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HAITI

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This document reports on performance results achieved during FY 2009 (October 1, 2008 – September 30, 2009). For information on the U.S. response to the January 2010 earthquake in Haiti, please visit the Haiti Earthquake pages of the United States Department of State (<http://www.state.gov/p/wha/ci/ha/earthquake>) or the United States Agency for International Development (<http://www.usaid.gov/helphaiti>).

FY 2009 FOREIGN ASSISTANCE GOALS

United States Government (USG) assistance programs in Haiti are directed towards building a stable, secure, prosperous, and democratic Haitian state that meets the needs of its citizens and contributes to Caribbean stability. Historically, Haiti has faced considerable instability deriving from a potent amalgam of factors, including political conflict and violence, weak governing institutions, deep poverty, social vulnerability, food insecurity, environmental degradation, HIV/AIDS, drug trafficking, and organized crime. Since 2004, progress has been made through the combined efforts of the democratically elected Government of Haiti (GOH), its partners in the international community, individual Haitians, and the Haitian Diaspora abroad. Most notably, improvements in public security and service delivery are providing the foundation for sustained economic growth and the entrenchment of democratic practices. However, Haiti's gains remain fragile, as evidenced by the removal of the Government following the April 2008 food riots and the daunting task faced by the new Government to rebuild after the devastating 2008 hurricane season that caused nearly \$1 billion in damages, representing 14.6 percent of GDP. These crises combined to exacerbate an already serious food security problem, so that at one critical point 3.3 million of Haiti's 9.5 million citizens food insecure. Rebuilding the country and addressing food insecurity, while simultaneously creating thousands of badly needed long-term jobs, emerged as the top priorities for the GOH and its international partners during the course of FY 2009.

The United States is Haiti's largest bilateral donor, providing over \$731 million during FY 2008-2009, and USG assistance is indispensable if Haiti is to overcome recent difficulties, take advantage of new opportunities, and eventually prevail over its longer-term challenges. In FY 2009, USG assistance programs aimed to promote democratic governance; strengthen the rule of law; improve security and stability; foster sustained economic development; provide basic education, health, and

HIV/AIDS services; reduce food insecurity; and aid disaster recovery while reducing long-term vulnerability.

HIGHLIGHTS BY PROGRAM OBJECTIVE

Peace and Security

Despite improvements in law enforcement, numerous problems persist, including trafficking in drugs and persons, money laundering, human rights abuses, and criminal activities and violence linked to widespread poverty and lack of economic opportunities. Moreover, though the GOH has embraced greater authority and responsibility for policing and security sector reforms, it continues to rely heavily on the support of the international community. In FY 2009, USG assistance:

- Trained 1,171 new police officers and assisted in making community-oriented policing a matter of national policy
- Increased the number of Haitian Coast Guard (HCG) trainings, thereby improving Haitian capacity to carry out border protection activities. As a result, the HCG independently interdicted 3 migrant vessels bound for the United States and conducted joint operations with U.S. Coast Guard vessels resulting in more than 1,500 Haitian nationals interdicted and repatriated to Haiti in 2009.

Despite financial and human resource limitations, the GOH remains committed to reducing transnational crime, particularly money laundering and trafficking-in-persons (TIP). In FY 2009, USG assistance:

- Provided assistance to four GOH institutions to improve financial-intelligence gathering and investigations. As a result, one major case was referred for prosecution for the first time in more than five years. Moreover, USG support strengthened coordination among GOH institutions, judges, and prosecutors, helping Haiti establish one of the most effective anti-money-laundering structures in the Caribbean.
- Supported the establishment of a GOH National Human Rights Commission. The USG also helped the Haitian Parliament ratify the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and 3 accompanying TIP-related protocols, assisted over 1,500 TIP victims, and established 5 new shelters and safe houses.

Communities that lack economic opportunities are hotbeds for urban discontent and are prone to violence. Pervasive rural poverty has exacerbated these problems by making the urban areas magnets for internal migration and conflict. In FY 2009, USG assistance:

- Completed 633 small-scale projects using labor-intensive methods, including 61 schools and 404 water systems/points, providing more than 95,400 residents with short-term jobs and over 5,000 Haitians with conflict mitigation skills.
- Helped to increase police presence and access to justice services, microfinancing, and vocational education to achieve a major turn-around in Haiti's iconic hotspot, Cité Soleil. As a result, commerce has returned, traffic has increased dramatically, and people are much less fearful of traveling to Cité Soleil. Moreover, the USG-funded Route 9 extension through Cité Soleil fostered private sector investment in the area.

- Rehabilitated agriculture infrastructure increasing the productivity of nearly 14,000 hectares of land.
- Provided marketable skills training to more than 1,300 at-risk youth and conflict mitigation or leadership training to 5,029 community leaders, including 1,477 women.

