

**THE CRISIS IN HAITI:
ARE WE MOVING FAST ENOUGH?**

HEARING
BEFORE THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE
OF THE
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS
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THE CRISIS IN HAITI: ARE WE MOVING FAST ENOUGH?

THURSDAY, JULY 29, 2010

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 9:39 a.m. in room 2172, Rayburn House Office Building, the Honorable Eliot L. Engel, (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Mr. ENGEL. Good morning. I think we will get started. I want to welcome everyone who is here to the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere hearing on the crisis in Haiti: Are we moving fast enough? We are going to dispense with the usual procedure where I would give an opening statement and Mr. Mack would give a statement, and others would give a statement. We will give our statements before the second panel because I know that our first panelist, Dr. Rajiv Shah, USAID Administrator, has to leave to go to the White House in about 1 hour, and I want to hear what he has to say.

So let me very briefly say, Dr. Shah, how happy I am to have you here. I know we are all very happy to have you here. We have talked about Haiti and other things many times. I am an admirer of your work, and your caring and the work that you do. You bring a very good complement of someone who has done a very, very good job, but you also have a heart and that is very important. I think that is important. You have the intellect and a heart, and that is a very good combination.

So, we are all ears. Dr. Shah is the Administrator, and USAID has a tremendous task in dealing with the crisis in Haiti, and it is working very hard, and he, in particular, is working very hard to address the problems, so Dr. Shah, we are all ears, and then we will ask you some questions.

STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE RAJIV SHAH, ADMINISTRATOR, UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Mr. SHAH. Let me start by thanking you, Mr. Chairman, for your attention to this issue and this hearing, and your unwavering support of USAID and our team in Haiti that has been working so tirelessly over the last 7–8 months to really help make sure that this effort succeeds. I also want to thank members of the committee. It is an honor to be here and have the opportunity to have

this discussion with you, and I apologize in advance for my timing today, but I appreciate your consideration.

Two and a half weeks ago served as the 6-month anniversary of really the most dramatic and devastating natural disaster to ever face the Western Hemisphere, and it is an opportunity for us to reflect on the scale of the disaster, the magnitude and lessons learned from the response, and to recalibrate our approach as we go forward.

To reflect on the scale of the disaster, we are all aware of the incredible suffering that the Haitian people had to live through through this tragic earthquake. More than 230,000 people perished, and damages are estimated to be upwards of \$7 billion, a significant percentage of Haiti's annual GDP, 28 of 29 government ministries were destroyed, up to 15 percent of the civil service workforce had passed away, and most of this disaster happened on a base of already low income, slow infrastructure and low equity in terms of very high poverty rates, high mountain efficient rates, limited access to food and basic services in and around certain communities in Port-au-Prince

In this context, I remain quite proud of the entire U.S. Government and American response. More than half of all families in this country found it incumbent upon themselves to give directly to the Haitian relief effort. The President asked us to mount a swift, aggressive, and coordinated response, and together with so many agencies across the Federal Government and in particular with the Department of Defense and the U.S. Armed Forces we mounted essentially the largest single response to a disaster ever. This includes efforts in the food area to feed more than 3.5 million people, clean water was provided to more than 1.3 million people, the health sector was supported with unique assets, including the Comfort Hospital Ship, a broad range of medical disaster assistance teams, and support for the NGO network in Haitian hospitals that in total U.S. personnel saw more than 30,000 patients.

Shelter, which was perhaps the most difficult of the various sectors in which we worked, was also an area where we were able to provide 1.5 million people with basic shelter and materials; we being the broader international community, and we were able to create work opportunities for more than 20,000 people on a day-to-day basis.

These are important accomplishments in the context in which they took place, and in the fog of relief where data and information was often missing. But, of course, they will not fully meet Haiti's needs today or going forward.

To address those needs and to do it in a partnership with the Government of Haiti, we have engaged in a robust effort to plan the relief to recovery transition. This started with the March 31 donors conference that brought the global community together to make real commitments to Haiti for its future. Notably at that conference the Haitian Government presented their own plan and their won vision of a future that is based on some central tenants that we are now trying to abide by.

First, they expressed a commitment to decentralize their economy and create economic opportunities and employment opportuni-

ties outside of Port-au-Prince. That is the defining feature of our reconstruction efforts.

Second, they presented the World Bank and international communities damage needs assessment and committed themselves to rebuilding the basic infrastructure of Port-au-Prince and of nearby communities.

And third, they presented an economic development plan based on the assets that Haiti has for agriculture, energy, water management, and a range of other productive growth sectors that they could attract investments, create jobs, and help build a brighter future.

The relief to recovery work continued with the creation recently of the Interim Haiti Reconstruction Commission. This commission, co-chaired by Prime Minister Bellerive and former President Bill Clinton, represents a unique opportunity and a learning from the tsunami in Aceh Indonesia. What we learned was that given the broad global interest and commitments we need a strong centralized capability to coordinate and direct the overall relief and construction effort. This commission will report to President Preval, and take on that task.

Finally, as we seek to help Haiti rebuild itself we intend to help Haiti build back to a better and higher standards, and this will require USAID to do some things very differently: First, we are committed to pursuing a strategy that is focused and aligned and in partnership with the strategy of the Government of Haiti. I am eager to talk more about that but I feel we are on path in getting that done.

Second, we are pursuing a broad range of public-private partnerships and innovations such as the recently announced partnership to help create mobile banking platforms in Haiti since such a small percentage of Haitians actually have access to the formal banking system.

Third, we are reforming our procurement system so that we can work with small and minority-owned businesses in the United States more effectively, and we can work with local partners in Haiti so that as we are spending the recently approved supplemental resources we are doing that in a way that builds real capacity and real institutions in Haiti that can support Haiti's long-term development and support Haiti's own sustainability.

Finally, I will just conclude by thanking you again for your attention to this issue and your support from the moment this crisis started. It is reflective of a unique commitment that the people of America have to the people of Haiti and that this President shares, and that we are trying to work effectively to implement.

So thank you, and I look forward to your questions and comments.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Shah follows:]

**Written Testimony of Dr. Rajiv Shah
Administrator
U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)**

**Before the Committee on Foreign Affairs
United States House of Representatives
July 29, 2010**

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee, I am honored to join you here today. I am grateful for the opportunity to discuss the relief and reconstruction efforts in Haiti, and would like to thank you for your continued support of Haiti's reconstruction efforts. I believe we can all agree that building a more stable and prosperous Haiti will greatly benefit the people of Haiti, as well as the American economy and our national security.

Two and a half weeks ago, we marked six months since the devastating earthquake in Haiti. On January 12, Haiti experienced one of the most destructive natural disasters in history. In only 35 seconds, Haitians found their country and their lives profoundly changed. More than 230,000 people lost their lives; hundreds of thousands more were injured, and over a million were displaced. Millions of Haitians were left without basic necessities, including shelter, water, and food. Gains that had been made in Haiti's economy and the private sector before the earthquake were also reversed.

In all, the earthquake caused more than \$7 billion in damage, about 120 percent of Haiti's 2009 GDP. The extent of this damage was profound and far-reaching. By striking the capital city, the earthquake paralyzed and destroyed much of Haiti's center of government, commerce, and culture.

I have been to Haiti often since the earthquake. On each visit, I am struck by the deep reserve of spirit and resolve the Haitian people have demonstrated in the face of great tragedy. In the immediate aftermath of the earthquake, Haitians came together to help their neighbors trapped in the rubble or in need of critical medical attention. Their strength will guide the rebuilding process.

Even during the emergency response stage, we have strived to empower the people of Haiti. Over the last six months, USAID has provided jobs to an average of 22,000 Haitians each day, helping them earn vital income through their participation in cash-for-work programs to help clear rubble and begin rebuilding their lives and livelihoods.

With each visit to Haiti, I come away convinced that US assistance is helping to build a foundation that will position Haiti to realize future opportunities, particularly as USAID combines its wealth of technical knowledge with new technologies and uses reformed procurement processes. However, while these successes constitute real grounds for optimism, I want to emphasize that Haiti continues to face many challenges and must confront deep-rooted problems exacerbated by the earthquake.

Despite these challenges, our commitment remains. I believe that the American people and our government have responded to the Haitian tragedy with a generosity that demonstrates the best of American compassion and American character. Half of America's families have contributed to the relief and rebuilding efforts. Thousands of people volunteered to provide medical relief, distribute commodities, or help manage a settlement of displaced people. Our government was quick to address an urgent need; the day after the earthquake, President Obama asked USAID to lead a "swift, coordinated, and aggressive" response to the disaster.

A Look Back: Immediate Relief, Long-Term Impact

Within 24 hours of the earthquake, a USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team and Urban Search and Rescue teams were on the ground, bringing much-needed emergency relief and rescue tools and expertise. From the very beginning, the U.S. Government's USAID-led whole-of-government approach encouraged close collaboration across agencies. I would particularly like to highlight the critical role played by the U.S. military in supporting the civilian agencies' immediate post-earthquake response. For example, the U.S. military restored the airport to operational level three times greater than before the earthquake enabling the inflow of lifesaving supplies and volunteers. The military also restored the fuel supply to Haiti – without fuel, the relief effort would have ground to a halt. And, when these committed men and women were needed on the ground, they also worked door-to-door to provide assistance where they could, providing an important contribution to the overall U.S. effort.

Cooperation across the responsible United States Government agencies – in partnership with the Government of Haiti and the international community – led to humanitarian relief that saved and sustained the lives of thousands of Haitians. Over the last six months, the United States' interagency strategy has leveraged talents and resources throughout our Government. For example:

- U.S. search and rescue teams from the Federal Emergency Management Agency took part in the most successful international rescue effort to date, with more than 130 lives saved by over 40 teams from around the world.
- Through the World Food Programme and other implementing partners, we participated in the largest emergency urban food distribution ever, feeding more than 3.5 million people.
- U.S. medical teams from the Department of Health and Human Services treated more than 30,000 patients and performed hundreds of surgeries.
- With the international community, USAID supported the delivery of emergency shelter to earthquake victims at an unprecedented rate, providing 1.5 million people with basic shelter materials.
- USAID and its partners have also provided safe drinking water to approximately 1.3 million people daily since early May. This gives access to treated drinking water to more of the most economically vulnerable Haitians than had such access before the earthquake.

- And, finally, USAID experts provided Haitian truck drivers dispensing drinking water with chlorine purification tablets to distribute at each stop. Due in part to this simple, inexpensive, and life-saving innovation, diarrheal illness in Port-au-Prince is 12 percent less prevalent than it was before the earthquake.

While we have embraced our mission to help Haiti with immediate relief, we are also establishing a foundation for long-term, sustainable development. We have seen early successes that position Haiti for further advances:

- Haiti's medical capacity is greater now than it was before the earthquake. USAID and our partners have helped the Government of Haiti to vaccinate one million people against highly communicable diseases, and a second round of vaccinations is currently underway. No significant, widespread outbreak of infectious disease has occurred despite the severity of the earthquake, the displacement of people, and the initial disruptions within Haiti's health system.
- The work that USAID has supported has resulted in a piped water network in Port-au-Prince that can provide about 50 percent more water today than before the earthquake.
- With our partners, USAID coordinated and funded the removal of debris and sludge from critical canals to enable better water flow and prevent flooding in Port-au-Prince. Some of these canals had not been cleared in 15 years.

Finding Solutions to Current Challenges: Preparing for Permanent Housing and Hurricanes

I can say on behalf of the entire USAID team that we are proud of what we have accomplished to respond to the devastation. At the same time, my team and I recognize that the hard work is just now beginning, and that there is a long road ahead.

The next few years will not be easy. It will not be easy for the Haitian people as they struggle to rebuild from what they have lost, and it will not be easy for those of us in the international community who are working to help them. Nonetheless, I assure you that USAID is committed to Haiti for the long term.

The USAID team is working tirelessly with agencies from across the federal government and with partners from around the world to "build back better." Though Haiti's reconstruction may at times fade from the top of our nation's news, USAID is bringing our expertise to serve the people of Haiti and help them recover and rebuild. Joining with other nations, we and the Haitian people will build tomorrow's more stable and prosperous Haiti. We support the Government of Haiti's vision for a reconstruction that will ultimately create economically vibrant centers outside of Port-au-Prince, and reduce vulnerability to natural disaster.

While we are committed to meeting these challenges, it is important to be clear about how significant they are. The earthquake's impact on Haiti cannot be overstated. To put some perspective on the scale of the disaster, we need only remember what President Obama

pointed out – if the United States suffered a tragedy of similar proportions, it would be as if 8 million Americans died and more than 100 million were affected in less than one minute.

As we face the enormity of this loss, we also respond to the significant logistical difficulties in rebuilding. One of the most unique characteristics of this disaster is that it occurred in a densely populated urban environment, the center of a national government. Land that was difficult to come by before the earthquake is even less available today. Records of ownership and title were lost in the earthquake when 28 of the 29 government ministries' buildings collapsed. The earthquake generated more than 50 million tons of rubble, blocking streets, schools, and businesses and hampering recovery. Hurricanes, traditionally a menace to Haiti, present an even more dangerous threat to the more than 1.5 million Haitians living in temporary settlements built for those displaced by the earthquake.

Recognizing these difficulties, we are moving forward conscientiously to provide solutions that meet immediate needs while keeping an eye on long-term, sustainable development. USAID's development expertise offers critical knowledge and experience as we proceed with recovery and reconstruction. USAID professionals, together with partners from across the U.S. Government, the Interim Haiti Recovery Commission, the international community, and the Haitian Government, are helping to find solutions to some of the most pressing matters at hand, including shelter and disaster preparedness.

One of our main priorities is housing for Haitians who remain displaced. The Government of Haiti has made clear that moving Haitians from camps for internally displaced persons is a top priority. As the Haitian Government identifies appropriate land for resettlement, the U.S. Government, together with international and NGO partners, are working toward a goal of building 135,000 transitional shelters in the coming months, and will continue to construct these shelters until other solutions are found. The international community and President René Préval have committed to help displaced Haitians move from temporary arrangements to more permanent shelters where they can live for three-to-five years before moving into long-term housing.

Rebuilding efforts must be led by Haitians, build Haitian capacity, and stimulate Haiti's economy if they are to be sustainable. For this reason, we are identifying and helping to train Haitian masons and Haitian construction workers in improved techniques, including the use of rebar and better cement mixing, so that structures are better able to withstand future shocks. We have also trained electricians and other workers in the process of the construction efforts we have already undertaken. As the private sector starts up again, these newly acquired skills will be increasingly valuable to Haiti.

We have supported the Pan American Development Foundation as they provide habitability assessments on houses in earthquake-affected areas. As of July 14, U.S. and Haitian engineers had assessed more than 180,000 structures. Forty-seven percent of those have been designated as "green," or habitable, and another 27 percent require modest repairs to make them structurally sound. USAID is working with the Government of Haiti and partners to develop assistance packages that will help people return to safe homes and provide materials or financing to repair others.

Although we are making progress, we know that with so many people deprived of their homes, it is going to take time to get them into safe settlement sites. The Government of Haiti also recognizes this, and earlier this month, President Préval issued a communiqué outlining his Government's commitment to make land available.

This commitment by the Government of Haiti is also crucial to the safety and well-being of Haitians during the hurricane season, particularly those displaced and living in temporary settlements. We are acutely aware of the precarious situation in which many Haitians are currently living. While we cannot move everyone if and when a hurricane makes landfall, we are working to lessen the impact that a hurricane would have.

Beginning just after the earthquake, USAID, the U.S. Military's Joint Task Force-Haiti, and our implementing partners worked in close partnership to complete major projects to mitigate the effects of the rainy and hurricane seasons. By clearing canals, constructing retaining walls, stabilizing slopes, distributing gravel, constructing sewer systems, placing latrines, and installing lights in priority camps, we have been able to save lives while we start the process of durable solutions.

In addition, we have pre-positioned sufficient water, sanitation, and hygiene supplies for 100,000 individuals, with more available through our partners; are finalizing a detailed preparedness strategy; and have made additional assets available in our fully stocked Miami warehouse for immediate deployment and delivery. We are preparing as best we can to help the people of Haiti should another natural disaster strike. The Government of Haiti, USAID partners, the United Nations, and Red Cross Societies have also prepositioned emergency relief supplies. USAID is also coordinating with other donor governments, such as the U.K. Department for International Development, to ensure that we are stockpiling complementary emergency items. In partnership with the Government of Haiti and other international actors, we are preparing as best we can to help the people of Haiti should another natural disaster strike.

Looking Forward: Aligning USAID's Strategy with the Government of Haiti's Vision

These short-term measures are part of a long-term strategy for Haiti. Our overarching vision is guided by the core principles agreed to by the Haitian Government and donors at the Ministerial meeting in Montreal in January – reconstruction will be Haitian-led, inclusive, accountable, transparent, coordinated, and results-oriented. To ensure that we meet these principles, we are aligning our strategy with the priorities set out by the Government of Haiti.

Based on the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment conducted by the World Bank, the United Nations and others, the Government of Haiti drafted the Action Plan for National Recovery and Development of Haiti. This Action Plan, announced on March 31 at the Donor Conference in New York, called for the international community and the Government of Haiti to commit to follow a country-led strategy, include all stakeholders, coordinate efforts, and act in a transparent manner.

The Haitian-led Action Plan focuses on territorial, economic, social, and institutional rebuilding, which has likewise served as the starting point for the United States in identifying needs, prioritizing projects, and designing new programs that will help Haiti build back better.

USAID is targeting areas in which we can materially and systemically add greatest value and generate greatest results. We are doing so in a way that is coordinated with other donors and not duplicative of other efforts. U.S. Government investments in the reconstruction effort seek depth, rather than breadth, in four key sectors – infrastructure, including housing and energy; agriculture; health and other basic services; and rule of law, governance, and security – across three key geographic corridors.

The U.S. Government is in the process of finalizing this whole-of-government strategy for Haiti. The five-year strategy seeks to partner with the Government of Haiti and other stakeholders to catalyze economic growth through investments in infrastructure and agriculture, while building long-term stability through investments in public institutions.

- On infrastructure, as we work to help Haiti develop that infrastructure and its energy capacity, we seek to increase access to appropriate housing and community services; enable increased access to international markets via a secondary port; and provide solutions for affordable, reliable power to Haitian citizens and to businesses, including agricultural processing and the manufacturing sector, complementing advantages made possible through HOPE II legislation. Our work in this area also seeks to deter deforestation by transitioning urban consumers away from environmentally destructive charcoal cooking fuel.
- For the agricultural sector, our strategy is addressing critical food security and environmental degradation issues, and will assist Haiti in improving its ability to export cash crops such as mangoes and coffee.
- In health, we seek to build upon ongoing U.S. Government efforts and expand the capacity of the Haitian state to provide health care while saving lives, improving nutrition, and protecting Haiti's future by meeting demands for family planning.
- On governance, our strategy aims to build the Government of Haiti's capacity, after the loss of what is estimated to be between 17 and 30 percent of its civil service. This includes the ability to address the needs of the Haitian people, including through delivery of essential public services, especially in the most earthquake-affected areas, including camps for internally displaced persons, and perform critical security and legislative functions. We are mobilizing technical assistance throughout the government, rebuilding infrastructure so that civil servants can get back to work and supporting the Interim Haitian Recovery Commission to put the Haitian Government in the lead. It also means working to make sure that elections, across all levels of government, realize the highest levels of transparency and accountability, while ensuring the greatest levels of participation.
- In the rule of law and security sector, our work to develop the judicial system and support anti-corruption measures is focused on public sector capacity building. This work will also complement other U.S. Government support for the security

sector – including policing, corrections, and countering narco-trafficking – that serve as a vital insurance policy for all other investments made in the country.

As I have noted throughout my testimony today, we are working in these sectors with numerous partners. Helping Haiti build back better is truly an international effort. We look forward to working with the Government of Haiti, donors, relief organizations, the private sector, and civil society to develop accountable and transparent systems that provide coordination and consultation so aid can be effective and so it can be directed where it is most needed.

Through the Interim Haiti Recovery Commission (IHRC) and the Haiti Reconstruction Fund (HRF) the international community has pledged money, expertise, counsel, and support to reinforce and build the capacity of the Government of Haiti to lead the reconstruction. The IHRC, which is co-chaired by Haitian Prime Minister Jean-Max Bellerive and former U.S. President Bill Clinton, held its first meeting on June 17. The Commission allows for Haitian-led planning, sequencing, and prioritization of projects – for example, it will help ensure that a hospital is not built without a road that can reach it. It will also provide greater efficiency in the reconstruction phase as donors coordinate and harmonize their investments with Haiti’s plan, identifying gaps and limiting duplication of efforts.

A New Path: Leveraging Innovation and Development Expertise in Service of Haiti

As we move forward, I am also deeply focused on identifying high-impact, forward-thinking, and innovative development projects. As part of this Administration’s efforts to support a reform agenda for USAID, I am encouraging the agency to draw upon its vast experience, talents, and knowledge base and to be development entrepreneurs, trying new approaches, finding new ways to stretch budgets, and leveraging the expertise of our public, governmental, community, private, and non-governmental partners. We recently held a science and technology conference with this agenda in mind, and are actively seeking out new and inventive ways to use technologies in our approaches in Haiti and around the world.

One great example of this innovation can be found in one recent public-private partnership through which we created a \$10 million fund to incentivize the creation of a mobile banking system in Haiti. Mobile banking is faster, easier, and less expensive than traditional banking and will help to facilitate the country’s economic advancement. For a country in which only 10 percent of the population had been inside a commercial bank before the earthquake, this opportunity could expand access to critical financial services and facilitate Haiti’s economic development. On a global scale, we can use this type of cutting-edge thinking to help those countries around the world that, like Haiti, are in critical need of game-changing new technologies and development approaches.

We are drawing upon our development expertise in other ways, as well. The Government of Haiti has put forward as a fundamental part of its reconstruction strategy an effort to decentralize Haiti so that the population and economy are more evenly distributed across

the country. According to the Haitian Government, the capital city accounts for more than 65 percent of the country's economic activity and 85 percent of tax revenue. We support the Government of Haiti's vision to embrace sound urban planning and development in new growth poles outside of Port-au-Prince.

In the near term, we are helping to provide support for displaced people who have migrated out of Port-au-Prince and their host families. Looking forward to the long term, we will support economic investments in secondary cities through the provision of productive infrastructure, such as housing and energy investments.

We are also putting particular attention to building robust monitoring and evaluation into our programs in Haiti. The investments the United States makes in Haiti's economy, infrastructure, and people must reflect overall development objectives, have a tangible impact on people's lives, use resources efficiently, and yield results that are sustainable beyond donor funding. In order to ensure this, the U.S. Mission in Haiti will establish an independent monitoring and evaluation unit staffed with specialists who will collect data on program performance, design evaluations, and use data to assess program progress and impact. We anticipate using methods for monitoring and evaluation that will permit us to understand how the combination of investments in health services, infrastructure, economic development, agriculture, education and other areas are affecting lives and livelihoods in the key economic development corridors. Thorough data collection and analysis will be integrated into the design and management of every United States-funded program in Haiti so that the United States can make course corrections and amplifications to programs as necessary. Future programming will benefit from evidence-based designs that take the lessons of past evaluations into account.

In addition to monitoring and evaluation, reforming the procurement process is crucial to getting the maximum impact possible from our resources. Due to the urgency of the situation in Haiti, USAID and other Government agencies have pledged to find ways to do business differently – ways that are faster, more flexible, and culminate in the achievement of real results. USAID is very mindful that every dollar we spend comes from the American taxpayer and that we are accountable to them. We are committed to making our work in Haiti a model for USAID development programs around the world, particularly in the area of procurement reform.

Guided by the principles of transparency, fairness, and efficiency, our revised procurement strategy will support the humanitarian response, as well as the recovery and reconstruction phases, in a way that is country-led, builds local capacity, and features broader outreach to tap the expertise and energy of the Haitian-American community and attract new partners including local NGOs, and U.S. small, minority, and women-owned businesses.

We believe that working more directly with local partners must also be a particularly high priority. While local partnerships will ultimately help the United States and Haiti better advance our common goals, it is also important to note that in some cases doing this work will also increase the time and burden required to implement some projects. As a way of simultaneously providing assistance and building local capacity, this investment of time

and effort is well worth it. In sum, this and the other reforms I have described will help USAID ensure that we are using our resources wisely and efficiently.

Conclusion: Standing with the Haitian People for the Duration

The tremendous needs evident on the ground, particularly for the large population that has been displaced, necessitate that we move forward aggressively and rapidly to finalize plans for reconstruction. These strategies must focus on achieving concrete outcomes in the medium and long term, while ensuring transparency and accountability at every step of the process. The U.S. Government has committed almost \$1.15 billion to Haiti's long-term reconstruction and development. The Supplemental funding for Haiti will allow us to continue with this critically important work.

USAID is focused on identifying high-impact, forward thinking, and innovative development projects that draw on both our experience in Haiti and best practices from around the world. As we look toward the future, I am committed to ensuring that our assistance to Haiti:

- Addresses the Haitian Government's priorities and plans and builds the Government's capacity for sustainable stability and economic growth;
- Is deployed in the service of an integrated plan, focusing on key sectors and geographic regions of the country;
- Harnesses the strengths of the entire United States Government through a coordinated approach;
- Leverages and complements the resources of other donors and stakeholders; and
- Is subject to rigorous monitoring and evaluation.

The reconstruction effort will take many years. Significant challenges lie ahead and progress will be difficult, hard-fought, and will require close coordination from across the international community and Government of Haiti. But as President Obama made clear, we are committed to standing shoulder-to-shoulder with the people of Haiti to rebuild their lives and their country and put them on a path to a better future.

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today and I welcome any questions you might have.

Mr. ENGEL. Thank you very much, Dr. Shah. Again my thanks on behalf of the Congress and the American people for the job you are doing.

Let me first ask you this: As we look back in the many months since the earthquake, what would you say have been our biggest failings? What would you say that we need to improve, or what have we noticed about the population there that perhaps we didn't contemplate several months ago? What can we do in Congress to focus on some of these shortcomings?

Mr. SHAH. Well, thank you for that question. There are actually a broad number of areas where we can do better in these efforts. You know, most of international humanitarian relief has been run on essentially a very modest budget compared to other comparable activities, and there has not been a robust decades-long kind of investment in the coordination structures and the capacities to support effective and coordinated humanitarian relief abroad.

So, the first set of recommendations, and we have conducted now two different after action reviews and actually just this evening are conduct an interagency high-level policy after action review, but in the relief space we have a number of specific things we are trying to do. One is to establish an international relief framework that would help us work in more coordination with the United Nations and with other countries from the get-go so that we are not creating structures on the fly in Haiti or in a disaster relief environment in that context.

Often the U.N. helps set up that structure. In this case and in the unique situation the U.N. itself had lost much of their capacity in Haiti and suffered a really tragic loss of life, so that took longer than it otherwise would to set up, but we are working on that international relief framework.

A second set of things is to have the resources to more rapidly bring the kind of assets into the theaters as are necessary. In this case the defense department was uniquely supportive in being able to open the airport quickly and being able to have a strong personnel presence very fast and sending the Comfort Hospital Ship. We believe the civilian response side needs to have more ready access to certain assets like those and others in order to work more effectively.

The third set of things would be around how we plan the relief to reconstruction and oversee that process. Clearly, as every step of the way there has been the need to have strong and effective decision making from the Government of Haiti on many issues that can be seen as very technical issues, and some issues that are seen as very significant political issues.

In both sets of decisions, having a strong and effective communications with the government at all levels will be effective, and in this case I think we have learned that we need to make sure that diplomatic capability is strong, is supported, and is continual and operates at all levels so that we are not just bringing every big decision that needs to be made to President Preval, and asking him to take that one. So, I think that those are some of the things.

In terms of sectors where I think the international community could do a lot better job clearly some of the things we are working on now related to shelter and rubble removal are areas that are im-

mediate priorities, but really you can look across every sector of work and identify areas that we can do better, sir.

Mr. ENGEL. Let me ask you because you mentioned reconstruction efforts. The Interim Haiti Reconstruction Commission is still not fully staffed, I believe. When will it be completely up and running?

Mr. SHAH. Well, sir, the IHRC is an important innovation and is absolutely critical to the long-term success of the reconstruction effort. I visited there 2½ weeks ago, and actually met with staff. At that point they might have had 25 or 30 staff. Some of that is consulting support, pro bono consulting support from firms here in the United States. But they are up and running. I think their goal is to build a significant staffing capability and then to physically house a few key people from each international aid agency and foreign ministry in a single physical space, and that will allow for sharing of information and joint planning, and engagement in a way that otherwise would simply not be possible, and I know that they are in the process of building that team.

But they are already operational in terms of able to review projects and programs, and we are already in a dialogue with them to make sure that as we get going with the early reconstruction efforts they have approved it, they have reviewed it, they have offered their comments, and we are doing it in coordination with them.

Mr. ENGEL. Before the earthquake, Haiti had been nicknamed “the Republic of NGOs” because there were so many NGOs operating in the country. There were estimates between 3,000 to 6,000 NGOs. If you divide that into Haiti’s population of about 9 million, one NGO per 1,500 to 3,000 people, and public services were provided by NGOs instead of the government.

So let me ask you, is the effect of NGOs, now the donors, on the government’s capacity a concern for the reconstruction effort, and if so, how can reconstruction be pursued in a way that enhances rather than undermines the capacity of the Haitian Government? How can NGO activity be better coordinated among themselves and with the Haitian Government and donors?

Mr. SHAH. Well, I appreciate that question. It is a very important one. I would just highlight on your next panel you will have Sam Worthington from InterAction who played a uniquely helpful role for us in the early relief when we provided resources to InterAction to help coordinate the NGO operations and bring them into the fold of the larger humanitarian and international response.

I thought that was a very effective, low-cost effort and could be a model for future engagement of humanitarian relief and how we coordinate with the NGOs. But I would also that as we go forward with the reconstruction I know there are a large number of NGOs, as has been identified, but if you look at which ones are the largest and most capable partners that have the most reach, it is a much smaller number, and we need to take those NGOs and integrate them into the Interim Haiti Reconstruction Commission and make sure they are represented in that, and make sure they work along the lines with that.

I was on the phone just yesterday with the head of the Red Cross to make that suggestion, and I think the NGOs, especially the larg-

er ones that will have the larger portfolios, will be more oriented around participating in that system, and we think that is very important. But you called attention to an important issue. We dealt with it in the relief effort through our partnership with InterAction and through the U.N. coordinating structure, but for the reconstruction we are hoping that the IHRC will be the vehicle that coordinates those activities.

Mr. ENGEL. Well, the NGOs have done a wonderful job and we all take our hats off to them. Let me ask you one final question. As you know, there was an earthquake in Chile shortly after the earthquake in Haiti. It was of a much greater magnitude than the earthquake in Haiti, but because the buildings in Chile are basically built to code, good code, there were many, many fewer casualties; I think under 100 in Chile.

When I went to Haiti, it was amazing to me to go into the U.S. Embassy, where if you didn't know there had been an earthquake you would never know it because our embassy was built up to the best building code standards and therefore there wasn't any destruction whatsoever that I could see. How can we guarantee that when Haiti is rebuilding, and obviously it will take many, many years to rebuild Haiti, that we have these buildings built up to code so if there is ever an earthquake there again the loss of life will be minimal?

Mr. SHAH. Well, thank you for that question. Certainly building back to a higher code is absolutely part of the strategy of building better, and we have identified about 400,000 structures, homes that people have left, and are conducting habitability assessments for those homes. Approximately half of those have been conducted. There was about 176,000 completed assessments when I was there 2 weeks ago.

Of those that have been completed, we think about half are categorized as yellow homes that need some reconstruction for people to move into, and then the others are split between green homes that are ready for people to go back into and red homes that need to be reconstructed from the ground up. In all of those reconstruction efforts we are using improved construction methodologies, training local masons and local construction firms to work with our partners to do the reconstruction in a way that builds back better, to a higher and more protective level of code. And we have learned from other earthquakes like in Peru, around the world, that unless you train and partner with local construction firms and come up with low-cost ways to build back to a better code it simply will not happen at the kind of scale that I think we all expect in order to protect the people of Haiti from future disasters.

So, in this case we are using local materials for rebar, using improved methodology for the production of cement, teaching better leveling methodologies. I learned more about masonry than I ever thought I would, but it is important in order to make sure that we build back to a higher code, as you point out, and I think we believe we are able to do it at a minimum of additional cost if we use local materials and train local firms on how to do that.

