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Investment, Trade and Association Development (I-TRADE)



Prime Minister, Mrs. Michelle Pierre-Louis, speaks before a private sector audience in October 2008 during an I-TRADE co-sponsored event .

Background: Haiti's private sector has faced a host of challenges over the past decades which have impeded its capacity to act as a true engine for growth. The I-TRADE project tackles some of these underlying obstacles by addressing deficiencies and policy barriers in the public and private sectors. The project provides to the Government of Haiti (GOH) the tools necessary to effectively negotiate in the competitive global economy; build public sector institutional and ministerial capacity in investment and trade policy; and address weaknesses at the level of private sector institutions by strengthening their ability to be proactive and reactive.

Objectives:

- Reinforcing GOH trade and investment-related initiatives at the public sector level;
- Strengthening of private sector associations' ability to be proactive and reactive;
- Providing an institutional underpinning to other USAID activities in the area of 'increased employment and sustainable livelihoods'.

Activities:

 I-Trade's activities include:

- Strengthening interface between private and public sectors on issues of trade and investment;
- Technical assistance to the Investment Facilitation Center;
- Modernizing the trade and investment legislative framework;
- Supporting the institutional capacity of Haiti's international ports and improving customs efficiency;
- Supporting other projects: I-TRADE is designed to be flexible and responsive. The Market Chain Enhancement program, the Haitian Hemispheric Opportunity through Partnership Encouragement Legislation II (HOPE II), and other USAID or donor programs may identify issues related to trade and investment that are not being addressed. Where possible, I-TRADE will address these needs.

USAID support:

\$4.2 million

Life of Program:

September 2007 to September 2010

Geographic Focus:

National

Implementing Mechanism and Partner:

This program is funded through a contract with Chemonics International, Inc. I-Trade has developed partnerships and formal relationships with several associations, projects, and the GOH. Alliances have been initiated with several organizations, including the American Chamber of Commerce in Haiti, the 'Comité Tripartite de Mise en Oeuvre de la loi HOPE', the Investment Facilitation Center, the Out-Of-School Youth Livelihood Initiative program, and the Konbit ak Tèt Ansanm (KATA) program.

FY 2008 Program Results:

In FY 2008, U.S. technical assistance has helped strengthen GOH commitment to an improved trade and investment environment by achieving the following:

- A program for modernization of the legal framework for trade and business;
- Selection of policy items for advocacy support;
- Organization of events bringing together the public and private sectors on issues related to trade;
- Organization of training events related to the improvement of the trade and investment environment in Haiti;
- Launching of PartnersNet, a network of six USAID projects covering a range of USAID-supported sectors, with the aim of ensuring greater coordination and collaboration of development efforts.

Anticipated Results Over Life of Program:

- Haiti's "Doing Business" and "Economic Freedom" performance and ranking is improved;
- Haiti's private sector Associations and Chambers are strengthened;
- Administrative obstacles to doing business are reduced;
- More business- and trade-friendly legislation is enacted;
- Institutional capacity to move goods is strengthened;
- The GOH's ability to conduct trade negotiations is improved;
- Other donor activities are leveraged.