Governing Justly and Democratically

Haiti still suffers from weak governing institutions and a history of violent political change. Governing institutions frequently lack the capacity to provide basic services or effectively manage public resources. In response, USG assistance focuses on strengthening institutional capacity while engaging citizens in the process of stabilizing and rebuilding the state. In FY 2009, USG assistance:

- Facilitated the government's capacity to administer transparent 2009 elections for one-third of Haiti's 30 senate seats. USG assistance provided the Provisional Electoral Council with technical advisors and material support and trained 33,756 election officials. Furthermore, nearly 1,200 non-partisan domestic election observers and 667 political party observers received training.
- Contributed to making 2009 Haiti's most productive parliamentary session since 1998. In addition, USG funding enabled 41 town hall meetings to be held in each of Haiti's 10 departments, which facilitated adoption of a record 7 laws. In addition, USG assistance was instrumental in the launching of a Parliamentary Research Service based on the U.S. model and helping the GOH to adopt the United Nations Anti-Corruption Convention.
- Promoted increased civil society involvement in public affairs, strengthening the organizational capacity of 69 civil society organizations, in particular improving their ability to perform a government-watchdog function
- Provided access to objective information on political developments, local initiatives, and events through training and organizational support to a network of 41 community radio stations and 22 local journalist associations known as RAMAK, which reaches 85 percent of the population outside of the capital.
- Strengthened the capacity of the Ministry of Justice and Public Security to manage the national court system by developing and establishing the first Case Tracking and Management System for 34 courts in 3 jurisdictions and facilitating the professional development of justice officials; expanded access to legal aid; provided services to 1,527 victims of violence; and helped advance reform in the corrections system
- Expanded the GOH's Integrated Financial Management System, thereby improving internal financial controls in order to reduce corruption, improve financial management of public revenues, and improve transparency and government accountability overall
- Trained over 2,250 locally elected leaders and officials in 10 targeted municipalities to improve their management skills, including budgeting, conflict resolution, and financial management, and assisted them in developing Municipal Action Plans to provide citizens with essential public services and resolve local conflicts

Investing in People

Health statistics reflect a challenging situation in Haiti with respect to food insecurity, child and maternal health, treatable diseases, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis (TB), basic health services, clean water, and sanitation. Even in the absence of a food availability crisis, such as the one that occurred in 2008, almost 20 percent of the population (1.8 million people) is estimated to be food insecure. Life expectancy stands at 49.5 years, and 40 percent of the population does not have access to basic health services. Only 54 percent of the population has access to clean water. Given these challenges, the USG aims to strengthen the GOH's capacity at all levels to respond to the health needs of its citizens, and to provide Haitians with information and tools to improve the quality of their lives. In FY 2009, USG assistance:

- Strengthened health service delivery in 74 non-governmental organization clinics and 73 public sector clinics in hard-to-reach and chronically underserved areas of the country, providing primary health care services to 4.8 million people – nearly 50 percent of the population
- Integrated primary health care services at the health facility-level so that people receive child and maternal health, family planning, HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted disease, and TB services as a package. Community outreach activities for HIV/AIDS prevention reached almost 1,300,000 people.
- Trained 1,194 service providers in child health and nutrition, and 1,102 in maternal health. USG assistance enabled nearly 140,000 children to be fully vaccinated, and more than 380,000 children received at least one vitamin A dose. USG assistance also played a key role in improving health management information systems, enabling closer monitoring of health service delivery activities and increasing the reliability of data to help decision-making.
- Strengthened the GOH's ability to provide access to family planning and reproductive health (FP/RH) services. With USG support, the MOH finalized FP/RH national norms that have already begun to facilitate the expansion of services and improve long-term contraception options. Furthermore, more than 1,000 health personnel received training in FP/RH service delivery and almost 100 health professionals in the delivery of long-term and permanent FP methods.
- Provided access to safe water for more than 10,000 HIV/AIDS-affected households, benefiting an estimated 50,000 people. USG funding also leveraged matching funds that helped to train over 1,000 teachers in improved hygiene practices and install water filter systems in more than 550 schools, 90 clinics, and 400 homes – serving more than 50,000 people.
- Completed 47 clean water activities in six cities and improved sanitation facilities at more than 50 schools. Rehabilitated 404 water points/systems destroyed by the 2008 hurricanes, in the process increasing access to clean water for more than 1.3 million people. USG funding also enabled the installation of new latrines that benefited more than 22,000 schoolchildren, and more than 86,000 households gained easier access to clean water, as well as benefited from environmental improvements resulting from the clearing of urban drainage canals.

