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HAITI

FACT SHEET

Leveraging Effective Application of Direct Investments (LEAD)

LEAD helps to improve the capacity of SMEs to increase productivity and competitiveness, as well as expand market operations in local and international markets.



Photo Courtesy of PADF

Over the life of the project, LEAD will:

- Create 13,000 new jobs.
- Provide grants—ranging from \$50,000 to \$200,000—to 40 SMEs
- Encourage mostly Diaspora participation through investments in social businesses and local enterprises.
- Provide business development services (BDS) and training to 120 SMEs.

Overview

Haiti's private sector is an essential contributor to the country's long-term economic development and vitality. The Haitian economy continues to be primarily driven by small and medium enterprises (SMEs), which have the potential to be strong engines of economic growth and create thousands of new jobs. However, SMEs have difficulties accessing financing, and are thus limited in their ability to grow. To address this challenge, LEAD aims to attract investments in Haitian SMEs and increase the development impact of remittances.

LEAD is designed to strengthen the capacity of SMEs to engage in best business practices, attract foreign and Diaspora investments, grow businesses, create jobs, and generate income. LEAD will use a grant matching mechanism to leverage private investments in Haitian SMEs identified through business plan competitions, and will collaborate with the Haitian Diaspora community to channel remittances to viable social enterprises and community projects, increasing their internal sustainability and external impact.

In addition, LEAD will work with the Haitian Diaspora in the United States and elsewhere to engage them in targeted philanthropic activities, social businesses, and innovative ways to use a portion of remittances to further the development impact of these resources.

LEAD will operate in the three USG development corridors: Cap-Haïtien, Saint-Marc, and Port-au-Prince. The project will target industries and businesses with the greatest potential to create jobs, including construction, tourism, agribusiness, and alternative energy. The project will also focus on encouraging job creation for women, as women's entrepreneurship enhances economic growth and improves household well-being, as well as for those with disabilities and are therefore particularly vulnerable.

Objectives

LEAD aims to attract investments in Haitian enterprises with demonstrable potential for growth, income generation, and job creation, as well as increase the impact of remittances in development by leveraging support among the Haitian Diaspora for community projects.

Activities

- Supporting annual business plan competitions
- Providing training and business development services
- Matching with Haitian Diaspora and other investors
- Providing technical and financial assistance
- Promoting public awareness and investment