



**YOUR  
SUPPORT**  
*matters*



**OVERTURE**  
INTERNATIONAL  
EMPOWERING HAITI'S MOST VULNERABLE

# *the* Overture difference

At Overture International, we work with a deeply rooted purpose. We believe Haitians (like all of us) have a God-given desire and calling to experience the dignity and freedom that comes from living independent, self-sufficient lives. And we believe they are capable and worthy of the opportunity to experience such a life.

## OUR VISION

We envision a Haiti transformed by strong, independent, self-sufficient Haitian communities.

## OUR MISSION

We empower Haitian families and their communities to be active and engaged in building full, hopeful and independent lives.

## OUR WHY

The heart of our mission has and always will be about protecting children and empowering communities for independence.

## *Our* belief

We refuse to accept the notion that Haiti is destined for failure. Instead, we believe Haitians are fully capable of breaking the endless cycle of generational poverty and dependence endured by the country for so long. By centering our work on those we serve, we equip and empower rather than underestimate or undermine the incredible resilience of the Haitian people. We prioritize the highest-risk families and communities who are ready to take ownership of their own challenges. And we weave the following biblically-rooted principles into every initiative we pursue as we ultimately strive to glorify and honor God in all we do.

→ **FAITH & PERSEVERANCE**  
MATTHEW 6:25-26

→ **INTEGRITY**  
MATTHEW 25:14-30

→ **HUMILITY & GRATITUDE**  
MATTHEW 9:35-38

→ **COMMUNITY**  
1 PETER 4:8-11

→ **LEADERSHIP**  
MARK 9:35

→ **AUTONOMY**  
JEREMIAH 17:7-8

To read more, visit [www.overtureinternational/core-beliefs](http://www.overtureinternational/core-beliefs).





## THE PROBLEM: A HARSH REALITY

<1%

of Haitians receive  
an education  
beyond high school

30,000+

children live  
in Haitian  
orphanages

60%

of Haitians live  
on less than  
\$2 per day

## why Haiti

For centuries, Haiti has been trapped in a cycle of crisis, burdened by generational dependence on foreign aid, weak—and often corrupt—leadership, exploitation, natural disasters and an unstable economy that has left its people struggling to meet even their most basic needs.

**This is a systemic issue and the system is failing.** Why? Here are the leading reasons for the failing system:

**GENERATIONAL DEPENDENCE** The country's historical reliance on foreign aid has crippled economic stability and forward progress, resulting in short-term, temporary band-aids versus long-term solutions.

**FLAWED EDUCATION MODEL** The education system requires parents to pay a significant portion of their meager income just to send their children to school, making quality education inaccessible for most. An inability to afford schooling is the number one reason parents relinquish their children to the orphanage.

**DOMINANCE OF INSTITUTIONALISM** The dangerous orphanage system in Haiti has essentially replaced the family unit, separating thousands of children from their families, often exploiting them for financial gain rather than ensuring their well-being.

**CORRUPT LEADERSHIP** With Haiti's current state of anarchy, gang violence and child exploitation continue to explode throughout the country, threatening the safety and future of Haiti's most vulnerable.

**NATURAL DISASTERS** Recurring natural disasters like hurricanes and earthquakes further devastate the country, leaving a significant number of families homeless, and further deepening the cycle of poverty.

These realities are overwhelming and grandiose in scale, but Haiti's story does not have to end here. Overture is working tirelessly to rewrite the narrative and change these realities—**shifting Haiti's focus from dependence to empowerment.**

We are equipping the people of Haiti to take ownership of their own independence as we work directly with local leadership and authorities—not as outsiders offering temporary relief, but as partners in sustainable development. **We stand together to empower our brothers and sisters in Haiti because Haitians are the only ones who can create a stronger Haiti for themselves.**

# *community development* begins with our Social Support Model

**We focus on long-term solutions, not short-term aid.** That's why Overture is paving the way for a stronger, more independent Haiti by addressing the root causes of poverty and instability through the successful implementation of the Overture Social Support Model. This model is our proven foundation for building Haiti Stronger through empowering Haitians of all ages at individual, family and community levels toward independence and self-reliance. The model is established around community partnerships and locally-driven services, and it is built on our Five Pillars that equip community members with the ability to overcome daily obstacles.



## **STEP 1: Establish Community Partnerships**

Overture social workers form relational bonds with community leaders and collaborate to identify essential priority needs.



## **STEP 4: Implement Essential Services**

We've identified five essential needs (our pillars) as the building blocks to a stronger Haiti: Empowerment, Education, Nutrition, Healthcare and Infrastructure. *Turn the page to learn more about our pillars.*



## **STEP 2: Assess, Plan, Goalset**

Social workers and community leaders assess the community's key needs, and then tailor a plan to meet specific goals and teach necessary skills.



