



## Thank-you for your interest in the HANWASH initiative!

In January the HANWASH Team held a workshop over several days in Haiti that included DINEPA, Rotary, Haiti Outreach, Pure Water for the World, and many other NGO's to discuss strategies, strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities for achieving the goal of clean water and sanitation for all citizens of Haiti. As a result of that workshop the DINEPA Rotary HANWASH Resolution was created, signed, and the serious work on initial steps began.

Over the next several months, meetings both in Haiti and through Zoom were held on a regular basis to discuss projects, funding, sustainability, support, structure, relationships, and the due diligence needed to ensure the best possible outcome of this initiative. At the International Convention in Toronto the Haiti HANWASH initiative was announced to Rotarians and NGO's worldwide as planning continued in WASRAG meetings, Zoom meetings, and executive meetings that included RI President Barry, TRF Trustee Chair Ron Burton, key RI staff, NGO partners, and WASRAG throughout the week.

Since the initial roll out of the HANWASH website and the RI Convention most of you are probably aware of the changing political climate in Haiti and the recent resignation of the Prime Minister. We wanted to bring you an update and let you know how we are moving forward. As someone who has worked and been involved in projects in Haiti, you would know and understand that rapidly changing political circumstances in Haiti are unfortunately the norm, and in many ways a significant part of the reason why we need the HANWASH initiative in the first place. Further, they are an element that the HANWASH Team has anticipated from the inception with the design of the program and the reason why we've invested so much time and effort building a resilient relationship with the Haitian Government WASH agency DINEPA, along with its Directeur General and Team.

In summary, from a political and technical perspective, Haitian Government support for the program is still very much in place and the resignation of the Prime Minister has not affected this. Our recent meetings, including detailed discussions around the four suggested pilot projects, confirm they are all very much in support of moving forward. While the most recent events were unfortunate, this may be the first, but certainly won't be the last politically related challenge we face, and we remain very much on track.

For this initiative to be successful, there is a considerable amount of due diligence that needs to be accomplished before the projects are launched. We are working through these details with DINEPA, Rotary International, several of our NGO partners and the HANWASH Team. As more of the specifics on the initial four pilot projects are worked out, we will keep you posted!

This first HANWASH Newsletter is for all those who participated in the initial workshop in Haiti or have registered their interest on our website [www.HANWASH.org](http://www.HANWASH.org) to be a part of bringing clean water and sanitation to all of Haiti. Having registered your details and interest on our website ensures that we will include you in HANWASH's plans and get back to you as they progress.

As we move forward with our pilot programs we anticipate a number of ways that your help will be essential if we are going to achieve HANWASH's ambitious goals. We will need Global Grant partners, donors, and additional NGO partners to make this program successful.



*Together, we can bring thoughtfully managed and sustainable clean water and sanitation to all the citizens of Haiti!*



**Thank-you for being the inspiration in all you do to make the world a better place,**

**From all of us on the HANWASH Steering Committee**