

Strengthening National Capacities for Aid Coordination and Management



UNDP Administrator Helen Clark and Haitian President Rene Preval leave a meeting in quake-ravaged Port-au-Prince, Haiti, on 18 January 2010.

Photo: Mariana Nissen/UNDP

Building effective capacity for aid management

The 12 January 2010 earthquake has led to the massive influx of external aid to Haiti, an influx that is set to accelerate following the Donor Pledging Conference on Haiti of 31 March 2010. This has severely tested the Government of Haiti's capacity to track and monitor both the flow of aid into the country as well as its utilization—an essential dimension in ensuring that the allocation of external aid is planned and executed in the most effective manner possible.

The project, Strengthening National Capacities for Aid Coordination and Management, seeks to support the Ministry of Planning and External Cooperation, the Office of the Prime Minister, other government bodies and all partners including the private sector, in addressing the challenges linked to the management of external aid.



This will be achieved through a three-tier approach:

- enhancing the Government's capacity, both institutional and human, to manage development assistance;
- strengthening the architecture for the coordination of aid; and
- setting up tools for enhancing the effective and accountable management of external aid.

This programme builds upon the progress made in 2008 and 2009 through UNDP support to the development and operation of a customized aid information management system for the Ministry of Planning and External Cooperation; a project that also included a component on strengthening national capacities for planning and monitoring of external aid. This database currently contains information on 522 projects and 147 donors, tracking over US\$3 billion dollars that have been pledged and over \$700 million already committed to Haiti.

Programme Components

The key expected outputs of this project for strengthening national capacities in aid coordination and management are:

Accountability: to promote the transparent and accountable use of aid in support of the national recovery, reconstruction and development priorities of Haiti.

Nationally-led coordination: to assist the Government in designing, with its partners, a streamlined, effective and nationally-owned process for aid coordination, including sector coordination.

Strengthen the existing capacities within Government: by providing advisory support to decision-makers on aid management, planning, development of policies and procedures for aid management and monitoring processes and a functional office space for a team of government officials and project staff to work.

To supplement existing national capacities: by recruiting and training staff operating under the direction of the Ministry of Planning and External Cooperation or other relevant government entities.

Publicly-accessible aid management system: to customize and place on a public website the Module/*Platform de Gestion de l'Aide Exterieur* to meet the immediate aid coordination needs and support the longer term national planning and monitoring requirements.

Data collection: to support and systematize the gathering and management of data on aid to Haiti (humanitarian, early recovery, reconstruction and development) provided by donors, private sector, non-governmental organizations, the United Nations and through the Multi-Donor Trust Fund.

Implementation of national strategy: in the longer term, strengthen the capacity of the Government of Haiti to monitor and support the implementation of the forthcoming national reconstruction and development strategy and promote the alignment of aid with its priorities.

A team of national and international experts on aid management and coordination will be recruited to provide technical assistance and capacity building support to the Government of Haiti in order to achieve the key outputs indicated above. The team will be co-located with government colleagues as an integral part of the government entity responsible for the management of external aid. It will work under the direct guidance of the Government official responsible for the management of external aid. In terms of functional links to UNDP, the project will be managed under the Governance Unit but under the overall responsibility of the Resident Coordinator/Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, as the project will also support this senior official in the discharge of their donor coordination responsibilities.

It is proposed that the project is set up according to direct implementation modality, with the expectation that in the third year, it will move into a national implementation phase-out and become a totally nationally owned process.

Budget

The project will have a total duration of two years (1 May 2010–31 December 2012) for a total cost of \$3,359,892.