



---

## USAID/OTI Haiti Quarterly Report

October - December 2010

---

### Program Description

As part of the response to the January 12, 2010, earthquake, USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives (USAID/OTI) is implementing a program of short- and medium-term activities aimed at stabilizing Haiti through community revitalization and restoring basic government functions, focusing on building the Government of Haiti's operational and outreach capacity. USAID/OTI is also working to mitigate instability at the community level in vulnerable and insecure areas.

### Activities

**Enabling the Government of Haiti to Function** – In collaboration with international partners, USAID/OTI is supporting key local and national government entities in rebuilding operations, strengthening capacity, and increasing Government of Haiti (GOH) legitimacy through greater responsiveness to the needs of Haitians. USAID/OTI temporary infrastructure assistance includes providing office facilities, basic equipment, computers, and communications equipment for the Offices of the President, the Prime Minister, and key ministries. Additionally, USAID/OTI is providing short-term technical advisors to the Interim Haiti Recovery Commission, the Ministry of Culture and Communications (MCC), and other ministries.

**Community Stabilization through Temporary Employment** – In coordination with the USAID Mission, the GOH, and the international community, USAID/OTI's large-scale temporary employment program aims to counter the destabilizing effects of mass unemployment. Program activities focus on removing rubble, clearing debris and trash from drainage canals, managing watersheds, and repairing roads and other public infrastructure. The activities inject much-needed cash into some of the hardest hit communities in Port-au-Prince and surrounding areas. Partnering with local authorities and community leaders, these programs also engage youth to work with their leaders and make positive contributions toward cleanup and recovery in their neighborhoods.

**Enhancing Citizen Participation in Relief and Recovery** – USAID/OTI is supporting activities that foster greater dialogue and information exchange between Haitians, civil society, media, and the GOH. In addition, USAID/OTI is helping the GOH restore its public outreach and intergovernmental communications capacity by providing infrastructure and short-term technical assistance to the MCC, increasing the quality and quantity of humanitarian assistance news and information broadcast by Haitian media outlets.

### Country Situation

The January 2010 earthquake in Haiti produced a 7.3 magnitude reading on the Richter scale; its epicenter was 17 km southwest of Port-au-Prince. The capitol and the neighboring communities of Petionville, Cite Soleil, Léogâne, and Carrefour were heavily damaged. More than 230,000 people were killed, another 300,000 were injured, and an estimated 850,000 are living in temporary shelters and camps for the internally displaced. Many of the camps in Port-au-Prince are in areas susceptible to floods and mudslides.

**Shelter and Settlements** – Shelter and resettlement remain top priorities of the relief effort, as citizens will again face the rainy season and the possibility of hurricanes in another few months. Resettlement efforts range from encouraging families to return to homes assessed as suitable for habitation to relocating people to safer camps. The GOH and the international community are working to establish transitional shelters so people at greatest risk can be relocated.

**Security** – Security continues to be a concern, particularly in camps, where there have been multiple reports of rape and violence against women and children. U.N. police and the Haitian National Police have set up stations in several camps to provide security and respond to reports of violence. Police patrol during the day; however, they will not begin night patrols until lights are installed in the camps.

**Government** – Even before the earthquake, Haiti was the least-developed country in the Western Hemisphere. The country has lost 80 percent of state infrastructure and a significant portion of its civil service. For weeks following the earthquake, the central government was housed at the Direction Centrale de la Police Judiciaire (DCPJ), a local police station. The short- and long-term challenge will be to rebuild GOH institutions that have the capacity to lead and implement the recovery effort.

**Elections** – Haiti's parliamentary elections were scheduled for February 2010. These elections, along with the presidential election, have been postponed until February 2011. Preparing for the elections will present a significant challenge, as voter registration records and land titles were lost or destroyed during the earthquake and unrest followed the preliminary elections in late November 2010.

**Cholera** – By the end of December, more than 2,700 people had died from the fall cholera outbreak, which is suspected to have originated in the central province of Artibonite. The U.S. Government and other actors are coordinating efforts to ensure proper steps are taken to mitigate and prevent the spread of the illness.