Mr. ENGEL. Thank you very much. Mr. Mack.

Mr. MACK. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I also thank you so much for taking the time to be here with us this morning and I know you are on a tight schedule, but we do appreciate it.

First, Mr. Chairman, I think I would like to commend the U.S. military for their involvement and swift action, and with their help. I would also like to acknowledge the U.S. Ambassador who is dedicated to helping the people of Haiti, and I would also like to tell the people of Haiti that although it has been some time since the earthquake we still think of them every day, and that their perseverance shows. There is a lot of pride in Haiti, and the remarkable people in Haiti, and so I just wanted to make those comments, Mr. Chairman.

I listened to some of your statement and read some of the statement, and then listened to the chairman's questions, and I think what kind of goes through my mind is there is some basic necessities that are needed. There are things like water, shelter, restroom facilities, basic human needs. If you could maybe just talk a little bit about where we are in those needs, and then also maybe talk a little bit about the bureaucracy or the things that may be slowing down what—you know, the American people are very giving people, but what they don't want is their help to Haiti tied up in red tape and bureaucratic processes. There is an expectation that when we commit ourselves to Haiti's recovery that we expect to get things done and we don't want to hear about how there is a bureaucratic problem in delivering those resources, so if you could talk to those couple of points, I would appreciate.

Mr. SHAH. Well, thank you for your opening comments. Clearly without both the scale and capacity of the U.S. military and the professionalism and compassion through which our armed services actually provided services in those early days and weeks and months this would not have happened at the scale at which it did. And I would just point out that many of our NGO partners went out of their way to point out that our armed forces were actually working in a way that was very amenable to partnership with NGOs and with others as they were carrying out this mission in Haiti, and I think that is an important thing to note.

I also want to address your points about basic necessities. Clearly, as you look across food, water, shelter, latrines and a range of other things, the early relief effort was conducted at a very large scale. Conducting that relief with that large scale comes with some risks as you transition from relief to reconstruction.

So, for example, we had a feeding program that reached 3.5 million people, largely with free food. Some of the early food was purchased locally but beyond that much of it came in as food assistance. It was absolutely needed. But we also had to track 22 different commodities and markets and understand the effect that was having on market prices because Haiti is still largely an agricultural economy, and we didn't want to create an environment where farmers wouldn't have the incentive to produce.

So, we have worked with the Government of Haiti to scale down the free food general distributions, and instead have targeted feeding programs for infant and young children and in schools, and for pregnant women.

In water, water has been a real success story where we had more because of some unique attributes of the relief effort, most notably, the distribution of chlorine tabs with water that was trucked in from the Dominican Republic we were able to get to a higher level of clean water, clean drinking water access in Port-au-Prince than existed pre-earthquake, and initial studies conducted by the CDC at 56 different sentinel nodes indicated that as a result they felt real disease had been reduced in Port-au-Prince compared to pre-earthquake levels by about 12 percent. These are very tenuous gains because, of course, there is a long road ahead, but it is important to note that I think that was a positive outcome.

Shelter, I think, was the toughest and remains the toughest. Millions of people have access to shelter materials, but getting into transitional shelters and away from tents and other things that are less protective, transitional shelters can actually last for 3–5 years, and they can use the basic frame of the shelter to build a proper home on, that is the challenge now and we are trying to get 135,000 of those built. The U.S. Government is committed to building 47,500. The overall effort has produced about 6,000 so far, and we expect that it will accelerate but it will take some time.

And latrines and sanitation is a real challenge as well, even pre-earthquake the percentage of the population that didn't have access to safe sanitation was far too high, so we are working on that.

You asked specifically about what attributes of the bureaucracy sort of slowed the process down, and I would say coordination across the broad range of donors, partners, NGOs, and investors. I would say that decision making on behalf of both the government and the implementing partners of the relief effort so that when we need to identify land, for example, that can be used for reconstructing transitional shelters, so that that is done.

Mr. MACK. You are talking about the Haiti Government?

Mr. SHAH. That is right. That is right. And a lot of times they have to have the visibility into what the needs are in order to make those decisions and determinations. I am pleased to note that in the last few days they have in fact identified specific plots of land that can now be used for much accelerated rubble removal effort and for much accelerated transitional housing effort, but it took a long time to get there.

So, a lot of it is about communication, coordination, teeing up the decisions in a way that they can be made, and that is why we are placing a lot of emphasis on this Interim Haiti Reconstruction Commission and the role that Prime Minister Bellerive and President Clinton will have in overseeing that effort.

Mr. MACK. Thank you very much. Mr. Chairman, if I could just follow up on the shelter issue.

What else is needed to move this along? I mean, it sounds like it is an extraordinary effort to provide shelter for so many people who have lost their homes, and you talked about how there needs to be a stage, steps done so you will go from tents to a structure, a structure that can then later be modified into a permanent home or shelter for people. Can you talk a little bit about how that process is going and with a little more detail?

Mr. SHAH. Sure. I think that is an important question and this is an important issue. We think there are about 1.5 million people

that were displaced, so that is somewhere between 300,000 and 400,000 units of shelter that would be required. Estimates on how to provide those 400,000 units have varied a great deal. I think with recent data from the assessments of peoples' homes and structures we are finding that we think about half, maybe more, could go back into their homes if those homes were rehabilitated and reconstructed in a way that gets it to a higher level of standard and safety.

I mentioned that we are working with local construction firms to do that. We still need to complete the habitability assessments and then accelerate the process of the reconstruction, but that is an important process and it is a process where usually donors and partners will help rebuild the structure itself, and then the family will come in and actually finish the project. They will do the painting, they will do the cleaning up, so they are vested in their home again.

As we are doing it, we are also looking at are there ways we can build back up the structures, not just to a higher level of earthquake standard, but also put in latrines, put in gutter system for rainwater harvesting so that they have basic water and sanitation in the home, and do that at a unit cost that allows for scale across several hundred thousand units. So that is a big part of the strategy to get people back.

The second part of the strategy is to build 135,000 transitional structures. They are called transitional structures, but the frame of it is a proper housing frame with—you know, these are two by fours, metal brackets that construct them, and then they start with a tarp that is hurricane-resistant and weather-resistant tarp that conforms to international standards, but they can then always build on that base and build the proper home structure. So that is about 135,000, and that is the other part of the strategy.

Mr. ENGEL. Thank you, Mr. Mack. Mr. Sires.

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Chairman, thank you for holding this hearing. Dr. Shah, thank you for being here.

Dr. Shah, in my district in New Jersey we have a large Dominican population, and a few years ago there was the Jiminy floods, I don't know if you remember, in the Dominican Republic, and we were engaged in bringing supplies and so forth. I have to tell you this Jiminy flood is no way near as tragic a catastrophe as the earthquake, and when we got to the Dominican Republic the biggest problem that I saw was coordination, coordination between all the people that wanted to help, the international committee making sure that the international committee delivered on what they committed, and it seemed that everyone wanted to do housing in that section.

I just want to know who determines the priorities when the international committee wants to do housing but who tells them, look, we already have France doing house, we already are doing housing, we need you to do this, we need you to do that because that seemed to be the biggest problem, and getting and making sure that all the items that we collected and the monies that we collected got to the people?

We started out as a housing group. We wound up putting the money into a school. We wound up bringing the supplies down, we

were fortunate that the government of Ipolito, you know, gave us trucks and everything else to make sure, and we dealt with the church to make sure that the people received the supplies.

How do we make sure that the people get it? There is a church involved. I know that the NGOs are involved. But coordinating this is a very difficult job. You have a very difficult job on your hands because this catastrophe was not nearly as large as the one in Haiti, and I will tell you it was an eye-opener for me. So can you talk a little bit about that?

Mr. SHAH. I can, sir, and I appreciate your raising the question in that context. It is absolutely a challenge of coordination, and I would say this requires two or three things that I think are happening, and we have to continue to stay focused on it.

First, the largest donors and the largest NGOs and the largest international partners have to be committed to a coordinated approach against a single strategic plan, and I think the donors conference in March in New York was important because the donors did commit to that, and the Government of Haiti did present a coherent and effective strategic plan.

Second, you need a structure that brings it together and allows for the adjudication of differences, and during the relief effort we played a large role in that. Going forward, this will be the Interim Haiti Reconstruction Commission, and that commission with its unique leadership with both the Prime Minister and the former President engaged will, I think, make a big, big difference, and I will tell you that on visiting the commission and seeing the capacity they are developing and seeing their physical plan of putting people from each of the major donors and each of the major partners physically in one large collective office space, I think that that will have a chance to be successful at bringing this together.

But what we need is we need every partner to be as aggressive about committing themselves to that commission and to the process of reviewing and dialogue as we are and as other partners are, and I know that that is an issue with some of the partners, but we are getting through that process to make sure that really everyone who is operating at some degree of scale is willing to abide by the guidance and governance of the IHRC, and I just couldn't agree with your assessment anymore in terms of what it takes to be successful in this environment.

And I would add one final thought. You articulated the need to be flexible very well, and I think for us to all be successful we can go in with our plan of building a certain number of transitional structures or anything like that, but we learn new data all the time. I think it was surprising to our team to learn that nearly 200,000 homes could be reconstructed to a higher earthquake standard at a very low cost and that might be a better way to go long term in terms of housing than entirely new transitional structures, and we need to be able to adapt to that kind of data as it comes in. So thank you for your comment.

Mr. ENGEL. Thank you, Mr. Sires. Mr. Smith.

Mr. SMITH. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you and the ranking member for convening this very important hearing, and Dr. Shah, it is great to see you again.

Dr. Shah, the majority of human trafficking cases, according to the TIP office, are found among the some 225,000 restaveks, child slavery in domestic settings. The restaveks are not only vulnerable to rape, beatings and other exploitation, but are often put on the streets, as we know, as teenagers forced into prostitution. They become disproportionately the number of street children in Haiti.

The Haitian national police and NGOs have reported an increase in alleged cases of forced slavery and coerced prostitution of children and adults since the earthquake. Women and girls are increasingly vulnerable to the IDP's self-appointed security guards who exploit them in exchange for protection.

So my questions would be: What is being done to protect these vulnerable women and children, especially in the IDP camps? Is restavek prevention and protection incorporated into our relief efforts systematically? Is it across the board among the NGOs and among the government efforts?

And one of the recommendation is that there be a—that in a trafficking law, domestic obviously for Haiti, that the definition of trafficking include child labor because the law is not current there.

Mr. SHAH. Thank you, Congressman. It is good to see you again and thank you for your consistent commitment to these issues. We share your commitment.

On the specific issue of IDPs and settlements, you know, there are a very broad number of settlements in Port-au-Prince and around Port-au-Prince, and they differ in their character. Some are smaller settlements in communities where people are actually not that far from their homes and kind of go back and forth, and those types of smaller community settlements benefit from the fact that these are communities that have lived together, that understand each other, where there are common standards of both behavior and policing and oversight.

The larger settlements that account for the much greater percentage of people are where most of these incidents and challenges, especially with respect to gender-based violence, has been occurring, and we have been very, very focused on this, and we know that in these settlements there are a range of things that can be done that range from lighting, safe and effective appropriately sized areas for latrines and toilets and bathroom facilities for women, in particular; some women-only spaces inside the settlement so people don't have to go outside; and some degree of patrolling and supervision and policing.

In the 20 largest camps, we have been working aggressively to make sure that all of those attributes exist in those camps. They still do not. The UNDP and other partners are helping us to identify and put in place lighting to meet all of the lighting needs of the largest camps. The camps came together in a very sort of rapid ad hoc way, which has made it hard to identify the safe spaces for latrines and things like that, but that is taking place in a more accelerated manner.

And on the policing side the Haitian National Police together with MINUSTAH have been conducting joint patrols in most of the larger camps. Those patrols in some cases are quite adequate and quite effective, and in many cases are not, and so we are working to help continue to expand their capacity to take on that mission,

and to really to do it together between MINUSTAH and HNP (the Haitian National Police) so that they take that on.

But the gender-based violence issue, in particular, is concerning. The data on the number of incidents is very unreliable, and we are very focused on that, but thank you for your attention.

Mr. SMITH. No, I appreciate that and that response as well. Just let me ask you quickly in terms to donor fatigue.

Are pledges adequate and are pledges being matched by follow-up obligations where the money actually materializes, and with the approaching hurricane season, which obviously can be on Haiti in an instant, are the IDP camps sufficiently fortified against that probability? I don't even think it is just a possibility that some bad weather could come their way soon.

Mr. SHAH. Well, thank you. On donor fatigue or donor commitments, we believe that 22 of the 30 donors that made commitments at the March conference are on path to living up to those commitments and are doing so at a different pace. I want to take this opportunity to thank this committee and the Members of Congress who supported the supplemental because that allows us to live up to our commitments, and many other countries are going through similar processes to have the actual resources.

The resources are flowing and are being spent in country, but this is also a period of time where there is a lot of planning and a lot of working with implementing partners to make sure that we set up a system that allows those resources to be spent effectively, and sometimes we will make the tradeoff to have a more gradual spend rate in order to make sure that we do things the right way. We engage local businesses, we plan adequately so that the things we do are sustained over the long run and really help Haiti achieve its long-term aspirations.

On hurricane preparedness, the United States Government has been aggressive about, again, working with the military and the civilian side in terms of prepositioning basic supplies for 100,000 families and in terms of providing support for the construction of shelters and planning and joint drill activities in high risk areas. Some of the settlements are in higher risk areas than others, of course, and so that has to be matched.

You can never be prepared enough in Haiti for hurricanes, and so we are going through that effort. Part of what we did was help clear out the drainage system. We did large-scale debris removal, removing almost 800,000 tons of debris from the canals and the drainage system so that in the event of flooding related to hurricanes or just heavy rains the disease risk would be mitigated and that there would be more protective action for people in the settlements. A lot of those settlements were shored up and we moved more than 7,000 people from the most vulnerable places to safer sites. So, we have been working aggressively on that, but you know, it is never really enough.

Mr. ENGEL. Thank you, Mr. Smith. Thank you. Mr. Payne.

Mr. PAYNE. Thank you very much, Dr. Shah. Good to see you. Let me commend you for the outstanding work that your agency have been doing. Of course, we all know that much more needs to be done, so my congratulating you doesn't necessarily mean that I am satisfied with what is going on, but I think that you have really

hit the—many of us have to recall that I guess you were sworn in for a day or two when the earthquake hit, and so we realize that there is certainly no period of adjustment.

Let me just ask some quick questions regarding the health care. What has been done overall in a short-term strategy to deal with the health care needs? Is that under the Interim Haiti Reconstruction Commission or is it done by the U.N. or is it the Haiti Government that is trying to deal with health care in general?

Mr. SHAH. Well, thank you, sir, and we share your comment that we are really never satisfied with the work we tend to do around the world, so that certainly applies here as well.

On health care in particular, you know, we had a very strong early response with USAID, its partners, its NGOs, and a number of others providing some form of health service to nearly 300,000 families over the course of the last 6 months. In terms of the long-term development of Haiti's health plan, we are working with the government and with the IHRC to have a single long-term health reconstruction strategy that will include expanding the primary care system, it will include investing in the university hospital and the hospital system in Port-au-Prince, and it will seek to bring into the fold the large number of NGOs and others that provide critically needed and important services, but we believe if we all work together we could do so in a more coordinated way as we do the reconstruction.

In order to support that planning, we have actually relaxed quite a lot of the usual constraints that exist on U.S. Government resources for the health sector because a lot of our resources can be programmed against very specific diseases or very specific activities. We have tried to relax those constraints and then engage in a single health system planning effort, so it would be a very different way of working for us.

Mr. PAYNE. Now in regards to the population, as we all know one of the basic problems in Haiti was that the main city of Port-au-Prince was totally overpopulated and as we know the earthquake dispersed the population to some degree. Will resources be adequate enough to retain the dispersed persons so that there is not the repopulation of Port-au-Prince which, of course, exacerbates the problem and was really part of the previous problem in the first place?

Mr. SHAH. Yes. Well, certainly on behalf of USAID and U.S. Government resources in certain strategic sectors like energy and agriculture we are pursuing a very decentralized approach to supporting, in agriculture, for example, productive watersheds that are, of course, outside of Port-au-Prince, but also in the north and along the northwest. So there are specific investments we are making to make sure that our resources are invested in a way that supports Haiti's plan to have more decentralized economic opportunity.

But I don't think that in and of itself will be enough, to answer your question. Ultimately we have to attract private investment into those decentralized areas or economic development zones, and I know the Haitian Government and many others are working with private sector companies in the United States and elsewhere to try to attract real private investment to sites outside of Port-au-Prince to create jobs and to create economic activity. If that happens, I

think that is probably the key. If that happens, we are prepared to use our funding to provide service support to those populations in a decentralized way.

Mr. PAYNE. Is there any way to utilize the food security program that State Department is implementing actually through USAID worldwide, particularly in Africa, and some of those principles to be used in Haiti?

I think if we look at possible economic growth, it seems to me that agriculture is a natural, and that could also combine with the population dispersement of trying to keep them in the less developed areas.

Mr. SHAH. Yes, sir, that is a great suggestion. We in fact are—Haiti is one of the Feed the Future—Feed the Future is our term for that program. Haiti is one of the first four Feed the Future countries. That means that we have sent special planning teams. We are working with the ministry in a different way to look at the whole agriculture sector, tie it together with its nutrition and health programs, and to invest in a productive agricultural approach in Haiti that could really be the backbone of distributed economic opportunities.

So, that is exactly what we are doing in the agricultural sector, and it is important to note that that was actually underway prior to the earthquake. In fact, last August when I was at the U.S. Department of Agriculture as part of the Feed the Future effort I went to Haiti to work on planning and preparing for that program, so Haiti has maintained, in fact redoubled its commitment to that approach, and the United States as a partner has also done the same.

Mr. PAYNE. Thank you.

Mr. ENGEL. Well, thank you, Mr. Payne. Ms. Lee.

Ms. LEE. Well, thank you very much. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for this hearing and for your leadership on these issues that are so important to Haiti, the Haitian people and to our own country, and Dr. Shah, I want to thank you again. I guess you have been here three times this week and I think that is a testament really to your commitment to your work, to Haiti. Given our short attention spans in our own country, we know that the focus is easily diverted once an issue is taken off of the front page, so I just want to thank you for your sustained commitment and your staff's.

I want to follow up on the issue as it relates to food and agriculture, but primarily U.S. food policy. Several times, and I know President Preval has urged our administration and other donors to make room for food purchases directly from local producers so that Haitian can really help themselves in the recovery effort, and of course the implication is that U.S. food policy, because of our—you know, the fact that it relies, and Haiti relies on imports of U.S. commodities, that this policy may be actually undermining the effort of local farmers and local entrepreneurs. So I would like to find out if in fact we are trying to find ways to help make sure that food can be purchased directly from local farmers and local entrepreneurs and lines of credit are there and available for that.

Secondly, let me ask you about the direct budgetary support for the Government of Haiti. They do have a democratically-elected government. I know there are a lot of issues around budgetary sup-

port, and I am wondering what your thoughts are as it relates to Haiti, and are we moving at all in that direction?

Next, I would just like to, and I visited Haiti not too long ago, and I had a chance to talk with Sean Penn, and he is doing remarkable work there, and there were many issues we discussed, and I wondered if you all are in touch with Sean. He has a lot of ideas. He has been on the ground. I mean, he has a deep commitment to the recovery of Haiti. We talked a lot about what happens when the hurricanes come. And I am not sure, thank goodness, you know, so far so good. But have we been able to move everyone into higher ground or into stronger kind of housing, tents or wherever?

And then finally, you know, my bill, the Next Steps for Haiti Act, we have to be able to begin to support the Haitian-American community, and Haitians in the diaspora in terms of going back to help in the development and in the reconstruction effort of Haiti, and I am wondering your thoughts on that. We are beginning to move in that direction but I want to make sure that we have a fully funded and supported effort within USAID to help promote Haiti's reconstruction efforts with the skills and the experience of the Haitian-American community?

Mr. SHAH. Thank you. Well, thank you for your really tireless commitment to this issue and to continue to help us be successful with it. I will just address these in turn as effectively as possible.

On food and agriculture and local purchases, you know, the very first purchase of food was 6,00 metric tons of rice that we did purchase locally for expressly that purpose, and through the relief effort we tracked the prices of approximately 22 different commodities to look at our market effects. As we go forward with Feed the Future plan of which I just spoke, we will be looking actively at how can we support local purchase of food and food aid programs, and how can we study the impact of our own food assistance efforts to apply those efforts in a way that minimizes any market distortion it would create. Agriculture is going to be the backbone of Haiti's economy for most participants, and we need to make sure we get that right.

On budget support, the two big issues for us are compliance and recourse, and if we can work through and develop mechanisms that will allow for compliance and recourse we can provide more budget support. We are starting to do it by providing \$30 million to the World Bank Trust Fund which will be tied to budget support, and we will look at a range of other tools as well so long as they allow for the kind of compliance and recourse that we need to be able to track resources.

On JPHRO, which is Sean Penn's organization, we have worked quite closely with him, and in fact when I was last there we met in Delmas 32 neighborhood, and are trying a pilot effort with them to say is there a way for us to do the habitability assessments of home structures and reconstruction of homes that need to be elevated to a higher standard in coordination with his group so that we can then transition those people back to their homes in a coordinated way, and I think if that works that should become a model for how we might be able to work with different communities of people in settlements so that we can kind of in one move improve their basic home living conditions, and then help them tran-

sition back, and we need to coordinate with the NGOs and partners providing services in the settlements in order to do that effectively, so I am watching this very closely, and I appreciate his really tireless efforts, and he is not—he has really been there from the beginning and has been working very, very hard to help provide that service.

And finally, I would perhaps ask if we could ask for your continued help with connectivity with the Haitian-American community. It is our aspiration to do work in that way. One of our first large contracts for clearing rubble and improving the canal and drainage systems went to a 8(a) firm and to a Haitian-American-owned business. We are trying to do outreach in different districts around, making sure that people are aware, how they can plug into the procurement system, but we will need your continued support and we would look forward to your continued support to make sure we make those connections effectively.

Ms. LEE. Thank you, and just let me thank Mr. Chairman for your support. We are trying to get H.R. 417, the Next Steps for Haiti Act done.

Mr. ENGEL. Well, we should, and we thank you for all of your efforts. You have certainly been a leader in the Congress on these issues, and we really do appreciate it.

So, Dr. Shah, I know we promised you and your staff that we would have you out of here by 10:30. We have made it except for a couple of minutes. I really just want to thank you, and I know that we are going to have continuous dialogue. You know, this hearing is called “The Crisis in Haiti: Are We Moving Fast Enough?” That is what we really want to focus on; we all know what needs to be done, but we want to make sure that we are moving fast enough.

Mr. SHAH. Thank you.

Mr. ENGEL. So thank you so much and thank you for the job you are doing.

Mr. SHAH. Thank you.

Mr. ENGEL. Okay, we will pause for about 1 minute or 2, and we will give our next panel a chance to come up. We will put the name plates down, and then we will call them all up.

Before I introduce our panelists on our second panel I am going to give my opening statement that we pushed back because of Dr. Shah needing to be with President Obama at 11 o'clock, so let me do that, and that will give our panelists a chance to settle down for a few minutes.

So, I want to thank Dr. Shah, as I mentioned before, for testifying, and he only had a short time with us, but it is obvious that USAID has an enormous task in dealing with the crisis in Haiti and is working very hard to address the problems.

In March of this year I visited Haiti to bear witness to the horrific loss of life and devastation which befell the country on January the 12th. I surveyed the damage done to the land and physical structures of Haiti. It was my intention then and remains my profound wish that the people of Haiti know that the United States is committed to help them rebuild their nation.

As chairman of the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, I want to determine what more

America can provide to help Haiti recover from this tragedy and emerge as a stronger nation. As a representative from the 17th District of New York, which is my district and we have a large community of Haitian-Americans. I believe we have the fourth largest population of Haitian-Americans in my district of any of the 435 districts in the country, so I have one of the largest Haitian communities, and we mentioned, as Dr. Shah mentioned, that it is very important to coordinate everything we do in Haiti with the Haitian-American community. So I want to experience firsthand what happened to their homeland and to help bring back answers to my constituents.

As a human being, I went to see the faces of the victims of this earthquake and to offer whatever assistance I could provide them.

Haiti will recover and America will be standing side by side with our neighbor. For now we are doing everything in our power to accelerate that recovery. Haitian-American communities in New York, especially in my district in Spring Valley and Nyack, and other states have welcomed victims with open arms. Our schools, such as the East Ramapo School District have taken in children displaced by this natural disaster and are educating them, and likewise, Haitian-Americans from all over the country have shown their sympathy for the people of Haiti and the generosity of approximately \$1 billion given to Haitian relief.

Let me also say that as our schools take in Haitian children, we in the Federal Government have to compensate these schools to make sure that they have adequate funds to educate these children. The burden should not simply fall on the local communities where Haitian children are coming in. The Federal Government has a responsibility to provide for the education, to help pay for the education, otherwise the education will be inferior not only for the Haitian children that are coming in, but for all children in that school district if we don't provide them with more money.

The devastation in Haiti was all-encompassing. The destruction was so complete it is really hard to know where to start. Should the international community focus first on shelter, health care, education, agriculture, economic development, or must we address all at the same time? And regardless of how we prioritize our response in Haiti one question keeps coming to mind as I think about the crisis in Haiti, and you will see this in the title of today's here as I mentioned: Are we moving fast enough?

For more than 6 months have now passed since the earthquake and so much has yet to be done. We simply must carry out the relief and reconstruction program as fast as we can, and at this point I am not sure if we are moving fast enough.

Of the 2 million people who have been displaced in Haiti, approximately 1.5 million are still in camps. As of earlier this month only 5,000 transitional shelters had been built in Haiti. USAID's Haiti Task Team Coordinator Paul Weisenfeld said on the 6-month anniversary of the earthquake that the international community has promised to build 125,000 shelters for about 600,000 people by July 2011. But that will leave up to 1 million people without homes, and there are concerns that the Haitian Government has not resolved land titling issues so there aren't yet enough locations to resettle the large numbers of displaced people.

Given this, again I ask are we moving fast enough? I want our panelists to please keep that question in mind when they give their testimony. Are we moving fast enough in providing shelter to displaced people in Haiti, and is the Haitian Government moving fast enough to work out land title issues so that the land can be set aside for additional shelter?

I have often heard that one of the greatest obstacles to rebuilding Haiti is that there is so much rubble from the earthquake which needs to be removed so it is hard to get new construction going until this rubble is removed. I saw this with my own eyes when I visited in March. In fact, there is an estimated 25 million cubic meters of rubble to remove, but almost no place to put it but into the sea. As a point of comparison, the tragic destruction of the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001, created 560,000 cubic meters of rubble. Some have said it will take 2 years to remove the rubble, and estimates range up to 10 years. Once again, are we moving fast enough to deal with the rubble removal problem?

And since the earthquake various multilateral institutions of 48 countries and the coalition of NGOs, non-governmental organizations, pledged approximately \$10 billion toward the long-term construction efforts in Haiti. However, according to a recent article in the New York Times by former President Bill Clinton and Haitian Prime Minister Jean-Max Bellerive, co-chairs of the Interim Haiti Reconstruction Commission, only 10 percent—this is the quote—“of the 5.3 billion pledged by governments at a U.N. conference in March has been disbursed to the Haitian Government without reliable schedules for disbursement.” And that is from the Interim Haiti Reconstruction Commission.

Clinton and Bellerive say, “The Commission is unable to plan, finance projects or respond quickly to immediate needs.” It is hard to understand with the crisis as large as that faced in Haiti that the money is not flowing faster. So I ask again, are we moving fast enough in collecting and disbursing the pledged money for Haitian relief?

With respect to the IHRC, this critical body is only supposed to exist for 18 months to support the Haitian ministries and provide grants for rebuilding projects, but now more than 6 months after the earthquake it is still not yet fully staffed, as I mentioned to Dr. Shah. Indeed it is possible that the IHRC still requires another month or 2 to get its act in gear. With the enormity of the task ahead and the key commission not fully up and running, again are we moving fast enough in Haiti?

Finally, we must not think that because the problem to be fixed is in Haiti the answers are all to be found there. Here in Congress we face long delays on passage of a supplemental appropriations bill which contains \$2.9 billion in support to support relief efforts in Haiti. We should have moved faster, but I am glad that we have finally sent the bill to the President for his signature.

Regardless, I think I have conveyed my concern in looking forward to this panel and today’s witnesses so we can address the question are we moving fast enough in Haiti.

Mr. Mack has said that he doesn’t have a long lengthy statement. He just wants to make a few comments, and I am sure he

concur with the statement that I just made, so I turn it over to Mr. Mack.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Engel follows:]

**Opening Statement
Chairman Eliot L. Engel**

House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere

The Crisis in Haiti: Are We Moving Fast Enough

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Again, I would like to thank Raj Shah, the USAID Administrator, for testifying and thank him for his time. I know Administrator Shah only had a short time with us, but it is obvious that USAID has an enormous task in dealing with the crisis in Haiti and it is working very hard to address the problems.

In March of this year, I visited Haiti to bear witness to the horrific loss of life and devastation which befell the country on January 12. I surveyed the damage done to the land and physical structures of Haiti. It was my intention then and remains my profound wish that the people of Haiti know that the United States is committed to help them rebuild their nation.

As Chairman, I went to determine what more America can provide to help Haitians recover from this tragedy and emerge as a stronger nation. As the representative from the 17th District, which has a large community of Haitian-Americans, I went to experience first-hand what happened to their homeland, and to help bring back answers to my constituents. As a human being, I went to see the faces of the victims of this earthquake, and to offer whatever assistance I can provide them.

Haiti will recover, and America will be standing side-by-side with our neighbor. For now, we are doing everything in our power to accelerate that recovery. Haitian-American communities in New York, especially in my district in Spring Valley and Nyack, and in other states have welcomed victims with open arms. Our schools, such as the East Ramapo School District, have taken in children displaced by this natural disaster and are educating them. Likewise, Americans from all across the country have shown their sympathy for the people of Haiti in the generosity of the approximately \$1 billion given to Haitian relief.

The devastation in Haiti was so all-encompassing and the destruction was so complete, it is hard to know where to start. Should the international community focus first on shelter, health care, education, agriculture, or economic development or must we address all at once? And, regardless of how we prioritize our response in Haiti, one question keeps coming to mind as I think about the crisis in Haiti -- and you will see this in the title of today's hearing -- "**Are We Moving Fast Enough?**" More than six months have now passed since the earthquake and so much is yet to be done. We simply must carry out the relief and reconstruction program as fast as it can be accomplished. At this point, **I'm not sure if we are moving fast enough.**

Of the 2 million people who have been displaced in Haiti, approximately 1.5 million are still in camps. As of earlier this month, only 5,000 transitional shelters had been built in Haiti. USAID's Haiti Task Team Coordinator Paul Weisenfeld said on the six month anniversary of the earthquake that the international community has promised to build 125,000 shelters for about 600,000 people by July 2011. But, that will leave up to one million people without homes. And, there are concerns that the Haitian government has not resolved land titling issues so there aren't yet enough locations to resettle the large numbers of displaced people. Given this, **are we moving fast enough** in providing shelter to displaced people in Haiti and is the Haitian government moving fast enough to work out land title issues so that land can be set aside for additional shelter?

I have often heard that one of the greatest obstacles to rebuilding Haiti is that there is so much rubble from the earthquake which needs to be removed it is hard to get new construction going. I saw this with my own eyes when I visited in March. In fact, there is an estimated 25 million cubic meters of rubble to remove, but almost no place to put it but into the sea. As a point of comparison, the tragic destruction of the World Trade Center on 9/11 created 560,000 cubic meters of rubble. Some have said it will take two years to remove the rubble and estimates range up to ten years. Once again, **are we moving fast enough** to deal with the rubble removal problem?

Since the earthquake, various multilateral institutions, 48 countries, and a coalition of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) pledged approximately \$10 billion toward the long-term reconstruction efforts in Haiti. However, according to a recent article in *The New York Times* by former President Bill Clinton and Haitian Prime Minister Jean-Max Bellerive, Co-Chairs of the Interim Haiti Reconstruction Commission (IHRC), "only 10 percent of the \$5.3 billion pledged by governments at a United Nations conference in March has been disbursed to the Haitian government. Without reliable schedules for disbursement," Clinton and Bellerive say "the commission is unable to plan, finance projects or respond quickly to immediate needs." It is hard to understand with a crisis as large as that faced in Haiti that the money is not flowing faster. I ask again, **are we moving fast enough** in collecting and disbursing the pledged money for Haitian relief?

