



USAID | HAITI

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

USAID helps train rehabilitation technicians in Haiti.



USAID Staff

A man is fitted for a prosthetic leg at the Handicap International workshop.

Overview

The earthquake that struck Haiti on January 12, 2010, was the most powerful earthquake to strike the country in 200 years, resulting in approximately 230,000 deaths, and an estimated 300,000 injuries. People suffered bone fractures, paralysis, limb loss (estimates as high as 4,000 quake-related amputations), spinal cord injuries, peripheral nerve damage, and mental trauma.

Pre-earthquake, little was known about the number or types of disabilities among the Haitian population. However, the U.N. World Health Organization estimates between 7-10 percent of a country's population are likely to have a disability. Tragically, directly following the earthquake, there were only seven Haitian Prosthetics and Orthotics (P&O) qualified technicians operating within the nation to meet the overwhelming needs. Without proper aid and interventions, persons with disabilities are often unable to reintegrate into society, and struggle to participate effectively within the work force.

USAID has partnered with Handicap International—which is working closely with sub-awardees Healing Hands for Haiti, Don Bosco University, and Motivation. The project supports rehabilitation technician training, development of a P&O training course, and training for Haitian physiotherapists and occupational therapists. These activities will ensure that men, women, and children with disabilities will be able to fully participate in society. Our efforts, with Handicap International, will fortify Haiti's ability to address the needs of the thousands of persons with disabilities.

Objectives

USAID's program aims to train and integrate a Haitian staff of rehabilitation technicians, P&O technicians, and physical/occupational therapists.

Activities

1. **Develop theoretical and practical training courses** to build a staff of rehabilitation technicians, P&O technicians, and physical/occupational therapists.
2. **Ensure sustainability** of the training programs by working closely with the Government of Haiti: the Ministry of Public Health, the Ministry of Education and the Secretary of State for the Integration of Persons with Disabilities.
3. **Implement policy at the institutional level** to ensure acceptance of the technician training courses and the recognition of physiotherapy as a profession.
4. **Deliver specific workshops** regarding the proper utilization of appropriate technologies and wheelchair provisions in Haiti.
5. **Provide** basic and intermediate training packages on wheelchairs and 24 hour Posture Management which will be integrated into rehabilitation technician, P&O, and physiotherapy curriculums.

Life of Project: December 2011 – December 2014
Implementing Partner: Handicap International