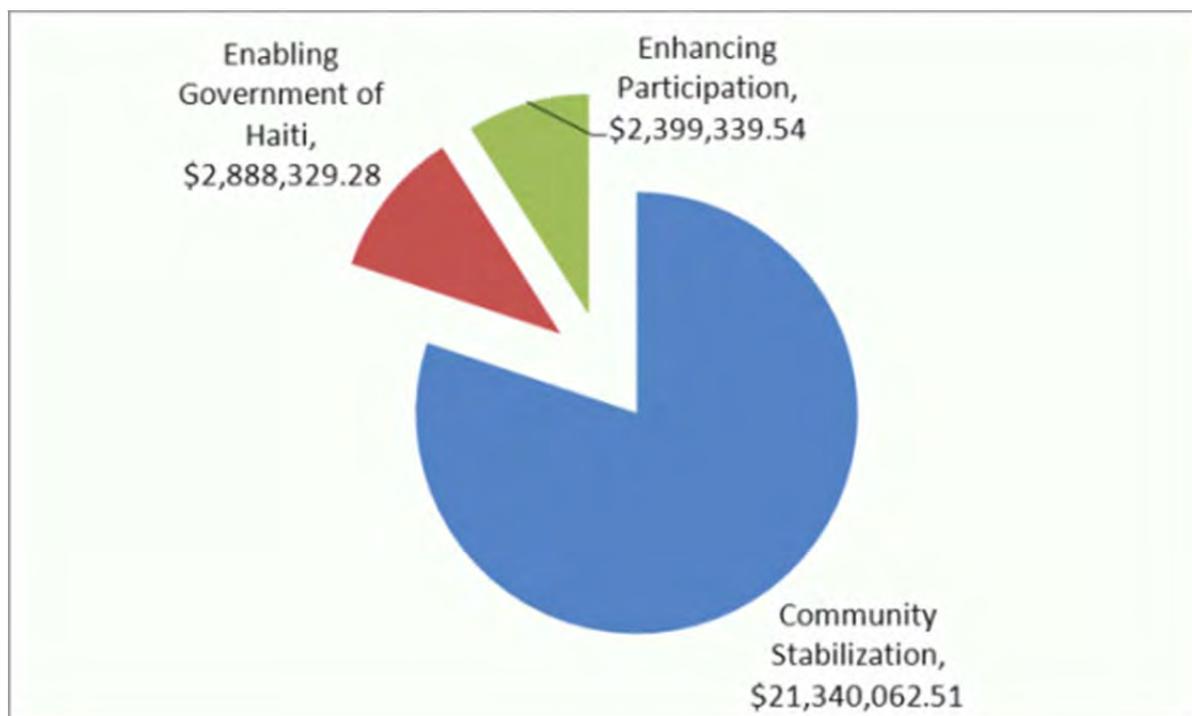
**Debris Management/Flood Mitigation** – Debris continues to block streets and drainage canals in many areas, increasing the risk from flooding. USAID/OTI is supporting GOH efforts to remove debris and trash from streets and canals, as well as soil conservation projects, throughout greater Port-au-Prince.

## Upcoming Events

- January 1 - Haitian Independence Day
- January 12 - First anniversary of the earthquake

## Grants Summary

Since program inception, USAID/OTI has awarded 369 grants worth \$26,627,731. Funding breaks down as detailed in the chart below.



## Highlights

**Supporting Election Activities** – OTI awarded 12 grants to a range of Haitian governmental and nongovernmental organizations to support greater citizen participation in Haiti's electoral process. Grants supported the following:

- Six presidential debates that offered the opportunity for all 19 presidential candidates to address the Haitian public (The debates were simultaneously broadcast on 32 radio and television stations across the country.);
- Screenings of the presidential debates at six camps for the displaced in the Port-au-Prince area;
- The production of voter education videos;
- Get Out the Vote activities in high-risk neighborhoods;
- The establishment of a call center at Haiti's Election Commission (CEP) to help Haitians identify the polling station that they are assigned to;
- The creation of a Haitian media-monitoring organization that can evaluate local media content;
- Activities to increase outreach to the Haitian diaspora and improve access to information for all Haitians, including the [www.haitielections2010.com](http://www.haitielections2010.com) Web site; and
- A CEP media/press center to improve communications between the CEP, Haitian and international media organizations, and the Haitian public.

