



Election Management Support

Project Complete

USAID supports free and fair elections in Haiti by enhancing the credibility of the election process and the legitimacy of those elected.



Kendra Helmer, USAID

Workers prepare ballots as the polls open in Champs de Mars during the first round of elections.

With USAID support, during the second round of elections:

- Over 8 million locally printed ballot papers were procured in over 200 different ballot styles.
- Polling station kits and other elections supplies were printed for 11,181 polling stations for both rounds of elections.
- Pay roll services were provided for more than 90,000 CEP temporary polling staff.
- A multi-donor pool of funding was administered with over \$21 million in contributions.

Overview: Support for the Electoral Process in Haiti 2010-2011

Following the disastrous January 2010 earthquake, a peaceful and credible electoral process was essential in order for a new government to successfully take over management of the country and a complex reconstruction process. USAID provided funding to the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Election Support Project to assist Haiti's Provisional Electoral Council (CEP) with organizing, managing, and carrying out these critical presidential and parliamentary elections. Beginning in September 2010, this multi-donor project provided technical and material assistance directly to the CEP to support the full range of elections administration functions.

The first round of voting on November 28, 2010, included races for President of the Republic, one-third of the Senate, and the entire Chamber of Deputies. These elections were marred by allegations of irregularities and disturbances. In response, an international technical team was deployed to investigate and recommend improvements to the process. UNDP support in the aftermath of the elections was instrumental in the implementation of recommendations for improvements to the second round of elections arising from the international investigation.

The second round of elections was held on March 20, 2011. Through the UNDP, USAID continued to support a more credible and legitimate electoral process, which helped facilitate the peaceful transfer of government authority to a new President and Parliament.

Objectives

The aim of the program was to assist with the organization and conduct of the 2010/2011 presidential and legislative elections in a manner that enhanced the credibility of the election process and the legitimacy of those elected.

Activities

1. **Critical Election Commodities:** USAID funding for UNDP was used to procure a variety of election materials, such as ballot papers, results statement forms, tamper-evident document transport bags, and ballot boxes.
2. **Enhanced Training for Poll-workers:** USAID sponsored the training of CEP trainers, supervisors, and polling center and station staff in order to promote a smooth election process and to minimize potential challenges; this activity included the design and production of training materials.
3. **Improved Transparency of the Vote Tabulation Center Operations:** USAID funding provided equipment to scan election results sent back from polling stations across the country. These scanned copies were then made available on the CEP's website. The electronic copies helped to ensure against tampering and could be used in the electoral complaints process.
4. **SMS Messaging:** USAID support was used to acquire key technical assistance and software to enable the CEP to implement an SMS messaging campaign that allowed voters to query their voting center location by SMS. The program reached nearly 1 million registered voters.

Life of Project: August 2010 – December 2011

Implementing Partner: U.N. Development Program (UNDP)