engagement, Participation, et Kapasite (enpaK), Fondasyon Kole Zepòl, and ATTEINDRE, as well as a women-led local business that USAID supports with financial and technical assistance through FONHDAD. USAID is empowering these local partners, among many others, to drive development across Haiti. Thanks to the support of the American people, enpaK is supporting Haitians living with disabilities, FONKOZE is fighting malnutrition in rural Haiti, and ATTEINDRE is helping small local businesses expand. It is for and with local partners like these that USAID is working to strengthen health systems and achieve results such as more children under 5 living longer, HIV infection rates at less than 2%, and 80% of people living with HIV and AIDS on treatment.

We keep Haitian partners in mind as we work with the private sector to match investments in business partnerships and loans. We also support our partners preparing to facilitate more inclusive election participation.

We work hand in hand with the Government of Haiti to encourage COVID-19 vaccination, achieve cholera eradication, and collaborate on other health and infrastructure priorities, such as giving households greater access to clean water.

Our humanitarian and development assistance touches every aspect of daily life for the Haitian people—providing relief and building resilience when disaster strikes, producing books for first and second graders, planting trees to reduce environmental degradation, and helping farmers increase crop yields through investment, new technologies, and irrigation.

All of our work matters to Haiti. Together, we prove that despite the mounting challenges, we will always find ways to support and equip the Haitian people to develop a more resilient and democratic future.

Christopher M. Cushing
USAID/Haiti Mission Director

The U.S. State Department advises: “**Do not travel to Haiti due to kidnapping**, crime, civil unrest, and COVID-19.” This month we’re providing more information on the kidnapping threat.

Q: What is the threat of kidnapping in Haiti?

A: The [U.S. Department of State says](#) kidnapping is widespread in Haiti and victims regularly include U.S. citizens. Kidnappers may use sophisticated planning or take advantage of unplanned opportunities, and even convoys have been attacked. Kidnapping cases often involve ransom negotiations and U.S. citizen victims have been physically harmed during kidnappings.

Q: What does the U.S. Embassy do for victims of kidnapping?

A: The safety and security of U.S. citizens overseas is the top priority of the State Department. To keep you informed, we provide security updates and send out [messages and alerts](#), which you can personally receive when you enroll in our free [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#) (STEP). We provide information on conditions in the country and may recommend that U.S. citizens leave an immediate area or even the foreign country. Please read this [entire list](#) of what we can—and cannot—do in a crisis.

Q: What can I do to prevent being kidnapped?

A: These recommendations and tips do not represent a perfect solution and should be employed with the understanding that they do not guarantee a positive outcome in a kidnapping scenario:

1. **Be Unpredictable:** alternate your routes, change your daily routines (your work commute, grocery shopping, workout times), park in different spots, etc.
2. **Be Less Accessible:** patronize secure or known businesses, check for exits, be aware of your surroundings, keep your vehicle in good working order, keep your vehicle windows closed and doors locked when driving, etc.
3. **Raise Your Awareness:** Pay attention, constantly assess your situation, monitor your phone for Alerts through [STEP](#), monitor local news, adapt your demeanor appropriately to your surroundings, etc.

The U.S. Embassy is aware of both targeted and randomly-selected victims. Everyone is vulnerable. Again, the State Department advises [“Do not travel to Haiti.”](#)

Useful Links

- [Travel.State.Gov](#)
- [Embassy Alerts](#)
- [Enroll in STEP](#)

Women's History Month

March is Women's History Month! The U.S. Embassy in Port-au-Prince marked International Women's Day on March 8 with a festival that included Haitian women artisans, entrepreneurs, fashion designers, and USAID Implementing Partners. The Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations, Anne Witkowsky, [opened the festival](#) and included the following message in her remarks:

"You [women] are critical stakeholders and active participants to shaping both the present and the future of this country, and the United States remains firmly committed to supporting the empowerment of women and girls in this country, including supporting efforts to remove barriers to your full participation."

