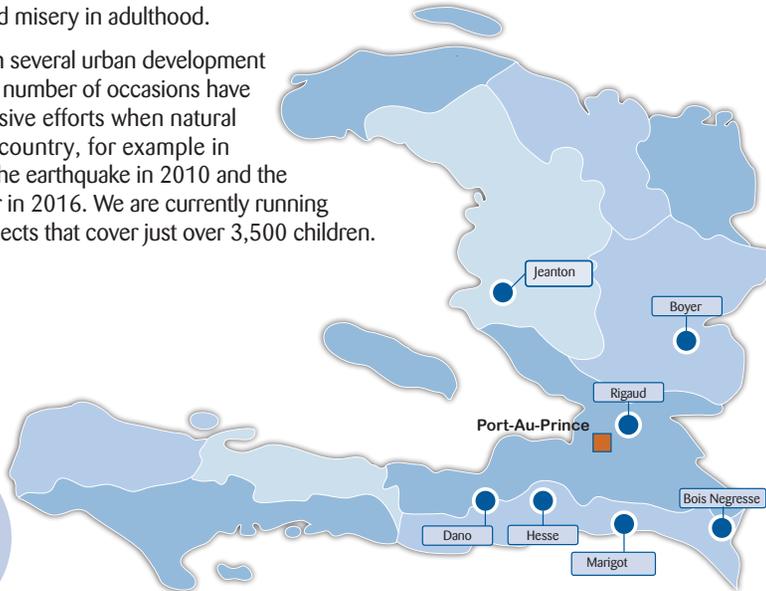


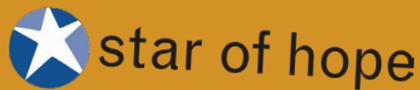
# Our work in HAITI

Haiti is the poorest country in the American continents. The former French colony today has 10 million inhabitants, of whom seven million live below the subsistence level. In Haiti, Star of Hope works primarily with preschool and primary school activities; working without stop since 1979. The aim of our school projects is to provide the children with the tools for adulthood, to lift themselves and their communities out of poverty and misery in adulthood.

We also work with several urban development projects and on a number of occasions have carried out extensive efforts when natural disasters hit the country, for example in connection with the earthquake in 2010 and the hurricane disaster in 2016. We are currently running seven school projects that cover just over 3,500 children.



In charge in Haiti are Tony & Myrtha Boursiquot



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She needs your help



# CRITICAL NEED





**Keeping the hunger away is one of the pillars of Star of Hope's activity. In countries such as Haiti, school lunch often becomes the only nutritious food that a child gets that day. No one survives without food, and even the hunger itself poses a threat to our children's future. No child can develop on an empty stomach, and not even the most talented school pupil can absorb knowledge when the body screams for nutrition.**

Therefore, our school lunches are crucial, both for the well-being of the children right now and for their future. One, who has personally seen this importance of food, is our photographer Dennis Them, who has spent almost two years of his life in Haiti.

"These children have often not had breakfast at home, and you know how it can feel when you haven't eaten. A child who is hungry loses concentration, cannot accept the instruction from the teachers and cannot cope with problem solving. I see a clear connection between the school lunches we serve in Haiti and the excellent study results that Star of Hope schools receive."

The crisis in Haiti is the culmination of years of crisis situations and an escalating desperation among the population. Here, in the poorest countries of the American continents, the people have simply had enough. The last decade has been characterized by

the earthquake 2010, the cholera epidemic 2010-2017, the hurricane disaster 2016 and long periods of severe drought. However, the latest in the line of disasters is rather political. In less than two years, its own currency, the gourde, has halved in value compared to the dollar, while inflation and food prices have sky-rocketed.

### **The Children's Homes**

Dennis has over the years visited many sponsor children in their homes. Most live very, very simply. There is no electricity, so they have no fridge or freezer to preserve food. Daily they live out of hand, without the possibility of planning long-term. The regular food service at the schools is something that motivates the parents to let their children attend school.

### **FOOD when all else is lost**

Star of Hope is extra important because Hai-

ti is in a part of the world that is repeatedly impacted by natural disasters. The emergency preparations Star of Hope has made over the years have left a strong impression on Dennis.

"I was there after the 2008 Hurricane, the 2010 earthquake, and the 2016 hurricane," Dennis says. "Every time I saw how important it was that we quickly got food deliveries started to the villages again. When a family has lost everything; their garden land, their chickens, or their single goat, the school lunch can be absolutely crucial for the children's survival. It is so incredibly important that we are there."

"I have seen despair changed into joy. After Hurricane Matthew, I met families where their house had been blown away, and the fishing boat gone, so their only hope for getting food was gone. I met them before the help came when their gaze radiated

hopelessness, but I also saw them after the aid reached them. I will never forget the smiles. I could both see and feel the joy."

### **HOW LONG CAN WE FEED THEM?**

Because of a lack of funds and inflated prices, we are forced to plan for a reduction in the number of school lunches we make available to the children: from five to four per week. We are even faced with the risk of closing the school kitchen completely during the last months of the year when the money runs out.

"15 years ago, I saw too many malnourished children with bloated stomachs in our schools, but thanks to our efforts, they became fewer for each year that passed. We simply must not let that suffering come back now!"

**Together we can make a difference -  
Become a Lunch Buddy**