With respect to the IHRC, this critical body is only supposed to exist for 18 months to support the Haitian ministries and provide grants for rebuilding projects. But, now, more than six months after the earthquake, it is not yet fully staffed. Indeed, it is possible that the IHRC still requires another month or two to get its act in gear. With the enormity of the task ahead and the key commission not fully up and running, **are we moving fast enough** in Haiti?

Finally, we must not think that because the problem to be fixed is in Haiti the answers are all to be found there. Here in Congress, we faced long delays on passage of the Supplemental Appropriations bill which contains \$2.9 billion to support relief efforts in Haiti. We should have moved faster, but I am glad that we have finally sent the bill to the President for his signature.

Regardless, I think I have conveyed my concern and am looking forward to this panel and today's witnesses so we can address the question, "**Are we moving fast enough**" in Haiti. With that, I would like to ask my friend, the Ranking Member, if he would like to offer an opening statement.

Mr. MACK. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You just washed some work on the fly because I told him I wasn't going to say anything and he adjusted quickly. But I do want to associate myself with your opening statement and in the interest of time I will not have an opening statement other than to thank you all for being here, and this is really an opportunity, I think, for you, for us to have a discussion on what we can do to improve recognizing that there has been a lot done, there is a lot to be proud of, but there are things that also need to be done to make it better. We are only one hurricane, one earthquake, one other disaster away from a huge setback and we need to make sure that we have plans in place, people in place, structures in place that can ensure that the people of Haiti have a chance to a better future.

So that with that, Mr. Chairman, thank you for putting this hearing together today.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Mack follows:]

"The Crisis in Haiti: Are We Moving Fast Enough?"
Ranking Member Connie Mack
Opening Statement

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank Administrator Shah and the other witnesses for being here today.

Before addressing the concerns we are hearing out of Haiti, I want to first commend the U.S. military and government officials who have dedicated years of service to improving the situation in Haiti, and pay tribute to those who lost their lives during the earthquake.

I would also like to acknowledge U.S. Ambassador Kenneth Merten for his dedication to mitigating the terrible consequences of the earthquake and for keeping us informed throughout the process.

Finally, I want to recognize the Haitian people for their perseverance in the face of catastrophe, and the government of Haiti, which is in a daily struggle to maintain order.

Much has been accomplished already, but more *needs* to be done.

In addition to bringing needed relief to Haitians, a functioning Haiti is in the best interest of the United States. For example, Haiti is a trans-shipment point for the trafficking of drugs and other illegal activity from South America into the U.S. The fact that Venezuela has pledged more than any other single nation for relief in Haiti should make the United States sit up and take notice.

As the international community works to 'build Haiti back better,' we need to focus on benchmarks that can be achieved, and on achieving them effectively- not on how much and how fast. Given that a great deal of improvement depends upon actions that must be taken by the Haitian government, I first want to hear that we have a plan that works within this unique environment.

For example, Haiti is in the height of an election cycle, with elections scheduled for November 28. Land entitlement has been a long-established problem in Haiti that requires unpopular government action to remedy. And supporting long-term sustainable development in Haiti has been an on-going challenge.

Also, when not monitored closely, large influxes of food assistance and U.S. dollars can harm the agricultural sector and cause inflation in the Haitian economy.

Given these and other extreme challenges in Haiti, I look forward to hearing how the coordination strategy is working, and how aid will be utilized strategically to help the Haitians overcome obstacles to development.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. ENGEL. Thank you, Mr. Mack. Ms. Lee, do you have an opening statement?

Ms. LEE. Just very quickly. Again, thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank all of you for coming, and thank you for staying the course.

I think out of this crises we do have some opportunities if we can just get past the crisis. It is, again, 6 months. The cameras are gone, but it is those of you who are really staying the course, and I just want to thank all of you for taking the time to come here so that we can stay the course, and I especially want to welcome Mr. Jimmy Jean-Louis. Thank you for being here, and thank you for your work. Many of you continue to work with the Congressional Black Caucus which has been for so many years in support of Haiti and the Haitian people. So just welcome, look forward to your testimony, and thank you again, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. ENGEL. Thank you, Ms. Lee. We have been joined by my fellow New Yorker, Mr. Meeks. I would like to give him the opportunity for an opening statement.

Mr. MEEKS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I, too, want to join my colleagues in thanking you for staying the course for long after the cameras were gone, that we would have a lot of work to be done. I have had the opportunity to visit Haiti in the interim and there is no question that there is a lot of work to be done. What concerns me is that we have a balance because we have short-term work to be done, and we can't forget that, and we have long-term work to be done, and we can't forget that.

There seems to be at times we get out of balance. You know, whether we get the money is not flowing, as the chairman has indicated, whether it is flowing quick enough or not, but even the distribution of aid. You know, at one point we said that—I know in another committee I sit on, you know, when I sit on the International Monetary Policy and Trade, we had a couple of hearings there. Mr. Fairbanks, you were one of the witnesses there where we talked about private enterprise and how we have got to get it up and going, and moving.

And at one point it seemed as though we had a lot of food that was coming in, and we heard individuals saying that, well, that is not helping the small business person because they are not able to sell anything, so therefore they are going out of business, and that is not going to help the long term. Now I hear, you know, that there is not enough food coming so people are now starving again and looking to going back to eating mud pies and things of that nature because they don't have any money to cater to some of the small businesses.

How do we get that balance is what I am—you know, we have got to focus. One of the reasons why I had submitted a bill talking about a Marshall Plan was trying to think we could get expertise in each area that are talking and coordinate with one another so that we could be moving and organized and talking to one another so that we can get a balance so that we can move forward and try to take care of all segments.

There had been some hope at one point that we would be able to create new towns outside of Port-au-Prince that would create jobs and opportunities for individuals, to prevent the overcrowding

as we try to get the rubble out of Port-au-Prince, but it seems to be very little, if any, movement in that direction. How do we get that to happen? Where is the coordination between the former President and the current government and some of the foreign government?

You know, I get frustrated at times, to be quite honest with you, and that is why I would love, and I thank you for being here so that we can listen and learn and understand what is going on in that regard.

So I will stop there and just say I, like the chairman, I have a number of Haitians that live in the district, it is either the second or third largest in the country, and they are—you know, so much resources, so many great opportunities in Haiti.

Lastly, let me just say this because I forgot to give it out and this is, I think, Mr. Fairbanks is going to testify to that, what is this marriage between Haiti and the Dominican Republic? We had a meeting not too long ago, many of us in the Congressional Black Caucus with the President of the Dominican Republic who talked about his willingness in looking to work collectively with the Government of Haiti to make sure that they can employ people and train people, but I would like to hear more about that marriage and how do we get this done.

So, Mr. Chair, I stop there and thank you for having this hearing today.

Mr. ENGEL. Thank you, Mr. Meeks, and let me just say that you mentioned the President of the Dominican Republic. He is really very enlightened because he is really a New Yorker like you and me, you know, having been raised in New York and growing up in New York.

I am really now pleased to introduce our distinguished private witnesses for this second panel, and we do have a distinguished panel of witnesses. Jimmy Jean-Louis is an actor, best known for his role as the Haitian in the NBC series “Heroes.” This was an appropriate role since Jimmy is actually Haitian and was born in Port-au-Prince. Today he is Goodwill Ambassador for the Pan American Development Foundation. Welcome.

Samuel Worthington is president and chief executive officer of InterAction. Welcome to the panel. Jonathan Reckford is chief executive officer for Habitat for Humanity International. Welcome.

Dr. Barth Green is chairman and co-founder of the University of Miami Global Institute for Community Health and Development, and is president and co-founder of Project Medishare, but most importantly he is a personal friend of mine, and I look forward to hearing his testimony. You know, if you go to south Florida, and my parents lived in south Florida for 30 years so I am familiar, all you have to do is mention the name Barth Green and everybody knows him. So if he ever gets involved in politics, you know the other representatives from south Florida have to really kind of worry, so welcome.

Joia Jefferson Nuri is chief of staff of TransAfrica Forum. Welcome. Michael Fairbanks is an author and founder and director of the SEVEN Fund. Mr. Meeks has already mentioned that he has testified on a lot of these important matters before. Welcome. And Nicole Balliette is deputy director for Haiti Emergency Earthquake

Response for Catholic Relief Services. Let me say this panel is so distinguished that every time we wanted to kind of keep it small, I would get a phone call—so and so would like to be added to the panel—and everyone was so good I could just not say no.

So let me just say to the panelists, you have 5 minutes to summarize your testimony. You don't have to read it. You could submit it for the record and it will be in the official record, and just summarize it. I am going to keep everybody to the 5 minutes, and I am going to be a little heavy with the gavel because that way it will give us a chance to ask you questions where I am sure you can give us better answers than opening statements.

So thank you all very much for being here, and I call on Jimmy Jean-Louis.

**STATEMENT OF MR. JIMMY JEAN-LOUIS, ACTOR, GOODWILL
AMBASSADOR, PAN AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION**

Mr. JEAN-LOUIS. Good morning. Is this working?

Mr. ENGEL. Yes. You might want to push it a little closer to you, and then we can—no, it doesn't move?

Mr. JEAN-LOUIS. Hello.

Mr. ENGEL. That is better. You always know an actor can kind of—you know, I grew up in a household, Jimmy, with a mother who is an actress, and growing up in New York my mother always did these bit parts on Broadway, off Broadway I should say, and bit parts in movies and she always told me you need to project from your diaphragm, she used to say to me—so project from your diaphragm.

Mr. JEAN-LOUIS. You are giving away my tricks. [Laughter.] It is not good.

Well, on behalf of the Pan American Development Foundation I thank you, Mr. Engel and the other distinguished members of this subcommittee for the opportunity to testify here, Mr. Meeks, Mr. Mack, Mrs. Lee.

Today I am appearing before this committee as the Pan American Development Foundation's Goodwill Ambassador, and as the president of the nonprofit organization Hollywood United for Haiti. Also extremely important, I am here as a Haitian that had a chance to go to Haiti just days after the earthquake, and the smell of the burning flesh, the cries of the survivors, and the desperation of the people in the capital will stay with me for life. It took me about 5 days to dig the body of one of my dear friend who is 28, or was 28 years old. It took me 5 days to get him out of the rubble of my own house, just to find a piece of arm, nothing else.

I want to say thank you to the people of the United States for coming to Haiti's assistance after the deadly earthquake. Haitians will remember the generous support, acts of kindness and prayer on their behalf.

The crisis Haiti, are we moving fast enough? No, if I have to answer real quickly. Too many Haitians continue to live in despicable conditions with little hope of moving into recovery phase in the foreseeable future. I mean, obviously this is not a criticism to any particular person, government or non-governmental organization. Some of the things worked.

What worked? Although the list of people, project, and activities is very long, the following are just a few examples of what I think worked. President Obama's immediate pledge of U.S. assistance proved critical to opening a life line to Haiti. The media did a great job the first couple of weeks. The NGOs played a huge role in saving the day. If it were not for their dedication, however the number of Haitians would have died, suffered needlessly, would have been far greater.

So the programs worked well such as the Cash for Work. Haitians want to work. They don't want handouts. Tens of thousands of Haitians have found temporary employment cleaning streets, clearing drainage canals and removing rubble. These Cash for Work programs are also a major step in reviving devastated neighborhoods.

The human rights, and this one is a very important topic for me, for years Haiti has faced serious problems with trafficking of persons, forced labor, exploitation of children, and violence against woman; nonetheless the January 12 earthquake caused these problems to explode. After the quake a number of highly qualified national and local NGOs stepped in and helped. Safe areas were established for children. Medical services were provided. Support to government agencies increased, and other activities. Settling, monitoring was set up to limit the number of acts of aggression against women and children and that was something that was done by the PDF. They also launched an anti-rape campaign in the displacement camps.

Although very far from sufficient to meet the current demands, these programs have gone a long way toward addressing the critical human rights problems.

What did not work? I just would like to mention some of the problems and we know that the list is pretty long. The camps, the IDP settlements, more than 1.2 million people are living in the horrible conditions in temporary displacement camps right now in Haiti, and some of those camps are in the key areas in the main city of Port-au-Prince. I am talking about the airport, Presidential palace, the squares. Those displacement camps are very dangerous. They are overcrowded, lack sanitation and are well on their way to coming permanent settlements, unfortunately.

Security is starting to be a problem because of those camps as well, and also because of the prisoners that escaped from the collapsed prison. We have been pretty lucky in the past couple of months because of the World Cup, that kept a lot of people quiet. Unfortunately, the World Cup is gone. People have less patience. The hurricane season is coming up, so I fear that security might be a big problem in Haiti in the next few weeks.

The coordination and cooperation, we cooperated in the beginning but that has slowly faded, I think. We all need to set a line our institutional objectives and reach out to all stakeholders, break down barriers, and focus on the outcome for Haitians.

Now from crisis relief to recovery, there is a lot to do there. Moving Haiti from crisis relief to recovery is much more complicated in Haiti than more developed countries. The PADF believes that the key areas that must be taken in consideration as we move from relief to recovery, as most of you know as many as 18,000 govern-

ment employees died in the quake. Many were mid-level technical specialists and managers. I think one relevant donors like USAID should require on-the-ground implementors to include a component that strengthen the Government of Haiti.

I am going back to the human rights. The human rights abuses and violence against woman and children has to pass the crisis point. They are a direct result of insecurity. The PADF just did a survey about 3 weeks ago, and in a camp in Santeis. Out of 4,000 people, 300 girls are pregnant, teenage girls on the age of 13, 14, up to the age of 18, and we are not speaking about the ones that are not pregnant, the boys that can't be pregnant, so we can easily see what kind of problems we could have in these camps, or are having in these camps.

The reconstruction, you know, I think Haiti could have a bright future because we have nothing left. You know, everything have to be rebuilt. We have to start over again. I think we have a great chance to think, to think green, you know. Finding sustainable solutions to long-term issues such as renewable energy, I encourage everybody to go in that direction because we have the technology to go there. Why not try it in Haiti and make an example out of Haiti, maybe for the rest of the world as well?

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Jean-Louis, could I ask you to summarize the rest of it in about 1 minute?

Mr. JEAN-LOUIS. Yeah.

Mr. ENGEL. And then we will ask you some good questions, you can give some of the other statements that you had.

Mr. JEAN-LOUIS. The lucky thing is I have 30 seconds left.

Mr. ENGEL. Okay, excellent.

Mr. JEAN-LOUIS. Well, obviously, the Haitian diaspora also are key component in the reconstruction and the rebuilding of the future of Haiti, and I am going to go with some of the ideas I have heard as well from Congressman Lee. The Next Step For Haiti Act, I think it is something that we should consider. There are some other bills as well such as the Haitian Enterprise Fund by Congresswoman Clark. And as you know the Small and Micro Enterprises, that is something that works as well. It worked in many other countries and I think it can work in Haiti because it creates jobs for the poorest.

So once again thank you very much, Chairman Engel. I would like to conclude by saying that so many organizations, governmental and non-governmental have done an Herculean effort to help Haitians during this unprecedented crisis. Can we do more? Yes. Yes, we can by focusing on strategic pieces of problem. We can continue to effect change on the ground. Eventually we will move from crisis relief to recovery. The challenge for all of us in this hearing as well as those in the field is to ensure that we select the right pieces and properly fund them.

And I would just like to add that PADF would welcome the opportunity to participate as one of the NGOs on the reconstruction commission that the doctor just mentioned earlier on.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Jean-Louis follows:]

Testimony by
Jimmy Jean-Louis
Actor and Goodwill Ambassador
Pan American Development Foundation (PADF)
before
The Committee on Foreign Affairs
Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere
Hearing on:
The Crisis in Haiti: Are We Moving Fast Enough?
Thursday, July 29, 2010

On behalf of the Pan American Development Foundation, I thank Chairman Eliot Engel, Ranking Member Ileana Ros-Lehtinen and other distinguished members of the Subcommittee for the opportunity to testify on Haiti in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake of January 12.

Today, I am appearing before this Subcommittee as the Pan American Development Foundation's Goodwill Ambassador and as the President of my own non-profit organization called Hollywood Unites for Haiti. Equally important, I am speaking today as a Haitian who was on the ground days after the deadly quake and have remained committed to the relief and recovery of the island. The smell of burning flesh, the cries of the survivors and the desperation of the people in the capital city will stay with me for the rest of my life.

As a Haitian, I want to say thank you to the people of the United States for coming to Haiti's assistance after the deadly earthquake. From the private sector to the government and from individual donors to the countless volunteers who worked here and on the island, I say we are fortunate to have a neighbor that is willing to help out the most disadvantaged during a crisis. Haitians will remember the generous support, acts of kindness and prayers on their behalf.

About PADE, the OAS & HUFH

PADF has worked in Haiti for nearly 30 years. The Foundation has been involved in projects that generate employment, promote community-driven development, improve rural and

urban livelihoods, protect human rights and reduce conflicts along the border. It also responds to natural disasters and humanitarian crises. PADF has worked with the Haitian people, civil society, the private sector and the government to implement sustainable projects from the capital of Port-au-Prince to the Haiti-Dominican Republic border. Haiti is one of PADF's highest priorities. To learn more, please visit our special website: www.ImUnitedforHaiti.org

PADF is an affiliate of the Organization of American States established in 1962 to encourage involvement of the private sector in development programs and disaster assistance. In 2009 we helped more than 5.6 million people in 18 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Organization of American States (OAS) is the world's oldest regional organization and today is comprised of 34 countries from Latin America and the Caribbean. It is headquartered in Washington, D.C. www.oas.org

Hollywood Unites for Haiti is a non-profit charitable aid organization based in Los Angeles. It works to provide education, sports and cultural opportunities for Haiti's most disadvantaged children. www.hufh.org.

Today's Hearing

The title of today's hearing – *"The Crisis Haiti: Are We Moving Fast Enough?"* – is appropriately timed since we just passed the six-month anniversary of the Western Hemisphere's worst natural disaster. The short answer is "no," we are not. Too many Haitians continue to live in despicable conditions with little hope of moving into the recovery phase in the foreseeable future.

This is not a criticism of any particular person, government or non-governmental organization. To the defense of all of us working to help the island, six months is a very short time period to address the massive destruction of nearly every aspect of Haitian society.

Even before the January 12 earthquake, Haiti was the region's poorest country that faced a myriad of structural problems. When the shaking of the 7.0 quake stopped, those problems were exacerbated. The average Haitian never expected a major earthquake. They worried about hurricanes, floods, food shortages and humanitarian crises. This is a new game for Haitians.

January 12 to July 12: What Worked

Nevertheless, it is important to point out what did work well during the past six months. This is a result of international kindness, the quick response and experience of a large number of well-qualified NGOs, the support of governments and the ingenuity and the united spirit of the Haitian people. Although the list of people, projects and activities is very long, the following are a few examples of what worked well from January 12 to July 12.

U.S. Support

President Obama's immediate pledge of U.S. assistance proved critical to opening a lifeline to Haiti. The Defense Department was highly visible and effective. On the civilian side, the U.S. Agency for International Development has worked tirelessly to direct aid and provide financial resources. While there is always room for improvement, the U.S. arrived quickly and provided significant life-saving resources.

International Private Sector

The international private sector and other donors quickly connected with NGOs like PADF to provide both cash and in-kind support. For our part, we could not have been successful without the support of Chevron, Royal Caribbean Cruises, Caterpillar, Federal Express and countless others. The Organization of American States, Missionary Flights International, United Way and other non-governmental groups were very forthcoming and supportive of our efforts.

Media

It took a massive earthquake to put Haiti's long suffering in front of the world. The international media arrived in force and provided non-stop coverage for weeks of the events as they unfolded. While some reporters remained on the island, many of the news organizations that departed did return at the six-month anniversary to continue their coverage.

Their presence made a difference for Haitians and the non-governmental organizations seeking to support them. The challenge is for NGOs and reconstruction authorities to sustain the media's interest.

NGOs & Programs

NGOs played a huge role in saving the day. Before the quake, they were often criticized for playing too big of a role in Haiti and having their own parochial interests. If it were not for their dedication, however, the number of Haitians who would have died or suffered needlessly would have been far greater.

Since then, NGOs like PADF have rolled out projects that have made a difference for tens of thousands of Haitians. I would like to highlight several activities that are working and may be duplicated:

1. Cash for Work/Livelihoods

Tens of thousands of Haitians have found temporary employment cleaning streets, clearing drainage canals and removing rubble. These cash-for-work programs achieve two important goals. First, they put money directly into residents' pockets and enable them to care for their families. This supports local commerce by allowing them to purchase goods and services instead of relying on handouts. Second, it is a major step in reviving devastated neighborhoods.

For example, in the Port-au-Prince area called Delmas 32, hundreds of residents moved tons of debris from selected areas. After their back-breaking efforts, little shops opened and some resemblance of life had returned to the once rubble-clogged streets and alleys. Delmas 32 has a long way to go before it can return to a pre-earthquake condition, but this was a big step.

PADF and a number of NGOs are managing cash-for-work programs that should be supported and expanded. Eventually, they should transition into longer-term, sustainable jobs.

2. Housing Assessments

A significant number of unoccupied homes may be usable – but Haitians refuse to enter them because they are unsure if they are safe. This project reduces those fears by assessing which buildings can be accessed.

Working in close collaboration with the Haitian government and funded by USAID, PADF's 100 specially trained structural engineers have "tagged" more than 53,000

buildings and placed them into three categories: A “green” tag means a structure is safe based on pre-earthquake standards; a “yellow” tag indicates it is useable but requires some repair and indicates what needs to be fixed; and a “red” tag states the building must be repaired or demolished before it is unsafe for habitation.

The tagging program is a critical step in moving Haitians from the deplorable conditions of the displacement camps to homes that are deemed accessible and safe.

Equally important, the Haitian government is creating a database of the tagged homes and their needed repairs. This will provide a good picture of the urban conditions in Port-au-Prince, which is an unparalleled tool for the government and all who are involved in reconstruction planning.

3. **Human Rights**

For years, Haiti has faced serious problems with trafficking in persons, forced labor, exploitation of children and violence against women. Three years ago and with funding from USAID, PADF launched a Protecting Human Rights program to focus on these grave problems by training grassroots organizations, supporting shelters, managing awareness campaigns and strengthening government capabilities, among other activities.

Nonetheless, the January 12 earthquake caused these problems to explode. The number of abandoned and unaccompanied children flowing into orphanages or wandering in displacement camps swelled. Rapes, violence and other crimes against the most vulnerable skyrocketed. Government ministries tasked with protecting women and children collapsed.

After the quake, a number of highly qualified international and local NGOs including PADF, the International Rescue Committee, Catholic Relief Services, World Vision, Save the Children and many others stepped in to help. Safe areas were established for children, medical services were provided, support to government agencies increased and other activities. Settlement monitoring was set up to limit the number of acts of aggression against women and children, as well as to educate the displaced population on these issues. PADF, along with the Haitian government, even launched an anti-rape campaign in the displacement camps.

Although very far from sufficient to meet the current demands, these programs have gone a long way toward addressing the critical human rights problems.

4. Community-Driven Development

A successful World Bank and government of Haiti program inverts the traditional development model which has resulted in sustainable difference for impoverished Haitians. Rather than depending on development plans set by well-meaning but distant professionals, this six-year-old program teaches communities to prioritize, select and monitor economic development initiatives that directly affect their quality of life. The communities receive a grant to carry out the projects. Today, PADF is working with 360 community groups in 14 districts with an active portfolio of more than 700 projects.

After the quake, this Community Driven Development program kicked into high gear as a way to assist more Haitians. Many of the urban CDD projects focused on the emergency response: rubble removal in affected areas, repair of water kiosks and access to potable water for the community, amongst others.

January 12 to July 12: What Did Not Work

Like the activities that did work (and continue to have a positive impact), there is an equally long list of failed projects, poor decisions and unintended consequences that must be highlighted.

Camps/ IDP Settlements

The word “camp” is misleading. More than 1.2 million people are living in deplorable conditions in temporary displacement camps, which sprung up organically as Haitians sought refuge from their crumbling buildings. Nearly all are impromptu settlements. There are a limited number of formal IDP settlements.

The shelter situation is deplorable. Fewer than 100,000 tents were distributed. More emphasis has been placed on tarps as a solution because they are less expensive and more flexible than tents. About 650,000 tarps have been passed out. It rains almost every night and the poor survivors are drenched. Like many other NGOs, PADF receives regular requests for tents

and tarps but have none to giveaway. Haitians in need don't know where to go for donated tents, tarps or plastic.

Finally, displacement camps are dangerous, overcrowded, lack sanitation and are well on their way to becoming permanent settlements.

By any measure, the collective response to this situation has been a failure.

Security

Port-au-Prince has become a dangerous city. The collapse of the prison, escape of hardened criminals and the rise of new lawbreakers have unleashed a crime wave on top of all the other quake-related problems. Regrettably, NGOs have no special protection from these gangs and individuals. This severely restricts all organizations from carrying out their critical missions – ranging from transporting relief supplies to working in the displacement camps. NGOs often do not have the resources to hire private security firms.

The UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti, known as MINUSTAH, has 8,304 troops and 2,261 police officers. They are dedicated and performing an important role in providing security and training the Haitian police. Both MINUSTA and the Haitian National Police lost senior personnel to the quake, which further complicates their ability to protect residents.

Unfortunately, they are too few people with too large of a mission to sufficiently protect Haitians and the people who are trying to support them.

Coordination & Cooperation

Early in the relief efforts, the system of cluster groups provided vital information and coordination among NGOs, the UN, governments and Haitian authorities. They were organized around key activities – such as shelter, education and health – and allowed everyone to have a snapshot of what was going on.

After six months, the coordination and cooperation are no longer what they used to be. This is partly the result of competition among NGOs, which are eyeing the limited resources for very complex problems. Besides money, this lack of cooperation is not the fault of a particular system, like clusters, or an individual NGO. Coordination is as much a mindset and attitude as an organization structure. We all need to set align our institutional objectives and reach out to all stakeholders, break down barriers and focus on the outcome for Haitians.

From Crisis Relief to Recovery

Moving Haiti from crisis relief to recovery is much more complicated in Haiti than more developed countries. Prior to the earthquake, Haiti's physical infrastructure was weak at best. The country was classified as food insecure. Economic opportunities in rural areas were minimal, which caused migration to the larger cities. Misery often followed these migrants. Unemployment and illiteracy were high. Finally, the country was still reeling from the four back-to-back hurricanes and tropical storms in late 2008.

This is the canvas that we are working with in Haiti.

As an implementing NGO with nearly 30 years of experience in Haiti, PADF believes the following are key areas that must be taken into consideration as we move from relief to recovery:

1. Strengthening GOH

The quake toppled government buildings and buried workers. It occurred when government offices were open, which resulted in the tragic loss of as many as 18,000 of its employees, many mid level technical specialists and managers. Prior to the quake, Haiti was slowly building its technical capacity after decades of nepotism, political favoritism and basic neglect.

In order to rebuild Haiti, government institutions and its personnel must be on a parallel and accelerated path of redevelopment. PADF's interaction and work with technical personnel in selected ministries finds them to be very capable but in need of support. Indeed, many are still operating under tarps and without basic technology such as computers, let alone supplemental professional training.

While the federal government is often the first recipient of support, the U.S. and NGOs must also place emphasis on local governments. Studies have demonstrated that these local institutions play a far more important role than imagined and must be supported.

When relevant, donors like USAID should require on-the-ground implementers to include a component that strengthens the government of Haiti.

2. Community & Civil Society Involvement

The most successful initiatives are the ones that involve the community and civil society. Good intentions without neighborhood-level input, approval and participation will have limited success. Organizations that understand and use this model will see a higher return on the investment. This is not only the case in Haiti but elsewhere in the Western Hemisphere.

When relevant, USAID should require implementing partners to include local partners into their work plans.

3. Human Rights

As I mentioned earlier, the human rights abuses and violence against women and children has surpassed the crisis point. They are a direct result of insecurity, unacceptable living conditions and, unfortunately, cultural attitudes. Prior to the earthquake, PADF released a major survey that found more than 225,000 children (most young girls) worked as forced laborers called “*restaveks*” in households in major Haitian cities. Although unacceptable by any standard, the use of *restaveks* was very widely accepted.

PADF’s concern is that there is far too little money in the supplemental appropriations bill to adequately deal with the human rights and victims of violence in Haiti. Plus, PADF fears that what little money is available will be shifted to support other projects. Building roads and bridges are critical to Haiti’s future – but they should not be at the expense of young boys and girls who are the victims of what is considered a form of modern-day slavery.

4. Repair & Reconstruction

The house accessibility evaluation program – better known as “tagging” – will help to move tens of thousands of Haitians from the deplorable conditions of the displacement camps to homes that are safe. The natural extension of this is determining the type of repairs possible in the yellow and red tagged single family, multi-family homes and business.

The U.S. government and multinational partners also need to allocate additional resources to repairing homes. Initial cost estimates imposed by funding agencies were too low – approximately \$250 – to adequately fix up these critical structures.

5. Haitian Diaspora

The Haitian Diaspora has a legacy of helping the island. Indeed, remittances have supported individual families, built small businesses and served as a safety net for millions who hover between subsistence and starvation. Today, many members of the Haitian Diaspora are successful professionals who want to give back to their communities.

Since January 12, there have been numerous, well-meaning gatherings with Diaspora organizations to rally their support and coordinate their efforts. NGOs and governmental authorities should incorporate the Haitian Diaspora into their plans. Everyone will greatly benefit from this.

6. Small & Micro Enterprises

As this Subcommittee knows, small and medium-sized businesses are the engines of job creation and innovation in most countries. Prior to the January 12th earthquake, small and micro-enterprises accounted for as much as 90 percent of Haitian employment and 70 percent 80 percent of the economy.

Nevertheless, this engine of growth has been constrained by decades of political instability and an inability to address numerous policy and institutional weaknesses that have caused arrested development and widespread expansion of the informal sector. Any strategy to reactivate the Haitian economy must be built on a vision of creating a middle class that improves its competitiveness through “the progressive formalization of micro, small and medium enterprises to transform the employment and tax base of the country,” according to the Haitian Private Sector Economic Forum’s (PSEF) vision for recovery.

The PSEF stresses that Haiti’s path to rebuilding must include financing for small and medium enterprises as key incubators of growth and employment. Indeed, the Forum cites studies that estimate a need for up to \$2 billion in financing and provides specific recommendations for Haitian reconstruction.

Finally, I direct the Subcommittee’s attention to an IMF Working Paper from 2007 titled “The Growth in the Dominican Republic and Haiti: Why has the Grass Been Greener on One Side of Hispaniola?” by Laura Jaramillo and Cemile Sancak. It shows that in 1960 both countries had the same per capita GDP. During the past 50 years the Dominican Republic’s per capita GDP more than tripled, whereas Haiti’s remained stagnant. The authors of this paper

conclude that despite the similarities of these countries, economic policy decisions are the key determinants explaining their growth divergence.

Conclusion

Chairman Engle and Representative Ros-Lehtinen, I would like to conclude by saying that so many organizations – both governmental and nongovernmental – have done a herculean effort to help Haitians during this unprecedented crisis.

Can we do more? Yes, we can. By focusing on strategic pieces of the problem, we can continue to affect change on the ground. Eventually, we will move from crisis relief to recovery. The challenge for all of us in this hearing, as well as those in the field, is to ensure that we select the right pieces and properly fund them.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify today.

Mr. ENGEL. Well, thank you very much for excellent testimony. I let you go over by several minutes because I wanted to hear your very heartfelt testimony. Obviously coming from Haiti you have a special relationship and it was very good to hear your testimony, and we will ask you questions, I am sure. I would like to ask the other witnesses to try to keep it within the 5-minute rule.

And I want to also acknowledge we have been joined by Congresswoman Maxine Waters of California, who is not a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, but has been a leader in the Congress in caring about Haiti. It did not take an earthquake to get Maxine to participate in Haiti. She for many, many years both in private conversation with me and things that she has done publicly, like Ms. Lee, I think the two of them have really been the leaders in the Congress in terms of caring about Haiti, and working for it, so we welcome Congresswoman Waters to our panel.

Mr. Worthington.

STATEMENT OF MR. SAMUEL A. WORTHINGTON, PRESIDENT AND CEO, INTERACTION

Mr. WORTHINGTON. Chairman Engel, Ranking Member Mack, members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to testify this morning.

