



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

President Michel Martelly has nominated Haiti's Foreign Minister, Laurent Lamothe, to be the country's next Prime Minister. Lamothe is a former entrepreneur and member of Haiti's Davis Cup tennis team. He is also the president's long time friend and business partner and the most influential official in Martelly's administration. Given Haiti's ongoing political crisis, confirmation will not be easy. Lamothe's candidacy was immediately challenged by opponents in parliament. Senators demanded proof that the U.S.-educated Lamothe, who lived abroad for extended periods, did not violate the dual nationality and residency requirements imposed by Haiti's constitution. A disagreement between Martelly and the former Prime Minister, Garry Conille, over how to respond to similar parliamentary demands for proof of citizenship forced Conille's resignation when Martelly refused to comply. Martelly reversed his position on March 9, when he appeared before television cameras and a gathering of parliamentarians and diplomats to show eight stamped Haitian passports that he held over the years. U.S. Ambassador Kenneth Merten stated that Martelly had held permanent resident status in the U.S. but had surrendered his green card and obtained a U.S. visa before running for president. Whether Martelly's gesture will end the controversy or improve his relations with the parliament is uncertain.

Meanwhile, Haiti's caretaker government is neither able to deal with international donors and potential investors nor make the necessary decisions to advance Haiti's reconstruction. NGOs can implement individual projects, but large scale infrastructure development requires government planning and long-term program management. Humanitarian aid continues to reach Haiti, but donors avoid funding Haiti's government because of the perception of general dysfunction. This perception of growing disorganization is fed by reports of rising crime rates in Port-au-Prince, demonstrations by supporters of former president Aristide and the appearance of armed men conducting military training at old army bases in defiance of the government. A human rights group reported that 147 people and five police officers were gunned down in Haiti in 2012, an indication of the growing level of violence fueled by uncertainty about Haiti's political future.

—Robert Perito

Director, Haiti Program

EVENTS AND MULTIMEDIA

Building a Better Haiti through Education • February 27, 2012

USIP and the Latin America and Hemispheric Studies Program at GWU's Elliott School co-hosted a symposium on education in Haiti. Michele Pierre-Louis, former Prime Minister of Haiti, opened the event and stressed the need for a national educational framework based upon collaborative, locally-driven efforts. Other speakers painted a somber picture of the state of Haiti's education system while citing recent, exceptional success stories, particularly in the area of making higher education in Haiti more accessible to deserving students. Cheryl Mills, Counselor and Chief of Staff to U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, delivered the keynote address. She warned that Haiti was reaching a point in its current political crisis where continued failure to cooperate could produce disastrous results.



*Building a Better Haiti through Education event, 2/27/12.
Pictured: Cheryl Mills, Counselor and Chief of Staff to U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.*

Governance in Haiti • June 6, 2012

Save the date for USIP's next public event on Haiti.

On the Issues • Haiti's Prime Minister Resigns • February 28, 2012

Under pressure from President Martelly, Haiti's Prime Minister Garry Conille resigned after only four months in office, plunging the country into another political crisis. Robert Perito, Director of USIP's Haiti Program, discusses the issues that contributed to Conille's resignation, the likely impact on Haiti's reconstruction, and the path forward for the Haitian government.



Former Haitian Prime Minister Garry Conille.



UNITED STATES
INSTITUTE OF PEACE

2301 Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20037
202.457.1700

www.usip.org