## **STEP 5: Evaluate Results**

Ongoing community assessments measure results and crisis response times. This includes development of permanent infrastructure and plans for funding and self-sustainability.



## **STEP 3: Coordinate Local Services**

Once the community's plan is developed, Overture coordinates with local workers to implement the plan.



## **THE RESULT: Independence and Self-Reliance**

We empower Haitian families and their communities to remain active and engaged in living fulfilled and independent lives.

Haitians do not need handouts from foreign organizations. They need real opportunities like access to education, housing and employment that empower them to create lasting change for themselves and future generations. Overture is answering this call by standing as partners alongside local communities and equipping families with the tools they need to remain together and achieve self-sufficiency.

*now* is the time to invest in lasting solutions that move beyond charity to transformational impact.



## RESULTS IN ACTION

# a community *reimagined*

The lessons from the deadly 2021 earthquake in southern Haiti remain fresh in our minds. History proves that it is not a question of IF but WHEN the next disaster strikes Haiti. The development of the Dory Dome Community Center is a direct application and physical embodiment of our proven Social Support Model, serving as a hub for local community engagement and the provision of essential services.

The Dory Domes not only provide a safe, disaster-resistant space that is critical during natural emergencies like hurricanes, earthquakes and floods, but the domes also play a pivotal role in Overture's ability to implement essential services that allow families to meet their basic needs and have consistent access to crucial social services.

Completed in 2024, the Dory Domes Community Center stands as a beacon of hope for the community and surrounding areas. It is more than just a series of buildings—it is a lifeline for child protection activities, education, family strengthening and economic development, serving as a foundation for long-term self-sufficiency.

The completion of the domes project has been a success, but the journey is far from over. Wijems Sainval, an Overture International Social Worker, expressed this during the Domes' inauguration:

“ The creation of this center sends out the message that, while at times the community may need support and guidance from outside, this support and guidance needs to be channeled so that it can protect children, support local development initiatives led by community members and thus enable the community to develop its own potential in all sectors. The Dory Domes project is a successful model for how collaboration and empowerment can literally transform a community. ”

— WIJEMS SAINVAL, OVERTURE INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL WORKER



# *strengthening families* with our Five Pillars of Essential Services

Our Five Pillars are essential for any community to thrive as it should. They serve as the building blocks to a stronger Haiti, and they are entirely led by Haitian community members who are equipping their fellow neighbors. **For Haitians by Haitians.**



**EMPOWERMENT** Through our Empowerment pillar, licensed Haitian social workers help **improve the well-being of families through assessments, counseling, workshops and the facilitation of services.** We also provide Haitians with opportunities to become effective role models in their homes and communities by offering access to business training, job skills and employment counseling to help develop and strengthen their ability to generate income to support their families. At the community level, we facilitate leadership training to equip community members with resources to foster a culture of self-governance.



**EDUCATION** A family's inability to pay for education is a leading reason parents relinquish their children to orphanages. Through our Education pillar, **we prioritize scholarships for children at risk of family separation and those who are served in our family preservation program,** while still encouraging parents to contribute whatever they can. We also help young adults develop both personally and professionally through our Rejuvenation Program with moral and physical training as well as vocational training and work experience. **We believe in lifelong learning at Overture** because educated children, empowered parents and engaged communities are the keys to transforming Haiti into a self-reliant, independent country.



**NUTRITION** In Haiti, imports of foreign rice and other staples have crippled local markets. **The revival of farming as a source of income and food production as well as the creation of a sustainable food supply infrastructure are critical** to developing an autonomous community of non-reliance on outside aid for basic nutrition needs. That's why we've developed our Diri Lavi! Food Packaging Program, empowering community members to package meals using locally grown produce. This program is helping to ensure that no child goes to bed hungry, that all farmers have a market for their produce and that every community has income-producing job opportunities.



**HEALTHCARE** Our healthcare initiatives focus on prevention, promotion and protection—fostering a holistic view of health and wellness training. **All Haitians deserve access to quality healthcare as a fundamental right that enables them to build independent lives.** While Overture works hard to ensure that comprehensive medical care is accessible to every family we serve, **our primary focus area in the healthcare realm is centered around mental health and individuals with special needs.** Our psychosocial supports include a range of services that address the emotional, social, mental and spiritual needs of individuals, families and communities while aiming to alleviate suffering, strengthen social connections, promote coping strategies and facilitate recovery.



**INFRASTRUCTURE** Overture invests in the construction of essential physical structures such as homes and community centers while simultaneously developing robust social services that empower Haitian families toward true independence and self-sufficiency. These spaces serve as more than just buildings—they become the foundation for essential programs that help families meet their basic needs, provide employment opportunities, deliver critical social services, offer skills training, facilitate community leadership development and establish vital disaster relief centers. **We remain unwavering in our commitment to building this comprehensive infrastructure to ensure Haiti's most vulnerable families have the foundation necessary to build strong and thriving communities.**



Visit [overture.international/our-work-in-haiti](https://overture.international/our-work-in-haiti) to learn more about each pillar.