InterAction is the largest coalition of U.S. nonprofits operating overseas. Our members were the primary actors on the ground as the earthquake hit and right after. We had 82 InterAction members operating in Haiti. Their staffing levels went from 2,300 when the earthquake hit, unfortunately with loss of life, to around 8,000 now operating in Haiti.

The key question that you ask is are we moving fast enough. I just want to stress the how fast people did respond in the emergency phase, and that the challenge we are facing now in reconstruction is largely due to the poverty of Haiti, the lack of capacity

of the Haitian Government, but also the limited capacity of the international community to effectively respond to an urban disaster of this scale.

I think one analogy I have, all of us have dealt with Washington, DC, traffic gridlock. Try getting across Port-au-Prince if you had 1,000 trucks descend on Port-au-Prince right now would just make that 2-hour transit to become 3 hours, so it is an awfully tough environment to operate.

Really to stress at first the resilience and the entrepreneurship and the capacity of the Haitian people is tremendous. To start with the issue of coordination, as Dr. Shah mentioned—USAID funded a coordination office for the NGO community that InterAction led. This coordination office was an important effort. Just to give you a sense, a 21st century disaster by definition results in church groups from Europe and America coming down to try to help. But we do have a situation where the 15 largest organizations, in essence, these private organizations are, these nonprofits are 90-plus percent of the resources and that ability of that smaller group and other professional groups to coordinate is actually quite significant.

I would also make a distinction of the Haitian civil society has often, a comment that you made of so many NGOs per capita and so forth, you mentioned one per 1,500. If you look at the number of nonprofits per capita in the United States there is one for 260 Americans, so I think this base of volunteer organizations is a fundamental element of democracy in a society.

It is crucial, however, that the international groups that come in are accountable. We have launched, thanks to funding from Federal Express and a partnership with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, a map that maps the major NGO activities, not just in Port-au-Prince, but across Haiti. This mapping effort continues to be under development as to where resources will be spent and so forth.

To date, \$1.2 billion has been raised by nonprofits in the U.S. Of this amount, \$978 million was for InterAction members, \$467 million was allocated for relief activities, of that amount \$323 million has already been spent, and \$511 million was set aside for reconstruction. Our challenge in spending is actually a concern that the magnitude of the relief effort will pull resources out of reconstruction in terms of private resources. I am not talking here, of course, about the significant partnership we have with the U.S. Government resources.

In terms of the way going forward, we all know that we are going to be confronted with ongoing humanitarian need while doing reconstruction. Our priority in the reconstruction phase will be resettlement, as mentioned by others, but it is important that this new commission on resettlement set up by President Preval will bring community-based support and a resettlement strategy. We do also have the challenge that in terms of sanitation and health, in many ways water and sanitation is better off in the camps now than where people might be moved, and there is this critical ongoing challenge of feeding people.

One of the areas that is critical for the reconstruction of Haiti is the relationship between the Haitian Government and Haitian civil society, and at this point in time there is limited outreach from the

Haitian Government to Haitian civil society, and it is crucial that this broad capacity of Haitian people be engaged.

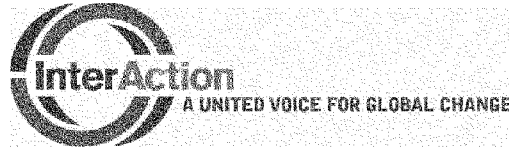
All the members of InterAction and other major NGOs are committed to working with the Interim Commission—to second staff to it, to help build the government capacity. To some extent we have seen limited outreach to the NGO community. We had the opportunity to meet with the Prime Minister and President Clinton last week on this.

To conclude, are we moving fast enough? The answer, of course, is a nuanced one. There is a challenge and a disaster side to point fingers at who can move faster or not. The reality is we have a disaster that has overwhelmed the international system's ability to respond. I participated in an evaluation for President Clinton of the tsunami response. This one, our coordination was far better here, but it has a long way to go, and I think the real challenge here is to maintain a focus on Haiti.

And I would like to suggest, please, if we could have some form of 1-year event because there will still be people in camps, still challenges going, and if we could have major donors refocus on Haiti. The American people were tremendously generous and the nonprofits, commonly known as NGOs, continue to do what they can to make a difference on the ground.

I would like to thank the chairman and the subcommittee for the opportunity to testify. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Worthington follows:]



Testimony of Samuel A. Worthington
President & CEO, InterAction

House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere

Hearing on, "The Crisis in Haiti: Are We Moving Fast Enough?"
July 29, 2010

Chairman Engel, Ranking Member Mack, members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to be here this morning, and to discuss the ongoing response to the devastating earthquake in Haiti.

InterAction is the largest alliance of U.S. non-profits operating overseas, commonly known as international non-governmental organizations (INGOs). With 192 members operating in every developing country in the world, we work to overcome poverty, exclusion and suffering by advancing basic dignity for all. Our members include service delivery and advocacy organizations, focusing on health, hunger, economic development, the environment, refugee crises, and humanitarian emergencies. Most of their funding comes from the American people and many have an ongoing relationship with the U.S. government. At the height of the humanitarian response to the January 12th earthquake in Haiti, 82 InterAction members were either responding directly or supporting the relief activities of local or other international NGOs on the ground.

The January 12th earthquake was the worst human disaster in modern history in the Western Hemisphere. It left more than 230,000 people dead and an estimated two million homeless. Haiti was already the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere with 80 percent of its people living in abject poverty. For INGOs like those belonging to the InterAction alliance, with experience responding to large scale natural disasters, disaster relief and recovery operations in Haiti are the most difficult in recent memory. InterAction members have been playing a critical role in the aftermath of the disaster, providing life-saving services – setting up mobile clinics, establishing food distribution points, coordinating spontaneous camps housing tens of thousands of the displaced, implementing critical water and sanitation services, and facilitating family reunifications. And despite the grim realities, this response has achieved significant success.

Since the disaster, working with the UN and donor countries, U.S.-based INGOs have contributed to the following significant results:

- More than 1.1 million people have access to safe water—more than did before the disaster.
- More than 4.3 million people have received food.
- More than 1.5 million households received emergency shelter.
- More than 90 percent of people displaced in Port-au-Prince have access to health clinics.
- More than 116,000 people have benefited from short-term employment compared to 14,000 people following the 2004 tsunami.
- Seeds and tools were distributed to more than 74,000 farming households in time for the spring planting season.

These successes are in large part due to coordination among the actors on the ground. Evaluations of the immediate response phase are still ongoing but mid-stream assessments show that, compared to the response to the 2004 South Asia tsunami, there was a greater degree of coordination between the NGO community, the UN, USAID, other U.S. government agencies, and the U.S. military. The UN's cluster system was activated within a week of the disaster; twelve clusters focusing on camp coordination and management, education, shelter, food, logistics, nutrition, protection, water and sanitation (WASH), agriculture, early recovery, emergency telecommunications, and health served as the internal coordination mechanism for the UN/NGO effort. Furthermore, within a few days of the disaster, USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) provided funding for InterAction to open a small NGO coordination office in Haiti. Working with the Geneva-based International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA), InterAction set-up this office in the UN logistics base. In addition to day-to-day coordination and troubleshooting, the office hosted weekly meetings to discuss registration, customs, human resources and other issues, facilitated NGO participation in UN coordination systems, and supported the participation of local Haitian organizations in the Post Disaster Needs Assessment and in the March 31st international donors' conference.

Furthermore, over 60 INGOs recently stood up a steering group. These 60 organizations represent a diverse spectrum of the NGO community: some are U.S.-based, others are based in European countries; some have a very large set of operations, others have a relatively small footprint; the group represents a range of relief and recovery activities happening not just in Port au Prince but across the country. The 11 representatives chosen by the 60 INGOs to serve on the steering group will collectively work to nominate a permanent INGO representative to the Interim Haiti Recovery Commission (IHRC). This representative will be accountable to and leverage the collective voice of the INGO community with the IHRC. The steering group will also oversee the NGO Liaison in the UN's Humanitarian Coordinator office.

Coordination in Haiti is a daily challenge. As new transitional camps are created to move displaced families from some of the dangerous make-shift camps, INGOs step in and assume

responsibilities. In one new camp, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) provided the needed camp management services, Concern Worldwide managed the water and sanitation, International Medical Corps its health services, and in order to avoid a further influx of new people seeking services, World Vision agreed to provide programs to support the surrounding communities. Three months after the earthquake, I witnessed CRS managing a food distribution to provide 60,000 people, living in the Delma 34 camp in the Petionville Golf Club, with food for a month. The food came from USAID and the World Food Program, and it was distributed through a managed process that involved hundreds of paid Haitians from the camp, with soldiers from the U.S. 82nd Airborne observing the whole process from a distance.

The response has not been perfect. The complexity of the disaster, the magnitude of problem, and the diversity of actors on ground created a very difficult situation in the immediate aftermath of the earthquake. Another factor is that INGOs and the UN presence in Haiti before the earthquake were almost exclusively staffed by Haitian nationals. The loss and devastation took a tremendous human and emotional toll on this community which meant that the initial relief effort was not immediately at full capacity. The recent report, *Response to the Humanitarian Crisis in Haiti*, completed by the UN's Inter -Agency Standing Committee (IASC) – to which InterAction serves as a standing invitee – outlines the primary achievements and challenges encountered in the initial phase of the humanitarian response. It also proposes lessons which can be learned including, better empowering humanitarian leadership on the ground during the immediate response, stepping up engagement with Haitian civil society and local authorities and ensuring their inclusion in common coordination mechanisms, better preparing for urban responses by adapting existing tools and resources for operations in such environments, and ensuring a better understanding of vulnerability within beneficiary populations.

One persistent criticism of the response relates to the multitude of INGOs that descended upon Haiti in the weeks following the earthquake. Approximately 1,000 NGOs are registered with the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Media, policymakers and donors have understandably questioned how all these groups could possibly coordinate with one another and with the Haitian government in an efficient and effective manner. To be sure, particularly during the immediate response phase, the multitude of actors, many of them well-meaning, but lacking a professional skill-set in humanitarian response, contributed to confusion and partly overwhelmed coordination mechanisms on the ground. Several points can bring this issue into clearer focus.

First, the vast majority of these INGOs have been created and are supported by the outpouring of compassion and interest from individual citizens in North America, Europe and elsewhere. Indeed this is the kind of response one might expect to such an unthinkable disaster in the 21st century: moved by media reports, posts on social media sites, stories from friends who have travelled to Haiti, and connections with members of the Haitian diaspora, hundreds of thousands of individuals have been motivated to act on behalf of Haitians affected by the earthquake.

Countless individuals donated to charities which were responding to the devastation. These relatively small \$5, \$10 and \$50 donations have combined with contributions from foundations and the private sector to create a tremendous amount of financial resources: InterAction estimates that U.S.-based INGOs have raised a collective \$1.2 billion in private funds for Haiti relief, recovery and reconstruction; of this, InterAction member organizations – often included in the ubiquitous ‘NGO’ label – have raised approximately \$978 million. A large and diverse collection of community-based organizations, church groups and other actors from around the world are also working in Haiti. These non-state actors and the financial support they’ve garnered directly express the interest and engagement of the American public and private giving from other countries and play a critical role in providing services following a disaster.

Second, while there are hundreds of NGOs responding in Haiti, over 90 percent of the resources are concentrated in 15 organizations. These 15 NGOs and other professional humanitarian organizations are exhibiting a high level of coordination with one another and are in regular communication with relevant ministries and other Haitian government institutions at the national, district and municipal levels. Many of these organizations have had operations in Haiti for decades, have strong bonds with local civil society organizations, and are working with local partner organizations in a collaborative process on recovery and reconstruction plans. Furthermore, 95 percent of the staff of INGOs in Haiti are Haitian. Given this profile, these INGOs are able to develop the capacity of local civil society organizations and facilitate connections between Haitian citizens and their government in order to, in the long-term, make the government more responsive and accountable to its citizens.

Third and finally, it is important to note that within the ranks of NGOs are many local civil society groups and NGOs. The INGO presence in Haiti before the earthquake and in the emergency response following the disaster not only served to fill vital social service gaps but also worked with or alongside local NGOs. As stated previously, the long-term objective of INGOs in the InterAction community is to develop the capacity of local civil society groups and NGOs as well as the Haitian government. Furthermore, the number of local groups in Haiti per capita is still much smaller than that in other countries, including the U.S. where countless independent sector organizations work in harmony with government institutions to provide social services and help hold public officials and institutions accountable. Statements about too many NGOs in Haiti, with some claiming up to 10,000 groups, ignore the fact that a vibrant and thriving civil society and NGO community is the hallmark of healthy democratic governance. Multiple local citizen groups and the influx of charitable and faith-based organizations from the U.S. and Europe, working in partnership with the professional U.S. NGO community, may complicate the job of the Haitian government, but they certainly do not undermine the country’s democracy.

As representatives of the goodwill and compassion of the U.S. and international public and as stewards of valuable private resources, the U.S.-based INGO community is committed to accountability. InterAction is engaging in an effort to provide further transparency to its

members' programs in Haiti. Together with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Business Civic Leadership Center (BCLC) and with funding from FedEx, InterAction is working to develop a web-based mapping platform to bring transparency and accountability to relief and recovery efforts in Haiti. Through this platform, InterAction members and other humanitarian organizations are sharing critical data about resource allocation and programmatic activities deployed in Haiti. The completed mapping platform will provide aggregated information about the different sectors, the financing of projects, and planned spending in Haiti of InterAction's U.S.-based members.

Also, InterAction released its "*Haiti Accountability Report: InterAction Members' Use of Private Funds in Response to the Earthquake in Haiti*" on the six-month anniversary of the earthquake. This report provides details for 38 of the 82 INGOs in the InterAction alliance who are managing over 1,000 projects in response to the earthquake. Building back better in Haiti necessitates the U.S.-based INGO community's continuing and accountable engagement in the earthquake stricken country. As part of this project, InterAction and its members are committed to providing the American public and Congress with transparent accounting of how all donations are being used in recovery efforts. The accountability report details how participating INGOs have used private donations in Haiti in the first months after the earthquake.

As attention has largely turned from the emergency phase to recovery and reconstruction, we must remember humanitarian needs will continue into the foreseeable future. Approximately two million Haitians remain displaced and an estimated 1.6 million individuals reside in 1,500 planned or make-shift camps. We must not overlook the continuing needs of these and other disaster-affected Haitians in the clamor to begin reconstruction. Particularly with the uncertainty of the current hurricane season, continued attention is needed to make sure humanitarian response capacities are fully operational.

Of the resources INGOs in the InterAction community have raised to date, approximately \$511 million has been set aside for reconstruction. However, because of the continuing scale of immediate needs, the NGO community is quickly spending the money it's allocated for the emergency phase. To date, out of \$467 million in private funds set aside for the relief effort, U.S.-based INGOs have spent more than \$323 million. The accountability report also details participating INGOs' plans going forward. We worry that in three to four months, INGOs will be compelled to begin drawing on resources that have explicitly been set aside for reconstruction. The international community must continue to support and resource the ongoing humanitarian response. The FY2010 supplemental funding measure is a critical step toward ensuring that USAID's OFDA – our government's frontline international humanitarian entity – has sufficient funding to continue its robust response in Haiti without having to sacrifice its life-saving activities in other parts of the world.

Of course reconstruction planning is also urgently needed. Planning must proceed in order to catalyze the current interest of the international community for sustained attention to the long-

term needs of Haiti. Furthermore, decisive action is necessary to ensure that efforts at this early stage effectively contribute to the long-term goal of “building back better”. Unfortunately, many recovery and reconstruction projects are delayed due to of the need to set up the Interim Haiti Recovery Commission (IHRC) and the weak capacity of the Government of Haiti. Moreover, a complex web of interrelated issues must be untangled before many projects are undertaken. For example, the UN estimates that 200,000 structures fell in the quake creating more than 25 million cubic meters of rubble. Before rebuilding can begin in earnest, rubble removal and other complex issues must be addressed such as land tenure concerns; the fact that many people were never legally declared dead; and, reexamination of building codes with appropriate oversight and enforcement. Specific priorities moving forward include:

- **Resettlement** – As stated previously, there are 1.6 million who are still residing in camps. While President Preval’s creation of a Commission on Resettlement is welcome, a community-based, donor-supported return and resettlement strategy is urgently needed. Such a strategy must acknowledge that enabling the displaced to return involves more than just rebuilding structures. There also needs to be an integrated approach that includes ensuring personal security, facilitating livelihoods, and providing education and other social services in areas of return. Of course some of the displaced will choose not to return to their pre-earthquake neighborhoods. In such cases, donors and INGOs should support the Government of Haiti in making transitional sites permanent and also making land available on which secondary resettlement can occur. Additionally, INGOs should be permitted to rebuild houses on the sites of existing damaged structures.
- **Health and Sanitation** – The reality that all parties must confront is that in some cases, conditions in camps are often better than life in pre-earthquake slums. In order to make health and sanitation conditions that have been achieved in the camps a reality in permanent communities and dwellings, the donor community can help to develop the capacity of the relevant ministries while INGOs provide assistance in building the capacity of frontline clinics and more permanent water and sanitation facilities.
- **Food Security** – Haiti is on the list of priority countries in the U.S. Feed the Future Initiative which is an important commitment by the U.S. government. In designing the Feed the Future implementation strategy for Haiti, the U.S. should ensure that the Government of Haiti has fully engaged with Haitian civil society in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of its Country Investment Plan.

These are the urgent priorities but ones that cannot be solved overnight. As the next several months and years unfold, U.S.-based INGOs will operate within a community-based model of development in line with broad, strategic policies set by the Government of Haiti. To date however, INGOs and others’ ability to move forward has been hampered by an inadequate level

of communication from the Government of Haiti and the Interim Haiti Recovery Commission (IHRC) regarding much needed policy change on urgent issues like land tenure and resettlement.

The IHRC is uniquely positioned to push for progress on such issues. Overall, we believe the IHRC represents a positive step toward ensuring that reconstruction plans are in line with the Haitian government's Action Plan for the National Recovery and Development of Haiti. However, the IHRC is still being set-up and its capacity remains limited. To date, our experience with the IHRC has stood in stark contrast to our community's experience with the UN and the Government of Haiti during the emergency phase. During the immediate response, INGOs were tied in at the highest levels with the UN cluster system; some of our organizations continue to co-chair sector-specific clusters and there continues to be routine access to the UN's Humanitarian Coordinator. But as plans for reconstruction have begun to move forward at the IHRC, NGOs have not been at the policy table and unfortunately much of the planning done to date has taken place without input from the international and local NGO community and Haitian civil society. While the INGO community in Haiti has been granted a seat for an INGO representative on the board of the IHRC, this position has not yet been empowered to play a critical role in the board's collective decision-making. The INGO community stands ready to be a cooperative partner with the Government of Haiti – to invest money in projects according to its plans and, where appropriate, to put money into government institutions. We believe we have a substantive role to play in the work of the IHRC and therefore ask the following:

- **INGOs should be able to detail capable staff to the IHRC.** We understand the tremendous capacity issues that the Haitian government is facing. Having lost a significant portion of its most qualified civil servants, the government was not spared from the devastating effects of the earthquake. Knowing this our community stands ready to second its staff to serve with the IHRC and is otherwise prepared to help develop the capacity of the Government of Haiti.
- **Members of the NGO community should consult routinely with leadership of the IHRC.** As stated previously, INGOs have well-established connections to local communities and are capable of serving as an invaluable resource for the government and the international donor community. At the same time, none of InterAction's members presume to be able to speak for Haitian civil society and NGOs. Therefore the U.S. should push for the fullest possible representation of Haitian civil society and NGOs on the IHRC and related institutions, and the widest possible dialogue between government and local civil society and NGOs.
- **INGOs should provide strategic leadership on sector-specific issues.** The INGO community has been active in Haiti for decades working to support implementation of agriculture, education, water and sanitation, livelihood and health projects; shifting as needed to humanitarian assistance in response to periodic natural disasters. INGOs'

experience in Haiti can serve as an invaluable resource to the host government, leadership of the IHRC and the international donor community on sector-specific strategies.

- **INGOs should be allowed to provide feedback into the function and design of the IHRC's NGO liaison office.** In the spirit of transparency and cooperation, our community is eager to work with the office that has been designated, as part of the IHRC structure, to serve as our portal to the IHRC. In order to make this office function in the most effective and efficient manner, we would like to have a means for providing feedback to its operations and strategic structure. For example, we believe that this office should have a key role in exchanging information, receiving and responding to inquiries and concerns from the public and NGOs, and ensuring NGO program alignment.
- **An appeals process should be a part of the IHRC's project approval framework.** Our community understands the need for the Government of Haiti to oversee and coordinate the multitude of recovery and reconstruction projects. However, we ask the Government of Haiti, donors and other stakeholders to ensure that implementation of programs and delivery of services to individual beneficiaries and beneficiary communities and institutions of the INGO programs⁷ are not unduly delayed or hampered. Furthermore, we would like to see an appeals process as a formal part of the IHRC's project approval framework. The NGO liaison office is best-placed to coordinate this process and could have an express mandate to examine and redress delays in NGO registration and in importation of goods. The office should also be able to receive appeals by NGOs against adverse decisions by IHRC.

As the UN cluster system is phased out, U.S.-based INGOs hope that the Interim Haiti Recovery Commission (IHRC) will become an effective mechanism for coordination between actors in the intermediate recovery phase and a catalyst for moving forward on much needed policies to oversee efforts. Over time though, the IHRC should be replaced by more permanent coordination and strategic structures: ideally, the Haitian government's own line ministries. Accomplishing this hand-off effectively will mean developing the capacity of the Government of Haiti – a long-term proposition that will take years of sustained and strategic investment on the part of the donor community. U.S.-based INGOs stand ready and willing to be a part of the success of this long-term goal. We are committed to not only serving the needs of the population but working in concert with and in support of the Government of Haiti.

In conclusion, the INGOs in our community are carefully budgeting their resources to meet the requirements of the three phases of disaster response. For every \$2 used during the first two: relief and recovery, approximately \$6 will be needed for reconstruction. Many U.S.-based INGOs are committed to working in Haiti until permanent housing is built, roads have been cleared of rubble, and every child has a school to attend with teachers.

Chairman Engel, Ranking Member Mack, members of the Subcommittee, I thank you for the opportunity to testify today on this important issue. I am happy now to answer any questions you have.

Mr. ENGEL. Thank you, Mr. Worthington. Mr. Reckford.

STATEMENT OF MR. JONATHAN T.M. RECKFORD, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER , HABITAT FOR HUMANITY INTERNATIONAL

Mr. RECKFORD. Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman.

Member of the committee and friends, on behalf of Habitat for Humanity I appreciate this opportunity to share with you an update on the shelter needs and recovery efforts in Haiti 6 months after the devastating earthquake. Before I begin, I want to acknowledge my fellow panelists and thank you all for what you are doing in support of the people of Haiti. I also want to recognize the hard work and dedication of each of our staff member and all those who are working so hard in Haiti right now. I am honored to be with you today.

Habitat for Humanity is an ecumenical christian ministry that welcomes to its mission all people dedicated to the cause of eliminating poverty housing. Since its founding in 1976, Habitat has built more than 350,000 home worldwide, providing simple, decent and affordable shelter for more than 1.75 million people.

Shelter is one of the most basic and essential human needs. It is critical to good health, stable employment, and effective education. Failure to prioritize the need for adequate and affordable housing will not only deny hundreds of thousands of Haitian a safe environment in which to live, but it will diminish the returns of other humanitarian investments and ultimately delay real and lasting recovery.

As part of our three-fold response to serve 50,000 families affected by the earthquake, Habitat has assembled more than 21,000 emergency shelter kits, conducted more than 2,000 structural damage assessments, and is building up to 150 additional transitional shelters each week. To date, Habitat has built nearly 400 shelters and expects to provide more than 31,000 transitional shelters, significant repairs in core houses over the next 5 years. We are doing this in partnership and collaboration with a number of organizations such as the Red Cross, as well as working closely with local and national government officials.

These housing efforts stimulate local economies through jobs creation, investment, commerce, and skills training. It is crucial to build houses near locations where Haitians want to work and where they will have access to resources and knowledge that will allow for growth and expansion.

While the arrival of hurricane season reminds us of Haitian peoples' desperate and immediate needs, it is imperative that Haiti and all of its international partners fully commit ourselves to build back better. The quality of the shelter solutions provided must be carefully balanced against the expected speed of their delivery. An effective house reconstruction plan that will enable families to be safe and secure once again must address factors such as the availability of land and improved security of tenure, land use and environmental issues, the improved delivery of basic services, including water, sanitation and transport, national economic development and job creation opportunities, disaster-risk reduction measures, the special problems and needs of renters, and particularly the expressed preferences of those who have lost their homes.

Policymakers and programs should also focus on helping families return to homes that are structurally sound, and assist families in fixing homes that can be repaired. In addition, efforts must be made to help families re-integrate into communities near their friends, family members, and livelihoods.

The land tenure issues that Haitians face are complex. Creating more permanent shelter solutions is difficult when one is unable to ascertain who owns the land or how has the rights to shelter when it is finished. Putting Haitians back into homes without secure tenure will subject them to the same arbitrary evictions and above market rents that they too often endured before the earthquake, and will also discourage investment in housing and the economy as a whole.

This disaster also underscore the importance of building codes designed to address the risks inherent in a particular location. As Chairman Engel noted, comparing the devastation seen in Haiti to levels of damage seen in the subsequent Chilean earthquake, which was of a far greater magnitude, demonstrates clearly the number of lives that are saved when adequate building codes are enforced.

As Congress and the administration work to support shelter recovery efforts in Haiti, Habitat for Humanity urges the U.S. Government to take the following actions: First, increase resources for rubble removal and for shelter reconstruction; increase resources for community-based solutions to land tenure issues with a special focus on renters since they represent a majority of the Haitian IDPs; focus resources on housing repair programs; work with the Government of Haiti and its citizenry to create a comprehensive urban development strategy and development plan; and make decisions with the knowledge that decentralization and resettlement are separate issues, and that housing reconstruction investments will only be effective in areas where jobs exist.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman and esteemed members of the committee, this hearing is an important step in meeting the critical shelter needs of Haitians. This is clear evidence of your recognition of the vital role that shelter will play in the successful rebuilding of Haiti, and I appreciate your invitation to participate. Habitat for Humanity looks forward to continuing its work with all of you and with the people of Haiti to help develop safe and affordable housing opportunities. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Reckford follows:]

**TESTIMONY OF
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY INTERNATIONAL**

**Given by:
Jonathan Reckford, CEO, Habitat for Humanity**

**For the House Committee on Foreign Affairs,
Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere**

July 29, 2010

Introduction

Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, friends and fellow panelists. On behalf of Habitat for Humanity, I appreciate this opportunity to share with you an update on Haiti, with a particular, but not exclusive, focus on shelter needs six months after the devastating earthquake of January 12.

Before I begin, I want to acknowledge my fellow panelists and thank you for all you are doing to in support of the people of Haiti. I also want to recognize the hard work of our staff members and all those who are working so hard in Haiti right now. I am honored to be with you here today.

Habitat for Humanity is an ecumenical Christian ministry that welcomes to its mission all people dedicated to the cause of eliminating poverty housing. Since its founding in 1976, Habitat has built, rehabilitated, repaired or improved more than 350,000 houses worldwide, providing simple, decent and affordable shelter for more than 1.75 million people.

Habitat's response to disasters

Habitat's global Disaster Response program focuses on the housing needs that arise from natural disasters and humanitarian emergency conflicts. We meet the challenges of these events worldwide using a number of integrated approaches that revolve around our core competencies of sustainable shelter and housing solutions.

We offer expertise in technical information; program design and implementation and disaster response policies, protocols and procedures. We also provide support and informational resources for disaster risk reduction—helping communities in disaster-prone areas protect themselves against future threats. Finally, Habitat advocates for policies that better prepare the public, private and nonprofit sectors to plan for and respond to disasters.

More than 60,000 families worldwide have been served under Habitat's disaster

response programs in the past 10 years. By giving communities the means to rebuild, Habitat has been able to support, empower and assist families in creating both temporary and permanent shelter solutions.

Habitat in Haiti

Habitat has been at work in Haiti for 26 years assisting families through a variety of housing initiatives including new home construction, progressive or incremental building and home repairs and improvements. Habitat also works with communities to help strengthen Haitian capacity in construction skills, disaster risk reduction and financial literacy as we operate in coordination with community-based organizations and government agencies.

As part of our three-fold response to serve 50,000 families affected by the earthquake, Habitat has assembled more than 21,000 emergency shelter kits, conducted more than 2,000 structural damage assessments and is building up to 70 additional transitional shelters each week. To date, Habitat has built nearly 400 transitional shelters and expects to build more than 31,000 of these shelters over the next five years. While Habitat fully anticipates meeting this goal, our success is dependent on the resolution of land issues and the ability of families to obtain secure land tenure during the resettlement process.

I will address three broad issues in this testimony: the nature of Haiti's shelter crisis; essential principles and priorities for effective shelter interventions and Habitat's recommendations regarding how the United States and the international community can assist Haiti in addressing these challenges.

First of all, I would like to put a face on the Haiti shelter crisis by telling the story of one family we are helping in Léogâne, a city about 18 miles west of Port-au-Prince and very near the epicenter of the January earthquake. Their experience demonstrates the very real and trying nature of this disaster.

Rose Flore Charles and her three young children spent January 12, 2010, at the Léogâne home of her mother. Thankfully, they were not in their small apartment across town at 4:53 p.m. when the building collapsed during the earthquake and three of their neighbors were killed. In that minute, nearly 90 percent of Léogâne was destroyed. For 16 straight nights, Charles and her children slept outside. In an effort to create a makeshift shelter near her mother's damaged home, Charles hung bed sheets with metal gates propped together to provide a façade of strength. The structure had only a green coat-hanger wire to hold a scrap door tight. In Haiti's rainy season—which brings with it swarms of malaria carrying mosquitoes—Charles' children suffered terribly.

"Sleeping in the old shelter, the rain always got in," Charles told us. "We had to go to the health center and ask for help when their fevers get very bad." As she spoke, a light

rain left beads of water on her shoulders and on her 2-year-old daughter, Guallina Delva.

I am very glad to report that the Charles family now has a safe and dry place to take refuge. Upon receiving one of the first 25 Habitat transitional shelters built in Léogâne, this grateful mother said, "This is not just a transitional shelter for me; it is a home."

By training and employing Haitians in communities hit hardest by the earthquake, Habitat is now constructing, as I mentioned before, up to 70 transitional shelters a week. Family participation in the building process is a critical component of Habitat's work. Rose Flore Charles, for example, helped clear the ground for her shelter and hammered in nails.

Haiti's Shelter Crisis

One of the greatest direct impacts of the earthquake for most Haitians, as with the Charles family, has been the loss of their homes. In total, nearly 1.5 million people face displacement or homelessness due to the earthquake. Shelter is one of the most basic and essential human needs: It is critical to good health, stable employment and effective education. A failure to prioritize shelter reconstruction will not only deny hundreds of thousands of Haitians a safe environment in which to live, but will diminish the returns of other humanitarian investments and ultimately delay the "re-founding" of Haiti for which the Haitian people have long awaited.

In addition to radically improving the quality of life of Haitian families, shelter reconstruction will stimulate local economies through job creation, investment, commerce and skills training. Decisions about how, where and when the homes of Haitians are rebuilt will have a critical impact both on Haiti's future economic potential and on the long-term living standards and conditions of its people. To ensure that Haiti's positive future becomes a reality, recovery plans must emphasize urban shelter and self-sufficiency.

The shelter situation in Haiti today, six months after the earthquake, is dire.

Before getting into the specifics, I do want to take a moment to recognize the tremendous ongoing efforts that continue to provide emergency shelter and other services to families in need. As of July 9, Habitat for Humanity and other shelter agencies in Haiti have distributed close to 100,000 tents and more than 680,000 tarps. This is a scale of delivery never before achieved in disaster response.

However, people displaced in settlement sites after the earthquake continue to struggle to meet their most basic needs. While original tallies estimated the disaster had displaced 1.2 million Haitians from their homes, that estimate has now increased to more than 1.5 million.

Of the estimated 570,000 people who left Port au Prince after the earthquake, well over half have returned. Displaced persons live in more than 1,300 settlements scattered across the affected areas of Haiti, with less than 25% having a designated camp management agency.

