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# **MARMONT, HAITI**

## **PRELIMINARY BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

### **I. GENERAL BACKGROUND**

Marmont is located in the Department of the Center, one of the nine (9) territorial divisions of Haiti. The Department is commonly referred to as the Plateau Central. Marmont is located at approximately 300 meters above sea level and at 7 Kilometers from Hinche, the capital of the Department of the Center and is connected to other parts of the country via the National Road #3

### **CLIMATE**

Data collected from the Service of Meteorology of the Ministry of Agriculture indicate the average temperature in the area of 25.5°C with a maximum of 34°C during July-August and a minimum of 21°C in December and February.

The climate alternates between two seasons, the rainy and the dry season. The rainy season extends from April to October with maximum rainfall during the period of May and June. The dry season runs from November to March with minimum rainfall in December and January. The average annual rainfall measures 1,500 millimeters.

### **SOIL**

The soil in the Marmont region is mostly superficial and of clayish texture. It is constantly threaten by erosion because of steep slopes present in some areas (Josemarie, Garde Marmont) and weak top soil particularly in Savanne Plate, Doco and Lamesette. The humus cover is very thin and of insignificant permeability.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE / POLITICAL**

Marmont is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Communal Section of the Commune of Hinche in the Department of the Center. It covers an area of 108.56 m<sup>2</sup> with 3608 buildings and 3173 households.

Marmont consists of two (2) large communities :

- Haut Marmont which includes the following areas : Haute Cantave, Doco, Cour Cadichon, Cherval, Josemarie .
- Bas Marmont which includes the following areas : Centre Marmont, Haibon , Savane Plate et Lamesette.

Marmont is administered by the Conseil d'Administration de la Section Communale (CASEC), newly elected and working under the supervision of the municipality of Hinche.

### **SOCIAL / CULTURAL**

According to the latest matrimonial indicators, 80% of the inhabitants of the area live in cohabitation, and only 20% are married. Women head fifty five percent (55%) of the household.

The three main religions practiced in Marmont are: Protestant 60%, Catholic 35% and voodoo 5%. There are five (5) protestant and one (1) Catholic Church in the area. The main cultural event of the area is the catholic feast that celebrates the patron saint of St Pierre and St Paul during the month of June. Catholics, Protestants and Voodoo faithfuls take part in the celebration.

### Major Events

Toutes les localites de Marmont	Hurricane Georges in July 1997 Cyclones Georges 7 Juillet 1997	Many form animals are lost, homes damaged and farms devastated Beaucoup de tetes de betail emportees, de maisons endommagees, de jardins devastes
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### ECONOMIC

Agriculture is the predominant economic activity in the communal section of Marmont. The secondary economic activities are commerce (micro enterprise), fabrication and sale of wood charcoal, production and sale of artisan items: broom, equipments for horses, mules (saddles, carrying pouches) and animal husbandry.

The farm sizes vary from ¼ to 6 carreaux of land and belong to the landowner. It is estimated that over 70% of the population of the Department of the Center live below the poverty line.

### AGRO-ECOLOGICAL ZONE

The main crops raised in the area are : corn, millet, beans, yucca plantain and sugar cane.

### Cultural Calendar

Culture	Sowing Date	Harvest Date
Corn	April – July	June – October
Millet	April – July	January – February
Beans	April – July	After 3 months
Yuka	April- May	After 1 year
Plantain	May- September	After 18 months
Sugar Cane	May- September	After 18 months

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## **HEALTH**

Project Medishare operates and manages the only health clinic that provides ambulatory services to that population. The staff consists of one (1) physician, three (3) LPNs and one (1) pharmacy aid. Community health services are also provided through a network of five (5) community health agents who organize activities such as home visits, group meetings, and rally posts in order to educate the population in health maintenance and prevention.

Mobile clinics are organized to bring health services to areas most remote from the clinic such as Juana, Bintouribe, La Begue.

## **II. BASELINE INFORMATION**

The data currently available are not exhaustive and therefore need to be expanded and updated.

### **DEMOGRAPHY**

The communal section on Marmont has a population estimated at 11,500 inhabitants. It contains 3,108 buildings and 2,873 households with an average of 4 people per household.

The table below presents the distribution of the population by age groups

<b>Targeted Age Groups</b>	<b>Number</b>
Less than 12 months	483
12-23 Months	357
0-5 years	1852
Youth 15-24 y/o	2185
Men 15-59 y/o	2990
Women 15-49 y/o	2873

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## **LAND USE, AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

- The communal section of Marmont can be divided in two (2) parts, separated by the National Road #3
- The East side, to left looking toward Port-au-Prince represents 60% of the area of Marmont with a plant cover of approximately 8%.
- The West side, to the right looking toward Port-au-Prince represents 40% of the total area with a plant cover of nearly 20-30%.
- The farmers use only local seeds and use the hoe to prepare the soil. Only a minority use animal traction.
- The farmers do not have access to any kind of farm credit and face a multitude of farming problems such as: illness of livestock, limited market to sell their stocks and lack of transportation for their products.
- The excessive and abusive tree cutting, the inappropriate farming of the land explain the advanced state of soil erosion. It leads to flooding of the plots, decrease harvests yield and consequently decreased revenue for the farmers.
- There are two (2) organizations in the area that intervene in the field of agricultural development :
  - World Vision prepares and distributes seedlings of fruit trees to farmers and provides them with the necessary technical support.
  - Ministry of Agriculture which promotes local production and help farmers improve harvest

## **ENERGY USE**

- The energy commonly used for cooking is wood fire. Wood charcoal is seldom used and is made mostly for sale to consumers in Port-au-Prince.
- Kerosene lamps are used for lighting the homes. Only a few local organizations use other alternate sources of energy such as generators, inverters among others.

## **COMMUNICATIONS AND CONNECTIVITY**

Two mobile phone companies, Digicell and Voila, are currently installing base station antennas in the Marmont area. These services are expected to be available very soon.

## **HEALTH**

Statistical data collected at the Centre de Sante de Marmont over a one year period indicate that the major illnesses in the area are:

- ❖ Acute respiratory infections
- ❖ Diarrhea
- ❖ Intestinal parasites
- ❖ Anemia
- ❖ Cutaneous infections
- ❖ Gastritis

In addition, 33% of children under five suffer from chronic malnutrition.

It is worth noting that the Department of the Center registers a mortality rate in children under five of 187/1000. This is figure is the highest in the entire country.

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## **WATER RESOURCES**

The water sources in Marmont are the following: water conveyance system that only serves the center of Marmont, wells and unprotected water springs.

## **SANITATION**

The vast majority of the houses (over 80%) do not have access to latrines.

## **SCHOOLS**

The communal section on Marmont has fourteen (14) elementary schools and no secondary schools. These schools face major difficulties: inadequate physical structure, untrained teachers.