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## USAID/OTI Haiti Quarterly Report

January – March 2011

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### 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 rubble removal, 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, programs also engage youth to work with their leaders and make positive contributions in their neighborhoods. The program is now shifting focus to concentrate on small-scale activities promoting economic development and community-driven neighborhood improvement and revitalization.

**Increasing Citizen Engagement** – USAID/OTI is supporting activities that foster greater dialogue and information exchange between Haitians, civil society, media, and the GOH, with a particular focus on the second round of presidential balloting in March. 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, disease, and crime.

**Shelter and Settlements** – Shelter and resettlement remain top priorities of the relief effort, as government authorities and citizens will again face the rainy season and the threat of hurricanes. 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/Elections** – Haiti conducted a second round of presidential balloting on March 20, a runoff from the widely discredited November 2010 election that led to mass unrest. Despite delayed openings and reports of incomplete voter kits at some polling stations, the election was notably calmer and more organized. Preliminary results released on April 4 indicate that Michel Martelly will win the presidential race and defeat Mirlande Manigat by a margin of nearly 2 to 1.

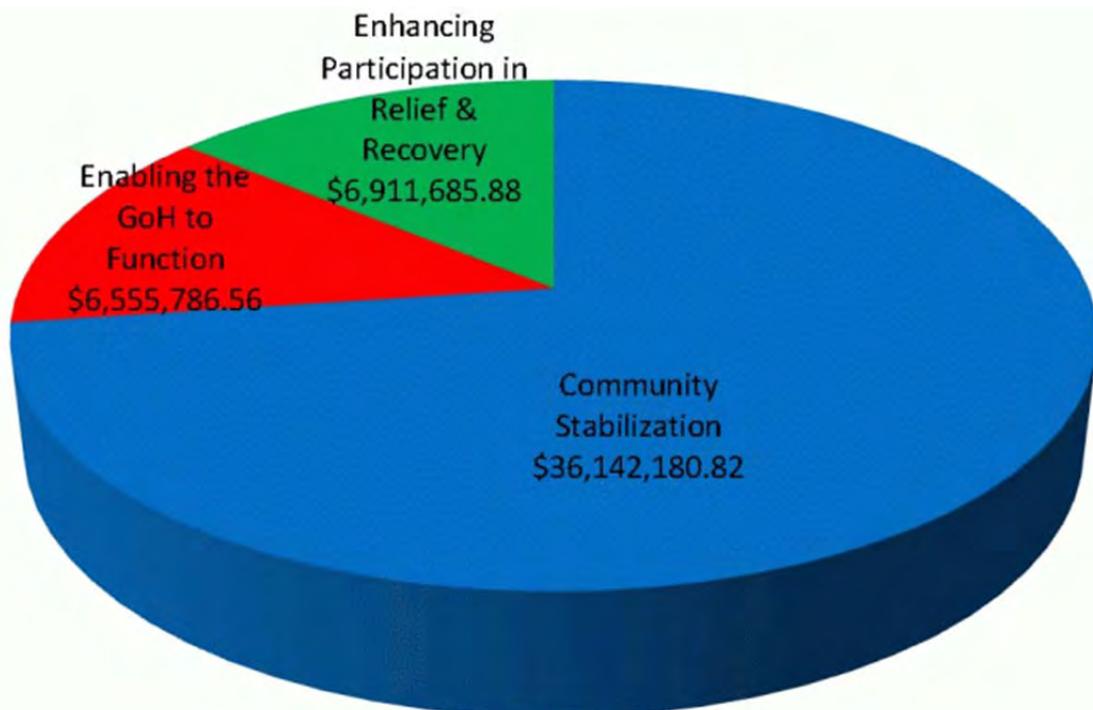
**Cholera** – By the end of March, USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance had identified roughly 267,000 cases of cholera in Haiti. The number of cases is expected to rise during the coming rainy season. The U.S. Government is coordinating a response with USAID, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and international partners to stem the spread of the disease.

## Upcoming Events

- April 4 - Presidential election results announced
  
- May - Rainy season begins
  
- May 14 - Presidential inauguration
  
- June - Hurricane season begins

## Grants Summary

Since program inception, USAID/OTI has awarded 593 grants worth \$49,609,653. Funding breaks down by sector as follows: Community Stabilization, 72.9%, Enhancing Participation in Relief & Recovery, 13.9%; and Enabling the GOH to Function, 13.2%.



## Highlights

**Promoting Free and Fair Elections** – Working to prevent the voter intimidation and fraud that, to a large extent, characterized last fall's election, OTI supported several initiatives aimed at restoring confidence in the GOH and the democratic process in advance of the March 20 runoff. As part of the effort, OTI helped the Haitian Election Commission reestablish its highly successful election call-in center to help voters find their local polling stations. In addition, working with the three major Haitian telecommunication groups, the program set up a text-messaging service that allowed a voter to key in his or her national ID number and receive the correct polling station address.