These displaced people face extreme uncertainty, as their futures are threatened by forced evictions, unsound improvised shelters and emergency shelter materials that have deteriorated since the earthquake six months ago. Moreover, the impending danger posed by a potentially severe hurricane season and the existing stresses caused by heavy rains are compounding an already difficult humanitarian situation. While more than 6,000 transitional shelters have been constructed to date, so much more needs to be done—and quickly—to deliver on the 125,000 transitional shelters originally planned.

The Context for Thinking about Shelter

As Haiti and its international partners seek to meet these critical shelter needs, we all must commit ourselves to “build back better.” Housing reconstruction should occur within the framework of a comprehensive urban strategy and development plan supported by the government of Haiti and its citizenry. That plan must take into account such factors as the availability of land and improved security of tenure; land use and environmental issues; the improved delivery of basic services including water, sanitation and transport; national economic development and job creation opportunities; disaster risk reduction measures; the expressed preferences of those who have lost their homes and communities and the special problems and needs of renters given that exceedingly high levels of the population of Haiti were renters prior to the earthquake.

Policymakers should focus on enabling families to return to those homes that are structurally sound; on developing programs to help families fix homes that can be repaired and on planning for the reintegration of many families whose homes have been destroyed and who inevitably will want to return to be near family, community and livelihoods. Policies of urban inclusion and support are essential. It is well documented that in similar disasters, urban populations have increased over time and the acceptance of and planning for that increase must begin now, ensuring that urban investments enable fairness and equity on the ground.

Special Considerations and Priorities

A number of principles, considerations and priorities must be considered in designing and implementing a program for shelter reconstruction:

First, reconstruction plans must aim to alleviate poverty and promote job generation alongside economic growth. From a shelter perspective, this means building houses

near locations where Haitians will work and where they will have access to resources and knowledge that will allow for growth and expansion. Local concerns, preferences and community infrastructures must fully be taken into account to ensure that Haitians take complete ownership of the country as it is being rebuilt.

Equally important are the complex and difficult land tenure issues that face Haitians today. Even before the earthquake, land titles were nebulous or unknown, with a high percentage of property in Haiti lacking clear ownership. The disaster has only made the situation worse. For example, deaths that occurred during the earthquake have not been formally documented, making claims on land by heirs complicated, if not impossible. Obviously, building shelter is risky when one is unable to ascertain who owns the land on which you are building or who will have rights to the shelter when it is finished. Putting Haitians back into untitled homes will subject them to the same arbitrary evictions and above-market rents that they too often endured before the earthquake and will also disincentivize investment in their homes and the economy as a whole. These issues must be addressed up front in a systematic fashion to ensure Haitians do not return to the uncertainties of their previous lives. A successful resettlement process depends upon the government of Haiti and the international community developing and supporting mechanisms that empower local communities and citizens to work together to solve land disputes and ultimately to ensure that security of tenure exists.

This disaster has also underscored the importance of construction standards. It is often said that the earthquake did not kill anyone in Haiti – poor construction and lackluster or nonexistent enforcement of standards did. One needs only to compare the devastation seen in Haiti to the relatively low levels of damage seen in the subsequent Chilean earthquake (which was of a greater magnitude) to see the number of lives that are saved by enforcing building codes that are designed to address the risks inherent in a particular location. Developing and following appropriate standards that can help ensure that new construction in Haiti can withstand the next hurricane or earthquake is critical to creating a better Haiti.

Any reconstruction or rebuilding program must take into consideration gender issues. Historically, in disasters women, men, girls and boys are affected differently and have different needs. Policies and programs must take into account these differences and ensure that issues such as these are addressed: the safety and security of women and children not only in the camps, but in the building design and construction of homes; equal access to jobs and other livelihoods; tenure security relating to joint ownership of land and inheritance rights for women.

Haiti is now frequently labeled as the “NGO capital of the world.” This is both a commendation of the incredible outpouring of support from the United States and the international community, for which this caucus is owed no small amount of gratitude, and a warning of the amount of work to be done in developing local Haitian capacity in

all sectors. International NGOs will not be able to support such large swathes of Haitian society indefinitely, nor should they. To ensure that Haiti remains vibrant, stable and prosperous long after the recovery effort, all international NGOs must work to increase the capacity of the Haitian government, local NGOs, community based organizations and the private sector to address the daily needs and aspirations of the Haitian people.

Haiti Shelter Related Recommendations for the U.S. Government

To address the needs of Haiti, Habitat for Humanity believes that the US government must take the following actions:

- Increase resources for shelter reconstruction activities. As the government of Haiti stated in March, 40% of the earthquake's impact was on the housing sector. However, less than 6% of funding pledged at the donor conference is for housing and less than 14% of the current US Haiti supplemental funding is designated for shelter. Special focus should be given to housing repair programs. Currently, only an estimated \$US 3 million have been dedicated to housing repairs.
- Ensure programs resulting from the Haiti supplemental funding targeted for shelter reconstruction take the above context, considerations and priorities into account.
- Increase resources for rubble removal activities, which is a necessary pre-condition to housing reconstruction.
- Increase resources to solve community-based land tenure issues, with a special focus on renters, since they represent a majority of Haitian Internally Displaced Persons.
- Support the development of a comprehensive urban development strategy and development plan supported by the government of Haiti and its citizenry.
- Increase the focus on and resources available for urban planning, housing policy and land tenure of all major reconstruction actors in Haiti.
- Understand that decentralization and resettlement are distinct and separate issues and that housing reconstruction investments will only be effective in areas where jobs exist.

Conclusion

Mr. Chairman and esteemed members of the committee, this hearing is an important step in achieving a significant, successful effort to address the critical shelter needs of Haitians. I appreciate your invitation to participate on this panel and to present shelter recovery recommendations based on our on-the-ground experience and conversations with Haitian government leaders and Haitian families in desperate need of shelter. This is clear evidence of your committee's recognition of the critical role that shelter will play in the successful rebuilding of Haiti. Habitat for Humanity looks forward to continuing

its work with all of you and with the people of Haiti, to ensure that as many Haitians as possible have access to safe, decent, affordable homes in the context of the much larger reconstruction effort to build Haiti back better. I will be happy to take any questions you might have.

Mr. ENGEL. Thank you, Mr. Reckford. Dr. Green.

**STATEMENT OF BARTH A. GREEN, M.D., F.A.C.S., CHAIRMAN
AND CO-FOUNDER , UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI GLOBAL INSTI-
TUTE FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT,
PRESIDENT AND CO-FOUNDER OF PROJECT MEDISHARE**

Dr. GREEN. Good morning, Chairman Engel, Ranking Member Mack, and members of the subcommittee.

I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today to discuss current health conditions in Haiti and outline the challenges and opportunities moving forward. My testimony is from the perspective of a volunteer physician who worked in Haiti the last 20 years and is co-founder of Project Medishare and the University of Miami Global Institute.

Within 24 hours of the earthquake I was on the ground in Port-au-Prince working with our Project Medishare team and created a major trauma and critical care field hospital at the airport. We treated over 30,000 patients and acted as the staging point for U.S. military evacuations to the U.S. Navy Ship Comfort and hospital in the U.S. and abroad.

In June, we moved to an existing community hospital which continues today to serve as Haiti's only trauma and critical care hospital.

In the health care sector the situation in Haiti was dire before the earthquake. That is why 1/4-million people died. Today, it is even worse. Preventable causes of death in Haiti range from heart attacks, stroke, and maternal emergencies to lack of blood supply, vaccinations, and a bureaucratic log jam in customs.

Haiti's plan for reconstruction is focused on decentralization and industrialization. This plan cannot succeed if there is insufficient infrastructure in rural areas to attract people, including investors, away from Port-au-Prince. This also means there needs to be an adequate health care safety net in these areas. Health care delivery and training need to be integrated nationwide, which is particularly important as Haiti's new health needs have changed dramatically.

Prior to the earthquake there were five medical schools and one nursing school. Today, there is one medical school, and Haiti has all but lost all of its health care education infrastructure. Committees formed lead by diaspora, mainly from the United States and Canada, were partnering with the Ministry of Health to rebuild these institutions, but since the Haitian medical system is mainly based on a French curriculum the participation of the Haitian diaspora is especially valuable.

Equally, if not more important in the training of the physicians, will be advance education of nurses and allied health professionals. Haiti's anemic public health system has long depended too heavily on NGOs, often with a different agenda than the government. Facilities outside the capital were chronically understaffed, poorly equipped and insufficiently funded. Following the earthquake hundreds of thousands of patients fled Port-au-Prince and sought refuge in the traditional home communities, placing additional stress on the already compromised health care system.

Haiti's health care system is truly on the ropes. It is important to ask ourselves whether we are attempting to solve Haiti's problems in the same way that it failed in the past, or whether now is the time for new approaches to help Haiti help itself. These strategies must include procurement reform, employment generation, capacity building. Priorities should be given to partners who have past experience, on-the-ground records of success, integrity and transparency.

Today the picture on the ground in Haiti is both encouraging and discouraging. Avoiding major famine and epidemics in the short term is a very fragile victory. However, lack of fundamental shelter, near collapse of economic sector coupled with the lack of flow of donor dollars bodes for a very poor prognosis.

Bureaucratic hold ups and a lack of focus on the needs of Haiti's masses do not allow for a cure which must be rapid, skillful and aggressively implemented.

In spite of U.S. citizens' donations of unprecedented amount of money to help Haiti, there is little evidence that most of these dollars have reached Haitian shores or are sticking on the ground. It is also extremely difficult for any organization that is not a traditional foreign assistant contractor or grantee to get inside the doors of those making funding decisions within the U.S. Government.

So the answer, Mr. Chairman, is no, we are not moving fast enough to help Haiti. Six months after the earthquake millions of Haitians are still living in inhumane conditions with few services available and virtually no prospect of employment or opportunity. The U.S. must change the way we do business in Haiti. Public/private partnerships are essential. Following traditional passive assistance will only lead to more of the same.

Thank you for this opportunity to discuss health care issues facing Haiti's reconstruction. Project Medishare and the University of Miami's Global Institute remain committed to rebuild a new and better Haiti. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Dr. Green follows:]

**Testimony of Barth A. Green, MD,
President and Co-Founder of Project Medishare for Haiti
Chairman and Co-Founder, University of Miami Global Institute for
Community Health and Development
Thursday, July 29, 2010
The Crisis in Haiti: Are We Moving Fast Enough?
U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Sub-Committee on the
Western Hemisphere**

Good morning, Chairman Engel, Ranking Member Mack, and members of the Subcommittee. I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today not only to discuss the current health conditions in Haiti, but primarily to outline challenges and opportunities moving forward.

My testimony today is from the perspective of a volunteer physician who has worked in Haiti for the past twenty years, and as co-founder of Project Medishare and the University of Miami Global Institute for Community Health and Development. Within 24 hours of the earthquake, I was on the ground in Port-au-Prince working with our established Project Medishare team including Haitian public and private sector partners. Together we created a major trauma and critical care field hospital at the airport. Since January 13th this served as the only such center in Haiti, treating over 30,000 patients. We acted as the staging point for the U.S. military medical evacuations to the USNS Comfort and other hospitals in the US and abroad. On June 6th, we moved to a renovated existing community hospital and today continue to serve as Haiti's only trauma and critical care hospital with adult, pediatric and neonatal intensive care units. In the health sector the situation in Haiti was dire before the earthquake. It is worse today. The success of Haiti's future goals of decentralization and industrialization will require infrastructure to support world development including roads, water and sanitation, healthcare, productive enterprise and markets. The solution must be an integrated one that engages all sectors in developing successful, local economic zones. Healthcare delivery and healthcare sector training need to be integrated nationwide which is particularly important now, as Haiti's health needs have changed so dramatically with so many newly disabled citizens. In spite of the reality, it seems that the focus in programming is episodic, depending on what and who is available at the time, without being part of a larger assistance picture. It is important that current assistance efforts serve as building blocks for creating a new Haiti and not just as mechanisms to address immediate needs.

Because the earthquake devastated existing program capacity across Haiti there exists a new, unprecedented need encompassing all healthcare programs and services ranging from critical care, trauma, and rehabilitation to community health.

CAPACITY BUILDING AND MANPOWER ISSUES FOR THE HEALTHCARE SECTOR

Prior to the earthquake, there existed five Medical schools and one nursing school in Haiti. Today, there is one medical school standing and Haiti has all but lost its

hospitals, clinics and medical and nursing education infrastructure with the collapse of these institutions.

The Haitian Ministry of Health is holding meetings with various medical education institutions and universities from around the world to recruit their assistance in rebuilding the medical and nursing schools. In addition, several volunteer committees have formed led by the Haitian Diaspora mainly from the U.S. and Canada who are partnering in efforts to rebuild these institutions devastated by the earthquake. Among the challenges include language since the Haitian medical system is based mainly on the French curriculum; this makes participation of the Haitian Diaspora even more valuable in these efforts. The Haitian Ministry of Health and government must determine whether curriculums will continue to follow the French system or will adopt a different model. Equally if not more important than the training of physicians will be the education of nurses and allied health professionals which was limited at best before the earthquake. It is important that such capacity-building programs expand, but also that they be part of a larger system of health care education.

A NEW CHALLENGE: MEDICAL CARE IN TENT CITIES

Depending on location and funding, medical services to tent cities range from substandard to excellent. There are currently efforts by the Haitian government and various NGOs directed towards providing better community health to encourage camp dwellers to return to their own neighborhoods and avoid the ravages of the camp which often include rape, the spread of STDs and HIV and increased maternal and neonatal mortality. These efforts have often been undermined by the lack of coordination and targeted funding.

MEDICAL SERVICES BEYOND PORT-AU-PRINCE

There exists a national network of healthcare clinics and hospitals throughout the ten departments of Haiti. Prior to the earthquake, this anemic public health system depended heavily on NGOs, often with a different agenda than the Haitian government's national plans. Facilities outside of the capital were chronically understaffed, poorly equipped, insufficiently funded and ineffective. Following the earthquake, hundreds of thousands of Haitians fled Port-au-Prince to seek refuge in their traditional home communities, thus placing additional stress on a poorly functioning national healthcare system.

FUNDING, RED TAPE and BEAURACRACY

Most programs we know are in dire financial straits in terms of funding security at this time and might be forced to discontinue operations if the bureaucratic red tape related to program funding is not changed. It is extremely difficult for any organization that is not a traditional foreign assistance contractor or grantee to get inside the door of those who make funding decisions within the U.S. government. It is important to ask ourselves whether we are attempting to address Haiti's problems in the same way that they have been unsuccessfully addressed for decades or whether there really exists new approaches to help Haiti help itself. In addition to greater expediency, we need new and creative approaches to providing assistance to Haiti that needs to be integrated, rather than sector-

by-sector. It must include procurement reform, employment generation and capacity building and priority should be given to partners who have past experience and records of success and integrity on the ground in Haiti.

CONCLUSION

At this time, six months after the earthquake, the picture on the ground in Haiti is both encouraging and discouraging. Avoiding major famine and epidemics in the short-term is a fragile victory. Lack of fundamental shelter and near collapse of the economic sector, coupled with the lack of flow of donor funds, bodes a poor prognosis. Bureaucratic holdups, cozy deals and lack of focus on the needs of Haiti's masses do not permit for a "cure" which must be rapid, skillful and aggressively implemented.

As volunteers and donors attention and support diminishes, it becomes glaringly evident that donor organizations that have successfully collected significant resources remain mired in their own bureaucracies which have prevented funds flowing to competent programs. In spite of U.S. citizens' donations of unprecedented amounts of money to help Haiti, there is little or no evidence of most of those dollars reaching Haiti's shores, or at least sticking to the ground.

No, we are not moving fast enough to help Haiti. Six months after the quake millions Haitians are still living in what we in the U.S. would consider as inhumane conditions, with few if any services available and virtually no prospect of employment. We must change the way we do business in Haiti. Following traditional paths of assistance will only lead to more of the same.

Thank you, Chairman Engel, Ranking Member Mack, and members of the Subcommittee for this opportunity to discuss the issues facing Haiti's reconstruction. I and my colleagues at Project Medishare and the University of Miami Global Institute intend to remain engaged as long-term partners in the reconstruction of a new and better Haiti.

Mr. ENGEL. Thank you, Dr. Green. Ms. Nuri.

**STATEMENT OF MS. JOIA JEFFERSON NURI, CHIEF OF STAFF,
TRANSAFRICA FORUM**

Ms. NURI. Chairman Engel, Mr. Mack and members of the committee, I also thank you for this opportunity to testify. I speak today on behalf of the president of TransAfrica Forum, Nicole Lee, who could not make it here today.

To answer your question are we moving fast enough, I agree with Dr. Green. Absolutely not. We are not. It is TransAfrica's assessment that despite the high level of financial resources already pledged and available, the efficacy of the relief effort has been undermined by structural inefficiencies, bureaucratic inertia and vested interested parties working to preserve privilege while giving the appearance of change.

This assessment is a result of six field missions to Haiti, including daily consultation with Haitian grass roots, and community-based organizations, and interviews with camp residents. Our assessments are detailed in our 6-month report, "Haiti Cherie" which has been submitted for the record. This oral statement summarizes the findings of this report.

Unprecedented amounts of money have been raised to address the crisis of Haiti. It is estimated that enough money has been raised to provide \$37,000 to each family displaced by the quake. International NGOs and governments alike have been quick to recognize the return to Haiti to the pre-quake status cannot be the standard and TransAfrica agrees with that. Unfortunately, it is our estimation that despite extraordinary efforts the crisis response has replicated flawed models both on the emergency response side and long-term reconstruction.

The present model of relief and reconstruction has effectively stopped Haitian civil society from taking leadership roles in the rebuilding process. Their inclusion in on-the-ground operations as well as policy discourses, including congressional hearings such as today, is imperative. Despite a stated commitment to include Haitian participation, long embedded prejudices and systems continue to operate.

Relief and reconstruction efforts have also taken place overwhelmingly in Haiti's crowded capital with few resources distributed to other regions where the need is just as great. Post-quake Haiti is being framed as an opportunity for further international investment in the poverty wage industry. TransAfrica Forum staff have met with textile factory workers who returned to work with no worker protection, wages so low that many have to walk home because they cannot afford their transportation costs. Left uncorrected, the failures of the post-crisis period will set a state for a reconstruction period that will be in crisis. There will be continued national and international corruption, human rights violations, wasted resources, and most importantly, the continued suffering and loss by the people of Haiti.

Today in Haiti, over 6 months after the quake, we have seen little progress. Many residents of Haiti's 1,300 internally displaced persons camps are living in the same limited security and access to basic goods they found the day after the quake. Conditions in

IDP camps remain atrocious. Haitian camp leadership TransAfrica Forum have met with throughout Port-au-Prince report resources have been limited since the quake. Problems faced by the people living in IDP camps consist of the following: Infrequent food and water distribution; inefficient washing and sanitation facilities; inadequate security, particularly for vulnerable populations; minimal jobs and educational opportunities; inadequate and unsafe temporary and transitional housings, because the emergency phase of this is clearly not over.

TransAfrica has been particularly concerned about the impact on marginalized populations, including women, children, the disabled, and the elderly. KOFIVIV, a Haitian CSO that works on issues of gender-based violence has recorded 242 rapes since the quake, likely just a fraction of the actual total, with no prosecutions to date.

There are issues of housing and shelter. I am running out of time but I would like to talk about the upcoming elections. If I have just a few moments, I would like to say that there is an opportunity coming up for Haitians to become very, very involved, and that is the elections that are set for November 28, and those are the Presidential and the parliamentary elections. They present an occasion for unprecedented civil participation, and voter turnout. But this requires immediate action for these elections to be fair and inclusive. Adequate funding, technical assistance, including the creation of a national identification card, updated electoral list, accessible polling places, and extensive voter education are needed.

The creation of a new unbiased CEP, which is the Provisional Electoral Council, to oversee this year's election should be followed by pressure on the Haitian Government to establish a permanent electoral council as required by their constitution.

In addition, inclusion of all registered political parties is the only way fair and representative elections can take place. International governments and NGOs must commit funds and manpower to create such an environment for elections which could give the Haitian Government both authority and faculty to effectively manage the country's reconstruction.

We also should really dissect decentralization as mentioned by Dr. Green, and we can get into that when we get to the Q&A, but these things are not going to be easy, but they are going to be imperative, and I thank you for the opportunity to testify.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Nuri follows:]



CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY

**Submitted by
Joia Jefferson Nuri, Chief of Staff
TransAfrica Forum
To the**

**United States House of Representatives
Committee on Foreign Affairs
Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere**

Thursday July 29, 2010

Chairman Engel, Ranking Members, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify, along with my NGO colleagues on *"The Crisis in Haiti: Are We Moving Fast Enough?"* I speak on behalf of President of TransAfrica Forum, Nicole C. Lee, who is unable to participate today. In response to the question "Are We Moving Fast Enough?" TransAfrica Forum's answer in short is a resounding: no.

On January 12, Haiti was hit with a devastating 7.0 magnitude Earthquake. The Quake decimated the capital city of Port-au-Prince as well as countless secondary cities; killing an estimated 300,000 people and internally displacing at least 1.5 million people. It is TransAfrica Forum's assessment that, despite the high level of financial resources already pledged and available, the efficacy of the relief effort has been undermined by structural inefficiencies, bureaucratic inertia, the broad scope of the disaster and vested interested

parties working to preserve privileged while giving the appearance of change. This assessment is the result of six field missions to Haiti including daily consultation with Haitian grassroots and community-based organizations and interviews with camp residents. Our assessments are detailed in our six-month anniversary report, *Haiti Cherie*, which has been submitted for the record. This brief oral statement summarizes the findings of our report.

Unprecedented amounts of money have been raised to address the crisis in Haiti. It has been estimated that enough money has been raised to provide \$37,000 to each family displaced by the Quake.¹ International NGOs and Governments alike have been quick to recognize that a return to pre-Quake Haiti can not be the standard. TransAfrica Forum could not agree more. Unfortunately, it is our estimation that despite extraordinary efforts, the crisis response has replicated flawed models of both emergency response and long-term reconstruction.

The present model of relief and reconstruction has effectively stopped Haitian civil society from taking leadership roles in the rebuilding process. Despite a stated commitment to include Haitian participation, long-embedded prejudices and systems continue to operate. Relief and reconstruction efforts have also taken place overwhelmingly in Haiti's crowded capital, with few resources distributed to other regions where the need is just as great.

¹ Sharyl Attkisson, "Following the Aid Money" *CBS Evening News*. May 12, 2010. July 27, 2010. <
<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2010/05/12/eveningnews/main6477611.shtml>>

Post-Quake Haiti is being framed as an opportunity for further international investment in the poverty-wage industry. TransAfrica Forum's staff has met with textile factory workers who returned to work with no worker protection and wages so low that many are forced to walk home because they cannot afford their transportation costs. Left uncorrected, the failures of this post-crisis period will set the stage for the reconstruction period: national and international corruption, continued human rights violations, wasted resources and, most importantly, continued suffering and loss for the people of Haiti.

Today in Haiti, over six months since the Quake, we have seen little progress. Many residents of Haiti's over 1,300 internally displaced persons camps are living with the same limited security and access to basic goods they found on January 13th. Conditions in IDP Camps remain atrocious. The Haitian camp leadership TransAfrica Forum has met with throughout Port-au-Prince, Leogane and Jacmel largely report resources have been limited since the Quake.

The problems faced by people living in IDP camps follow consistent themes including:

- Infrequent food and potable water distribution;
- Insufficient washing and sanitation facilities;
- Inadequate security, particularly for vulnerable populations;
- Minimal job and educational opportunities; and
- Inadequate and unsafe temporary and transitional housing structures.

TransAfrica Forum has been particularly concerned about the impact of these conditions on marginalized populations including women, children, the disabled and the elderly.

Haitian Civil Society Organization partners on the ground report that the security situation for women and children continues to deteriorate. KOFIVIV, a Haitian CSO that works on issues of gender based violence, has recorded 242 rapes since the Quake – likely just a fraction of the actual total -- with no prosecutions to date.

Due to inadequate housing, shelter and security, many women find themselves at particular risk while performing daily tasks. In TransAfrica Forum's interviews with survivors of rape and other forms of gender based violence, many women report being attacked en route to latrines and showers, when traveling to get food and water or simply while being in their tent or shelter alone. Remedial efforts have been made to address the sudden increase of rape including flashlights, whistles and increased foot patrols, but such measures have done little to address the larger problems of insecurity.

IDP communities are also facing immediate concerns of forced eviction. Spontaneous camps throughout Port-au-Prince are frequently based in the neighborhoods people occupied before the Quake; formerly open spaces are now crowded with sheets, tarps, and tents. Many IDP camps are precariously situated due to land degradation and safety issues that necessitate their relocation. IDP camps have also been confronted with private property owners demanding their departure. IDP communities have specific rights within international law outlined by the UN OCHA Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement²

² "OCHA Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement," *United Nations*. September 2004. July 27, 2010 <<http://www.idpguidingprinciples.org/>>

which include protection, security, access to basic resources and right to return. To date, the overwhelming majority of Haiti's IDP camps are in gross violation of these Principles.

Allegations of people's interest in staying in camps are both offensive and untrue. Notions that conditions are better than those people had before the Quake or that people are remaining in camps to make money by renting the homes they could occupy are cited as reasons to end assistance to some camps. As I stated earlier, the situation in the vast majority of camps is deplorable: limited shelter, no food distribution, an end to water subsidies, infrequent healthcare, nearly non-existent educational and job opportunities. Time and again, TransAfrica Forum hears the main priority for people is jobs and if people had somewhere else to go, they would.

It is clear that long-term, safe and secure housing options must be built for Haiti's IDPs at a much faster rate. The OCHA Shelter Cluster has proposed the goal of 125,000 transitional (or t) shelters to be completed by next summer³. Even if this goal is reached, it will still only provide more sustainable housing for about one third of Haiti's displaced.

Throughout the rebuilding process we have seen Haitians self-organize and empower themselves to build back better. Not without challenges, the Haitian government has been and continues to be unprepared and simply unable to rise to the task of providing leadership for the country and the international community. Historic mistrust of the Haitian government has translated to a pittance of funds raised going directly to the

³ "Humanitarian Bulletin Issue #6" *OCHA Haiti* July 1, 2010, July 27, 2010 <
[http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWFFiles2010.nsf/FilesByRWDocUnidFilename/EKIM-87343H-
full_report.pdf/\\$File/full_report.pdf](http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWFFiles2010.nsf/FilesByRWDocUnidFilename/EKIM-87343H-full_report.pdf/$File/full_report.pdf)>

government. Such a lack of support by the international community has also been demonstrated by the undermining of organic Haitian grassroots leadership in the community-based camps.

TransAfrica Forum encourages inclusion and leadership by Haitian CSO within the medium- and long-term rebuilding process. To date these challenges have included:

- Exclusion from the United Nations Coordinated Rebuilding Efforts: cluster meetings on the UN log base have excluded Haitians and Haitian CSOs. Meetings are conducted in French and English without Kreyol translation provided. While it is a positive step that meetings are moving off the base, accessibility remains an issue.
- Security Precautions and Zoning System has stopped aid organizations from being as effective as needed. Many international NGOs continue to use security protocols which limit their movement through Port-au-Prince, including measures that stop their ability to interact with and evaluate their own programs fully.
- International organizations, including USAID, have such strenuous and lengthy accounting and auditing requirements that local groups simply do not have the capacity to compete or process the proposal paperwork. Because of this, local Haitian NGOs have received limited funds from international organizations and governments, effectively excluding Haitian CSO.

Changing the model requires reinvention. Such reinvention in the midst of a crisis and its aftermath is not easy. We understand that creating recommendations and principles is easier than their execution, particularly in the midst of continued chaos and emergencies.

Participatory approaches are not easy. But participatory approaches will most effectively include Haitian civil society organizations with a long history in Haiti and commitment to long-term progress.

Expanding structures, like the UN Cluster System, to include engagement by local Haitian experts is not easy. Creating and executing policies that acknowledge the central role of women in Haiti's rebuilding is not easy. But women bear more of the burden during times of crisis and must assume responsibility for families. When Haitian women are empowered as agents of change the results benefit not only women, but society at large. Supporting a vision for new Haiti that is based upon a framework of human security is not easy but it must be done. Such a welcome alteration will mark a departure from previous development models and spur the development of Haitian-led strategies for rebuilding.

In coming months, there are many opportunities to increase the participation of ordinary Haitians. The November 28, 2010 set date for presidential and parliamentary elections, presents an occasion for unprecedented civic participation and voter turn-out. But this requires immediate action to be a fair and inclusive electoral process. Adequate funding and technical assistance, including the creation of National Identification Cards, updated electoral lists, accessible polling stations (throughout Haiti's IDP camps) and extensive voter education is needed. The creation of a new and unbiased CEP (Provisional Electoral Council) to oversee this year's elections followed by pressure on the Haitian Government to establish a permanent electoral council as required by the Constitution must be a priority. In addition, the inclusion of all registered political parties is the only way fair and representative elections can take place. International governments and NGOs must commit

funds and manpower to create such an environment for elections which could give the Haitian government both authority and faculty to effectively manage the country's reconstruction.

Haitian-led policy recommendations, generated by Civil Society Organizations and their partners, exist to support such a change. Investing in sustainable, long-term solutions for Haiti means supporting decentralization. Decentralization is not a lofty goal, but a concrete action plan. Haiti has been highly centralized for centuries, with most commerce, trade, education and jobs being located in the capital city of Port-au-Prince. This has meant Haitians outside of Port-au-Prince have limited access to capital and resources while those in resource-rich urban centers have been subjected to overt government neglect and highly-concentrated poverty. With such high populations and inconsistent building practices, the severe centralization compounded the impact of the Quake.

Moving resources and jobs outside of Port-au-Prince has not been a priority for the aid community. This has meant that many who initially fled the capital following the Quake, have been forced to return because of non-existent resources. In the medium- and long-term development of Haiti we must strengthen regional commerce centers, the development and support of secondary and tertiary roads systems and local and regional food production. In addition, financial centers, politics, educational and employment opportunities outside of Port-au-Prince must be a priority.

Solid suggestions for decentralization exist in the Government of Haiti Action Plan as well as the 2007 Poverty Reduction and Growth Act and the 1987 Constitution. It must be the

role of both the US Government and International NGO allies that holistic infrastructural development, with a focus on decentralization, be prioritized and that pressure be levied to hold the Government of Haiti to this standard. With the goal of Haitian participation and leadership we can work, in collaboration, to truly Build Haiti Back Better.

TransAfrica Forum is the nation's oldest and largest African American foreign policy advocacy organization.

Mr. ENGEL. Thank you, Ms. Nuri. Mr. Fairbanks.

**STATEMENT OF MR. MICHAEL FAIRBANKS, AUTHOR,
FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR, SEVEN FUND**

Mr. FAIRBANKS. Thank you very much. The recent press reports indicate that somewhere between 2 and 5 percent of the pledged funds have been disbursed. I think just on that basis everyone in the room can agree that we are not moving at the rate that we can. What is interesting is the reasons why.

The first reason is our planning method, referred to by many as the waterfall methodology, which means that requirements cascade toward design, implementation, verification, and then maintenance phases. The type of people who are good at that aren't the type of people who deal well in the environments of ambiguity and underdevelopment that we find in places like Haiti. So we are actually configured to solve a problem for a time in which we no longer live, and this is a very important strategic planning principle.

The second reason is that Americans are very prone to overresponsibility and then underresponsibility. We are there on the spot. We make big commitments. We speak with passion. We believe in our own exceptionalism and our ability to fix these things. And then 6 months later, when good things are not happening, we also are prone to point fingers, blame other people, make excuses, and then withdraw. I think we are still in the overresponsibility phase, but I think it is just about over; and I think the situation in Haiti is going to get not pretty very fast.

Americans are also prone to be sympathetic, rather than empathetic. Because we feel ourselves in a very powerful position, we fall into this trap of sympathy where overzealous donors bring their own experiences to bear on the situation, and take decision rights away from the people that we are trying to help. What this means is that our model of development is based on a massive infusion of financial capital, and expertise. We go to these conferences and we reenforce each others' values and we congratulate each other; and we are filled with esteem and we develop terrific narratives about our own capacity, which helps us to shape donor fashion and raise money, and continue on to the next place.

I think in some ways it is good news that a lot of money hasn't shown up. If a lot of money showed up, it would already affect a completely overvalued exchange rate in Haiti, which prevents indigenous innovation from happening. It would be the so-called Dutch Disease. Just like they found oil, they found aid; it would have the same impact on the economy.

