



USAID | HAITI

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Governing Justly and Democratically

Overview

USAID/Haiti's is advancing stable, democratic governance by strengthening national and local institutions while engaging citizens in the process of developing their state. National level USG programs support the Presidency, Ministry of Justice and Public Security (MJPS), Ministry of Interior and the Collective Territory (MICT) and parliament. The USAID anti-corruption program supports the installation of a transparent financial management system integrating 41 public institutions into a network managed by the Ministry of Economy and Finance. At the local level, USAID provides support to 15 municipalities to promote more effective and efficient governance. Ten municipalities are receiving support to develop and execute an action plan that includes basic public service provision, community development plans and disaster preparedness. At the same time assistance is provided to improve municipal management and raise own-source revenue. The USG program further assists Haiti's citizens to engage in governance and resolve conflict through the electoral processes, political party participation, community initiatives, and peaceful advocacy campaigns. Support to a network of 41 community radio stations is improving access to unbiased information while strengthening the media. Moreover, each of the ten distinct activities managed by the Office for Governing Justly and Democratically (GJD) is designed to improve the effectiveness of Haiti's executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government in keeping with the Haitian Constitution while supporting citizen participation and promoting public accountability. In FY 2009 the USG is providing \$28,000,000 for GJD managed programs by USAID/Haiti.



Activities: GJD activities are implemented in three areas: (1) Rule of Law and Human Rights; (2) Good Governance; (3) Political Competition and Consensus Building; and (4) Civil Society.

Rule of Law and Human Rights

Justice System: USAID's program for strengthening Rule of Law in Haiti seeks to improve justice sector service delivery while supporting the development and implementation of a comprehensive Justice Sector Reform strategy. The program will support the GOH justice sector reform process through technical and logistical assistance to 24 separate institutions including two Presidential Commissions, the Ministry of Justice, the national Magistrates School and associations of

justice sector professionals. The program will also strengthen court administration and case-load management as well as citizen access to legal services, confidence in judicial proceedings, and alternative dispute resolution at the local level.

Human Rights: The three main goals of the Protecting Human Rights Program are to assist and rehabilitate victims of violence, combat human trafficking - particularly that of women and children - and provide support to vulnerable populations, particularly women, children, and the disabled. Other objectives include improving the capacity of Haitian institutions to advance human rights and respond to the needs of victims and vulnerable populations in all sectors of society in collaboration with civil society organizations and the private sector.

Good Governance

Legislative Function and Processes: The Parliamentary Strengthening Program provides direct technical and logistical assistance to all members of the Haitian Parliament including 30 Senators and 99 Deputies to enact legislation and perform other constitutionally mandated responsibilities. Assistance includes support for a new-members orientation training, establishment of a web-site through which members can interact with their constituents, and rehabilitation of a Parliamentary Resource Center. Support is also provided to 10 legislative committees including the Justice, Decentralized Budgeting and Budget, and Interior Committees to implement the legislative agenda. The Parliamentary Procedures Committee is also supported.

Local Government and Decentralization: The Transparent and Effective Local Government program supports the development and implementation of a legal framework for effective local governance as prescribed by the Haitian Constitution. Assistance is also provided to the MITC to develop and implement a comprehensive training module for municipal officials and their staff nationwide. Ongoing training in municipal management and financial management in particular is also provided to local officials and their staff. The Municipal Action Planning (MAP) process launched in FY2009 will support 10 targeted municipalities to analyze obstacles to local development and execute MAPs geared towards stabilization and local development.

Public Sector Executive Function: Direct technical assistance will be provided to the GOH through expert advisors to key ministries and agencies. These advisors will work to improve each ministry's capacity to effectively undertake key reforms, implement proper financial management systems, deliver basic services and launch strategic communication strategies that inform citizens of their work. This will enable these ministries to play a critical role in helping to reform and modernize the Haitian state.

Anti-corruption Reforms: The Integrated Financial Management System (IFMS) is supported by USAID and managed by the MEF to identify and eliminate opportunities for corruption through financial transactions using information and communications technology. Specific program objectives include assisting the GOH, MEF, Haiti's Internal Revenue Service and the Customs Authority to design, install and expand the IFMS system to improve internal financial controls systems. This system will help the GOH to comply with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank (WB) preliminary requirements to obtain loans for budget support while improving government transparency and accountability.

Political Competition and Consensus Building

Elections and Political Processes: The Election Organization and Administration Support Program is designed to strengthen the organizational capacity of the Provisional Electoral Council (CEP) at the national and local levels. Activities support the CEP to improve internal election administration systems and to manage a credible, participatory election process that includes all political parties and expanded grassroots involvement. Support will also be provided for future elections administration in order to contribute to a peaceful transfer of power from one government to another and establish a permanent election management body.

Political Parties: USAID's Political Party Development program helps to strengthen Haiti's democratic system by developing more responsive and representative political parties. USAID strengthens the capacity of democratic political parties and entities to govern effectively, responsibly and represent citizens by supporting a network of 13 political party coordinators based in each of Haiti's ten departments who provide direct technical assistance and engage parties in workshops and debates. The program also facilitates dialogue between citizens and political parties geared toward positive public policy formulation. The program is also increasing the number of youth and women participating in the political arena through special forums and candidates' schools.

Civil Society

Civic Participation: The objectives of the Civil Society Advocacy Program include developing a legal framework to protect and promote civil society organizations and their initiatives, increasing citizen participation in policy development and oversight of public institutions, improving the viability of civil society organizations combating corruption and achieving public policy reforms while strengthening democratic political culture and promoting gender equity.

Media Freedom: Training and equipment are provided to 41 community radio stations and 22 regional journalist associations in order to increase the relevance, quality and reach of these stations and journalists' networks. Support is also provided to sustain Haiti's first national association of community radio journalists.

FY 2008 Results:

- Three seminal laws establishing an independent judiciary, a new national magistrate's school, and defining the roles of key justice sector personnel were developed and adopted in 2008.
- Haiti's first integrated Case Registry and Tracking system developed and launched in 2008.
- Over 345 justice-sector personnel were trained, and 9,271 citizens had access to mobile courts.
- Three-hundred and fifty vulnerable women and children were assisted through grants to local organizations and 900 handicapped persons received special equipment.
- Ten parliamentary commissions were assisted to draft and debate priority legislation while 180 parliamentarians and their staff were trained. In December 2008 an historic legislative agenda was adopted.
- Over 471 municipal officials were trained and 15 municipal needs assessments were conducted. A national association of municipal and township councils was formed to improve basic public service provision.

- The Provisional Election Commission developed budget and calendar for holding elections in 2009.
- A new national Citizen's Watchdog organization was established that successfully monitored the delivery of hurricane relief together with the Haitian Chapter of Transparency International with USAID support.
- The first national association of radio journalists was established uniting forty-one community radio stations and 22 associations of journalists who provide 96% of citizens with their primary information.

Results and Expected Results during the Life of the Program: Similar results will be achieved through an expanded program to be implemented from 2009 to 2011.