

**Testimony of Acting Assistant Administrator Beth Hogan**  
**Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission**  
**Aid Delivery in Haiti: Development Needs, Capacity Building, and Challenges**  
**December 3, 2014**

Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and distinguished Members of the Commission. Thank you for the opportunity to update you on USAID's efforts to assist Haiti, where we are partnering to end extreme poverty and to promote resilient, democratic societies while advancing our security and prosperity. Five years after the earthquake, USAID's focus has shifted from emergency response to reconstruction and development. While this is a long-term endeavor, we are pleased to report that our efforts are positively impacting Haitians, while at the same time building the capacity of Haitian institutions.

Our programs provide key investments that will help catalyze long-term sustainable growth in Haiti. For example, our agricultural program has introduced improved seeds, fertilizer, and new technologies to more than 70,000 farmers. These activities have doubled and tripled yields in focus crops, including rice, corn, beans, and plantains. Additionally, by providing improved grafting techniques, mobile collection centers, and proper harvesting and packaging methods, USAID-supported farmer associations have increased exports for mangos by 25 percent.

We are also helping Haitian businesses expand and create more jobs. One example is LEAD, a matching grant program that builds the capacity of small and medium enterprises and attracts foreign and diaspora investments to grow businesses, create jobs, and generate income. So far, we have invested about \$4 million in 28 small- and medium-sized enterprises, leveraging close to \$8 million in private capital.

Our LEAD grantees are creating more business opportunities in Haiti and providing important services. One of the program's notable recipients is Surtab, a Haitian Android tablet maker that has a monthly tablet production of 3,000 to 4,000 tablets. The impact of these tablets can already be seen in Haiti, particularly in the health sector, where USAID-funded community health workers are using Surtab tablets to improve case management and patient tracking. Another grantee, DloHaiti, treats and provides safe drinking water. Its business model is lowering costs, improving water quality, and delivering services that improve convenience and access.

We also encourage private firms to bring their expertise and financial contribution to Haiti through public-private partnerships. Examples include partnering with BRANA, a Heineken subsidiary, to increase sorghum crops, the Coca-Cola Company to improve mango production, and Digicel to expand mobile money services.

Turning to the health sector, expanding access to reliable, quality, health care has long been a core element of USAID assistance, and we are seeing results. A recent nationwide survey shows that many health indicators continue to improve, particularly those related to women and children. For example, between 2006 and 2012, childhood vaccinations increased, infant mortality decreased, and chronic malnutrition in children also decreased.

It is important these gains be sustained in the long term. To help achieve this, USAID is working with the Ministry of Health to advance its ownership and oversight of the public health system. Specifically, our programming is helping the Ministry of Health to improve data collection and usage, upgrade internal management systems, manage diverse funding sources, and improve its ability to attract, train and retain professional health workers. We are also emphasizing site-level governance and accountability through an independent verification unit designed to increase transparency and improve health outcomes.

As we progress in these efforts with the Ministry of Health, both directly and in partnership with other donors, we will continue to work to ensure that access to health services is widely available.

We value the input and feedback from a broad cross-section of Haitians in the design, delivery, and evaluation of programs. Their input helps us to review progress and make mid-course corrections. In addition, USAID has internal procedures in place to better understand how well our programs are performing. These mechanisms include portfolio reviews, field visits, results tracking, performance audits, independent evaluations, and cost-benefit analyses.

As a result of this regular feedback, we have adapted our programs based on lessons learned, as evidenced by important changes in our shelter, ports, and energy investments. For example, in the housing sector, we have shifted from building houses to housing finance, helping the private sector play a more prominent role in housing construction. We will soon launch a program that will provide incentives to encourage housing developers and housing finance providers to enter the affordable housing space. In addition, USAID is partnering with the American Red Cross and the Government of Haiti on urban development in a post-earthquake informal settlement of around 150,000 residents, known as Canaan/Jerusalem. This emerging community is quickly becoming a permanent settlement and therefore one of the Government of Haiti's highest housing priorities. These partnerships include urban planning, promoting safer housing, building capacity of local entities to undertake more sustainable construction, and expanding services to meet citizen needs.

In the ports sector, we are redirecting port assistance to rehabilitation of the existing port at Cap Haitien to meet the near- to medium-term demand for port services in the northern part of Haiti in response to a request from the Government of Haiti after our research showed that a new port would not be economically viable.

We are also refocusing our goals in the energy sector. USAID recognizes that a reliable and efficiently operated electricity sector is key to stimulating and accelerating economic growth. However, advancements in this sector have been slower than planned and we have been disappointed with the reversal of progress in some instances due to the lack of political will to carry out reforms. Going forward, our support will be tied to concrete progress in reforming the state electrical utility, as demonstrated by achieving unambiguous targets and milestones.

Our long-term goal is to see the Haitian government and Haitian civil society manage donor resources directly. However, we recognize that there are challenges along the way. The pace of progress will depend to a large extent on action by the Government of Haiti to carry out its planned reforms to create transparent, accountable, and effective state institutions and an effective civil service. The Haitian government and Parliament should also work together to pass legislation that

will amend Haiti's severely outdated criminal procedure code. In addition to institutional and justice reforms, it is essential that the Government of Haiti continue to promote respect for human rights and the protection of vulnerable populations. This includes addressing issues such as improving security, providing services to victims of abuse, and empowering vulnerable populations.

However, the most important step that can be taken right now by Haitian political actors is to reach an agreement that would ensure the holding of critical parliamentary and local elections. Elections are essential for Haiti to maintain its democratic course and to afford the stability necessary for investment, economic growth, and job creation.

While we acknowledge these ongoing challenges, USAID is committed to providing long-term support to build Haiti's capacity to provide for its citizens. While the course of Haiti's future ultimately depends on Haitians themselves, we all know that Haitians possess great resilience, creativity, and an entrepreneurial spirit. When linked with capable and adequately resourced state institutions, Haiti's progress will accelerate toward a brighter, prosperous country that all of its citizens deserve. I want to thank Congress for its generous support of our work in Haiti. Again, thank you for the opportunity to be here today.