OTI also sponsored a debate between the two presidential runoff candidates, Michel Martelly and Mirlande Manigat; screened the presidential debate in camps for displaced persons; supported local "get out the vote" messaging campaigns; and assisted voter information distribution efforts with public service announcements, newspaper advertisements, and billboards.



Workers at the OTI-supported election call-in center responded to basic questions about the electoral process and provided information on where to vote.

**Combating Cholera** – To mitigate the threat of cholera, OTI gave assistance to the Direction Nationale de l'Eau Potable et de l'Assainissement (DINEPA) for a public information campaign on disease prevention and hygiene promotion. DINEPA installed large billboards and posters and dispersed flyers carrying messages on safe water treatment and helpful sanitation practices throughout high-risk areas of Port-au-Prince. In addition, OTI helped DINEPA create two video public-service announcements and supported an information campaign that deployed several sound trucks staffed with community mobilizers to broadcast disease prevention messages throughout Port-au-Prince and surrounding communities.

**Supporting Economic Growth in Key Communities** – Several marketplaces were destroyed or damaged during the earthquake, forcing merchants into the streets and causing congestion and unsanitary conditions in the public spaces where goods are sold. To reestablish a thriving market center and spur economic activity, OTI supported the municipality of Petionville as it rehabilitated the Marché la Coupe market. The activity has provided a safe and sanitary space for vendors, restored pedestrian and automotive traffic on a primary city artery, and helped contain a growing problem with solid waste on the streets.

OTI has also made efforts to strengthen economic activity and offer incentives for internally displaced persons (IDP) to resettle in communities outside the metropolitan Port-au-Prince area. In Cap-Haitien, OTI is providing training in waste removal management and composting for 20 Nouvelle Vie Youth Corps groups and 600 IDPs. At the end of a three-month intensive training and certification course, the Youth Corps trainees are encouraged to design business plans aimed at stimulating economic growth and food security in Cap-Haitien. At the same time, OTI is supporting an awareness campaign on composting and efforts to place compost materials in key areas of the Cap-Haitien market for easier pickup.

**Providing Temporary Structures to the Haitian Parliament** – The earthquake caused irreparable damage to the Haitian Parliament building, leaving lawmakers without adequate chambers to assemble and work. Consequently, OTI is spearheading efforts to erect temporary structures to house Parliament while more permanent accommodations are planned. Work on temporary structures to house Parliament began in March.

## 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 and removed nearly 40 percent of the rubble created by the quake, allowing people begin rebuilding. Other activities have supported the GOH's efforts to reestablish critical governance functions, as projects have renovated both temporary and permanent workspaces for key government ministries to operate. The program also has supported efforts to give citizens the information they need to access relief and recovery opportunities.

USAID/OTI has made significant progress in the 14-plus months since program startup to rebuild the economic infrastructure in Haiti, both within Port-au-Prince as well as in the surrounding communities. Numerous cash-for-work projects have helped mitigate the effects of mass unemployment. Looking beyond immediate needs and working with local partners, OTI has focused additional assistance on refurbishing marketplaces, reestablishing key trade routes, and strengthening job and vocational skills.

March closed with the successful completion of the presidential runoff election. USAID/OTI's support to the voter call-center and a targeted information and education campaign helped direct citizens to correct polling stations and inform voters about the candidates and key issues. The runoff election was better organized and significantly more peaceful than the previous round, indicating a shift in voter attitudes as well as a strengthening of the electoral process.

## Next Steps

In March 2011, USAID/OTI awarded Chemonics a new SWIFT (Support Which Implements Fast Transition) contract to continue the work begun in Haiti in January 2010. Under the new contract, USAID/OTI will build on previous efforts, promoting safe and stable communities, growing local government capacity, fostering citizen engagement, and advancing economic growth while also looking ahead to ensure a successful transition for the new government. Current contracts with Development Alternatives, Inc. (DAI) and Chemonics will be closed by July 17, 2011.

Moving forward, USAID/OTI will focus on supporting the GOH during the transition to a new presidential administration, assisting local elections, and building the capacity of national and local government entities. Honing in on strategic Port-au-Prince neighborhoods, USAID/OTI will focus on community renewal and IDP return initiatives. A key focus will be working with local governments and viable community-based entities to prepare for and eventually absorb longer-term U.S. Government support and development programming.



Program partners such as INDEPCO are offering vocational training to young people, helping them develop the skills needed to successfully integrate into the workforce.

USAID/OTI is working in close coordination with the USAID leadership, the U.S. Embassy, and the U.S. Department of State to undertake a comprehensive strategic review. As part of this process, USAID/OTI is looking forward to a Program Performance Review and a Strategy Review Session with its partner, Chemonics, in June. The reviews will provide key insights that will inform program activities over the next 18 months. The goal is to develop a programming strategy in concert with U.S. Government efforts in Haiti that leverages the investments USAID/OTI has made since the January 2010 earthquake to position Haiti as a more stable, economically prosperous nation.