



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

February 24, 2010

## THREE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S WORK IN HAITI

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**NOTE: THIS MEMO WILL BE DISTRIBUTED ON A WEEKLY BASIS EVERY WEDNESDAY.**

**JOBS:** As of last week, USAID-funded cash-for-work programs employed more than **13,000** people at **273** sites in Port-au-Prince and beyond, including Petit Goâve, Les Cayes, Cap-Haïtien, Gonaïves, and Saint-Marc. This work is focused on critically-important **debris removal** and **drainage canal clearing** that will **improve sanitation** and **lower the risk of infectious diseases**.

- ➔ Employing Haitians in the relief effort helps to **reduce economic insecurity** and **restore cash flow** to local food markets and small businesses.

To see photos of this program at work, visit USAID's [Flickr](#) page.

**SHELTER:** USAID is working to distribute plastic sheeting shelter kits to **every household in need** (between 240,000 and 300,000 households) by June 1 and as far in advance of the rainy season as possible.

- ➔ This plastic sheeting is a temporary, but effective solution—it **protects Haitians and their families** from the sun and rain while rubble is cleared and homes and other buildings are built to better standards.

To see a photo of similar shelters used after El Salvador's earthquake, click [here](#).

**HEALTH:** From January 17 to February 24, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) medical and surgical teams provided care to **9,751 patients** in **31,308 patient visits**.

- ➔ HHS continues to work with the Government of Haiti and on-the-ground NGOs to **ensure continued access to medical care** as well as **convalescence** and **rehabilitation** facilities and to strengthen essential public health capabilities such as **surveillance**, **sanitation**, and **vaccination**.

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March 5, 2010

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**WATER:** 120 million liters of water are being provided through the Port-au-Prince piped distribution network: **50% more than was provided before the quake.** This increase is due to longer pump running times and better access to fuel for generators. These water network repairs are managed through the Government of Haiti-led UN cluster which is partially funded by USAID through UNICEF.

- ➔ USAID is committed to not just helping the Government and people of Haiti rebuild, but helping them **build back better.**

**HEALTH:** Last Wednesday, USAID donated a **Federal Medical Station** valued at approximately \$577,000 to St. Damien Hospital in Port-au-Prince. The Federal Medical Station includes the components to stand up a 250-bed, acute-care facility with the capacity to care for both inpatient and outpatient needs.

- ➔ USAID is committed to helping the Government of Haiti develop its **healthcare infrastructure** and capacity to provide for the medical requirements of all Haitians. The U.S. government is **actively anticipating** Haiti's health and humanitarian needs as well as contingencies.

For additional background, please see USAID's press release [here](#).

**FOOD:** The United Nations World Food Program, which is supported by USAID, and nongovernmental organizations are providing emergency food aid to over two million people affected by the earthquake, and are in the process of transitioning to more targeted distributions focusing on the most vulnerable families and children.

- ➔ The U.S. Government is committed to **working in partnership** with the Haitian people to meet the short and long-term needs of Haitian families throughout the greater Port-au-Prince area.

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March 9, 2010

## THREE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S WORK IN HAITI

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**SHELTER:** The U.S. Government coordinated with the Government of Haiti, the UN, NGOs and other partners to help provide shelter to **half of the 1.3 million people in need**. This is a **major, unprecedented achievement** and will help decrease risks associated with health and sanitation.

- ➔ USAID is committed to working with partners across the public and private sectors to ensure that the Haiti relief effort is comprehensively coordinated, duplication is minimized, and shelter, food, and other aid is delivered to those who need it most as quickly as possible.

For more information, see the AP's recent coverage [here](#).

**AGRICULTURE:** Last week, USAID signed an agreement with the Government of Haiti to identify USAID and its WINNER (Watershed Initiative for National Natural Environmental Resources) project as a **strategic partner** in the Cul-de-Sac, Cabaret, Mirbalais, Archaie and Gonaives regions of Haiti. The project aims to prepare the **maximum amount of land possible for planting** in the next six weeks. WINNER will work with 200 farmer associations and train 800 "master farmers"

- ➔ The WINNER project, an agricultural and watershed management program, is the culmination of **best practices** derived from project experience over the last 30 years and is now the model for watershed methodology being used around the world. The U.S. will invest **\$126 million invested in the project over the next five years**.