When a lot of aid shows up it severs the sovereign relationship between democratically-elected leaders and the people. I spent the entire morning yesterday with President Preval, and I know for a fact he spends more time talking to aid officials than his own people. I know for a fact that he spends more time thinking about development than about private sector innovation.

So what can we do about this? The answer lies across the border in the Dominican Republic. It is a match made in heaven. They have unbelievably sophisticated capacity to innovate. They have 56 specialized zones that are world class. They have certain tariff relationships which allow them to export into the United States. But

their wages have gone up too fast recently. It has created too much prosperity for too many people and it has made them price uncompetitive. Haitian labor is very desirable and hard working, and their wages are lower than China.

If the two countries could get by the migrant issue and some of the negative attributions they make to each other, they could develop textile, construction, and tourism experiences that would beat China and the United States. It is a match made in heaven. The Island of Hispaniola could beat China in the delivery of massive amounts of textiles and apparel products in the United States, but nobody is having that discussion, so I want to give you a few very quick things that we could do in my last 45 seconds.

The protection of tangible and intangible property; trading patents; focus on the market access incentives; and fiscal incentives for tax exemptions of certain investments in certain parts of the country. Forget about the migrant issue between the two countries; de-link it from the free trade issue. It has got to be solved separate from that and by a trusted third party. Work on the production costs, most importantly, energy costs in there. Focus on the hidden taxes on the economy that other people have mentioned here, the time to register a business, the time to register a mortgage, and focus on specialized and advanced transportation logistics.

It turns out that the real impediment to Haiti's development is its lack of self-determination, its fatalism, its unwillingness to go into the world and compete, and the lack of a sovereign relationship between a democratically-elected leadership and its people because it is being distracted by a discussion for a time in which we no longer live.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Fairbanks follows:]

ENDING GLOBAL POVERTY IS SERIOUS BUSINESS.



Prepared Statement
House Committee on Foreign Affairs
Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere
Thursday, July 29, 2010

Michael Fairbanks
Founder and Director of The SEVEN Fund, author

**To: Chairman Elliot Engel, Ranking Member Connie Mack,
and members of the subcommittee**

**Re: Building A Culture of Innovation on Hispaniola: A Private Sector Framework and
Specific Recommendations on Rebuilding Haiti**

Six months after the earthquake in Haiti, international aid agencies have disbursed less than 5% of promised aid. Meanwhile, Dominican President Leonel Fernandez acted faster than any other leader in the world to assist Haiti. He traveled to the worst hit places in Haiti only two days after the disaster, directed all the "*comedores economicos*" into Haiti, and transported many of the wounded to hospitals throughout the Dominican Republic.

Haitian President, René Preval, is viewed as the most thoughtful practitioner of results-oriented politics and bridge building between contentious factions in the nation's recent history. His influence on the culture and politics of Haiti will, by most people's accounts, live far beyond his tenure as president.

The earthquake has reinforced what many have long believed: that the two nations are married to one another, and that the circumstances and leadership now exist to improve that union for the benefit of all the citizens of Hispaniola. Marcela Escobari, the Executive Director of the Center for International Development at Harvard, agrees, "There is no solution that builds long term prosperity in Haiti that does not put the Dominican Republic in a pivotal role."

What is Prosperity and Why does it Matter?

The challenge is to create island-wide prosperity for all citizens. According to Stanford sociologist, Thomas Sowell, "We need to confront the most blatant fact that has persisted across centuries of social history - vast differences in productivity among peoples, and the economic and other consequences of such differences." Nowhere in the world does this matter more than the island of Hispaniola.

We need to move away from a definition of prosperity as simply a flow of per capita income. I list here seven kinds of stock, or capital, that exist in the Dominican Republic, Haiti, and all other countries, the last four of which constitute social capital:

1. **Natural endowments** such as location, subsoil assets, forests, beaches, and climate;
2. **Financial resources** of a nation, such as savings and international reserves;
3. **Man-made capital**, such as buildings, bridges, roads, and telecommunications assets;

4. **Institutional capital**, such as legal protections of tangible and intangible property, efficient government departments, and firms that maximize value to shareholders and compensate and train workers;
5. **Knowledge resources**, such as international patents, and university and think tank capacities;
6. **Human capital**, which represents skills, insights, capabilities;
7. **Culture capital**, which means not only the explicit articulations of culture like music, language, and ritualistic traditions but also attitudes and values that are linked to innovation: trust, belief in competition, and self-determination.

This enables us to consider a broader system and the decisions for investment in an enabling environment. Nobel laureate, Amartya Sen, suggests "the advantage of a stock view would be to give us a better idea of a nation's ability to produce things in the future."

"A Marriage Made in Heaven"

Haiti is weaker than ever before. The highest forms of capital are gone. There are unconfirmed numbers showing that unemployment in Haiti is at least 70%. The country needs immediate, low-skilled jobs more than anything else. On the other hand, the D.R. has shed almost 100,000 textile jobs since 2000 because labor is too expensive compared to China. The CAFTA-D.R. agreement with the United States mandates that all textiles need to have U.S. raw materials to be allowed into the U.S. with low tariffs, which prevents them from being able to compete. As a result, in 2007 the D.R. exported USD 1.4bn in textiles, in 2009 that number shrank to USD 900mm.

Harvard's Escobari says, "It should be a marriage made in heaven. Haiti has lower salaries than China and under the HOPE Act, they can source fabrics from anywhere in the world (at half price of what the D.R. can), and still export it to the U.S. with low tariffs. Haiti needs to create lots and lots of jobs. This is for the situation in which they find themselves, not the situation they wish they had."

This makes a lot of sense, especially in light of the fact that a short time ago, FoxConn, the world's largest electronics manufacturer announced that it was raising wages by over 30% at its largest facilities in Southern China, where it makes the Apple iPad and iPhones. And, according to most analysts, this trend will continue throughout the so-called "special economic zones" in China.

So why hasn't Dominican integration with Haiti happened at a higher rate? One of the most successful Dominican entrepreneurs says, "I needed a bullet proof vehicle to go to my own factories in Haiti, I couldn't send my engineers there and fear for their lives. I closed two factories within a month."

Pierre-Marie Boisson, a Harvard-trained, Haitian bank director says, “It’s logical to have a unique island economy; but under current circumstances, the complete integration or one island economy scenario is unlikely, politically.”

He adds, “What we are facing is free trade, at best; in that case, the two economies’ great disparities create a great risk of *trade diversion* as opposed to the desirable *trade creation*.” Trade diversion simply means that a lot of the products that Haiti currently imports from other countries would be imported from the D.R.

Boisson says, “But Haiti itself would only marginally benefit, primarily because of existing impediments to business investment; we can’t liberalize trade without greatly improving Haiti’s competitiveness.”

Boisson is correct. The international products that D.R. would supplant generate custom duties to the Haitian government; and, this might hurt Haiti’s tradable production by eliminating any remaining degree of protection for vulnerable producers. So we need to move gradually.

Here is how it might work:

The Dominican Republic runs 56 successful free trade zones in the country, most of them private; they are islands of efficiency and provide a world-class industrial environment. We need to deploy know-how to a new “Special Zone” on the frontier between Haiti and the D.R., where the U.S. validates the HOPE act, and the D.R. allows ‘controlled’ legal immigration. The factories currently closing could hire Haitians, who are hard working, and combine this with the institutional strength on Dominican soil.

Escobari suggests, “Haiti/D.R. could create incentives to get Dominican entrepreneurs to create microcosms of efficiency and security in Haiti, and provide them the political and institutional support to help them succeed.” This also applies to both agriculture and construction, but there are few industries that respond as quickly to the right incentives as the textile industry. There are few occasions as good as this one, where the public and private sectors, working towards a common vision, could quickly alter the fate of an extremely fragile country.

Should the wage pressure in China continue, China would no longer be a low-cost producer in many lower value-added industries, such as textiles and apparel. This presents a significant opportunity for the Dominican Republic, Haiti, and other countries in the region. The logic of co-production, where textile plants in the Dominican Republic with DR-CAFTA benefits, combined with sewing operations in Haiti with preferential market access under HOPE and HELP legislation, could achieve world-class efficiencies.

All Haitians benefit if co-production, special zones, and the inevitability of free trade and integration encourages Haiti to put its house in order and adopt an effective investment-led growth agenda. Boisson warns us, “Having a market of 20 million instead of 10 million people can only stimulate investment, job creation and prosperity. But we

need to make sure that it is done for the benefit of the 20 million island inhabitants and not for the 10 million living in the D.R. and a handful of Haiti's richest businessmen."

President Préval seems open to this and has stated that what Haiti needs is not just a reconstruction, but also a "refoundation." This means the international community, the Dominican Republic, and Haiti need to focus on the following priorities:

1. The protection of tangible and intangible property: physical security and the protection of intellectual property.
2. Training Haitians: more incentives to train and give workers choices. They become a competitive advantage to businesses; it improves their power in the market place and puts upward pressure on wages.
3. Market Access: an incentive to attract foreign investment to Haiti would be by providing enhanced market access to major markets such as the United States and Europe.
4. Fiscal Incentives: tax exemptions for investments in designated sectors or geographic areas. There could be exemptions from local Haitian taxes, exemptions for co-production activities in the Dominican Republic, and tax credits to foreign companies in their home countries. Any taxes paid locally could be used to capitalize strategic investment funds, such as with the Caribbean Basin initiative a generation ago.
5. Migration: Solving the complex migration problem should not be a precondition for free trade negotiation; it should be part of a long-term agenda, and should be facilitated by a trusted third party.
6. Production costs: even if everything else were fixed, energy costs would prevent the upgrading of the economy.
7. Hidden taxes on the economy: bureaucratic red tape, i.e., the time to register a business.
8. Specialized and advanced transportation and communication logistics: investors will need to be assured that they will have access to global supply chains and markets. That means efficient ports, roads, and telecommunications.

Finally, we need to create "A Culture of Innovation" on Hispaniola. Culture is how a people attach meaning to life and it becomes both how others see them and how they see themselves. We also need to find role models and foster a belief in competition as a force that spurs human initiative and fosters creativity. We need to comprehend that we will never design or create a system where benefits are distributed to all parties across the island equally and at the same rate. We must, therefore, recognize that as long as everyone's lives are improved, it is all right for some people to become wealthy.

Most importantly, we need to stop the fatalism that places the locus of control for their future on the international community. Haitians and Dominicans share the burden of what Thomas Sowell called, the "vast differences in productivity" on their island, as they (together) will suffer the consequences of those differences. Citizens of Hispaniola need

to follow the historic examples of their leaders, Fernandez and Préal, and look for opportunities to take action and build bridges.

Mr. ENGEL. Thank you, Mr. Fairbanks. Ms. Balliette.

**STATEMENT OF MS. NICOLE S. BALLIETTE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR
FOR HAITI EMERGENCY EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE, CATHOLIC
RELIEF SERVICES**

Ms. BALLIETTE. Thank you, Chairman Engel and Ranking Member Mack, for calling this important hearing, and giving Catholic Relief Services an opportunity to testify.

My name is Nicole Balliette. I am the CRS deputy director for the Haiti Earthquake Response. At this time I would like to thank the members of this committee for the passage of the Haiti Economic Life Program Act, the Haiti Debt Relief and Earthquake Recovery Act, and for passage of the Haiti Supplemental. CRS is also appreciative of the other bills in support of the people of Haiti, and would like to especially thank perhaps Mr. Engel, Ms. Lee, Ms. Waters, Mr. Fortenberry, Mr. Meeks, Mr. Conyers for their leadership and support.

I know this committee and the world are concerned about Haiti and the recovery process. CRS shares those concerns, but good things are being done, and we believe we can overcome the immense challenges that we face. But we do want to be clear. Together we are not moving fast enough. We cannot consider it fast enough when people are living without shelter, without security, and without livelihoods.

We have already heard from my colleagues on the panel about the situation in Haiti prior to the earthquake, as well as the extent of the devastation with which the people of Haiti are currently suffering. CRS has been working together with the people of Haiti for over 55 years, providing immediate relief as well as long-term development assistance. Some of the highlights of CRS's response to the earthquake include that within hours or Haitian and international staff began responding. Our generous donors, including private individuals and the U.S. Government, began almost immediately to contribute what has become an unprecedented amount.

CRS has to date spent over \$30 million and together with our Haitian partners has made major strides in meeting desperate needs, including providing food, water and sanitation, shelter materials, health care, and protection services to hundreds of thousands of people. Although we and the others have accomplished a lot, I would also like to talk a bit about the constraints and some of our recommendations.

First, the Government of Haiti must play the leadership role in the country's recovery, but the success of the process will depend in large part on the actions of a robust civil society. We all must encourage and facilitate strong and effective leadership by Haitians and provide them with the support that they need.

Second, security in certain parts of Port-au-Prince, especially in the settlements, is a huge constraint on the ability of people to function normally as well as on the ability of actors like CRS to provide services. And if most vulnerable members of Haitian society are able to participate in the recovery, they need to be protected from trafficking, from sexual and gender-based violence, and all other forms of exploitation and abuse. Only a few years ago im-

proved security in Haiti was a great success story. Could this not be replicated now to facilitate the recovery process?

Third, the lack of an overall resettlement strategy seriously constrains the work of all the actors in Haiti. Current efforts are ad hoc. The Haitian Government must develop a holistic resettlement and recovery strategy that we can all use to guide our efforts. Linked to this are specific and high priority problem that has been mentioned here on the panel is the lack of places to install the transitional shelters. This is an urgent need that requires the highest possible prioritization, and two of the solutions have been mentioned—the quicker removal of the debris and the rubble—and then the securing of land.

The Haiti earthquake response is large-scale and complex, and having worked myself in places like Angola, Sierra Leone and Eastern Congo, I do know what complex is. But we cannot let the complexity prevent us from achieving immediate results while we also lay the groundwork for long-term development. We need to strike this balance, and we need to act in solidarity with the Haitian people to help ensure not only that the right things are done, but that they are done in the right way.

The solution requires the leadership of the Government of Haiti acting in partnership with civil society, including key actors like the church in Haiti, and the support and assistance of international actors, including the U.S. Government. There is trauma and devastation in Haiti. There is no doubt. But there is also hope and I would like to share a story that gives me some hope.

Within hours of the quake our Haitian staff in Les Cayes in the southern peninsula they got together. They loaded up trucks with food and non-food items, and they hit the road. They came to Port-au-Prince. They were worried about their own families, their own friends, but they were worried about their colleagues as well and all the victims of the disaster.

When I was in Haiti recently, I was co-facilitating a workshop with some partners, and I heard similar stories from Carry Toss Haiti, from the government of people who did the same thing throughout the country. This illustrates for me that when the need is great and the actions to be taken are clear people will find a way.

The stage of the recovery process that we are in now is perhaps more confusing. So much needs to be done and there are so many different ways to do it. But with leadership and direction to guide our efforts we can find a way. We are grateful for all of your efforts, and those of other members of the U.S. Government to do what you can to support the people of Haiti. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Balliette follows:]

Testimony by

Nicole S. Balliette

Deputy Director, Haiti Earthquake Emergency Response

Catholic Relief Services (CRS)

Presented to:

Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere

House Committee on Foreign Affairs

“The Crisis in Haiti: Are We Moving Fast Enough?”

Thursday, July 29th, 2010

- I. Thank you Chairman Engel (NY) and Ranking Member Mack (FL) for calling this very important hearing and giving Catholic Relief Services an opportunity to testify before this committee. My name is Nicole Balliette and I am the CRS’ Deputy Director, Haiti Earthquake Emergency Response. With the committee’s permission, I would like to enter my full written testimony for the record and I will summarize it orally. At this time, I would like to thank the members of this committee for the passage of the Haiti Economic Lift Program Act of 2010 (H.R. 5160), the Haiti Debt Relief and Earthquake Recovery Act of 2010 (H.R. 4573), and for swift passage of the Haiti supplemental. CRS would also like to thank Mr. Conyers (MI) for introducing the HEAR Act which would provide \$3 billion over five years to aid in the recovery and rebuilding process.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation for the generous financial and technical assistance provided by the US government to CRS and other actors in Haiti, which has been fundamental to what has been accomplished. Included in this is the positive service of US military personnel, who in the early days of the response provided the security necessary to allow for immediate and life-saving humanitarian interventions.

We have passed the six-month mark, and I know this Committee and the world are concerned about Haiti and the recovery and reconstruction process. CRS shares those concerns, but believes that despite the immense challenges, with effective leadership from the Haiti Government, widespread participation from civil society, and strong support from the US and other governments and agencies, we can overcome those challenges and achieve the sustainable and just recovery that the Haitian people deserve.

But are we moving fast enough toward that goal? NO! It’s never fast enough when people are without shelter, security, livelihoods. We have accomplished a lot, but there are still many challenges that need to be overcome, and it will not be easy.

II. Background:

Pre-Earthquake, Haiti already had the highest poverty levels in the Western Hemisphere, as well as underdeveloped systems and structures needed for just and sustainable development. A comparison with the recent earthquake in Chile illustrates how these underlying factors, more than the earthquake itself, caused the devastation with which the people of Haiti are currently struggling.

CRS has been working together with the people of Haiti for over 55 years, in the areas of health, water and sanitation, agriculture and food security, livelihood security, protection, and education. Prior to the earthquake, we had just over 300 staff in Haiti, including a handful of international staff (we have now expanded to more than 500 staff including around 30 international staff). Over the years, CRS has provided immediate relief when needed, and, through our development programs, has helped the people of Haiti learn the skills and access the tools they need to lift themselves out of dire poverty.

The trauma caused by the earthquake necessitates that we strengthen both our own commitment of solidarity, and the relationships that we have with the Haitian people. For the recovery process to succeed, we need to help people heal as well as recover, and we need to help them fully exercise their individual and collective power to affect a wider and deeper process of constructive social change.

III. Positive aspects of CRS' earthquake response in Haiti

Within hours of the disaster, our Haitian and international staff began responding. Our generous donors began immediately contributing what has become an unprecedented amount. CRS has to date spent over \$30 million and has made major strides in meeting desperate needs, including:

- Provided food to nearly 900,000 people. Currently providing food to more than 100,000 children in over 270 schools and 100 orphanages and child-care centers in Port-au-Prince and Les Cayes.
- Provided emergency shelter materials to more than 114,000 people.
- CRS health care teams performed over 960 emergency operations and conducted 62,000 outpatient consultations.
- Supported hundreds of thousands of people with food, water, sanitation, shelter materials and protection activities, including at two of the largest camps for the displaced. Established five "child-friendly spaces" for unaccompanied children at camps, regularly attended by more than 1,500 children.
- Initiated family tracing and reunification activities in targeted areas in Haiti, including the northeast border area, where we also work with partners on a sexual and gender-based violence referral network and a safe house for survivors of such violence.
- Installed over 600 latrines and hand-washing stations, as well as potable water tanks and inflatable water bladders in Port-au-Prince and environs, providing an estimated 375,000 gallons of water per month.
- Worked with our Caritas Haiti partners from the local Church to update contingency plans and reposition relief items in anticipation of the hurricane season.

- Provided assistance to numerous local and international partners in Haiti.

Thanks to the generosity of public donors and charitable individuals, CRS continues to expand our programming to ensure that life saving and enhancing services are benefitting the largest possible number of vulnerable people in an accountable and transparent way. To make that happen, we are working with the government of Haiti, UN and other international agencies (including through the cluster system), the Church in Haiti and other civil society actors, to ensure a coordinated and effective response. If we do our job right, the Haitian people will gradually become less dependent on external assistance, and better able to independently withstand future disasters. CRS' goal is for Haitians to live dynamic, productive, and dignified lives, and we believe that we must now lay the groundwork for accomplishing that goal.

IV. Constraints and Recommendations

1. The Government of Haiti must play the leadership role in the country's recovery, but the success of the process will depend in large part on the actions of a robust civil society that defends, promotes and responds to the interests and needs of poor and marginalized Haitians, and monitors transparency and accountability on the part of their government. Strong and effective leadership by Haitians must be encouraged and facilitated, so all actors involved in the rebuilding of Haiti help strengthen the capacity of civil society and government agencies. The hardware of infrastructure development alone cannot lead to thriving communities. Such reconstruction and infrastructural development will only be successful if strong leaders and effective institutions, systems and structures are in place across society (education, health care, public transportation, government, economy, markets, banks, etc).

CRS will continue to work closely together with the government of Haiti, the Church in Haiti, Haitian civil society and other international and local actors to help ensure not only that the right things are done, but also that they are done in the right way. We understand that strong relationships, mutual respect and an understanding of the context and the different capacities we all have are the basis of good and sustainable development.

2. Security is a huge constraint on the ability of actors to provide services to vulnerable people. In the few areas designated as transitional camps, it is extremely difficult to provide the necessary services because new families continue to pour into the camps, causing them to be overcrowded and insecure. Only a few years ago improved security in Haiti was a great success story--could this not be replicated in a way that will allow vulnerable people to protect themselves and their families, and at the same time allow humanitarian actors to provide the services those people need, including the installation of transitional shelters?

If the most vulnerable members of Haitian society are to have a voice in the recovery process, they need to be both protected and empowered. Women, children, the elderly and the disabled are especially vulnerable when displaced from their homes. If they cannot keep themselves and their families safe, they cannot contribute to ensuring that the recovery process is both successful and just. This means protecting women and children from trafficking, sexual- and gender-based violence and all other forms of abuse and exploitation.

3. **Resettlement Strategy:** The lack of an overall resettlement strategy seriously constrains the work of all the actors in Haiti. Current efforts seem to be *ad hoc*, camp by camp, etc. The Haitian government must develop a holistic resettlement strategy that all relief and development partners can use to guide their efforts, so that more and more Haitian people can return to something resembling normal life.
4. **Transitional Shelters:** A specific and high-priority problem linked to the prior point is that although many of the actors in Haiti have the materials and are ready to construct tens of thousands of transitional shelters, we don't have enough places to install them. Space for transitional shelters is an urgent need that requires the highest possible prioritization. Two of the primary solutions to this problem are:
 - Remove the rubble and debris more quickly so people can have their houses repaired or can erect transitional shelter on their home sites, or the home sites of their families or friends. Our preference is for families to be provided with shelter on home sites, where they can tap into their traditional support networks and capitalize on their familiar coping strategies, which is more difficult if they are living in settlements in unfamiliar areas.
 - Allocate and secure land so that transitional shelters and other services can be provided for those people who are unable to move to home sites.

These solutions require the leadership of the Government of Haiti, the collaboration of the Church and civil society, and the support and assistance of others, including the US government. Until these solutions are implemented, too many Haitians will continue to suffer with the overcrowded, insecure and inadequate conditions in the emergency settlements.

V. Conclusion

Civil society actors including the Catholic Church, which has a significant communal and institutional presence in Haiti, must play a prominent role in promoting, advocating for, monitoring and evaluating strategies and plans. An effective communication and participation process that includes civil society should be established. The Church is an important actor in the recovery process, particularly spiritually, but also in the health and education fields, providing hundreds of thousands with critical social services. The recovery effort must include better efforts to tap these and other significant actors in Haiti's civil society and engage them to be partners with the government of Haiti in the planning and implementation of the country's recovery.

The Haiti earthquake response is large-scale and complex. It requires dedicated, organized and cooperative efforts, with Haitians leading the way. But we can't let the complexity prevent us from achieving immediate results, while we also lay the groundwork for long-term development. We need to strike a balance. In addition, we need to continue to have active engagement by international actors to ensure that Haitian leadership and society are able to transition from business as usual and use the opportunity to "build back better".

Mr. ENGEL. Well, thank you very much, and thank you all for wonderful testimony. I want to say for me, and I know I speak for Mr. Mack, we appreciate the hard work that all of you have done and the help that you have given the people of Haiti, and helping us to focus on what we should be doing in the Congress.

Dr. Green, let me start with you. You talked about the medical schools and things that have been destroyed. What about the hospitals? I am told that there is virtually perhaps one hospital, or a lot of the hospitals have been destroyed. What can we do to make sure that there is enough care, that perhaps the hospitals are rebuilt? What should the Congress be doing to help ensure that?

Dr. GREEN. Well, I think there has to be a coordinated plan, and that really has to be integrated through all the sectors. You can't isolate health care without housing and agriculture and micro finance and all the components. There was a very feeble system that was there before that really was not effective, and so in Port-au-Prince right now we have moved into a preexisting community hospital. We have strengthened it, and we are running as a critical care hospital. It is the only one in the country.

There is a network of regional community hospitals, most of which are run by NGOs, and there is also national hospitals. They are underequipped and understaffed. There needs to be a national plan for public health and there needs to be a national plan for critical care and rehabilitation, and what Project Medishare is doing is creating a public/private partnership to create a national network of critical care and trauma centers in disaster response so this never happens again.

But it is not going to be Ministry of Health. It is in partnership with the Ministry under the government's control, but it is a foundation that will be self-sustaining through a catastrophic insurance plan, and this is what we need—sustainable systems, because if you create, if you build hospitals, how do you sustain them? How do you fund them? And this is why we are looking to the private sector to partnership with the public sector to create the income necessary to support the public mission. I think that is the clue.

Mr. ENGEL. Do you think that the prioritization has been wrong? Do you think that the health care needs have been pushed down in the scale in terms of the international community response, or do you think that it has been adequate and that it is moving along fairly well?

Dr. GREEN. You asked the wrong person. It is really unfair, because the formulas for countries like ours where the GNP is say maybe 4 percent health care, but in Haiti there is no infrastructure. So when they take 4 percent of the reconstruction money, it is a joke because there is no hospitals, there is not one hospital in Haiti except our with a ventilator, with oxygen in the walls, with sterile operating rooms for \$10 million. So it has to be a balance of community health along with specialized center, and I can tell you in the central plateau, which is the most isolated part of Haiti, we serve over 100,000 Haitian citizens in a very isolated area for less than \$10 a year per person, child birth through geriatrics. We have a model. We have to fund that model in cooperation with the government, the ministry and the NGOs working together.

Mr. ENGEL. Amazing, you do amazing work, and we are all grateful to you for it. Thank you.

Let me ask Mr. Reckford. Cheryl Mills said at the State Department on the 6th-month anniversary that the international community has pledged about 125,000 shelters which would cover about 6,000 people. Now we know we have the onset of the hurricane season. It is coming soon. So how quickly can these temporary shelters be built, and what will happen to the hundreds of thousands of others who will not be able to move into a structurally sound shelter?

Mr. RECKFORD. I think capacity is ramping up quickly. It is certainly slower than we or anyone else would like. Due to the core issue, and I think there is starting to be attention on it, is really the land issue. So what is the system for titling land, allocating land, and providing for secure tenure for families so as we put them in?

I think there are going to be two types of shelters, transitional shelters that could be moved or reused or recycled, and then our preference where there land issues would be upgradable transitional shelters that actually can be turned into permanent housing ideally.

I think the shelters are designed—the ones we are building are designed to withstand 100-mile-an-hour winds, so they would help in a Category 1 plus hurricane, and then realistically we are stockpiling emergency materials in the case of a more devastating hurricane to be able to support families, but it is a huge issue and the faster we can get land issues, I think, as well as the supply chain of materials the faster Habitat and other groups can ramp up their production.

Mr. ENGEL. Let me ask anyone on the panel who would care to answer. Can you describe the bottlenecks to improving shelter such as land and building materials, supply chain constraints, and how the U.S. Government is working to address this issue? How do you envision a robust repair program for existing damaged homes that will help to accelerate the transition? Anybody would care to comment based on your experience.

Mr. WORTHINGTON. You asked a very tough question, and the roadblocks are in many places. It goes from getting goods through customs to other issues. You mentioned the roads earlier. If you had to make a new road through Port-au-Prince, you would have to displace people; the ability of the government to make decisions that then are actually implemented on the ground is constrained. There are decisions made at the Presidential level but it is very difficult since there is such poor infrastructure, I believe to carry out those decisions it took 7–8 weeks just to identify the first piece of land where you could move people from some of the camps.

There is a recognition that this needs to change, and in many ways it reflects the fact, unfortunately, that the key people in the Ministry of Planning were killed during the earthquake. Also it is not just the challenge of the government in doing this. It is the ability of the international community to help people, as Dr. Shah mentioned, to move back into some of these houses that are green, and to reconstruct the ones that are yellow.

There is a significant psychological challenge that the people of Haiti face. The number of individuals who say, “I do not want a

concrete roof over my head” is enormous. So even though there are good houses, you have people living in tents outside those houses because they are afraid to move in. One of the good things about transitional shelters is they are wood and you do not have that psychological barrier. But to be very candid, we are talking years here, and it is going to be a slow process because you have both the psychological, bureaucratic and capacity issues that stand in the way of making this idea a solution.

Mr. ENGEL. I will give Ms. Nuri a chance to answer that, but I also want to throw out this question: How about the people there? You know, when I was there in March I was amazed at how even-tempered the people seemed to be. You did not see anybody with rage. People seemed to welcome us. We were one of the first groups to come. I thought, my goodness, there are so many people out on the street with nothing to do, no house to return to, no job to go to. You know, you wonder why there wouldn't be some kind of a riot or whatever. I was just amazed.

Is that the situation now or are people starting to just get fed up and feel hopeless and starting to feel outraged? Mr. Jean-Louis, did you want to—

Mr. JEAN-LOUIS. Well, I just got back from Haiti about 2 weeks ago, and I could really start to see a little change in peoples' attitudes. They started to be a little bit fed up. Not all of them because for some people it is a good way to escape or even deeper poverty because they have a space in some of the tents, which is hard to say, but it is a reality for some of them. But yes, I am really afraid that we might have more acts of aggressions coming up as I mentioned earlier because of the hurricane season that is coming up and also the election that is coming up in November.

Mr. ENGEL. Thank you. Mr. Worthington, did you want to—

Mr. WORTHINGTON. One of the things our community did is we actually pushed quite hard for the White House to maintain the U.S. military presence down there longer, and usurping nonprofits and military. In this case we had tremendous cooperation with the U.S. military in terms of security, and we are seeing that security as the situation unfolds. I think Mr. Jean-Louis has phrased it well. You have a resilient, patient, very capable people. We had an individual a week after the earthquake whose sole focus was on Haitian civil society. There is a pent-up capacity in lots of local Haitian organizations that is not being tapped, and unfortunately that inability to have an effective conversation with government from Haitian civil society does lead to a significant anger.

It is student groups, it is peasant groups, it is associations of lawyers—this is a society with lots of associations that got critiqued as the “NGO community” of Haiti. There needs to be a better dialogue with those groups because, unfortunately, they are an escape valve that could result in violence in a relatively near future, particularly around the election.

Mr. ENGEL. Ms. Nuri.

Ms. NURI. I wanted to address your first question about moving forward. We have all sat here on the panel and many of us have said that the Haitian Government needs to step up and be able to lead this movement forward through the emergency phase and reconstruction. But because of a historic mistrust of the Haitian Gov-

ernment, it has translated to only a pittance of the money that has been given actually going to the Haitian Government. The Haitian Government is operating with very little funds. We have admitted that only 3–5 percent of the money is given out at all, and that money has been given to major corporations in this country and around the world and not to the Haitian Government or any assistance in building their capacity to take care of this.

That has also translated to a point where the grass root leadership, the civil society organizations are also on the ground, also not getting the funds they need to build. So if we are looking to the government and we are looking for the civil society organizations in Haiti to step up and lead as the United States and as people of good conscious, we should also look at how are they being funded, how are we supporting them in order for them to step up and lead.

We also have no evidence and history that the Haitian people are going to be anything different than they already are. They are very good natured. We have worked with them. Mrs. Waters can probably testify to this more than me, that the people of Haiti want to go to work, they want to build their country, and they want the world community to help them do this themselves, not us, as Mr. Fairbanks testified to, come in and do it for them.

Mr. ENGEL. Thank you. Mr. Fairbanks.

Mr. FAIRBANKS. Thank you. Poverty is not just low purchasing power. Poverty destroys hopes and aspirations, and that combined with indigenous belief systems and a history of disempowerment means there is not a lot of self-determination, there is not a lot of optimism about the future. What you see in the streets, in my view, is people who are moving along just to get along like they always have. They have never had a lot of optimism about their future, and nothing has really changed.

There is a second factor that can't be avoided here which was—Dr. Shah mentioned the rate of diarrheal diseases has gone down because the rate of fresh water has gone up. A lot of food has gone up. In fact, and this is a little bit of a difficult thing to say, but a lot of the 1½ million people who have been displaced, their lives have improved.