Historical Haitian Women

There are innumerable women in Haiti's history that deserve recognition this month. Here are four who have made significant contributions to the country:

- **Odette Roy Fombrun:** She helped draft Haiti's new constitution and organize the Ligue Feminine d'Action Sociale, which played a key role in the women's suffrage movement.
- **Marie-Jeanne Lamartiniere:** She served in the Haitian army during the Battle of Crete-a-Pierrot in March, 1802. She fought in a male uniform with fearlessness and courage; when not fighting, she nursed her injured comrades.
- **Cécile Fatiman:** She was a Haitian vodou mambo, who famously presided over the 1791 vodou ceremony that ignited the Haitian Revolution.
- **Catherine Flon:** She was a Haitian seamstress and the goddaughter and principal assistant to Jean-Jacques Dessalines. She sewed the first Haitian flag in 1803 and is central in Haiti's founding.

2022 Theme

The 2022 International Women's Day theme is "Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow." Women are increasingly being recognized as more vulnerable to climate change impacts than men, as they constitute the majority of the world's poor and are more dependent on the natural resources which climate change threatens most. Without gender equality today, a sustainable future, and an equal future, remains beyond our reach. Read more at [un.org](https://www.un.org).



COVID-19

For updated information about COVID-19 in Haiti, please visit the [Embassy website](#). You'll find information about:

- **Where to get vaccinated**
- **Where to get tested**
- **Entry/exit requirements**
- **Quarantine guidelines**

Haiti—Level 4: Very High Level of COVID-19

The CDC has issued a Level 4 health advisory for Haiti. Avoid travel to Haiti. If you must travel to Haiti, make sure you are fully vaccinated.

General Health Guidance

- Make sure you are current on your vaccines, including tetanus and rabies.
- Know where doctors and the closest emergency room are in your area. Please visit the Embassy website for a list of hospitals and medical professionals in Haiti.
- Always keep basic medications and supplies on hand. Invest in a quality first aid kit and keep one in your car and at home.
- Always have medical insurance, including medevac insurance. If you need to be medically evacuated out of Haiti, you should contact a medevac company or an air ambulance service. Visit the Embassy website for a list of Air Ambulance Services.



Protect
From
COVID-19.



Useful Links

- [Embassy COVID-19 Page](#)
- [Travel Requirements](#)
- [Air Ambulance Services](#)
- [Hospitals in Haiti](#)

Haiti—Level 4: Do Not Travel

The U.S. Department of State has renewed the highest level “[Level 4: Do Not Travel](#)” travel advisory for Haiti due to kidnapping, crime, civil unrest, and COVID-19.

If you are in Haiti:

- Sign-up for the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) to receive important information from the Embassy about safety conditions in Haiti, and help the Embassy contact you in case of emergency. Enroll here: step.state.gov
- Remember that demonstrations, tire burning, and roadblocks are frequent, unpredictable, and can turn violent at any time. Emergency response, including ambulance service, is limited or non-existent.
- Always carry your cellphone and ensure it is charged before you travel. Ensure you have important numbers programmed into your phone. Consider using code names for family or friends.
- Avoid demonstrations and crowds. If you encounter a roadblock, turn around and get to a safe area.
- Arrange airport transfers and hotels in advance, or have your host meet you upon arrival.
- Travel by vehicle to minimize walking in public, and travel in groups of at least two people whenever possible.
- Always keep vehicle doors and windows locked with valuables out of sight.
- Exercise caution and alertness, especially when driving through markets and other traffic-congested areas.
- Do not travel in areas unfamiliar to you and be aware that navigation apps are highly unreliable in Haiti.
- Do not physically resist any robbery or kidnapping attempt.
- Always make sure your vehicle is in good driving condition.
- Travel at times when traffic is expected to be lighter; avoid travel after dark in Port-au-Prince.
- Ensure adequate spacing between vehicles to provide options for evading a potentially dangerous situation.
- Patronize shops or restaurants that provide secure, enclosed, and well-lit parking.
- Always inform someone, such as a family member or friend, of where you are going and what time you expect to return.
- Minimize broadly publishing your travel plans on social media.



STEP

Smart Traveler
Enrollment Program

<https://step.state.gov/step/>

Contact Info

CONSULAR NEWS LETTER

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Websites

- [American Citizen Services Website](#)
- [U.S. Embassy Port-au-Prince's Website](#)

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Useful Links

- [U.S. Embassy Facebook](#)
- [U.S. Embassy Twitter](#)
- [Haiti Travel Advisory](#)
- [American Citizen Services Facebook](#)
- [American Citizen Services Twitter](#)
- [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#)
- [Make an ACS Appointment](#)
- [COVID-19 Information in Haiti](#)

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