For additional background, please see USAID's press release on WINNER [here](#).

**INTER-AGENCY EFFORT:** Since the onset of the quake, USAID has led a **robust, interagency response with a centralized communications, management, and strategy development effort**. This has included support from DOD, HHS, FEMA, DHS (i.e. Coast Guard), and many other agencies. As the quake response moves into its next phase, USAID has created a **Haiti Task Team (HTT)** to continue inter-agency coordination of the reconstruction efforts that are underway, and to replace the Response Management Team formed at the onset of the crisis. Led by USAID, the HTT includes representatives from the Department of State, Department of Homeland Security, the U.S. Armed Forces, the Department of Health and Human Services, and others.

- ➔ We are **fully leveraging resources** throughout the Federal Government to ensure that **expertise, resources, and information** are maximally and efficiently utilized to best deliver aid, relief, and strategic guidance to Haiti. This aid will in turn be leveraged by other donors and will catalyze further investment at the Donor's Conference in New York on March 31<sup>st</sup>.

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March 18, 2010

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**INFORMING THE HAITIAN PUBLIC:** USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives is funding a project to produce a daily radio program that **communicates information on emergency health, water, sanitation, food distribution and other recovery initiatives**. The program entitled "News You Can Use" ("Enfomasyon Nou Dwe Konnen" in Creole) is carried by **27 Haitian radio stations in and around Port-au-Prince and repeated several times per day**. This project will also provide **equipment, technical assistance and training** to journalists at local stations to improve the quality of news and information programming broadcast throughout earthquake-affected areas.

- ➔ USAID recognizes that clear communications with the Haitian public about humanitarian assistance distributions, safety, shelter assistance, and other critical information will help to **maintain stability, promote safety, and ensure that Haitians can participate in relief and recovery activities**.

**BUILDING HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE:** The U.S. Government has donated equipment, supplies, and training to help the Government of Haiti improve **15 healthcare facilities** in the Port-au-Prince area with capacity for follow-up surgery, spinal injury care and rehabilitation. **Nine of these facilities can fit prostheses and provide physical therapy**. There are also now **160 mobile clinics** and 150 nearby fixed facilities serving Haiti's IDP camps. **Haiti's health care capacity is now greater than it was before the quake, and can effectively address most healthcare needs**.

- ➔ The U.S. Government is helping to build Haiti's medical infrastructure back **stronger and better** than it was before the earthquake.

**CLEARING CANALS, CREATING JOBS:** In coordination with the Government of Haiti and other donors, USAID and the Department of Defense are working to **clear the most critical areas of congested drainage canals** in advance of the upcoming rainy and hurricane seasons. This action combines the use of **heavy equipment and cash-for-work programs** to further mitigate risks to Haitian people.

- ➔ USAID is committed to helping **jumpstart** Haiti's economy, give Haitians the skills to **rebuild their own country**, and to focusing efforts on areas of **greatest need**.

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**HEADING OFF HEALTH CRISES:** Data collectors in 21 priority camps have been trained on disease monitoring and reporting in order to carefully and closely monitor health concerns in temporary settlement camps. Collectors send in daily reports on 19 pathologies, including acute malnutrition. Five instantly reportable diseases are now recorded and **tracked via text message** by these collectors in order to best micro-target an effective response, distribute supplies, and **head off bigger problems before they start**.

- ➔ The U.S. is deploying a multi-faceted and cutting-edge approach to help **monitor, track, micro-target, and minimize** health concerns before they grow into a crisis.

**GROWING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION:** USAID is supporting a Seed System Security Assessment that began this week to identify and plan for Haiti's future seed needs and to determine how to establish a system that will **lessen or even eliminate** the need for emergency seed distribution programs. Seed quality and adaptability is important for Haitian farmers to allow them to **maximize their production and income** based on market and environmental conditions.

