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Office of Transition Initiatives

HAITI

February 2010

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

As part of the post-earthquake response in Haiti, the USAID Office of Transition Initiatives (USAID/OTI) has initiated short- and medium-term activities aimed at restoring the Government of Haiti's (GOH's) operational capacity, facilitating its ability to take the lead in the country's recovery effort, and addressing additional stabilization priorities as they arise.

The USAID/OTI program currently consists of three components:

GOH Capacity: In close coordination with USAID Mission colleagues and international actors, USAID/OTI will provide Haiti's government support to both enhance its crisis management capacity and to help restore core government functions. Infrastructure assistance will include basic office equipment, including desks, chairs, computers, and communications equipment.

Jobs for Stabilization: USAID/OTI has launched a large-scale jobs program in coordination with other USAID jobs programs, the GOH, and the international community to provide temporary employment through removing rubble and repairing roads and other public infrastructure. This injection of cash will be targeted to the hardest hit communities in Port-au-Prince and surrounding areas, particularly youth, enabling them to work with local and national government to make positive contributions to clean-up and recovery of their neighborhoods.

Media and other Emerging Priorities: USAID/OTI will assist the GOH in restoring external and inter-governmental communications. This program component also includes targeted emergency assistance for Haitian radio stations, focusing on increasing the quality and quantity of humanitarian assistance news and information broadcast by Haitians.

Illustrative activities to date include the following: an engineering survey of GOH ministry buildings and identifying functional office space for emergency use by the Office of the Presidency and other core ministries; providing a media relations center to the GOH to increase its outreach efforts; and support to Haitian radio stations and journalists to compile and broadcast daily information for Haiti's citizens on 20 radio stations covering relief assistance and other critical information.

The jobs program began January 25 in the Carrefour neighborhood of Port-au-Prince. Each temporary worker is provided with a T-shirt with the slogan *Ann Leve Kanpe!* (Let's stand up together!) to promote solidarity and to represent the GOH's efforts to respond to needs.

FAST FACTS

Start Date: January 2010
Budget: \$5 million in TI funds; \$15 million in ESF
Partners: Chemonics International, Inc.; Development Alternatives, Inc. (DAI)
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