# Orphanages are *NOT* the Answer!

When it comes to caring for vulnerable children, many organizations and those who support them believe that orphanages are the best solution. While there may be orphanages managed by well-meaning people, evidence shows that these institutions ultimately harm children, reducing their opportunity for long-term success. The harms perpetuated on children raised in orphanages include:

- being **deprived of the family environment** that is crucial for healthy physical, emotional, social and spiritual development
- being **stripped of the opportunity to form healthy relationships** due to the high turnover of volunteers and staff in orphanages
- exposing vulnerable children to **physical and sexual abuse** due to neglect and poor safeguarding practices
- creating **extreme dependency and inability to integrate** into Haitian society

While Haitian children face challenges even when living with their families, their risks of being harmed increase **exponentially** when they are turned over to an orphanage. That's why **orphanages are NOT the answer!**

Through our work with Haitians, we're seeing incredible transformations take place in one of the most challenging regions in the world. This transformation includes moving hundreds of children out of dangerous orphanages over the last few years, reuniting them with their families and providing the information, tools and training they need to create safe, nurturing homes and communities.

## BOOK 1

### Orphanages are NOT the Answer

Focuses on ending the orphanage system in Haiti and provides a framework for doing so by addressing the harm inherent in the orphanage system and challenging churches and other donors to reconsider their support of it.



SCAN TO READ BOOK 1

## BOOK 2

### Orphanages are NOT the Answer: *Uniting Families*

Highlights the challenges of the reunification process as well as Overture's proven process for ensuring success by using the incredible ESPWA orphanage transformation from a place of harm to a child protection center of hope as a case study.



SCAN TO READ BOOK 2

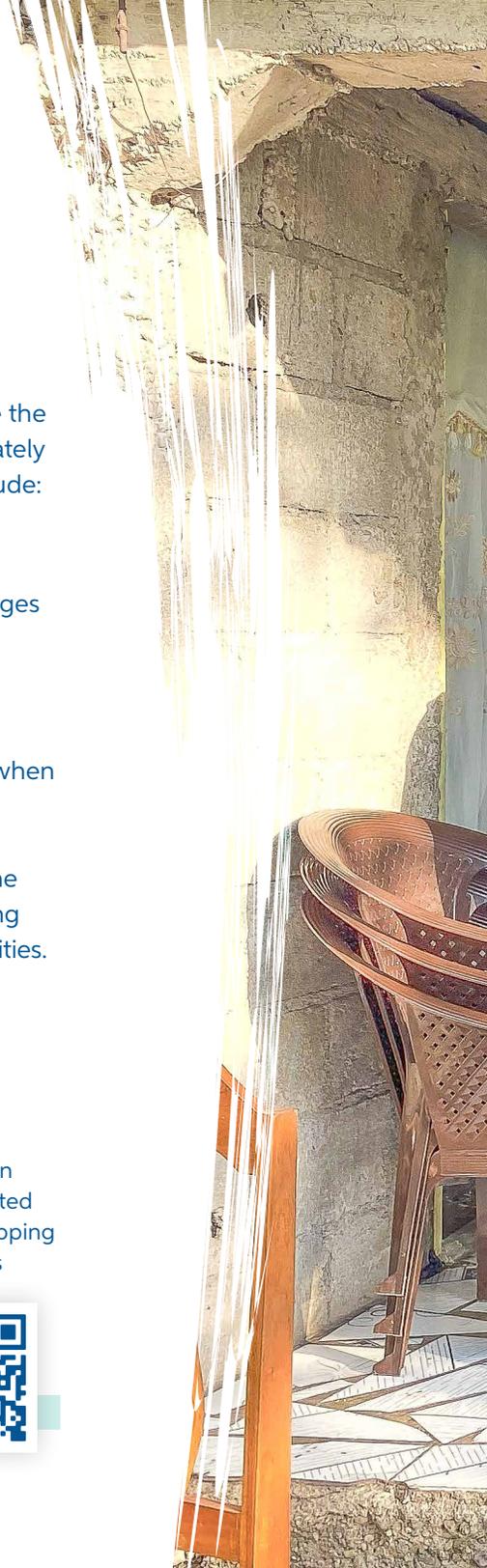
## BOOK 3

### Orphanages are NOT the Answer: *From Reunification to Resiliency*

Expands on Overture's post-reunification and family strengthening efforts dedicated to preventing family separation by equipping communities with the resources families need to overcome obstacles and access sustainable opportunities.