Despite high social demand for schooling, Haiti's education indicators are the worst in the Western Hemisphere, with approximately 500,000 children aged 6-11 not attending school. One key result of the nation's inability to educate its children is a high illiteracy rate, estimated to be 57 percent of the population 13 years and over. USG assistance is premised on the need to deliver critical education services in the short term and develop education sector systems for long-term sustainability. In FY 2009, USG assistance:

- Trained 2,007 basic education teachers, who in turn reach 113,209 students. School resources were improved through the distribution of 100,669 teaching materials and the support given to 285 parent-teacher associations. In addition, the USG delivered school feeding programs for 45,842 students under the regular Food for Peace Title II program.
- Provided 30,760 primary school students with scholarships and renovated or reconstructed 107 schools in response to the 2008 food riots and hurricanes

Economic Growth

Long-term stability in Haiti requires a sustained economic turnaround, but numerous structural factors impede economic recovery, including a weak tax, regulatory, and administrative framework; inefficiencies in the production and distribution of energy; lack of investment in and maintenance of productive infrastructure; insufficient credit for business activities; a low level of human capacity development; limited institutional capability to support productive activities; and widespread environmental degradation. USG assistance focuses on helping the country proceed on a path of sustainable economic growth led by a government that is able to respond to the needs of its people and contribute to regional stability. In FY 2009, USG assistance:

- Provided \$20 million to help relieve the GOH's debt service burden.
- Assisted Haiti's Tax Administration (DGI) to pursue reforms that are increasing revenue from tax collections. A direct result of tax audit training is that the DGI conducted the first-ever on-site audits of all banks and insurance companies, which resulted in large tax adjustments for both, generating more tax revenues.
- Helped increase the supply of financial services and products to underserved populations, resulting in job creation and improved livelihoods. USG funding increased the availability of savings and credit services to 400,925 clients (302,857 women), including 181,379 rural clients.
- Assisted the GOH to address shortfalls in energy-generating capacity by completing the rehabilitation of a small hydroelectric plant that now provides electricity to 5 towns and surrounding areas, serving a population of 136,000 people.
- Rehabilitated over 123 kilometers of farm-to-market roads and 64 kilometers of irrigation systems bringing more than 13,750 hectares under irrigation.
- Protected the environment by slowing soil erosion through the planting of more than 700,000 trees, and establishing 17 kilometers of control terraces and 33 kilometers of contour ditches. USG funding also helped to place 18,065 hectares of land under improved management.

- USG resources of \$3 million leveraged \$6.9 million from coffee, cacao, and mango exporters to develop new products or increase production.
- Trained 14,901 farmers in improved agricultural productivity techniques. Altogether, USG funding provided training for 236 producer organizations, water user associations, trade and business associations, and community-based organizations. U.S. assistance also trained 103 women’s organizations in business management and food production.
- Supported workforce development programs that provided literacy and numeracy training, life and employability skills, and vocational education to 6,959 youth. Of that number, 2,189 young people gained employment and 2,964 formerly out-of-school youth transitioned to further education and training.
- Increased Haiti’s ability to negotiate and implement trade agreements by training GOH institutions and private stakeholders on trade and investment policy. In FY 2009, 361 people, including 103 women, received such trainings to increase their ability to take advantage of investment opportunities and to negotiate trade and business deals.

Humanitarian Assistance

Haiti is one of the Caribbean’s most disaster-prone countries, with the 2008 hurricane season highlighting serious deficiencies in government institutions’ and civil society organizations’ capability to prepare for and respond to disasters. Moreover, due to land scarcity, the poorest Haitians often build homes and communities in disaster-prone areas – dry riverbeds, steep slopes, or low-lying coastal areas – worsening environmental degradation and turning tropical storms into disasters of devastating impact. An already dire food security problem is exacerbated when calamity strikes. In response, USG assistance seeks to “build back better” infrastructure and improve agricultural productivity and land management, provide food assistance to the most vulnerable populations, educate citizens on disaster preparedness and mitigation, and coordinate relief efforts between donors, government institutions, and local communities. In FY 2009, USG assistance:

- Cleared debris from and rehabilitated more than 85 kilometers of drainage canals (over 60,000 cubic meters of mud removed in one city alone) as part of hurricane recovery efforts.
- Provided more than 66,000 metric tons of food commodities to respond to the food security crisis. This expanded nutrition interventions from about 328,000 in the regular Food for Peace Title II feeding programs to over 2.1 million people between August 2008 and March 2009. From April to September 2009, the program benefited a vulnerable population of 1.5 million.
- Trained more than 2,400 child health care and nutrition workers to identify and treat acute malnutrition. To prevent malnourishment, USG funding also provided locally produced therapeutic food for severely malnourished HIV-positive people and orphans and vulnerable children, and a fortified flour product for all HIV-positive pregnant and lactating women, as well as their children 6 to 24 months.
- Supported the Haiti Famine Early Warning System, which improved national-level food and disaster vulnerability mapping and increased local-level contingency and response planning.

- Purchased non-food items for the pre-positioning of 2,000 emergency shelter kits and 2,000 basic emergency kits around the country and the rehabilitation of more than 14 temporary shelters, which can provide shelter to more than 68,700 people.
- Supported an assessment of urban search-and-rescue capacities, which laid the foundation for programming activities that strengthen first responder organizations such as the fire services and Red Cross.

Food Security

USAID has implemented a multi-sector approach to food security, with complementary programs relating to food distribution, health and nutrition, productive infrastructure rehabilitation, natural resources management and alternative livelihoods, and early warning systems. These USG programs helped to reduce food insecurity from a high of 3.3 million of Haiti's 9.5 million citizens at the beginning of FY 2009, to 1.8 million by its end.