Now, people are going to resent that statement, but to the point where people from remote villages are sending relatives into the camps to live because of the access to water, nutrition and medical care. Part of what you are seeing is that the emergency response has dramatically improved the lives of some, not a trivial portion of the population.

When our underresponsibility phase kicks in, because we are already delivering less food to the people and even less medical care than a few months ago, that is when we are going to see a restive population get very angry. That is when we will begin to point fingers, and that is when things will begin to deteriorate at a higher rate.

Mr. ENGEL. I am going to go to Mr. Mack, but Ms. Nuri quickly raised her hand. I don't know, Dr. Green, did you? I didn't notice. Okay, yes, I am going to give the two of them a chance to respond, and then I will call on Mr. Mack.

Ms. NURI. I think that what Mr. Fairbanks just addressed is wrong. I think that the people of Haiti—in TransAfrica, we know from our research that the people are not living better than they were living before. People are living in camps because their homes fell down. A lot of people are coming back into Port-au-Prince because we need to address that issue of decentralization. Thousands upon thousands of Haitian left after the earthquake to go to their homes, their heritage homes, but there was no aid there. There was no water there. There was no medical care there. So they came back to Port-au-Prince. They are stuck in Port-au-Prince because there is nothing—we have not put aid outside. We had no roads. We don't have medical care. There is no water outside of Port-au-Prince.

And for the statement that Haitians don't want to have a concrete roof over their heads, there is no proof that those homes are going to sustain them, and the fact that Haitians would rather live in camps is offensive. It is not true. It is not true from any research or any NGOs that we have worked with on the ground there or even the people we have come to this country to testify before this Congress.

We have got to figure out how to assist Haitians in decentralization. Government, economies, jobs, health have to be outside of the city of Port-au-Prince in order to effectively talk about rebuilding Haiti or building Haiti to be a better Haiti.

Mr. ENGEL. Dr. Green.

Dr. GREEN. I agree with Ms. Nuri, and I think that the problem is our Government, our nation means well, sends water. We send food. But at the end of the day they are worse off because we do it for all the socio-economic reasons that were mentioned earlier.

What we need to do, what we talk about teaching the fishermen to fish, not giving you fish, and if we don't wake up this time and create jobs and opportunities and schools, and make people buy their housing with micro finance, let them earn their housing. In the DR, tens of thousands of houses were built 10 years ago. They are all trashed because they were given to people who needed shelter. There has to be a coordination between all the sectors, health care and education, and industry, agriculture, micro finance, sanitation, and that is what we need to do right. We had better learn because we have never had it right before. I really believe that.

Mr. ENGEL. Thank you, Dr. Green. Mr. Mack.

Mr. MACK. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I want to thank again everyone on the panel for your insight, and as I listened there was some common themes and there was obviously some points where there was some disagreement, but I think those are good things, and we might not appreciate some of the terminology that one uses in trying to make a point, but what I think I heard is that we need to be careful that we don't create a permanent camp; that we have to, and I think Mr. Fairbanks was trying to get to that, that we are not creating a permanent camp.

I was struck early on by, and I know I am going to butcher your name so I am sorry, Jean-Louis, and because of your unique position in the world to hear the heartfelt testimony something struck me very clear through all of the testimony, starting with yours, and that is, there is a basic security, human rights issue that if we do

not handle, if we do not get control of will be a cancer to any reconstruction and any long-term recovery and growth for Haiti, and I do believe that there is a role for the United States to play, and so I would ask you, and don't answer it yet because I want to get through some of these points, and then I will let—but I am going to ask you, will the people of Haiti see if the United States more active in security and some of these human rights, will the people of Haiti see that as the United States overstepping, or will the people of Haiti see that as a welcomed offer from the United States?

The other thing that I heard is that we really need to rely or bring in—make sure that the Government of Haiti is the key player in whether it is the basic needs of security, human rights, to the reconstruction with homes, shelter, food, water, hospitals, education, or to the long-term planning of how to help Haiti then become—I should say take advantage of what we all know to be inherent in all of Haiti, and that is, hard working people who want to provide for themselves.

So another thing I think the United States could play a lead role in is coordination, helping set a structure where we don't necessarily lead it, but to create a structure where all of the different elements can come together and you get out of this bureaucracy mud. It just stops everything, and I hope to have the opportunity to talk with the chairman, maybe there is a way we can work together to create this kind of framework to allow all this to happen.

So, again, I break this down into the basic necessities of human rights and security has to be one of the first things that we tackle. The reconstruction, and I will say this, that I think if people who have lived through hurricanes or lived through earthquakes, there is a psychological toll that it takes. I can see people saying, I don't want to go back in a structure with a concrete roof. That doesn't mean I do not want to have a place to live, but it means that I don't want to put myself in a place where that roof could come down crumbling on top of my head. I definitely see there is a psychological thing there.

And then the long-term approach to helping Haiti realize its dreams, and the real frustrating part of this is all of this has to happen at the same time, and this is a challenge of monumental proportion without the help of all of you, without this committee and the Congress recognizing its role, without the people of Haiti, this will not happen. And so I am going to put it out there as a statement. I would like to hear from you, Mr. Jean-Louis—I am trying, I am trying, and then maybe we can go down and you can just give a quick kind of thoughts on what I have laid out. Thank you.

Mr. JEAN-LOUIS. Thank you very much for the question, and Haiti has always been in a situation where Haiti needed help, and when I say "always," I am probably referring the past 200 years, since their independence. Now the situation which just devastate Haiti on January 12th is a situation that nobody could actually foresee and think about.

Would Haiti feel that the United States is afraid if they come and help? No, I don't think so because before the earthquake Haiti has been asking for help, been crying for help, you know, however possible way. We just have to be careful in how we help Haiti. It

is a small island and it is right next door. We don't have a lot of internal problems in Haiti. We don't have any religion problems, any wars. We are just a group of people that are looking for a better situation, and something that I never understood as a Haitian is how difficult is that to actually have such a small nation that is located just a couple of hours away from America.

I think all Haitians would be more than happy to be helped, but I think Haitians always will love to keep their dignity, and will love to let people know that, you know, they mean something to the world regardless of all the bad situation that has happened to Haiti. As you must know, you know, we went through the worst catastrophe from hurricanes, to earthquakes, to political unrest and so on.

So, no, I think we are dealing with a nation that is just ready and waiting for help, for real help, and that is why most people here are a bit stunned by the reaction of the Haitians after the earthquake. It is true there has not been too much violence really compared to the level of devastation, so that tells you a lot about the Haitian spirit. So, yes, we need the help but we need the proper help.

Mr. WORTHINGTON. Thank you, Congressman Mack, for your question, and the challenge for a U.S. nonprofit, and we always use this term "NGO," you have this mission. You have various different missions and the bottom line is you want to keep people alive. You want to educate, you want to provide safe places for children in camps. You want to distribute food, but at the same time you do not want to become an obstacle to rebuilding, and that ultimately even though our members are 95 percent staffed by Haitians, it is ultimately a rebuilding process of a nation. And that solution, and I am listening to this whole panel here, even through different people, it is the combination of all of these things.

It is greater government capacity. We must have the private sector and so forth. You must have Haitian civil society, and at least for some time you are going to have international nonprofits—whether it is working through church groups or other groups—as part of this solution. Right now there is sort of a scramble for resources. As I mentioned, all these private resources have not gotten there. But on average, if you look across our communities, about 92 cents on the dollar tends to actually be distributed in-country. I am nervous, and I have heard this about the long run. Will these long-term pledges by government actually come through because this will take time? The Haitian people absolutely have the right to be very annoyed if they are still in camps a year from now and the international community has moved on, or 2 years from now. Attention needs to be maintained over time.

Ultimately it is about the faith of the community to rebuild itself, and our role as international actors is to do what we can to facilitate that, but there are clear contradictions and challenges between the imperative to keep someone alive and slowly doing less in camps because you don't want people there forever, and the ability to rebuild, and that rebuilding inevitably is slower than what you could do in terms of feeding, sheltering, and providing support in a camp, and that is clearly not an adequate solution for the Haitian people and their human rights. Thank you.

I must apologize to the chairman. Unfortunately, as I had mentioned earlier, I do have to leave at this point, and thank you very much for this opportunity.

Mr. ENGEL. Yes, thank you, Mr. Worthington. Thank you. Mr. Reckford.

Mr. RECKFORD. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

I would just reiterate. I believe sort of a common theme is all of these pieces are needed. We desperately need shelter, we need all the other services. It is going to start ultimately though with economic development. People need jobs, and if they have jobs they can then—they can pay for shelter. They can pay for the other things they need, and so I want to go back to what we really need is the economic roadmap and the acceleration.

Even if it is not all done, there needs to be clarity around where the major infrastructure investments are going to go because we don't want to build permanent housing unless we know there is going to be an economic base to support the families in those. So before decentralization is going to work we need to know where the major investments and infrastructure are going to go. So the sooner there is the land planning, both for the economy as well as for housing for families, the faster those pieces can move. So even if not all the economic development happens, even the commitments and the knowledge that it will be coming, allows more actors to develop housing and allows the private sector to begin to invest which there is no structure now for the private sector to really come in and make investments in Haiti.

Dr. GREEN. I am sorry Mr. Worthington left, but I was shocked when he said 92 percent of the dollars have landed in Haiti. I would like to guess it is about the opposite of that. He is not here but if anyone else has evidence that 90 percent of the billions of dollars raised are in Haiti, it is sure invisible.

I think what is needed, you talk about security, that is a big issue, and the United Nations has been inadequate. They have army soldiers and heavy armored equipment with flack jackets and helmets. There is no armies to fight in Haiti. We need to develop a Haitian police force that is professional. We need to get rid of the armed forces and bring in United Nations police to instruct the Haitian police force and pay them adequately so there is integrity, professionalism. They don't have bullets for their guns. They don't have computers. They don't have jails. They don't have a court system. So all these things are essential.

But development needs to be multi-sector. It needs to be integrated. There is no sense in me putting in a hospital if there is not a factory. There is no sense putting houses if there is not agricultural. We built a factory in the plateau called Achamill that mills grains and beans, and micro nutrients. That is what is needed, the economic engine. My farmers in the plateau, you say selling food? They cannot even raise enough, they don't have a tractor. They can't even raise enough to eat. So you have to first level it from a substance crop to a cash crop so they can pay for their houses through micro finance.

This is the integrated development, community development, bottoms up. That is what is going to be successful in Haiti, and they deserve it, and they deserve it now. Thank you.

Ms. NURI. I want to agree with Mr. Reckford that we need jobs, that the Haitian people need jobs, and we have to make sure that they have decent wages and labor protections. A job for the sake of a job is not going to serve the community or the economy or the future of Haiti. So to make sure that there are labor protections in place when there are factories or in any other place where they have a job.

The panel is discussing wonderful, very large, lofty solutions, but there are some things that can happen on the ground right now that Congress can put in place, and Mr. Shah can correct immediately. One of them would be to include Haitians in the United Nations coordinating rebuilding efforts. There are cluster meetings that are happening daily that are being translated into French and English, that are not being translated into Kreyol, and Haitians by and large are not invited to or not even allowed into those meetings. So if you want Haitians to be part of the solution they should be part of the meetings where the solutions are being crafted, and the language they speak should be translated. That is something that could be corrected immediately.

The security precautions and zoning systems have stopped aid organizations from having an effect the way they need because many of the international NGOs continue to use security protocols which limit their movement throughout Port-au-Prince, including measures to have them have direct interaction with Haitians and be able to evaluate their own programs.

There is a zone system by which they cannot go into certain areas because of security protocols that have been set up in ancient times that Mr. Shah can break down right now and allow agencies to really get into these camps, really see what is going on, make sure that adequate food and water is being delivered every single day. Those are things that we can correct immediately.

The other thing is the international organizations, including USAID, have such strenuous and lengthy accounting and auditing requirements that local groups simply do not have the capacity to compete or the process the proper paperwork. They are being asked for 3 years of audited receipts in order to become a contractor, and beyond the fact that there was an earthquake so how would you find your receipts, the process in Haiti is not the same as here, so you are asking—we are asking contractors or people who could step in and help in Haiti to live up to unrealistic standards of how you get the contract.

Those are things that we can fix right now. Everything the panel has talked about has to be addressed, and as you said, Mr. Mack, it has to be addressed immediately. But the things I just listed can be corrected in a moment by Mr. Shah's office and by members of this committee.

Mr. FAIRBANKS. Thank you. The world met in March at the United Nations and I was there, and I made a list of the platitudes that were spoken at the time. I will read you a few of them: We need to build the engines for progress and prosperity. We cannot accept business as usual. It is tempting to fall back on old habits and the requisite is essential that Haiti take ownership in the rebuilding effort.

We have not made progress on any of those, and that was in March. What we have done very well, while the world was looking at Haiti, is connected it to global networks of charity, aid, debt forgiveness, and sentimentality. That is what we have connected it to.

One of the world's greatest economists in history, Pope John Paul II said, "Poverty is the exclusion from networks of productivity, investment, and trade." Pope John Paul said that. What are we doing to connect the Haitian people to networks of productivity, investment and trade?

I can tell you right now an NGO collected \$600 million in a campaign to help Haiti and hasn't dispersed a single dollar. What is happening is that USAID is preaching the benefits of decentralization, but cannot hire a non-American consultant to go down and work in Haiti even though the Colombians understand a lot more about post-earthquake recovery than we do. They cannot hire a commercial consultant from the Dominican Republic even though they know how to grow things and sell things from the island, and we don't.

Congresswoman Waters talked about budget support for Haiti. There should be no debate for this. We should provide budget support for Haiti. But USAID, to its eternal shame, has constructed a parallel decision-making government in every country in the world in which it works. They have duplicated and created a parallel decision-making structure and won't have anything to do with the decision makers in the host countries. That is just wrong, and we are the only major power to do that. Japan gets it right and America gets it wrong. Sorry.

Ms. NURI. Venezuela.

Mr. FAIRBANKS. And Venezuela gets it right. Maybe that is the only thing they get right.

Budget support is a really good idea. If we trust the Haitians, we should provide it. If we don't trust it, why are we giving them money anyway?

Finally, what I would say is that we need to find the indigenous innovators in that country in the sector, find out who they are, how they do what they do, and give them rocket fuel. There is a list of the world's best entrepreneurs in Haiti. They would all be billionaires if they were raised in America. They know how to employ people. They pay taxes. They don't pollute the environment. This doesn't sound like the Haitian private sector that gets all the news, but they are there, and we need to find them and we need to give them rocket fuel.

We need to look at the indigenous social entrepreneurs. I hate that term, I regret using it, but find the indigenous ones, find out how they do what they do, and give them rocket fuel.

I am going to say something contentious again, but I am going to pick on myself and not on anybody else, because maybe that will make it more palatable. The only people that are really benefitting from the way that we structured aid all over the world, especially in Haiti, are people like me. I am getting richer. Because of the oligopolistic structure that has been set up to favor me, I am the one that is doing well in this environment, not the people that we espouse to be helping.

Ms. BALLIETTE. Thank you, Congressman Mack. I would like to go back to one of your comments.

You did talk about the trauma in Haiti and I would like to just come back to that for a minute because we should not forget it is a traumatized country, and that includes all the people living there: The people who work in CRS who are there who started working immediately in the earthquake relief but were in fact traumatized. Members of the government and all the other organizations working there, that does affect what is going on right now, and we should not forget it. When we wonder why things are not moving more quickly, more smoothly, there are things to be done better, but we have to remember that underlying trauma that you don't necessarily see. You are walking down the streets. I know many of you have been to Haiti as I have. You see people getting back to life, getting back to work, buying things in the market, but inside there is a trauma that they are still trying to overcome, and that does affect your ability to plan for the long term. We see that in all devastated countries, your ability to really think long term and make those decisions in your own lives that will affect your long-term prosperity.

Going back, I think, to what the U.S. Government can do, I think there have been a lot of good ideas here. I think, in general, it has to do with listening. What is it that the Haitian Government is asking of us that we can do to help them?

When we talked about shelter earlier there is a process that the government is rolling out in coordination with the U.N. and with NGOs to identify the houses that can be repaired, to classify them, to determine what needs to be done, to go back and verify that the work has been done well. There is a process now for that that we need to follow up on, but for that to move quickly perhaps there are more experts that need to be there. Perhaps there is more work to be done on the building codes, and perhaps there are experts from this country who can provide additional assistance if the Government of Haiti is asking for it.

Finally, I think in terms of funding, this has been mentioned, there is the flexibility factor. The more that can be done to be flexible the better we all will be, the more creative we can be in our solutions to resolve the problems that exists now. Thank you.

Mr. ENGEL. Thank you. Before I call on Mr. Payne, I just want to acknowledge the presence of the former chairman of the full committee, Congressman Gillman, and we thank you for being here. You can see Congressman Gillman over there. You can see his portrait in the middle over here. I actually think you look better now than you did then, Ben, but we are always happy to have you come back and visit us, so thank you for your presence.

Mr. Payne.

Mr. PAYNE. Thank you very much, and I, too, had the privilege to serve under Mr. Gillman as the chairman, and it is good to see him again, and he is with us every time we meet because his picture is there watching us.

Let me say that we talked about the heavy roofs and that people are reluctant in Haiti now to deal with them. As you know, because hurricanes were the problem in Haiti as we all know, it was felt that you need a strong roof because the roofs are what are de-

stroyed in hurricanes. And so since there has been no earthquake for over 100 years no one thought earthquake, and therefore the heavy roofs, which have become so devastating in the earthquake now create a dilemma because then people have to decide do we try to prevent hurricane resistance or is it the possibility of an earthquake and this coming down. So that is just a sidebar that is going through the mines of some of the people in Haiti.

I think, secondly, the U.N. clusters that have been kind of exclusive that pairs with the Interim Haiti Reconstruction Commission having representatives, they have deputies, they have senators, they have local people on, I think that those days, the first 6 months, problems of exclusion and confusion and, you know, this has been the most devastating tragedy to happen anywhere in the world if you take it to scale.

And so I think that with the new—the Interim Haiti Reconstruction Commission, some of those, hopefully, probably that have occurred in this first 6 months will be dealt with which several of you mentioned, and I could not agree with you more.

Thirdly, I think that Mr. Fairbanks brings out a very good point, that the possibility for Hispaniola as an island to move forward you are absolutely correct. The wages are going up around the world. China is starting to have strikes. The DR getting to be a middle income country, and so the possibility of tying Haitian labor with the possibility of a growth on the island is great, and I agree with Ms. Nuri that we certainly have to have labor rights and to try to have an expanded wage, but I think that can certainly be, or expand on an incremental basis.

However, I do think that the opportunity is right. As you know, the DR has had a history that they talk about the occupation of Haiti more than they do about the occupation of the Spanish. They remember their independence from Haiti over there and their independence from the colonial powers. So as we know the history on Hispaniola during that period before was a very tough, ugly history that the Dominicans was one of the problems between the two countries.

I think that currently the new President Fernandez in a recent meeting that we have had with him with members of the Congressional Black Caucus led by Congressman Rangle talked about wanting to extend their hand to Haiti to be more helpful, and as a matter of fact they were fairly helpful, showing a new relationship and respect and cooperation between the DR and Haiti. So if that can be built on with the new leadership in the DR, not new but relatively new, and with the elections coming up in Haiti, I think that if we do some focusing it could be to see how we can marry the two, where they can both prosper, continue to prosper, and I think that we may be ready for a new day, and that is where efforts that I am going to try to expend, would how can you, you are one island, you know, how can the two of you work together to benefit both of you.

Just a question. With the elections, Mr. Jean-Louis, there will be two elections as you know, the elections for deputies and senators will supposedly be in November of this year, Presidential election is not this year. Presidential elections will be held between February or May 2011. These two elections are not at the same time.

One of the problems today is that the entire deputies have expired, two-thirds of the senators have expired, leaving only one-third of the governance. One, how do you see, if you are that familiar or anyone else, how do you see the elections working out? Do you think the peoples' mindset is there for elections? To your knowledge, has the registration been completed? And thirdly, is it true that Lavalas is excluded from the elections, and if they are, who is excluding them? I mean, who can exclude them? The President? What is going on there? Maybe you can——

Mr. Jean-Louis. Well, as an artist, I always try to stay away from politics.

Mr. PAYNE. Okay, that is a good point.

Mr. JEAN-LOUIS. I come to witness, you know, to testify about the situation in Haiti and hopefully by me testifying will be able to help the country. I might have ideas on some of your questions but I prefer not to——

Mr. PAYNE. Okay. Well, since you are the only Haitian there, that is why I asked you the question. But if you are an artist, and prefer to keep it in that vein, that is fine.

Anyone else like to comment on any of those issues? Yes, Mr. Fairbanks.

Mr. Fairbanks. Nobody has any idea who the next President is going to be and no one has any idea who is even running in the election. There is one thing that is clear, which is President Preval will choose someone and that person will have the highest probability of success, and that President Preval will remain in the background exerting a very strong influence in the next term.

Ms. NURI. And Mr. Payne, the Lavalas has been excluded by the CEP, which is in temporary form now. The constitution calls for a permanent panel to be appointed, but has not yet. So Lavalas has been excluded from the ballot by the official election panel.

Mr. PAYNE. You know, we do try not to interfere with the politics of countries, but do you know of U.S. policy or suggestions about the CEP about exclusion of political party? If you are going to have a democratic elections, you know, like I say, it is a sovereign country so we cannot go in and say you have got to have these particular parties allowed to be on the ballot. However, if we are talking about democracy, we certainly should say, you know, an open democratic election is really what we want. Of course, like I say, you are a sovereign state and we cannot demand that you do anything.

Ms. NURI. Well, sir, I don't know of any official U.S. delegation that has gone and said this to Mr. Preval or to the board of the CEP. I don't know of any official U.S. request that Lavalas be put onto the ballot, but we do know in TransAfrica that there have been lots of Haitians in the diaspora who have gone on and said Lavalas must be included in order for it to be a fair election.

We do know the largest political party in Port-au-Prince is Lavalas, so it would sort of be like most of the people not having their party represented on the ballot, so it will present some sort of problem. From what I understand, and this is anecdotal, I don't know anything official, that the reason Lavalas was left off the ballot is because Mr. Aristide was not in the country. But I only know

that as an anecdotal thing. I don't know that officially. I have not read that from CEP at all.

But at this point officially Lavalas is not on the ballot for either one of the elections.

Mr. ENGEL. I am going to let Mr. Reckford answer and then we are going to move on because we are told there is going to be a series of votes very soon, and I want to give everyone who is up here a chance to ask questions. So Mr. Reckford, and then I will call on Ms. Lee.

Mr. RECKFORD. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Actually, I would ask your forbearance. I have to leave and head to the airport, but I want to thank you for the opportunity to joint the committee today, and for your interest in this critical issue, and certainly would ask continued U.S. Government support, particularly around these issues of land because if they are not resolved then we won't see economic development or housing get solved. But thank you for the chance to be with you today.

Mr. ENGEL. Thank you, Mr. Reckford. Ms. Lee.

Ms. LEE. Thank you very much. Once again, Chairman Engel, thank you for this very important hearing and thank all of you for being here.

I wanted, first, Ms. Nuri with TransAfrica, thank you so much. I want to thank Danny Glover and Nicole, and I have seen them all the time when I am in Haiti.

Ms. NURI. Yes.

Ms. LEE. Sean Penn, and they are even before the earthquake, I mean, TransAfrica has continued to lead and to really be there even below the radar but doing such wonderful work. I just wanted to pursue this whole issue of Lavalas not being on the ballot or not being part of the election. What is the rationale and reason, the stated reason for that?

Secondly, and I will just ask all my question, and then you can respond, to Mrs.—is it Balliette?

Ms. BALLIETTE. Balliette.

Ms. LEE. You are right, everyone, anyone would be traumatized after what has happened in Haiti, and I wanted to just ask you about the mental health services, how you see that in Haiti, and if there are enough mental health services, are they culturally appropriate, and do we know what we need to do on the mental health front?

And then to Dr. Green, I just want to ask you as it relates to HIV and AIDS. Of course, Haiti has the highest incidence, you know, in the Caribbean of HIV and AIDS. Has PEPFAR responded? Are people getting their anti-retroviral drugs? Prevention and treatment, is that still on the table given such trauma that people are experiencing such dislocation? Are the distribution of condoms, is testing available? Could you just give us a sense of how you see the whole HIV/AIDS strategy as it relates to now having to move forward from such a disaster?

Okay, we can start with you, Dr. Green, and then Ms. Nuri, and then Ms. Balliette.

Dr. GREEN. Thank you. I will take a little shot on the mental health area because I have been working if that is okay.

Ms. LEE. That is fine.

Dr. GREEN. The fact is if you look at all the allied health professionals, if you take medicine, doctors, physicians and nursing aside, and you look at psychologists, social workers, physical therapists, recreational therapist, prosthetist, all the different people that we take for granted in this country, there are no real professional schools in Haiti, so there is a very small workforce.

I think the psychology association, I spoke with them after the earthquake had about 30 members for 10 million people. So the whole cycle of social, the traumatic stress that has occurred, all the people that are traumatized and really hurt by this earthquake have few resources. There are groups, NGOs that are working with the government to try and bring in the workforce, but you really need to train bottoms up psycho-social type health care workers that are going to really interact with the Haitian people and help them get out of this crisis. That is part of what we are doing with capacity building. We are setting up training programs for allied health professionals that did not exist before the earthquake.

The second issue, I have to tell you, this is some good news. HIV and resistant TB in Haiti is much better treated than in the United States. There is not a country in the world that has a more effective record thanks to Bill Path, Paul Farmer, all the people working in this area of infectious disease. The death rate has plummeted. Triple therapy, which cannot be afforded by many people in this country and in Europe, is given there. There are wonderful national and regional systems through the Ministry of Health in cooperation with them, and so these people are not dying anymore, AZT is given for transmission. There is wonderful programs where I work in the plateau, the most isolated area.

So I have to tell you before the earthquake it was great. The earthquake, of course, took away the supply. It took away the community health centers collapsed, the doctors and nurses died. So we are in a bit of a bad time right now. A lot of the HIV people treated—the people who have been on treatment have lost their access to medications. This is being restored now.

But I just want to tell you this is one thing we can be proud of as cooperating with PEPFAR and this program. It has been very effective in Haiti.

Ms. BALLIETTE. If I could maybe start with that because CRS is also implementing AIDS relief in Haiti, and we agree. It was somewhat devastated in the immediate aftermath of the earthquake, but there was such a strong basis there for that program that we were very quickly able to get it back up to speed, and ensure that all the people that were enrolled in the program were able to continue to get services.

We are actually now using the foundation there for our AIDS relief program to roll out larger health institution strengthening with the network there, and in coordination with the government and the Ministry of Health in Haiti. So I do think there are grounds for optimism in the health sector.

Going back to the trauma and just to agree that the capacity is not there. We ourselves brought in some people from actually a partner in Karitas Lebanon, to help our own staff to get over the trauma or to at least work through parts of it, and we are con-

tinuing to do things like that, but there is not an excess capacity on the ground to help the people so desperately need it.

Ms. LEE. And Ms. Nuri, with regard to just Lavalas, the rationale for Lavalas being excluded, and you heard Dr. Shah's comment on direct budgetary support for the Haitian Government. What is TransAfrica's take on that?

Ms. NURI. Well, of course, we support direct budgetary support for the Haitian Government because our point of view is that because of whatever the reasons are, and I am sure there are some historical reasons, a lot of the money that is going into Haiti is not even going to the government. So we are making demands on a government that isn't getting international funding at all.

And even out of the donors conference, there is only a handful of countries that have even given money they have promised in sort of an appropriations process like we do in this country, and they haven't gotten the money to do the basics of putting together the government, let alone moving forward and through an election.

So we support budgetary support and support for the election process with all sorts of guidance that is in my original statement that we can get to your office.

To answer your question about why Lavalas has been excluded from the ballot, what we know is that several parties have been excluded from the ballot. We do not know the rationale for why, and we can find that out and get it to the committee and get it back to your office, in particular, and other members.

But we also know that the U.N. certified the last election and said the voter turnout was only 10 percent. We are not sure if there was any connection between that and who got left off the ballot in an official sort of way, but we will find out the answer and get back to you.

Mr. ENGEL. I am going to move on because we have a series of five votes coming up and I want to give other members a chance to ask questions. I want to acknowledge Representative Sheila Jackson Lee. Committee members are here, but I would ask unanimous consent to allow Ms. Waters to ask her questions now since she has been here for several hours. So without objection, Ms. Waters, and then we will go on to Ms. Jackson Lee.

Ms. WATERS. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I certainly appreciate the opportunity to come here today and to be able to participate, and I would like to thank you for the interest that you have shown and your travels to Haiti. I was on one such trip with you when we went to DR and to Haiti. I would like to thank all the members who have come today to serve as witnesses to help us make some determinations about what we can do to be more helpful. I would like to thank TransAfrica, Ms. Nuri in particular. I served on that board for many years, and at the time our director, Randall Robinson, almost died because he went on a hunger strike for Haiti, and that was an important moment in the history of our relationship with Haiti and what Clinton was able to do following those actions.

For Dr. Green, when I went to Haiti right after the earthquake we landed at the airport. I came over in a little private plane. Your place was the first place I went to. I just started walking around and ended up over at the clinic that you guys had set up, and some

of the volunteers kind of brought me over there and I was very appreciative for your ability to respond so quickly, and at that time you may have been one of the only emergency operations set up dealing with the trauma that was in Port-au-Prince other than some other makeshift kinds of things that were going on. So I would like to thank all of you for your participation today.

All of you have talked about the lack of involvement of Haitians in decision making, in planning, et cetera, and that is an important element that is not involved, and happen to plan for the future of Haiti. But let me just ask Ms. Balliette, I think it is, from CRS. You guys are on the ground and you are in those cluster meetings, but the Haitians are not in the cluster meetings. They can't get in. I wandered around for a few days, and found cluster meetings and understood, began to understand how they were organized. Have you guys taken any of the local Haitians to the cluster meetings?

Ms. BALLIETTE. We work very closely with, especially Caritas Haiti, but there are also other organizations in Haiti, Haitian organizations that we work with. So because we are implementing together, we might decide, we talk beforehand what are the issues for the meetings, what are our implementation—

Ms. WATERS. But that is not my question. What I saw was the NGOs had access for the most part, but the people that they were helping did not have access. My question to you is if you want to break up this business of exclusion, the NGOs who have access should be bringing in some of the people that they are working for and working with to these meetings. Have you done that?

Ms. BALLIETTE. Honestly, I can't say specifically for all of the cluster meetings that we participate in whether or not we are bringing in specific individuals to those meetings. I can just say again the way we work is together with our Haitian partners to make sure that what we are doing is involving their voice as much as possible.

Ms. WATERS. Well, I appreciate that and I am not blaming you, but I am simply talking about ways that you can be helpful in sharing information and helping people to get involved who evidently are excluded from involvement.

Yes, Dr. Green. Is your microphone on, Dr. Green?

Dr. GREEN. Yes, I have to tell you that the cluster meetings are joke in general. We attend all the different clusters, and we always bring Haitian employees who are Haitian nurses or doctors or administrators, whatever is appropriate, but the cluster meetings are very ineffective. They last for hours. You don't talk, you don't discuss, you listen. You get reports, and so I think we need better interagency communication

And I want to show you, I don't know if you are aware of this, there is a private sector economic forum, and they have met, and this is the private sector which represents probably 200,000 Haitian business people, families who want to be part of the solution.

Ms. WATERS. Excuse me. Is that the one that Juan Henry Saiiant is involved with?

Dr. GREEN. I don't know, but I know that they came recently to meet with Jean Max Bellerive in Miami, and they have been very involved. They have gone to the government and said let us be part of the solution. I would be happy to share this report.

Ms. WATERS. I would like to see that report.

Dr. GREEN. But everything you have talked about they want to do. They want to open up the airports and the customs and they want to engage the people, the masses of people in job creation and development, and I think this is going to happen if they are allowed to.

Ms. WATERS. Well, I think it is a great idea. One of the things we need to understand is who they are because, as you know, the privileged families that have been basically in control of the economics of Haiti for so long are very exclusionary, and that that middle class business person that you are referring to has not been really involved in the business development and the economic development of Haiti, and I think that certainly does have to be expanded.

If I may, because he is going to shut me down in a few minutes, let me just say this. NGOs have had a special relationship with Haiti for a long time because we sent our money to the NGOs rather than fund the government. It's part of the history of all of this, and that certainly has to change. There has to be a working relationship and cooperation, reporting too, and an understanding of all of that.