- ➔ The U.S. Government is committed to helping **build Haiti's agricultural base** for the long-term and ensure **optimal harvests** of Haiti's home-grown crops for the short-term.

**IMMEDIATELY SHELTERING HAITI:** **290,700 plastic sheets and over 37,500 family size tents** have been delivered to Haitians. Approximately **70% of the 260,298 households in need** have received some form of basic shelter assistance under the current cluster accounting approach.

- ➔ Getting shelter to displaced Haitians in advance of the hurricane season is a top priority of the U.S. Government and our partners. We are committed to **helping the Government of Haiti stay one step ahead** of the weather and other contingencies that may develop.

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March 30, 2010

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- ➔ **TRANSPORTING & PROVIDING CLEAN WATER:** To date, USAID has contributed 116,000 water containers to benefit approximately 291,500 earthquake-affected individuals. Daily water distributions from USAID and other partners reach 1.2 million people.
- ➔ **EVALUATING SAFETY, RETURNING HOME:** The U.N. Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and the Government of Haiti Ministry of Public Works has assessed 12,000 houses in Port-au-Prince, identifying approximately 40 percent of assessed houses as suitable for habitation. The Government of Haiti and UNOPS, with the support of USAID are also training approximately 200 engineers to assess houses.
- ➔ **DISTRIBUTING SHELTER FASTER THAN EVER BEFORE:** Relief agencies distributed shelter materials more rapidly following the Haiti earthquake than after other recent disasters, including the 2006 and 2009 Indonesia earthquakes and the 2008 Burma cyclone. The rate of shelter material distribution following the initial phase reached between 22 and 62 percent more people per week than distributions in the previous emergencies.

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- ➔ **DELIVERING BASIC SHELTER ASSISTANCE:** It is estimated that 100% of the households in need of shelter immediately after the earthquake have received some form of emergency shelter assistance to date, well in advance of the shelter/non-food items cluster target coverage date of May 1st. Additionally, 85,230 households have received ropes and repair materials, and 11,600 have received toolkits, which can be used for building more substantial transitional housing.
- ➔ **CLEARING PRIORITY CANALS:** Work began April 12th to clear debris from three key storm water channels. \$4.5 million has been obligated to clear these critically-important channels and minimize flooding in congested camps during the rainy season.
- ➔ **BUILDING BACK THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR:** WINNER is providing fuel and operational support to 24 tractors that will be used to plow and prepare for spring planting. WINNER is also distributing 216 tons of seed and 3,500 tons of fertilizer through its farmer associations for the spring planting. To learn more, click [here](#).

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- ➔ **DEPLOYING SHELTER AT UNPRECEDENTED RATE:** USAID continues to provide additional supplies for shelter for affected populations in Haiti. With the May 3 delivery of 3,330 additional rolls of plastic sheeting, USAID has provided a total of 22,330 rolls to benefit more than 1.1 million people.
- ➔ **PROVIDING COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT:** USAID is providing short-term technical assistance through a Senior Public Outreach Advisor to the Minister of Culture and Communications and her senior staff. The Advisor is supporting the Ministry to develop communications strategies and organize public outreach activities that deliver critical information to Haitian audiences.
- ➔ **LIGHTING THE WAY IN AT-RISK AREAS:** As of late April, all 15 USAID-provided mobile light towers have been installed in key spontaneous settlements in Port-au-Prince, including five lights in Ancien Aéroport, three lights in Corail Cesselesse, six lights in Pétionville Club/Golf Delmas 48, and one light in Terrain Accra.

