



## Transforming a nation: One community at a time Sustainable water & sanitation for 199,000 people in Leogane

The commune of Léogâne has a rich and unique culture, offering much in the way of arts, music, literature, cuisine, and architecture. It is home to Haiti's largest rara festival, held annually around Easter Week.

Hiking and mountain biking are popular in the coffee-growing mountainous areas where the curious explorer will also find the ruins of Fort Campan, built to defend Haiti's freedom after its 1804 revolution.



Along its northern coast are miles and miles of fields with banana and mango plantations, as well as sugarcane from which the popular clairin (typical rum) can be distilled. However, despite the diverse community assets and charms, economic opportunity, and human development in Leogane remains a dream for many.

The main town of Leogane was the epicenter of the infamous January 12, 2010, earthquake and was catastrophically affected, with 80–90% of buildings damaged or destroyed and thousands killed. Access to safe drinking water and sanitation remains problematic for tens of thousands of people. Of course, Rotarians are taking on the challenge.

The Rotary Club of Leogane and Rotary District 5130 of California have partnered with the mayor's office of Leogane and HANWASH to bring safe, sustainable, and affordable water and sanitation to the entire population of this vibrant area on the northeastern shore of Haiti's Tiburon Peninsula.

It will take a great deal of effort and resources to achieve this goal, one Global Grant at a time, bringing in Rotary and non-Rotary partners alike over many years. The help of Rotarians from all over the world is needed.

Project Location: Leogane Commune  
Host Club: Rotary Club of Leogane  
International: Rotary District 5130  
Rotary Grant #2347075  
Initial Grant Budget: \$200,000



# Leogane Commune: Water System

## What kind of water service do Leogane residents have now?

The municipal water system, built around 1980, aimed to serve 14,000 people in the urban area. Since then, rapid population growth, and budget shortfalls have led to a large gap in service. From 2015 to 2018, the Japanese government made helpful investments. Local Rotarians have volunteered their time and developed a trusted relationship with the water system operator. With management they devised a solution to allow intermittent drinking water supply to more of the population.

## What are the key challenges?

Today just 1,200 households receive service inside a coverage area of 5,000; water is apportioned to 200 homes at a time and available only a few hours a week. A diesel-powered generator gets water flowing but is too costly to run full-time. The assessment of the water points also revealed leaky pipes through the system which mean heavy water losses. The quality of service makes it difficult to improve customer payment rates (approximately 50%), much less attract new subscribers.

## What solutions are envisioned?

Since 2018, Rotary Club of Leogane has worked closely with the utility operator, providing support for pump repair, motorcycles for monitoring water points, collecting payments from clients, and fuel purchases. With this US\$200,000 Global Grant, new investments would be made in a solar-powered generator, batteries, a water storage tank, and management training. By reducing use of diesel fuel and providing better service, revenues should increase, and operations will be more environmentally friendly too.

At a later stage, pipes will be repaired or replaced to address water loss. This modular design can help with leak detection and manage risks. With capital costs covered by Rotarian donations, even modest user fees can help keeping drinking water service affordable. Rotary Club of Leogane is well-regarded in the community with a long history of philanthropy and service, which can help bringing citizens, municipal government, and financial/technical partners to the table for dialogue and decisions.

## What is HANWASH?

HANWASH is a partnership between Rotarians and Haitian government at national & local levels. Rotarians in Haiti and globally bring their voices, raise money, and volunteer their time to support the country's institutions to reach everyone with drinking water and safe sanitation.

Rotarians, Clubs, Districts, from anywhere in the world can participate actively in this innovative and impactful program and be a part of this story! For a list of contributors and partners, visit

[www.hanwash.org/leogane](http://www.hanwash.org/leogane)

**Your HELP is still needed!**

**Ongoing funding will be required to meet the vision of safe and affordable water and sanitation for all.**

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