

## PRESS RELEASE

### 5th Anniversary Haiti Earthquake Welthungerhilfe: Haiti must live without humanitarian aid in the long term

**Bonn, 08.01.2015.** At the end of the year, Welthungerhilfe will wind up its rehabilitation programme in Haiti. After the devastating earthquake on 12th January 2010, Welthungerhilfe initially concentrated on survival aid and reconstruction. At the same time, important foundations were laid for the long-term development of the country, particularly in nutrition and agriculture. For this purpose, almost 50 million Euro was made available, enabling 1.5 million people to be supported. In future, the focus lies on programmes that strengthen local forces and structures, so that the country can better help itself in the case of future difficulties and in order that a strong civil society arises.

“Haiti is not a country that should be allowed to be dependent long-term on foreign humanitarian aid. This would stunt any self initiative. After the earthquake 5 years ago, fast and wide-ranging emergency aid was necessary and saved many lives. But, in the long term, the country must take control of its own structural problems. If an autumn tropical storm wreaks havoc, we should limit ourselves to short-term prompt aid, such as food and tents for survivors. The government must be responsible for the long-term provision in such recurring disasters. The responsibility for a long-term improvement in living conditions lies with local state structures. For this, a strong civil society is necessary. If aid organisations always provide emergency aid, Haiti will remain dependent on such help. Instead, we want to support the Haitian government to find its own sustainable concepts for the continuous development of the country”, explains Dirk Guenther, Country Director of several years in Port au Prince, of the Welthungerhilfe approach.

*Welthungerhilfe is one of the biggest private aid organisations in Germany. It provides aid from a single source: from fast disaster relief and reconstruction to long-term development cooperation projects with local partner organisations, according to the principle of help for self-help. Since its foundation in 1962, more than 7,350 projects in 70 countries have been supported with 2.66 billion Euro – for a world without hunger and poverty.*

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