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- ➔ **GETTING CHILDREN BACK IN CLASSROOMS:** Through the PHARE education project, USAID has begun constructing over **320 classrooms at 56 schools** in earthquake-affected zones. To date, **171 classrooms** have been built in **18 schools**. We've also supplied teaching and learning kits for each classroom, reaching approximately **32,100 students** and **642 teachers**.
- ➔ **VACCINATION GOALS ON TRACK:** As of May 5 the international community, with US support, has vaccinated **886,564 people** out of more than 1.2 million displaced persons. A second round of vaccinations for this population will begin in June--more than one dose is required for some of the diseases in order to achieve full immunization.
- ➔ **PUTTING US RESOURCES TO WORK:** The former American Embassy compound, which the U.S. gave to the Government of Haiti in the aftermath of the earthquake, is now fully functional. More than **60 staff members** of the Office of the Prime Minister are working in the building to date, as well as Ministry of Planning personnel.

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May 27, 2010

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**Moving Back into Safe Buildings:** USAID is supporting the Pan-American Development Foundation's (PADF) work that began this week with the Ministry of Public Works' building damage assessment program. PADF-trained engineers will work under the ministry in a house-tagging program that has already been underway to certify the livability of structures damaged in the earthquake. As of May 20, engineering assessments in Port-au-Prince have assessed 79,151 buildings.

**Support at the Ready in Case of Flooding:** The International Organization for Migration (IOM) launched an emergency hotline for camps affected by floods and the upcoming hurricane season. In the event of life-threatening emergencies caused by heavy rains, camp managers and staff can call the hotline. Teams staffed by IOM, the U.N. Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and Haitian officials will deploy immediately to assess the situation and relocate affected populations if necessary. USAID and other U.S. Government agencies working in Haiti continue to liaise with IOM and emergency responders to address emergency needs during the 2010 hurricane season.

**Preventing Disease Outbreaks:** With support from USAID, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, the World Health Organization—including the Pan-American Health Organization—and UNICEF, the Government of Haiti's Ministry of Public Health and Population has developed a comprehensive response protocol and communication strategy for diphtheria and other infectious diseases such as rabies.

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June 2, 2010

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**Medical Supplies at the Ready:** In partnership with the international community, USAID worked to ensure that six months of medical supplies are available to meet critical needs in the event of a major disease outbreak. As of May 26, approximately 100 mobile and emergency clinic kits had been distributed to areas with the most need and hospitals have received basic supplies, such as medicine, IV fluids, medical instruments and clinical manuals, to serve approximately 600,000 people.

**Rebuilding and Providing Medical Services:** Beginning June 15<sup>th</sup>, a 500-person force with the Louisiana National Guard will build and renovate schools and provide basic-level medical services throughout Haiti. This work is part of New Horizons, an annual U.S. Southern Command Exercise. The arrival of the National Guard marks the transition from JTF Haiti, which USSOUTHCOM formed in the earthquake's immediate aftermath to support USAID in saving lives and mitigating suffering.

**Creating Jobs, Clearing Rubble:** A new cycle of USAID-funded cash-for-work economic stimulation programs began on May 26<sup>th</sup> to prepare the Fort National neighborhood for the return of displaced residents currently living in the Champs des Mars spontaneous settlement. This program, which is coordinated with local leaders from both neighborhoods, employs 1,100 Haitian workers to remove rubble and debris from important thoroughfares and damaged structures and will run through mid-June. This marks the first joint effort of USAID and the Presidential Commission on Resettlement.

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**USAID**  
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June 10, 2010

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**Jumpstarting Financial Services** USAID and The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation announced a \$10 million incentive fund to jumpstart financial services by mobile phone in Haiti and expedite the delivery of humanitarian agencies' cash assistance to earthquake victims. Often called "mobile money," the banking services will enable Haitians to send, receive and store money using mobile phones. The services are expected to reduce the risks and costs of financial transactions, increase savings, generate employment, and help connect people to services like banking, insurance and utilities. For more information, go to <http://www.usaid.gov/press/releases/2010/pr100608.html>.

