

## Disaster Risk Reduction Works

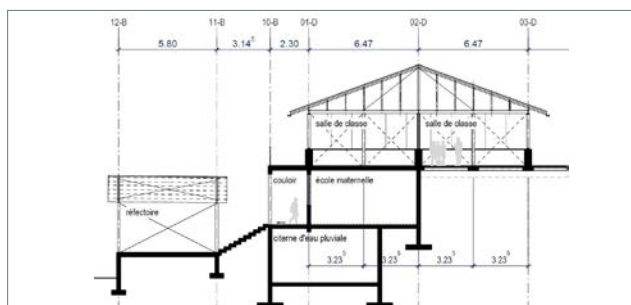
### A Post-Event DRR Effectiveness Assessment in Haiti

In the aftermath of hurricane “Matthew” which made landfall in Southwest Haiti on October 4, 2016, the Swiss NGO DRR Platform commissioned an effectiveness assessment of disaster risk reduction interventions (DRR)

implemented by different Platform member organisations (more contextual information on the back side). The findings of the assessment can be summarized with the following

#### KEY MESSAGES – ENABLERS FOR SUCCESS

- 1. Working with a long-term perspective:**  
the continuous project presence with a vision beyond an emergency situation allows for trust building with local communities and authorities.
- 2. Working with existing structures:**  
community level action based on existing organisations and processes is more efficient and promises to be more effective and sustainable on the long term.
- 3. Working across administrative levels:**  
connecting community and municipal levels contributes to bridging the gap and forms long-term relationships between population, services and authorities, promising more sustainable effects.
- 4. Working with “DRR ambassadors”:**  
strong community leaders, as well as committed local public services employees play a crucial role in the project implementation process as well as for sustaining community activities beyond the project duration.
- 5. Working with communities in the driver’s seat:**  
this increases significance and ownership of the project. Community members are the principal actors for campaigns and other awareness raising activities and crucial in order to identify measures with tangible co-benefits for individuals and communities.
- 6. Working on hardware and software together:**  
the (re)construction of critical infrastructure with matching capacity strengthening increases the effect of the intervention and creates co-benefits. In addition, communities have to find ways how to cover the maintenance costs of community infrastructure for guaranteeing sustainability.
- 7. Working with strong knowledge dissemination:**  
introducing new DRR technologies and approaches needs to be carefully imparted to the community so that replication of approaches independent of projects meets the standards and releases the full risk reduction potential.



School reconstruction design (Caritas Switzerland)



Contour planting with Vetiver to prevent erosion and increase water absorption (Swiss Red Cross)

## CONTEXT

Since the earthquake in 2010, Haiti is well-known as a highly disaster prone country. For various years, Swiss NGOs, financially supported among others by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and Swiss Solidarity, are implementing projects, which are closely related to DRR or disaster recovery in a broader context. Hurricane "Matthew" struck the Tiburon Peninsula of Southwest Haiti on October 4, 2016 as a category 4 hurricane, with a devastating impact on its path: 546 people were killed, 460 people injured, 2.1 Mio people affected. The purpose of this evaluation mandated by the Swiss NGO DRR Platform was to conduct a post-disaster assessment of the effectiveness of selected DRR measures implemented or supported by Swiss NGOs in Haiti. It involved an evaluation of four projects from four Platform member organisations: Caritas Switzerland, HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation, Swiss Red Cross and Terre des hommes Foundation. While the last three mentioned organisations selected projects with important DRR components, Caritas selected a school reconstruction project implemented right after the 2010 earthquake.

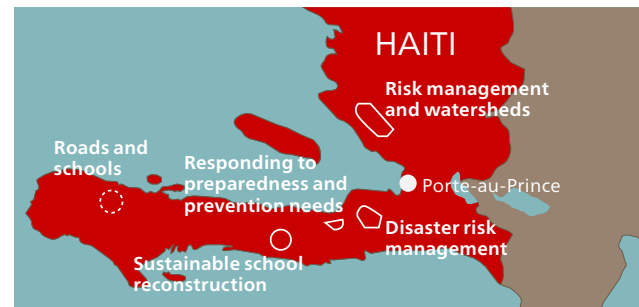
## APPROACH

The focus of the assessment was on effectiveness, considering direct and indirect effects of the projects. The international Sendai Framework for DRR was used as basis for structuring the assessment along the four following domains: sensitivity of the population and authorities to risk (SFDRR priority 1), the capacity of individuals and community and communal level entities to identify risks and manage disasters (priority 2), policy development in DRR at municipal or departmental level (priority 2), and the



Structural river protection (Terre des hommes Foundation)

The project visits were conducted during the second half of January 2017. The intervention zones of the projects of the Swiss NGOs were not as severely affected as the Southwestern region. The assessment therefore does not allow for direct findings and conclusions with respect to a mega-disaster event. Its purpose rather is to evaluate the effectiveness of projects in the context of an event of average magnitude and frequency, which usually fails to attract media interest or – consequently – humanitarian funding, even though the impact on the welfare of the people concerned is significant.



security of people and livelihoods through specific measures (priorities 3 and 4). Methods included i) desk study of key documents, ii) project visits in Haiti with interviews and focal group discussions with project partners, project staff and iii) feedback workshops with project managers, field staff both in Haiti and Switzerland.

Download the report: "**Évaluation post-Matthew de l'efficacité GRD**" (in French only).



Installation of dry barriers to stabilize the bed of ravines (HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation)

## Swiss NGO DRR Platform

The Swiss NGO DRR Platform is a network of Swiss-based non-governmental organisations (NGOs) dedicated to increasing the resilience of women, men and children, communities and governments to all aspects of disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation (CCA). The Platform is open to organisations who are based in Switzerland or implementing partners of Swiss-based

organisations, working on not-for-profit basis and active or interested in DRR and CCA.

Please consult [www.drrplatform.org](http://www.drrplatform.org) for further information.