### **Helping Haiti's Children Return to School –**

Throughout its history, Haiti has struggled to overcome a myriad of issues facing its education system, and the January earthquake only increased the challenge of educating 700,000 school-aged children, as 75 percent of the schools in the quake zone were damaged or destroyed. Understanding the need to address this complex educational challenge and restore a vision of hope, OTI has worked with the GOH to remove rubble from school sites so temporary or new classroom structures could be built. In concert with these efforts to get children back to school, OTI has also provided underprivileged students with school supplies. The bulk of the debris-removal work has taken place in five communes in the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area and near the earthquake epicenter in the port town of Léogâne. In close coordination with local municipalities, OTI activities cleared more than 127,000 cubic meters of rubble from 59 school sites. The effort employed 10,027 temporary workers and provided more than \$1.6 million in income to households in Tabarre, Croix-des-Bouquets, Delmas, and Carrefour as well as Port-au-Prince.



Cargo containers are retrofitted to provide classrooms for students in Léogâne.

**Increasing the Quality and Quantity of Critical Information** – Since the first "News You Can Use" radio show aired on January 21, 2010, USAID/OTI has worked extensively with local journalists, media houses, humanitarian organizations, and the GOH to produce and distribute fact-based news and information features on humanitarian assistance and other issues critical to citizen survival. The show is broadcast on more than 35 commercial stations in the greater Port-au-Prince area. The program is centrally produced and provides Haitians affected by the earthquake with information on emergency health, water, sanitation, food distribution, and recovery initiatives. OTI is preparing to launch training and technical assistance activities targeted at local radio stations to improve the quality of news and information broadcasts.

**Saving Lives through Public Outreach** – Since the beginning of the cholera outbreak in October, the MCC has hosted daily press conferences at its press center, which was built with OTI support. The GOH has taken a multi-pronged approach to the public health threat, working to disperse the information citizens need to protect themselves. At the press center, the Ministry of Health, along with the Ministries of Interior and Agriculture and various U.N. agency counterparts, has provided critical information on the prevention and treatment of the disease as well as

regular updates on the outbreak. On October 23, "News You Can Use" broadcast a special program on the outbreak and continues to provide updates on its daily program. Information on cholera prevention and treatment is also being disseminated through OTI's temporary work programs, which employ approximately 6,000 Haitians per day in and around Port-au-Prince. Training sessions are conducted jointly by job site managers and medical professionals and cover guidelines outlined in the Ministry of Health's "8 Messages on Cholera" pamphlet. Prevention materials are distributed during the sessions, and workers and team leaders are encouraged to share the information with family members and friends.

## Program Appraisal

Since establishing the Haiti Recovery Initiative on January 17, 2010, OTI has focused its efforts on crucial post-disaster needs. The program's temporary employment activities have placed wages in the hands of families in high-risk areas of Port-au-Prince. Other activities have supported the GOH's efforts to reestablish critical governance functions and promoted efforts to give citizens the information they need to access relief and recovery opportunities.

USAID/OTI has made significant progress in the 11-plus months since program startup. Employment initiatives have provided temporary work for more than 76,000 Haitians. These projects support local government objectives and bring residents together to remove debris, clear drainage channels, and reclaim their communities. Infrastructure projects have assisted GOH staff return to work and take the lead in the country's recovery effort. Technical support for media and communications activities has enabled the GOH to reach out and continue a necessary and needed dialogue on the recovery response.

## Next Steps

OTI priorities for the next quarter include the following:

- Promote stability by bringing employment opportunities to potentially volatile neighborhoods, both in Port-au-Prince and in outlying areas, and by addressing diverse, destabilizing factors such as lack of shelter, environmental degradation, and sanitation and clean water needs;
- Continue neighborhood rubble removal activities, working in close collaboration with national and local authorities through a combination of temporary employment and heavy equipment interventions;
- Pilot small-scale activities to promote economic development and community-driven neighborhood improvement and revitalization;
- Start construction of temporary structures for the Haitian Parliament;
- Continue providing technical assistance to the Interim Haiti Recovery Commission;
- Provide technical assistance to the Comite Interministeriel d'Amenagement du Territoire, the inter-ministerial office that provides policy guidance and coherence on land tenure and building regulations;
- Continue providing technical assistance to the MCC while expanding the capacity of MCC services for use by other ministries in their efforts to combat cholera and sensitize and promote key messages;
- Provide urban-planning and environmental-engineering technical assistance to local governments in Cap Haitien and St. Marc;
- Increase strategic communication and outreach efforts by the GOH, building on successful investments in the MCC cholera response by integrating functioning MCC systems into other key ministries and GOH offices;
- Increase the quantity and quality of information on cholera prevention and treatment available to vulnerable communities through both GOH and NGO outreach; and
- Assist media outlets to improve quality of programming through audience research.