**Providing Medical Help** The U.S. military completed its third Medical Readiness Training Exercise (MEDRETE) in Haiti this year. Each 10-day exercise's purpose is to offer basic medical care, in concert with the local government, to communities in need while providing a training opportunity for the military. Donated eyeglasses are provided to some after a basic optometry exam, painful teeth are pulled, and medicine and vitamins are dispensed. So far this year, more than 16,000 patients have been seen. Ten additional MEDRETEs are planned through September.

**Supporting Port Operations** Construction began June 4 on a USAID-funded semi-permanent office space at Port-au-Prince's central port. The space will house Customs, Immigration, Health and Port Authority's port pilots. The building that previously housed these units was destroyed in the earthquake. The new office space is expected to enhance the Port Authority's ability to facilitate the smooth importation of relief and reconstruction materials.

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June 24, 2010

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**Responding to Haitians' Questions** A daily radio program for earthquake-affected communities recently broadcast its 100th program. "News You Can Use" ("[Enfomasyon Nou Dwe Konnen](#)"), produced by Internews and supported by USAID, reaches more than 3 million Haitians via 27 local radio stations and addresses topics including shelter and settlement; health; food, water and sanitation; and disaster risk, assessment and damage. The programs are based on listeners' questions – 100 daily on average – submitted via text message and ongoing surveys.

**Raising Public Awareness** USAID, in coordination with the Haitian government, is supporting TV and radio public information campaigns aimed at addressing gender-based violence, security and health. "Stop the Rape" ("Kwape Kadejak") PSAs are airing on large screens in many of Haiti's spontaneous settlements during the World Cup and on other popular TV programs. The PSAs, which are produced with USAID funding by the Pan-American Development Foundation and Population Services International, inform audiences about reporting and prosecuting rape and other violence; preventing HIV and malaria; and hygiene and family planning.

**Supporting Meteorological Services** The National Meteorological Centre of Haiti has launched a [website](#) to disseminate public alerts and warnings. The Centre also will communicate information via e-mail, radio and TV to Haitian government and U.N. agencies, NGOs, disaster-affected communities and media. The U.N.'s World Meteorological Organization and USAID joined forces to re-establish and support the Centre after the earthquake severely damaged Haiti's meteorological capabilities.

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July 2, 2010

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**Bringing Jobs Beyond Port-au-Prince:** USAID food security partner [ACDI/VOCA](#) established 178 food-for-work teams comprising 21 persons each to undertake road repairs and soil conservation activities. As of June 15, the food-for-work teams had repaired 53 km of road in [La Vallee municipality](#) and 90 km of road in [Cote de Fer municipality](#), both in Southeast Department. The beneficiaries are primarily displaced Haitians who reside with host families.

**Clearing Earthquake Debris:** USAID, the international community, and the Government of Haiti have moved at least 503,500 cubic meters of rubble between January and June of 2010.

**Making Headway on Sanitation Goals:** As of June 16, Water, Sanitation, and Health (WASH) Cluster partners have constructed more than 11,000 toilets, 2,932 showers, provided 5 liters of water per person per day, established 450 private water kiosks; trained 3,238 hygiene promoters; and distributed 200,000 hygiene kits. USAID is one of the largest funders of WASH cluster efforts.

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- ➔ **Lighting Up Camps:** The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is funding an initial 75 solar lights for spontaneous settlements. USAID is working with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and UNFPA to evaluate lighting needs in settlements and install lights where they're needed. These solar lights will make Haiti's displaced persons safer through a reliable and plentifully available source of energy.
- ➔ **Returning Homes to Habitability:** As a model for future reconstruction efforts, USAID partner Pan American Development Foundation (PADF) is repairing houses damaged in the earthquake. PADF is producing a guide on training, cost analysis, and future house repairs based on this project for the Government of Haiti, and it will train builders and masons. Lessons learned from this project will be turned into post-earthquake House Repair Guidelines specifically tailored to the Haitian context.
- ➔ **Reinforcing Houses:** USAID has been working hand-in-hand with the United Nations Shelter Cluster to ensure that Haitians are prepared for the rainy season. Public outreach materials include posters in Haitian Creole such as this [guide to reinforcing emergency housing](#).

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