



Overcoming Land-Tenure Barriers (OLTB)

OLTB addresses land-tenure issues in priority areas to help facilitate the reconstruction of neighborhoods badly damaged by the January 12, 2010, quake. earthquake.



A family participates in a survey as part of the neighborhood enumeration exercise.

Since January 2011, IOM has completed registration for 8,830 households in the Delmas 32 and Carrefour Feuilles neighborhoods of Port-au-Prince, and is on pace to surpass its target for the project by nearly 25 percent.

Overview

More than a year and a half since the earthquake, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) estimates that 550,000 people remain displaced in camps and temporary settlements. The protracted nature of the displacement has posed a considerable challenge to reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts, as well as the returns process.

Key land-related challenges to facilitating the rebuilding of neighborhoods and the return of displaced persons include the lack of information regarding who has what type of rights over which pieces of land, as well as unresolved issues regarding the continuity of earlier—and often informal—rent or use-agreements. To address land tenure-related blockages, IOM has developed a participatory community enumeration methodology to map each and every household within a given neighborhood and determine the relationship of each household to the land or house they own and/or occupy.

Objectives

OLTB aims to catalog the informal, community-based agreements that govern land use and building occupancy in the target neighborhoods of Delmas 32 and Carrefour Feuilles in order to facilitate the sustainable return of displaced persons and the reconstruction of their neighborhoods.

Activities

With USAID support, IOM plans to collect, record, and validate land tenure and building occupancy status of approximately 10,700 households in the target zones—an increase of nearly 25 percent over the project's original target. To maximize the impact of the information IOM collects, USAID has facilitated coordination between OLTB and the World Bank's \$95 million neighborhood upgrading project—\$65 million of which is funded through the USG contribution to the Haiti Reconstruction Fund (HRF). This connection has ensured that the data OLTB collects is immediately operationalized and used for reconstruction planning in the targeted neighborhoods.

Furthermore, the methodology that IOM has developed with the OLTB project is being scaled up through a \$10 million HRF-funded project to conduct an enumeration exercise of all earthquake-affected zones. Thus, USAID's pilot project has leveraged additional support for enumeration efforts throughout earthquake-affected areas.

Life of Project: January 2011 – January 2012

Implementing Partner: International Organization for Migration (IOM)