



## IN THE FIELD

USIP works to promote reconciliation and reconstruction in Haiti through on-the-ground training in at-risk communities and nationwide legal reform.

- USIP conducts training in conflict resolution with community leaders in Haiti in partnership with the National Democratic Institute.
- USIP has teamed up with Digital Democracy to train women activists in Haiti to monitor and report violence in their communities.
- USIP is supporting Haiti's effort to reform its legal codes utilizing USIP's Model Codes for Post-Conflict Justice.
- USIP supported Ushahidi, Inc.'s efforts to provide crisis mapping during post-conflict relief and reconstruction.

USIP provides the analysis, training and tools that prevent and end conflicts, promotes stability and professionalizes the field of peacebuilding.

For media inquiries, contact the office of Public Affairs and Communications, 202.429.4725

## Current Situation

On January 12, 2012, the second anniversary of Haiti's devastating earthquake passed with Haiti's government and the international community receiving mixed reviews. Proponents noted that the country finally had a functioning government led by a respected, former international civil servant, Prime Minister Garry Conille, following a year of political paralysis. Thoroughfares in the capital were open for traffic after the removal of approximately half the rubble, even if it had been removed one wheelbarrow at a time. Large scale foreign investment had begun with the announcement of a new Marriott Hotel and the construction of a garment factory by a South Korean firm that promised 20,000 jobs. Additionally, some 500,000 children began receiving free education under a plan sponsored by the President, even though funding remains in doubt. Also this past year, Haiti's president, Michel Martelly, deferred his intention to use scarce resources to create a new army and improved his relations with opponents in parliament.

Critiques of the overall response to Haiti's problems noted that 550,000 earthquake victims still lived in squalid tents and makeshift shelters with little prospect of early resettlement. Haiti had allowed the mandate for the Interim Haiti Recovery Commission to expire with only \$2.3 billion of the pledged \$5.3 billion in international reconstruction assistance delivered. Absent an international mechanism to vet project proposals and manage funding, it was doubtful that the remaining money would materialize. More than half the rubble in Port-au-Prince remained in place, including the Presidential Palace, with little chance of its removal in the near term. Deaths from the cholera epidemic had fallen due to improved treatment for victims. However, the disease has killed nearly 7,000 people and sickened another 515,000.

At the beginning of a new year, the balance between optimists and pessimists seemed to have shifted slightly in favor of those taking a more hopeful view. The American ambassador to Haiti, Kenneth Merten, on January 12 told The Washington Post that he was "pretty optimistic" about the country's future. The newspaper also quoted a State Department official saying the U.S. would deliver the remainder of its pledged reconstruction assistance by the end of the year.

—Robert Perito  
Director, Haiti Program

## EVENTS AND MULTIMEDIA

### Justice for Haiti • February 15, 2012

Street crime, drug trafficking, rape and gang violence jeopardize Haiti's tenuous recovery. One major obstacle to recovery is Haiti's challenged justice system. In 2008, USIP was invited by the Haitian government to help draft a new set of criminal codes. The revised codes are expected to go before the Haitian Parliament in 2012. On February 15, USIP will host a public event to discuss justice in Haiti and the path forward for judicial reform.

<http://www.usip.org/events/justice-haiti>

### Reconstruction and the Role of Women • November 29, 2011

"Not to be disparaging, but I think we give a lot of lip service about the importance of investing in women, and the importance of investing in Haiti. We haven't really put the meat to that bone," said U.S. Congresswoman Donna Edwards at USIP's Nov. 29 event on Reconstruction and the Role of Women. Congresswoman Edwards was joined by a delegation of Haitian women, including Senator Edmonde Beauzile, former Haitian Minister of Commerce Danielle Saint Lot, and former UN spokesperson Michele Montas. The event drew a large crowd, and featured an exhibition of photos taken by Haitian women depicting their lives in the tent cities around Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

<http://www.usip.org/events/haiti-reconstruction-and-the-role-women>

## PUBLICATIONS AND NEWS

### Peace Brief: "Haitian Women: The Centerposts of Reconstructing Haiti"

In his latest USIP Peace Brief on Haiti, Chairman of USIP's Haiti Working Group Robert Maguire describes women as the 'poto mitan' (centerposts) of Haitian society and commerce. He outlines some of the challenges they face, including gender-based violence and poor access to education and healthcare, as well as some of the opportunities for women's social, economic, and political empowerment.

<http://www.usip.org/publications/haitian-women-the-centerposts-reconstructing-haiti>

### In Washington and Beyond

Robert Maguire, Chairman of USIP's Haiti Working Group, recently became the Director of the Latin America and Hemispheric Studies Program at George Washington University's Elliott School of International Affairs. The Latin America and Hemispheric Studies Program will host a symposium on education in Haiti on February 27, 2012. Stay tuned for more details.

### Field Report: "Women's Organizations and the Role of New Media"

This report draws on the experiences and lessons learned from Digital Democracy's work with Haitian women's organizations in the aftermath of the January 2010 earthquake. With support from the U.S. Institute of Peace, Digital Democracy has conducted trainings for women activists in Haiti on how to use cell phone and other forms of information technology to prevent violence.

<http://www.usip.org/node/8090>



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