An open letter from our Haitian Administrator, Renaud, in Haiti.

Good morning friends of Hope Alive.
I am going to give you a brief idea about the situation in Haiti now at the period of Covid 19. Everywhere in the world the governments ask the people to stay home or confine home to avoid the spread of the virus. In Haiti, still now it seems like there is not a big panic in the heart of some people or they don't care about the virus. It is like you have the make a choice between very bad & worst. A lot of people earn their living on a daily basis so asking him/her to stay home is like asking that person to die with hunger. Because of that a lot of people said: " **we prefer to die from Covid-19 than hunger".**
In March we started to register some cases of covid-19, based on what the government said, but the people did not believe because the government was not transparent so they do not trust them. They did not have any way to test people yet. A few days later they started to talk about some cases of dead people victim of corona virus, unfortunately those people got some other issues that killed them. Because of that, the people do not want to listen to the government. Less than a week ago a minister said that by April 15, Haiti will start burying 1,500 at once every day, it was not the case. When the Haitian people heard what this virus has been doing in some countries, they started to drink some medicine made of leaves to warm up their intestines and strengthen their immune system. They use: aloe, ginger, cinnamon and other sweet products, hot tea.
Haitian people are already in a deep crisis based on their way of living:

1. Some of them are still in tents
2. Others eat from trash or live in promiscuity
3. Air is polluted
4. Hunger and malnutrition is their lifestyle
5. Chronic insecurity (it is like a country that is in war)
6. Corruption (the people who are in charge of the country do not do anything serious to take this people out of the extreme poverty
7. An oligarchy exploits the poor without a sense of humanity
8. A country in which the main activity of people is trading (buy stuff to sell in order to make a profit to live on)

Haiti seems to care less about the covid-19 because there is no way to be confined at home. Only 10% of our people, it might be less than that, get their stuff from a market. The rest goes to the open market because there stuff they need are less expensive and they can bargain. In the outdoor markets, people are crazy. Sometimes they do not even leave a little spot between them. It is like they pile up. For example, mangoes are in season now so when you go to buy some mangoes, the people are like ants in this market.

It seems like God is doing something for us or the temperature plays in our favor. Many people might even say that the Haitian bodies responded well to the virus because there were many bad predictions, but the confirmed cases are still low. It is very early to say if we will be saved from this virus or not, but it is our hope.

To resume, I can say that **social distancing** is not applied everywhere. The outdoor markets, some offices where they deliver ID, families are places where the social distancing is not applied totally.

Just educated people **wear a mask** when they go out & there are a few reasons:

1. Some people are very poor so a mask is not a priority for him/her
2. Some others do not wear mask because they don't feel comfortable with it
3. The rest of the rebellious people just do not want to.

About **washing hands**, most people do it because anytime we are approaching the rainy season they remember the Cholera. To avoid a wave of this disease, they wash hands. So, there are at least two reasons for which they wash their hands: to avoid Cholera and Covid-19.

Please continue to keep us in your prayers as we have done for you. We hope that this situation will be over soon so we can get out of this moral, physical, and psychological prison. God is able.

May God bless the planet Earth! Amen! Amen! Amen!

Renaud Civil,
Hope Alive Administrator in Haiti