



USAID | HAITI
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



LOCAL SOLUTIONS: BUILDING UP HAITIAN ORGANIZATIONS FACT SHEET

January 2016

BACKGROUND

Local institutions - private sector partners, civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), cooperatives, associations and universities - serve as engines of growth and opportunity in Haiti. A key part of the United States Agency for International Development's (USAID) strategy is to improve the capacity of local Haitian institutions and organizations, while at the same time ensuring rigorous oversight of its assistance funds. Empowering the people of Haiti is critical, and USAID is working to help strengthen local organizations through partnerships, in addition to maintaining its close traditional partnership with the Government of Haiti (GOH). By forming local partnerships, USAID makes its work more effective and sustainable, and reduces the need for foreign aid over time.

KEY CHALLENGES

Lack of management capacity: Small-scale Haitian organizations often lack the financial tracking mechanisms and human resources needed to manage the size and scope of USAID projects while complying with U.S. government funding regulations.

Limited experience with USAID processes & announcement mechanisms: Civil society groups and local NGOs often are unaware of USAID opportunities because they don't know where to seek announcements and information on partnership opportunities. Additionally, the formal application process can be intimidating to new partners who are not familiar with USAID processes.

USAID STRATEGY & ACTIVITIES

In 2015, USAID set aside more than \$11 million for services to provide small grants and improve management, administration, and financial systems of local organizations. Currently, USAID works with Haitian partner organizations to improve the country's health, agriculture, economic, and human rights sectors. To expand its network of local partners, USAID regularly holds outreach events for Haitian and Haitian diaspora groups outlining how to do business with USAID, highlighting opportunities tailored to these organizations. For example, USAID has hosted outreach events targeting more than 230 local organizations in Port-au-Prince, St. Marc and Cap-Haïtien regions.

KENDRA HELMER / USAID

Building the capacity of local civil society and non-government organizations: In order to facilitate increased opportunities for direct funding to local partners, USAID launched a Capacity Development Hub, *Konbit*, which provides management, administrative and financial services to current and potential partners and ensures USAID solicitations reach local audiences.

Helping farmers grow a stronger agriculture sector: USAID works with local organizations to equip farmers with tools and knowledge needed to thrive. USAID and the *Fondation Haitienne de Développement Agricole Durable* (Haitian Sustainable Agricultural Development Foundation) are operationalizing two grain processing centers for maize and sorghum, and improving access to motorized agricultural equipment for small-scale farmers. Working with AGRITECH, USAID is establishing a model low-cost traceability system for mangoes in order to comply with U.S. regulations and help small-scale Haitian mango producers reach American markets. Finally, USAID, the Montrouis Management Association for the Rural Centers of Sustainable Development and the Association of Irrigators of Côte des Arcadins are protecting farming irrigation systems serving nearly 1,200 hectares by improving shoreline protection of ravines.

Improving water, sanitation, and hygiene practices: USAID is addressing the root cause of many public health and environmental issues in Haiti by working with local partners. For example, USAID and Fonkoze are reducing open-air defecation in 10 communities by linking sanitation lessons with a successful pre-existing micro-credit program. USAID is also working with Zanmi Lasante in the central plateau and the J/P Haitian Relief Organization in Port-au-Prince's Delmas 32 neighborhood to improve access to safe drinking water, renovate bathroom facilities, and educate staff, students, parents, and community members.

Training skilled workers and assisting Haitian businesses: USAID is working with local organizations to improve Haiti's economy. Working with the Youth Development Initiative in Port-au-Prince and Build Change in Cap-Haïtien, USAID is strengthening the workforce in the apparel and construction sectors by providing training, apprenticeship and certification that will enable enrollees to successfully compete in the formal marketplace. Partnering with the Training and Coaching Center, USAID is also helping to formalize and enhance the growth potential of the micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises of the Côte-des-Arcadins and St. Marc areas.

Supporting a more inclusive Haiti by improving safety and opportunity for minorities: USAID is partnering with local organizations that support women, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered (LGBT) individuals, and disabled Haitians. Activities include:

- **Increasing the safety of women,** USAID and GHESKIO partnered to run a holistic gender-based violence prevention program that provides health services, counseling, and vocational training for victims; trains women-focused networks; and educates the general population. To improve women's health, USAID, through a two-year project with Zanmi Lasante, will build capacity of the health system to comprehensively respond to cervical cancer, a leading cause of death for women in Haiti.
- Working with the Initiative for Equitable Development in Haiti, USAID **ensures that Haitian lesbian women lead safe and healthy** lives through collaboration with LGBT and women's organizations and by engaging allies in six cities throughout Haiti.
- **Promoting inclusive education,** USAID and the Haitian Society of Help for and to the Blind are ensuring access to quality education for children who are visually impaired in Port-au-Prince and Cap-Haïtien. USAID also works with Christian Service to Haiti to **increase employment opportunities** for individuals with disabilities and their families through academic and vocational training.