

**BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

USAID/OFDA HAITI ONE-YEAR ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND MARKET SYSTEMS OVERVIEW – JANUARY 12, 2011

In the weeks and months after Haiti experienced its strongest earthquake in recent history, Haiti's already fragile economy suffered, as well. Houses, shops, stalls, warehouses, and inventories were damaged or destroyed, as were roads and bridges connecting people to markets. Hurricane Tomas and other storms later in the year damaged crops and fields, and political unrest following the November 2010 elections interrupted normal commerce and transportation in a number of locations. Overall, economic activity at the household, community, and regional levels suffered, hindering people's ability to cope in the aftermath of the earthquake. In response, USAID/OFDA mobilized its largest single-year economic recovery response for one country to date, obligating more than \$50 million to support temporary employment, restart livelihoods, and restore key market infrastructure. USAID/OFDA partnered with 18 relief organizations and USAID/Haiti to provide assistance throughout affected areas of Haiti, including the Port-au-Prince area; Léogâne, the earthquake's epicenter; Jacmel and the southeast; Cap-Haïtien in the north; Hinche and Mirebalais in the center; and Petit Goâve and Grand Goâve in the west.



USAID/OFDA beneficiaries receive employment improving a road from crop fields to markets in Mirebalais city. (Alison Lapp, USAID)

PROVIDING TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT AND SUPPORTING MARKET INFRASTRUCTURE

USAID/OFDA programs created short-term jobs, typically lasting from several weeks to several months, enabling earthquake-affected people and host communities to earn money repairing earthquake damage or helping implement other earthquake response programs. Employment opportunities included clearing rubble from roads and public spaces, rehabilitating irrigation and drainage canals, cleaning and managing displacement camps, planting trees to combat environmental damage, and rehabilitating community buildings. Those interventions had the dual effect of providing an immediate, short-term source of income, while restoring access to marketplaces where people could purchase needed items.

DEVELOPING NEW LIVELIHOODS

USAID/OFDA grantees provided youth with vocational skills training, improving their job prospects in fields such as construction, solid waste management, and water infrastructure.

RESTORING PREVIOUS LIVELIHOODS

By providing cash grants for meeting basic needs and for reinvesting in pre-earthquake livelihoods, including cash grants to tradeswomen—who form the backbone of Haiti's agricultural market system—USAID/OFDA helped small business owners restart enterprises they might otherwise have lost to the earthquake.

These interventions have provided economic support to more than 606,000 direct beneficiaries, of which more than 80 percent were displaced persons. Hundreds of thousands of others have benefited indirectly; for example, people are now able to travel on recently repaired roads. USAID/OFDA continues to value sustainable livelihoods and the recovery of key market systems.

For more information on USAID/OFDA economic recovery and market systems sector activities, please visit:
http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/sectors/economy.html