SCAN TO READ BOOK 3





# a *new* day for child protection

June 2025 marked five years since Overture International transitioned the former 20-year ESPWA campus from a traditional orphanage into a vibrant community center dedicated to protecting children, empowering families, strengthening communities and boosting the local economy. Year after year, this campus of hope has evolved to meet the most pressing needs of the people.

Since the campus' transformation in 2020, all **252 children** from the original orphanage who were reunited with their families by Overture have successfully remained with them and are making significant progress toward self-sufficiency.

**Our most recent evolution included the campus' official transfer to Haiti's child welfare agency (IBESR), creating the first "Community Complex for Child Protection" in southern Haiti.** This thriving complex, led by IBESR, facilitates crisis care for family reunification by leveraging partner organizations in child protection to magnify the impact. The challenges facing Haiti and its children today are too great for any single organization to tackle. **But together, we can build a powerful system that truly protects every child.** The transfer of this campus is proof that empowerment works, partnerships create lasting change, and Haitian leadership is key to sustainable solutions.

Overture continues as the managing partner at the new complex, receiving children and youth from IBESR for crisis care (many with special needs) while diligently finding biological or foster families for all. The continued development of Haiti's foster care system is crucial to crisis care and reunification. Foster families have proven the most reliable and successful alternative to orphanages for Haiti's children returning to their communities. None of these efforts would be possible without our dedicated team of local, skilled social workers who maintain a deep understanding of family dynamics, child behavior and cultural nuances.

Breaking down corruption, strategizing reunification and transforming ESPWA from an orphanage into a Child Protection Center was a momentous undertaking—but necessary to bring lasting change to Haiti's most vulnerable. The impact on reunified children and their families makes it ALL worthwhile. Our approach has proven successful in Haiti and created a model we hope will guide future development elsewhere. The work at the campus continues to drive meaningful change and lasting impact for generations to come. We are proud of the work we've done and are excited about the possibilities ahead. Every child deserves the chance to thrive with a loving family—and together, we can make it happen.



## *now* is the time to stand with us!

Right now, more than 60% of Haitians live on less than \$2 per day while thousands of children are trapped in the broken orphanage system. Alarming, most are not orphans at all but have families who handed them over to the orphanage in hopes of a better life. Their basis for this rational includes extreme poverty, the promise of free education, illness or death of caregivers, coercion or bribery by orphanage leaders, family conflict and natural disasters to name a few.

No matter the reason, Overture is committed to ending this systemic crisis and protecting children by **empowering local agencies** to close exploitative orphanages, **prioritizing family reunification** and **equipping families and communities with education and resources** to achieve self-reliance.

Every human, regardless of nationality or circumstance, deserves the dignity and freedom of independence and self-sufficiency. And every child deserves to grow up in a safe, loving home, not an institution profiting from their suffering. **With stronger investment, we can accelerate orphanage closures, expand reunification efforts and provide the support families need to stay together and thrive. Your support is vital.** Together, we are not just saving children and families—we are creating lasting solutions that break the cycle of generational poverty and exploitation. **Join us with an investment in Haiti's future, because every child, family and community are worthy of hope and a promising future.**



### DONATE

Every donation—whether one-time, monthly or multi-year—plays a crucial role in sustaining our work to protect children and empower Haitians on their path toward self-reliance. To make a financial gift, mail a check to our office or give online at [www.overture.international/donate-overture](http://www.overture.international/donate-overture).



### YOUR VOICE MATTERS

Building an independent Haiti takes us ALL, which is why your help to expand the Overture family is critical. Join us in championing our cause by sharing our mission and programs with your networks. Your support makes a lasting impact! To learn more, email [info@oohaiti.com](mailto:info@oohaiti.com).



### LEARN MORE

We prioritize keeping our donors informed and inspired through our monthly blog, bi-monthly emails, various publications and virtual information sessions. Stay connected by signing up for our ongoing communications at [www.overture.international](http://www.overture.international).



“ Over the past several years, we have witnessed the extraordinary resilience of the Haitian people who, despite facing unprecedented challenges, continue to rise with unwavering determination. It is this invincible spirit that fuels our mission and inspires our work. Your contributions have enabled us to implement vital programs while fostering meaningful relationships, ultimately paving the way for a future of promise and possibility.

*There is power in unity! As we embrace the challenges ahead, let us remember that in ALL things, God works for the good of those who love Him (Romans 8:28). Let these words of Truth inspire our work and serve as a reminder that even amidst the storms, there is a light that guides us. May we continue nurturing the dreams of every child and family while standing as a beacon of hope that transforms despair into aspiration and adversity into opportunity.*

*Together, we can cultivate a brighter future for Haiti, one that shines not only with the promise of survival, but also with the potential for thriving communities. Let us continue to stand shoulder to shoulder, unwavering in our resolve, as we strive to create lasting change that echoes through generations. ”*

— LISA HYATT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



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