

Testimony
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“Aid Delivery in Haiti: Development Needs,
Capacity Building, and Challenges.”
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Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you to discuss the U.S. government's engagement with Haiti. I welcome the chance to provide a brief overview of our efforts to date, to describe next steps, and to answer your questions.

This hearing is timely. January 12 marks the fifth anniversary of the earthquake that devastated Haiti in 2010. The scale of losses, human and material, from the natural disaster was unprecedented in the history of that country. The earthquake left an estimated 200,000 dead and over a million homeless. It reduced much of Port-au-Prince to rubble and severely crippled the country's infrastructure. In a demonstration of the goodwill of Americans toward Haiti, an estimated one out of two U.S. households made some contribution to relief efforts there. Congress likewise responded to that country's urgent and longer-term needs, appropriating \$1.3 billion in Supplemental funding in September 2010. Sustained Congressional support for our efforts in Haiti has been invaluable, and I thank you for it.

That support has been substantial. Since the earthquake, the United States has made available \$4 billion in total for Haiti, some 77 percent of which -- \$3.1 billion -- has been disbursed to date. Of the total, \$1.3 billion was for immediate humanitarian assistance following the earthquake, and has been entirely disbursed. This crucial aid helped a devastated country meet its most pressing needs, and we can take pride in the role our country played providing food, shelter, medical and other essential services. For Haiti's long-term reconstruction and development, \$2.7 billion was made available, of which some 66 percent -- \$1.8 billion -- has been disbursed to date.

These resources have produced visible results. Funding from the United States has cleared some 2.7 million cubic meters of rubble that was hindering relief and reconstruction. Our assistance has also helped some 328,000 displaced Haitians

find alternative lodging or repair their earthquake-damaged homes. More than 90 percent of persons displaced by the earthquake have now left the tent camps for alternative housing.

Despite enormous challenges even before the earthquake, the government and people of Haiti have made significant progress in key areas for which they deserve recognition. Since 2011 Haiti has had positive economic growth rates, including an impressive 4.3 percent in 2013 and an estimated 3.6 percent in 2014. Foreign direct investments rose by 21 percent in 2012 and 19 percent in 2013 compared to 2010 and 2011. Jobs are being created. The apparel sector, for example, currently employs more than 30,000 Haitians and accounted for more than 90 percent of Haiti's exports to the United States in 2013. Almost all of those garment sector exports enter under the two HOPE Acts, which are judged to have created more than 27,000 new jobs since 2008. In 2013 overall exports from Haiti were up 5 percent with manufacturing – mostly textiles – up 14 percent. International financial institution statistics indicate that the level of extreme poverty in Haiti is down from 31 percent in 2000 to 24 percent in 2014.

Aid from the U.S. government is making tangible improvements in the lives of Haitians. Programs funded by the United States have increased crop yields, resulting in improved food security and higher incomes for tens of thousands of Haitian farmers. As a result of increased yields and improved agricultural methods, our programs have more than doubled the income of those farmers, from \$1,068 to \$2,335 per year. School enrollments are up, and our programs are expanding education opportunities for primary school-age children.

A good deal of the work the United States accomplished in Haiti is less visible, but has deeply touched the lives of Haitians. A 2013 Haitian health survey reported improved trend lines for basic health indicators such as child vaccination rates, infant and child mortality, lower HIV/AIDS rates, and increased adult contraception use. Funding from the United States supports 2,500 community health workers, and approximately half of all Haitians access basic health services at U.S. supported establishments.

Through PEPFAR, the number of Haitians receiving HIV testing has increased to more than one million per year, and treatment of HIV-positive Haitians has expanded to cover 70 percent of those eligible. PEPFAR, through the U.S. Agency for International Development and the Department of Health and Human Services (including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), has expanded services to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV, reaching 87 percent of women in

need, one of the highest rates in the developing world, and have improved adherence to the comprehensive package of services for HIV-positive mothers and HIV-exposed infants. More than \$95 million of U.S. assistance supports cholera treatment and prevention programs. These programs, combined with assistance for clean water and improved sanitation, are helping to lower cholera rates dramatically, down 97 percent from the height of the outbreak in 2011.

Today, December 3, is coincidentally the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. The 2010 earthquake substantially increased the number of persons in Haiti with disabilities and focused international attention on the need to bolster support mechanisms for this group. The Haitian government has taken steps to strengthen and expand local understanding of the existing legal framework for its citizens with disabilities, to ensure that the needs of disabled persons are taken into account when drafting legislation, and to push private industry to embrace hiring disabled persons.

Security in Haiti has improved and overall crime rates, particularly kidnapping, are lower. With assistance from the United States, the Haitian National Police (HNP) School has graduated more than 1,000 new officers per year starting with the 2013 class. The HNP is making good progress towards its goal of expanding force size to 15,000 officers by the end of 2016; the graduation of the police school class this month will bring the force to almost 12,500 officers. More than 100 HNP officers received community policing and counter-narcotics training through partnerships with the New York and Miami-Dade Police Departments and the community policing curriculum is now included in the HNP School's training. Support from the United States provides additional mentors to the HNP to build the institution's administrative, management, and logistics skills.

A fundamental premise of our efforts to help Haiti rebuild is that the process must be Haitian-led. Changed circumstances on the ground have compelled us to make necessary adjustments to parts of our strategy. For example, land-tenure challenges, design changes, and higher-than-projected material costs forced us to scale back construction of new homes and focus more on facilitating access to finance for both home improvements and new construction. Further study indicated that improvements to existing port facilities in Cap-Haïtien would be a more effective and lower cost approach than constructing a new port elsewhere in Haiti's North.

There is some progress to report in the justice sector – such as the establishment in 2012 of Haiti's first fully independent judicial body, the Supreme Judicial Council

and the passage in 2014 of landmark anti-corruption and anti-trafficking in persons legislation, but more work remains to be done. Haiti must adopt long-awaited code reform to modernize its justice system and take concrete steps to address the severe pre-trial detention problem. As the HNP increases its professionalism and size, the corrections and justice sector lag behind, a growing imbalance that could jeopardize security advancements. We are not satisfied with the overall results of our justice sector programs to date, in particular with regard to helping Haiti to sustainably address pre-trial detention, and are re-examining our options for further assistance.

The political situation in Haiti affects its ability to sustain the progress made in reconstruction and development. The continuing delay in scheduling long overdue elections is a serious concern, and while the points of dispute are ultimately for Haitians to resolve, the United States is following the matter closely. In our high-level interactions with Haitian government officials, political party leaders, and civil society, we have been urging all parties to continue efforts at constructive dialogue in order to build consensus on necessary measures to hold elections in a timely manner. In early October, Secretary Kerry spoke by telephone with President Martelly to discuss elections and also met here in Washington with Prime Minister Lamothe. On October 30, Counselor Thomas Shannon traveled to Haiti to meet with government and political leaders as well as the UN Special Representative in Haiti. The important point is that there is time between now and January to resolve the electoral issues through dialogue and to develop a realistic schedule for elections. Our current focus is on supporting these efforts.

The United States is firmly committed for the long term to supporting the Haitian people as they build a more prosperous and secure future. Haiti has achieved significant advances in many areas of its recovery and reconstruction. More remains to be done, and Haiti's reconstruction and development will continue for many years; there are no quick fixes. Further progress depends on good governance in Haiti and a sustained focus on Haiti's development by the international community.