Now having said all of that everybody is trying to do something good for Haiti in different ways, and it has been expressed here. But what you cannot talk about is simply what our fine actor, Mr. Jimmy Jean-Louis said, you can't talk politics. TransAfrica can because that is part of what they do, and understanding how to get things done and how governments work.

There is a governance problem in Haiti, a governance problem. When you talk about how are you going to get things built, how are you going to create jobs, how are you going to do all of these things, that is normally what would be done by the government. And until that is solved it is going to be very, very difficult for people to be able to do all that they would want to do.

Ms. Nuri just talked about the CEP, and what it is and what it is not. You want to know why Lavalas is not on the ballot? Because if Lavalas was on the ballot they could elect anybody they want to elect. It is the biggest party in Haiti, and they think it is still controlled from afar in South Africa by President Bertrand Aristide. That is why it is not on the ballot.

I sent a letter months ago, and others, I think someone from the Senate side sent letters, urging them to be sure and allow the political parties to operate and to be on the ballot and operate in a democratic way. The CEP determines that and they are picked by the President Preval. They are a sovereign nation, and even Bill Clinton and others recognize that it is a sovereign country, and you cannot just go in and tell people what to do.

But I am coming to the conclusion that in exchange for support that we are going to have to be a little bit more forceful in encouraging certain kinds of things. For example, to stop the delivery of food and have food in warehouses and then have television cameras from the United States showing kids scraping the bottom of burnt pots trying to get a grain of rice while food is stored because there is a policy that says you can't distribute any more food because you are displacing the local vendors and merchants.

United States could help with that policy and help to show how the agencies that are helping can purchase the food from the vendors so that they can continue to earn money and food could be given to the people rather than the food simply being purchased someplace else and brought in and given to the people, and then the government stops it because the merchants get mad at them.

This has to be worked out, and if we are going to be helpful we need to say to President Preval and others we think we can help you work this out in ways that will benefit the merchants and will benefit the people, and the people won't have to be hungry.

The land problem, the land problem is not going to go away by itself. First of all, there are questions about who owns it. There are records that have been lost and on and on and on. A legislature must be empowered, elected, and make some determinations about eminent domain and other kinds of things that you do in order to have good land use policies.

We can't do that, you can't do that, but we can encourage and we can teach and we can have development. And this business about the police force, you are absolutely right. No, the United States cannot go in there with helmets and guns keeping the peace and killing people just as MINUSTAH cannot continue to do what they do. We have got to train and develop a local police force, fund it and stick with it in the training until they get it, and pay them good salaries.

So some of us are going to focus on governance. Some of us are going to talk about what our role is going to be in helping to strengthen government. We are not to tell them who to elect. That is not our problem. But our problem is to continue to try and work with a situation where there is no real government in place, organized in order to facilitate what governments do in the building of this infrastructure, et cetera. This is very difficult for everybody.

I think Mr. Fairbanks is right and this usually happens with a lot of poor nations, including Africa. Everybody makes money but the people who live there, because by the time all the consultants are hired and the different organizations are hiring advisors, et cetera, everybody is making money. Even in the Cash for Work Program going on right now, I am learning that our USAID is giving money to the contractors. The contractors are paying \$1 or \$2 a day, as bad as the exploiters on the ground who have been exploiting labor in Haiti for years and years and years.

So, thank you, Mr. Chairman, for all of this time you have afforded me and others. We have a lot of work to do. I have decided which way I am going with my work. I am going to deal with this governance issue and hopefully we can be advisors and supporters and help develop a strong government.

Mr. ENGEL. Thank you, Ms. Waters, and thank you for all the work, all the good work that you have done involving Haiti for years and years as I mentioned before, not just for the earthquake but even before. You have truly been a leader and have shown us the way.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, for allowing me to join as well, and to follow members who have been here to listen to the testimony, and to be able to say ditto in following suit on the direction that many members have taken, in-

cluding the detailed explanation and discussion of Congresswoman Waters.

I think that, although many of us have engaged with Haiti on many different occasions, many of them volatile as relates to governance, that I want to be hopeful and I want the hopefulness, however, to be with a very firm hand because I think if we don't have hope with command and firmness we have nothing.

I would like to say to the chairman we are an authorizing committee and I would like TransAfrica to answer this question, I, frankly, would like to have you really be financially supported by our appropriations or authorizing and then appropriations, that means we have to move quickly to be of real assistance on the governance issue. All of the points that I have heard just sitting here for the few minutes I have happen to be even in the obstacles of an earthquake traced back to a government that is not functioning. And when you speak to Haitian people and you walk through the camps, that is what they say. Maybe in not that term but can somebody help us.

I don't know, and I realize and let me just say that I acknowledge that the government lost personnel and leaders and parliamentarians, and all of us have offered our deepest sympathy and respect. When we were in a meeting with the President and his cabinet and staff, one of his high-ranking personnel had lost a son. What can you say about that other than to offer your deepest sympathy?

But as we do that we really need to get boxing gloves on because when you have food sitting in a warehouse and you have orphans two miles down, around the block, up the street, you really have to say this. Mr. whatever dignified public position you have, take your feet and a bucket and go to the warehouse, and go back with the bucket, a wheelbarrow, the pickup truck, and take it to the children. That is government. Government finds a way to respond when no one else can.

What happened with Katrina? They were mad at government because they knew everything else collapsed. They knew that the dam went, not the dam but the structure went in their neighborhood. They knew that, you know, they were up to their ears in water. They knew that other elements did not work, but they said where is the Federal Government?

So let me ask you about what you could do if financed on the governance? Could you lift yourself up, plant yourself down with a team to begin to probe what are the fractures of the government where you could begin to say if you do this and you do this, you could at least get yourself focused on what you are supposed to be doing? Maybe moving debris, maybe cleaning up the tents, maybe taking half of the tent cities and shutting them down and putting people back in their home, which we heard a large percentage could be livable if they were fixed? Would you please?

Ms. NURI. Well, the answer to that question was I work for TransAfrica, and the answer is we can do anything if afford it. And Haiti has been a mission of the organization for more than 20 years.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Absolutely.

Ms. NURI. We have been on the ground in Haiti through all sorts of hurricanes, and political upheaval, and every day, every day we have been dedicated to this since January 12, to a point where I wake up every morning and the first thing I look for is the latest information on what is going on on the ground in Haiti as the organization's chief of staff.

The decision about what we can do and how that structure will be, my overall answer to you is yes. The detail of that will be worked out by the President of our organization, Nicole Lee, and our chairman of the Board, Danny Glover. But overall, ma'am, my answer to you would be of course we want to be part of this. We work very closely with Representative Waters and Representative Lee, and with your office and with Mr. Payne's office, and also with Mr. Engel's office on this issue and others. But I would say that we truly want to be a part of making sure that the Haitian Government, the elected Haitian Government is leading Haitian people, and that Haitian civil society is advising that government and doing it.

So, whatever TransAfrica can bring to the table to assure that for this generation and for future generations because like Dr. Green said, this time we have to get it right.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Absolutely. Let me just raise this and then I would like the other panelists, thank you so very much, to answer my second question. Let me focus in on you just a little bit because I would like our chairman, who has been unwieldy in his commitment to the Western Hemisphere and his knowledge of Haiti, and I thank you, Chairman Engel, for your astuteness and your commitment and passion. Let us be a little more specific and I know both of your leaders and they are wonderful people, but let me use your genius right now.

Let us say, for example, here is the detail or not the detail but here is the kind of commitment, and I would like the chairman to be supportive of TransAfrica because of its familiarity and comfortableness with the people, I, frankly, believe that you need to be in essence sort of the box around the contents. The government is the contents. If there is a meeting talking about issues of governance and how to get the water on, how to move trash, I think they need that kind of close hand involvement.

Certainly if there is a meeting about this recovery, because of our familiarity with how the garbage is supposed to move and how you can go to warehouse and get goods, I, frankly, believe that you could put a team together that would be able to be part. There are a lot of NGOs, and I am not leaving them out, but part of that structuring them to be able to put A in front of B in front of C, and it is not insulting to them. Could you do that?

Ms. NURI. Yes, ma'am, and I would say that the leadership on that would have to be the Haitian people who actually know it. Where the wisdom would come is coming from this government and coming from this country that has mastered so many of those many items that you have listed and far more.

But the people on the ground in Haiti, our colleagues on the ground there would have to also work with us on the ground to get this done.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I would not rule against that, but I would hope that they would be in a position that they could work with you, but you would have to be in a position to instruct them as well.

Ms. NURI. If what you are asking is do we want to take a leadership role on making sure that Haiti's governance comes back to shape or gets in shape?

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Absolutely.

Ms. NURI. That the people of Haiti are served? Of course, we will accept that role.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Let me ask this question and if all of you would answer it, please. I get a sense that there is great movement but there is great suffering. I want each of you to tell us in your own words the limited time, of course I am putting my framework on it, that we have to act before we have catastrophes of major proportion. Can we start with the actor who was there, and thank you for your talent, your commitment, and your passion?

Mr. ENGEL. Let me just say we will go right through to everybody and then we will have to have the last word because we were just called for a series of five votes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. JEAN-LOUIS. Thank you very much. I think we have to act now. We have to start acting straight away if I understand your question. Once again, I go back to so many problems that I see in Haiti, and I always go back to the main one which is the human rights, and that is what makes me cry, you know—

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Yes.

Mr. JEAN-LOUIS [continuing]. To see the entire population living under these conditions, what can we do for them, what can we do for 1 million peoples sleeping out in the tents. We just need to start giving them places to be because we have the hurricane coming up, so it is now that we need to act.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Thank you, Mr. Jean-Louis. Doctor?

Dr. GREEN. I believe that the masses of people in Haiti who have directly suffered have had enough. I don't think there is any time. I think we have to show some visible evidence and commitment of transparency, and that we are really what we say we are. We are Americans who care about what their problems are.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Our presence.

Dr. GREEN. Medically, just as an example we raised \$7 million for the earthquake at Project Medishare. We are out of money in 30 days. We have the largest critical care hospital, the only one in Haiti. We are going to have to shut it down.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I was there, yes.

Dr. GREEN. Selling tee shirts isn't working any longer. So we are hoping that somewhere funding will continue so we can continue training health care workers, building capacity, and creating sustainability, but it is almost too late. We need to act now.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Thank you. Let me skip you and go on to the—thank you.

Mr. FAIRBANKS. There is not a recorded incident in the history of the world where aid has ever lifted a nation out of poverty. It has never happened. It doesn't exist, not even in a reasonable-sized region. Aid is very good at humanitarian concerns, doing what Dr.

Green does, that is what aid is really good at. It is not good at growing an economy, and we need to be deeply introspective about our own limitations when we try to do that.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Yes.

Ms. BALLETTTE. I would just say that what needs to happen now is we need to speed up our efforts. We need to redouble our efforts. I think a lot of good things are happening but we need to listen to the ideas of people that are coming out of the lessons that are being learned, and we need to work faster and harder.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Thank you. Joia.

Ms. NURI. I would say that we have moved out of the emergency phase too fast. We have moved onto reconstruction. Our minds are into this reconstruction when people are still hungry, women are being raped on the streets, our children are not safe in Haiti, and I think that we have moved—of course, reconstruction should be on the plate, we should be discussing it. But the emergency phase, as Dr. Green has articulated, is still in place. And if we move on too fast we will actually have nothing to build reconstruction on.

Mr. ENGEL. Thank you, I am going to—

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. ENGEL [continuing]. Let that be the last word, but first I want to call on Mr. Payne. He has a unanimous consent request.

Mr. PAYNE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I ask unanimous consent that a statement from the American Red Cross be entered into the record.

Mr. ENGEL. Without objection, so moved.

Let me conclude because we have 6 minutes and 59 seconds to get to our votes. I want to thank all of you for excellent, excellent testimony. Since I have been chairman, now it has been 4 years, and before that as the ranking member, we have now had about 3½ hours at this hearing, which is the longest hearing I think we have ever had, and for good reason, because we had excellent testimony first from Dr. Shah, and then from the seven of you, and I want to thank the five of you who are left for sticking it out, and really helping all of us in understanding better what is happening on the ground in Haiti.

We all want to be of help, but we can only be of help if we listen to the people who are on the ground, who have the experience, who can tell us, you know, cutting away all the extraneous materials, tell us just what is happening, and that is what we received today from all of you.

So thank you for helping us to better understand what is going on. Thank all of you for your caring. Thank all of you for your excellent work. Working together we are going to continue to make sure that the people of Haiti get the right help and get everything that they deserve. Haiti is a country that is close to the United States, and it is a shame and it cannot stand that there is so much suffering there at a time when we have bounty of wealth here.

So, again, thank you all, and the hearing is now adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 1:03 p.m., the subcommittee was adjourned.]

A P P E N D I X



MATERIAL SUBMITTED FOR THE HEARING RECORD

SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING NOTICE
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515-0128

SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE
Eliot L. Engel (D-NY), Chairman

TO: MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

You are respectfully requested to attend an OPEN hearing of the Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, to be held in **Room 2172 of the Rayburn House Office Building (and available live, via the WEBCAST link on the Committee website at <http://www.hcfa.house.gov>)**:

DATE: Thursday, July 29, 2010

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

SUBJECT: The Crisis in Haiti: Are We Moving Fast Enough?

WITNESSES: **Panel I**
The Honorable Rajiv Shah
Administrator
United States Agency for International Development

Panel II
Mr. Jimmy Jean-Louis
Actor
Goodwill Ambassador
Pan American Development Foundation

Mr. Samuel A. Worthington
President and CEO
InterAction

Mr. Jonathan T.M. Reckford
Chief Executive Officer
Habitat for Humanity International

Barth A. Green, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Chairman and Co-Founder
University of Miami Global Institute for Community Health and Development
President and Co-Founder of Project Medishare

Ms. Joia Jefferson Nuri
Chief of Staff
TransAfrica Forum

Mr. Michael Fairbanks
Author
Founder and Director
SEVEN Fund

Ms. Nicole S. Balliette
Deputy Director for Haiti Emergency Earthquake Response
Catholic Relief Services

By Direction of the Chairman

The Committee on Foreign Affairs seeks to make its facilities accessible to persons with disabilities. If you are in need of special accommodations, please call 202/225-5921 at least four business days in advance of the event, whenever practicable. Questions with regard to special accommodations in general (including availability of Committee materials in alternative formats and assistive listening devices) may be directed to the Committee.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

MINUTES OF SUBCOMMITTEE ON the Western Hemisphere MEETING

Day Thursday Date 07/29/10 Room 2172 RHOB

Starting Time 9:39 a.m. Ending Time 1:03 p.m.

Recesses (_____ to _____)

Presiding Member(s) Eliot L. Engel

CHECK ALL OF THE FOLLOWING THAT APPLY:

Open Session

Executive (closed) Session

Televised

Electronically Recorded (taped)

Stenographic Record

TITLE OF HEARING or BILLS FOR MARKUP: *(Include bill number(s) and title(s) of legislation.)*

The Crisis in Haiti: Are We Moving Fast Enough?

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Eliot L. Engel, Connie Mack, Gregory Meeks, Christopher C. Smith, Albio Sires, Donald M. Payne, Barbara Lee, Ron Klein

NON-SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: *(Mark with an * if they are not Members of HFAC.)*

Maxine Waters*, Sheila Jackson Lee

HEARING WITNESSES: Same as meeting notice attached? Yes No

(If "no", please list below and include title, agency, department, or organization.)

STATEMENTS FOR THE RECORD: *(List any statements submitted for the record.)*

Statements- Engel, Mack, Smith, Faleomavaega; Extraneous Materials- Engel, Payne, Fairbanks; Question for the Record- Lee

ACTIONS TAKEN DURING THE MARKUP: *(Attach copies of legislation and amendments.)*

RECORDED VOTES TAKEN (FOR MARKUP): *(Attach final vote tally sheet listing each member.)*

Subject	Yeas	Nays	Present	Not Voting

TIME SCHEDULED TO RECONVENE _____

or
TIME ADJOURNED 1:03 p.m.



Subcommittee Staff Director

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

STATEMENT OF

THE HONORABLE ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

CHAIRMAN

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ASIA, PACIFIC AND THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT

before the

SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE

“The Crisis in Haiti: Are We Moving Fast Enough?”

JULY 29, 2010

Mr. Chairman:

On January 12, 2010, a catastrophic magnitude 7 earthquake struck near the town of Léogâne in Haiti. In the next dozen days, over 50 aftershocks of magnitude 4.5 or greater relentlessly assaulted the beleaguered Haitians. The total number of dead was estimated at 230,000, injured at 300,000 and homeless at well over one million.

Despite the chaos following the earthquake, the international community banded together to assist Haiti by pledging funds, sending rescue workers, engineers, supplies and providing other forms of assistance. By January 22, 2010 the United Nations declared an end to the country's state of emergency.

Yet, even with that declaration, Haiti's need for assistance has hardly diminished. Much of the country's infrastructure remains devastated, its hospitals closed, communications spotty, and sanitation facilities unrepaired. On January 18, 2010, the Minister of Education declared that the country's entire education system had collapsed. Manufacturers, responsible for two-thirds of Haiti's exports, suffered extraordinary damage to their facilities.

Far too many Haitians still live in the streets, in cars or in makeshift shanty towns. In fact, Catholic Relief Services estimates that two million Haitians are living on land they do not own. Morgues are overwhelmed; orphans are left uncared for or barely supervised in poorly-funded shelters. Running water and electricity are in short supply and burials are done en masse, without according the deceased proper dignity. Crime runs rampant as the police are occupied with recovery activities. Meanwhile, many of the roads remain so damaged that ongoing aid efforts are severely restricted, and many parts of the country face the threat of mudslides and flooding, which will only worsen an already dire situation.

While I do not mean to suggest that there has been no progress in Haiti, the situation remains grave and sustained international support and attention remains critical. That is why I welcome this hearing and thank you Mr. Chairman for convening it.



July 27, 2010

Dear Members of the Committee,

In January 2010, the Jatukik Providence Foundation (JPF) was approached by several friends, including former Congressman Ben Gilman (R-NY), in the aftermath of the earthquake in Haiti. As a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization, JPF has successfully operated numerous development programs focused on self-sustainability in the Democratic Republic of the Congo since 1999. At the instance of our friends, JPF sent an assessment team to Haiti two weeks after the earthquake to see if we could feasibly apply our experiences in Africa to help ailing the victims of the disaster.

Days after arriving, JPF met with the Haitian Minister of the Environment, Jean-Claude Marie Germain at his home in Port-au-Prince. At the meeting, the Minister expressed his frustration that few aid workers had ventured outside Port-au-Prince, despite the fact that all of Haiti was hurting. He then asked us if we would assist in the oversight of American NGO relief efforts in Petit Goave, the epicenter of the January 20th aftershock, located 64 km southwest of Port-au-Prince. JPF happily obliged and shifted our operations the next morning to Petit Goave.

Since arriving in Petit Goave, the Jatukik Providence Foundation has sent dozens of relief volunteers to help the victims throughout the region. These volunteers have worked along side the Haitian people at the grassroots level to bring sustainable development through medical care, education, and rebuilding. We have two acres of land in Petit Goave at our disposal, we have sent an ambulance we purchased through our own fundraising efforts, we have friends throughout the community, and we have saved hundreds of Haitian lives. Unlike other organizations, we operate efficiently without bureaucratic obstacles.

JPF has been able to enjoy success in Haiti despite having limited resources and without the financial backing of better-known organizations. We have painstakingly tried to receive monetary assistance from the US Government and from USAID but have not been successful, despite our most tenacious efforts and diligence.

As an organization on the ground in Haiti, we have seen the work of USAID firsthand and watched painfully as US taxpayer dollars have been frivolously spent. In the cases where money did find its way to the Haitian people, cash for work programs were operated with little oversight and supervision as participants all too often accepted a free t-shirt, pitch fork, and paycheck and were left to their own accord for the rest of their day. Few if any programs successfully brought any sort of permanent development.



The Haitian people are desperate for relief and the American people deserve their money to be spent with more oversight in more effective programs. It is imperative to understand that progress can only be realized through collaboration with the Haitian people and respected organizations on the ground. Results are not occurring and changes must be made.

On behalf of the Jatukik Providence Foundation, I ask the US Government to reexamine the distribution of allocated funds to the Haitian relief efforts and consider the roles NGOs play in the development process. The programs and efforts currently operated are simply not working. By making funding more available for non-profit development organizations, the frustrating process that has led to little progress can finally cease and desist. The Jatukik Providence Foundation only asks that the US Government be opened to the possibility that the making an effective impact in Haiti can be most efficient through the use of experienced non-governmental organizations. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Thom Gallemore

Public Relations Director,
Jatukik Providence Foundation



HAITI ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
SIX MONTHS AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE, BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE
July 12, 2010

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO

Over the past six months, I have made three trips to Haiti, and each one has left me filled with a mixture of hope and despair. Tremendous progress has been made, and the resiliency of the Haitian people is inspirational, but immense needs still remain.

People I saw walking through the streets of Port-au-Prince after the earthquake with little more than their shock and grief are now living under at least tarps or tents. In addition, many Haitians have access today to more reliable supplies of food, clean water, sanitation and, in some cases, better health care than they did before the earthquake.

And new American Red Cross programs will provide financial assistance that will empower families who once stood in line for relief distributions to buy some of the things they need most, which in turn should help stimulate the country's economy.

But for every sign of optimism in Haiti, there is a sad reminder of how much more remains to be done.

Rubble fills many side streets in Haiti's capital. Tents and tarps cover nearly every open space, and land ownership is still unresolved, leaving few places to build the thousands of much-needed transitional shelters. And threats of crime and infectious disease outbreaks are prevalent.

We know the crisis is not over and the recovery process will be long and difficult. Haiti and its people must rebuild their homes, economy, health systems, schools and transportation network. With an estimated \$12 billion needed to rebuild Haiti, the needs are far beyond the capacity of the Red Cross alone to fix, and will require the collective efforts of governments and humanitarian groups around the world.

I want to assure everyone who generously donated to us that the American Red Cross and the global Red Cross network are doing the absolute best we can to help as many people as possible in Haiti—and your dollars are making a big difference. The American Red Cross spends 91 cents of every dollar on our humanitarian mission, and we will spend the funds donated for Haiti relief and recovery transparently and wisely. The American Red Cross will be in Haiti until the last donated dollar is spent, and thanks to your generosity, we are making a difference in the lives of the Haitian people.

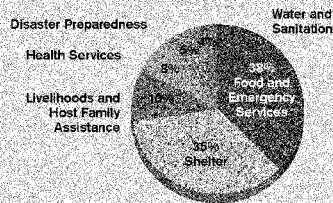
Gail McGovern
President and CEO, American Red Cross

FACTS AT A GLANCE

The global Red Cross network is providing:

- Emergency shelter materials for 825,000 people
- Cash grants and microloans to help nearly 210,000 people
- Water for 280,000 people each day
- Food for 1.8 million people for one month
- Disaster preparedness activities to protect 500,000 people
- Medical care and/or health education for 435,000 people
- Semi-permanent shelters to house 165,000 people
- Latrines for 236,000 people
- Emergency supplies for 126,000 people for use during hurricane season

American Red Cross Funds for Haiti Earthquake Response



The American Red Cross has received \$468 million in donations to date. This chart reflects \$146.5 million in spending as of July 12, 2010. This does not include an additional \$71 million in agreements currently under negotiation to support transitional shelter and financial assistance programs.

HAITI ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

PROGRAM UPDATE

Shelter—Semi-permanent shelters for 165,000 Haitians. As shelter is a top priority, the American Red Cross has either spent or has signed contracts to spend \$28.6 million* to provide semi-permanent shelters for an initial 40,000 Haitians. In the coming weeks we expect to sign agreements for an additional \$21 million. This effort is part of a commitment by the global Red Cross network to provide semi-permanent shelters for at least 165,000 people and permanent shelters for tens of thousands more. *To learn more watch this video.* Partner Red Cross societies are now building shelters in areas outside the capital—Leogane, Petit Goave and

"American Red Cross funding enables us to serve significantly more families... while we strive to put evermore Haitians on the pathway to permanent shelter."

—Jonathan T.M. Reckford, CEO, Habitat for Humanity International

Jacmel—where less rubble remains to be cleared and landowners are easier to identify. Meanwhile, in the Port-au-Prince neighborhood of Cité Soleil, construction is also under way to build 300 semi-permanent shelters, enough for 1,500 people. In what is the first large-scale shelter project in the capital by a single organization, the Red Cross and its partners have already spent \$23 million to provide more than 625,000 people with tarps, tents and tools, including more than 9,200 tarps donated recently to a camp managed by actor Sean Penn's organization.

The shelter program is comprehensive and includes cost of latrines, water harvesting systems installed on roofs and cash-for-work reconstruction opportunities. For more information on our partners outside the global Red Cross network, please see the chart on page 4.

Health Services—Over \$9 million to keep a Haitian hospital open and provide prosthetics to the injured.

The American Red Cross is reaching hundreds of thousands of Haitians with medical services and community-based health and hygiene education. *To learn more watch this video.* In a new agreement with Partners in Health, we are spending \$3.8 million to pay the salaries of more than 1,800 Haitian doctors, nurses and other staff, many of whom have not been paid since even before the earthquake, at the largest general hospital in Port-au-Prince. The American Red Cross is also spending \$1.8 million to keep a German Red Cross field hospital open to patients, and is partnering with the International Committee of the Red Cross to provide \$1.4 million in prosthetics and rehabilitation support to injured Haitians. This is in addition to other programs, including an expansive Red Cross community health and hygiene education campaign currently under way in the camps, together valued at \$2.7 million.

Disaster Preparedness—More than \$7 million to reduce risks and prepare for disasters. With hurricane season upon us, the American Red Cross

is spending millions to prepare the most vulnerable people—most of them living under tarps or tents—for severe weather. Armed with shovels and wheelbarrows, local residents in Red Cross cash-for-work programs are digging drainage ditches, putting sandbags on steep hillsides and laying gravel. In the event a hurricane hits the island, the Red Cross is also pre-positioning emergency supplies in 10 cities around Haiti and in a regional warehouse in Panama. Those supplies will be able to help 125,000 people and include tarps, tents and blankets. In addition, a series of Red Cross disaster preparedness activities, now under way, will eventually train more than half a million

people in emergency first aid, safe evacuation procedures and early warning systems in 150 camps around Port-au-Prince.

Livelihoods and Host Family Assistance—Innovative programs to give over \$60 million in financial assistance. Because the needs of families differ, the American Red Cross is committed to providing Haitians with the financial assistance necessary to choose what local goods and services they need most. In recent months, we tested an innovative cash transfer program to give small cash grants to families in camps using cell phones and text messaging. *To learn more watch this video.* Although initial efforts focused

"We applaud the American Red Cross for their vision to fund such a program and their leadership in partnering with a local institution like Fonkoze that is committed to equipping Haiti's most vulnerable populations with the financial tools they need to weather future disasters."

—Anne H. Hastings, CEO, Fonkoze

on helping families relocate from areas at high risk of flooding, the program will expand in coming months to reach 400,000 families, at a cost of \$50 million. The American Red Cross has also enhanced its partnership with Fonkoze, Haiti's largest microfinance institution, for a total of \$8.2 million to date, in order to help nearly 210,000 people (see box, page 4). In addition, through a \$6.1 million partnership with Mercy Corps, the American Red Cross is funding a cash-for-work program, with a focus on families outside Port-au-Prince who are hosting homeless Haitians.

THE WAY FORWARD IN SHELTER

The Red Cross has already met the emergency shelter needs of 625,000 earthquake survivors with tarps and tents, and is now moving forward with building transitional or semi-permanent shelters for 165,000 people. The Red Cross is coordinating with the Haitian government as they clear rubble and establish land ownership rights to move forward with building large numbers of transitional shelters in the capital.



HAITI ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Water and Sanitation—\$1.6 million to provide clean water and sanitation. To reduce the risk of waterborne illnesses, the American Red Cross is spending an additional \$1.6 million to provide clean water and sanitation services, as well as improve drainage, for Haitians in Port-au-Prince. As part of the broader Red Cross semi-permanent shelter program, approximately 165,000 people will also benefit from receiving family latrines,

rainwater collection systems installed on roofs and water storage containers. In addition, we are partnering with Concern Worldwide to build a comprehensive drainage system in a camp of 5,000 residents at risk of flooding. Red Cross relief teams will continue to provide daily water and sanitation services nationwide to approximately 280,000 and 238,000 people respectively.

Food and Emergency Services—Food for 1.3 million people.

Vulnerable groups in Haiti have long been dependent on food assistance, and this need has only increased since the earthquake. The American Red Cross has provided enough food for 1 million people for one month, primarily young mothers and children, through a partnership with the U.N. World Food Programme. The Red Cross has also provided food for 300,000 Haitians through direct distributions, which included rice, beans and oil.

FROM RELIEF TO RECOVERY

"I love what I'm doing." Amid the devastation of Haiti's capital city and surroundings, Odette Mednard sounds a note of optimism. A dressmaker and owner of a small food shop attached to her home, Mednard has been a client of Fonkoze since 2005. Now a Fonkoze group leader, she now hosts regular client meetings at her home and counsels other women entrepreneurs on their small businesses.

Thanks to the American Red Cross and its supporters, Odette and about 18,000 other Fonkoze clients so far—most of them women—have received one-time payments to cover emergency expenses and are eligible to receive new loans to get back on their feet after the January 12 earthquake.

Odette's house was damaged and she lost much of her store's inventory in the quake, but today her business is growing. "My husband was a mason, but he hasn't worked for six months. I'm supporting the family now. Without Fonkoze, it would all be over."

Based on the initial success of the program, the American Red Cross has doubled its investment in Fonkoze to help hundreds of thousands of others like Odette. [Read the full story.](#)



TEACHING ABOUT HEALTH, TENT BY TENT

Every weekday morning, Tony Saint Germain and a group of fellow health workers travel over the hilly, pothole-filled roads of Haiti's capital to reach some of its most desperate residents.

Tony and his colleagues are part of an American Red Cross-funded effort to keep vulnerable people living in spontaneous camps as healthy as possible. They have traveled for weeks from tent to tent, teaching residents about safe hygiene practices in their new homes, as well as protection against HIV/AIDS and malaria.

"After January 12, people had to live on top of each other," says Tony. "They weren't used to this way of living."

A volunteer with the Haitian Red Cross for the past 24 years, Tony is now a team leader in the post-earthquake health promotion program, which will expand to 100 camps across the city.

Despite the difficult conditions in the camps, Tony says he sees signs of progress thanks to Red Cross efforts. But there is much work yet to be done. [Read the full story.](#)

HAITI ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

A number of corporations and their employees gave generously to help earthquake survivors in Haiti. Many increased their humanitarian commitment by making donations to Haiti on top of funding they provide year-round to help families impacted by disaster in the U.S. Representatives from several corporate donors were able to visit Haiti with us and personally see our recovery efforts. They include the John Deere Foundation, Morgan Stanley Foundation, Target, UPS, Wal-Mart Foundation, Microsoft Foundation, Cisco, The Coca-Cola Company and Credit Suisse Americas Foundation.

"I was deeply impressed by the size of the operation and the level of detail in the coordination of Red Cross teams to ensure positive impact on the 400,000 men, women and children they were serving. The exhaustless dedication of the Red Cross members was evident—matched only by the resilience of the very people they were helping."

—Joan Steinberg, Executive Director, Morgan Stanley Foundation

LOOKING AHEAD

The American Red Cross remains committed to helping Haitians recover and rebuild. Although our plans will likely evolve to respond to changing needs, we are on track to spend more than \$200 million by January 2011, with the balance of the \$468 million raised to date dedicated to longer-term recovery efforts. We expect to provide shelter, water and sanitation services as well as support for livelihoods, health and disaster preparedness activities over the coming three to five years.

The challenges facing Haitian families together with government, NGOs and the Red Cross are enormous—from resolving land ownership and removing rubble to the threat of potential hurricanes. In many cases, providing assistance post-earthquake will mean building what did not exist before January 12.

For more information about our response and the lives we have impacted, visit redcross.org/haiti.

AMERICAN RED CROSS GRANTS TO PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

Food distribution	U.N. World Food Programme	\$30 million
Emergency and transitional shelters	ACTED Habitat for Humanity Haven	\$12.5 million
Water and sanitation	Concern Worldwide	\$111,000
Health services	Partners in Health	\$3.8 million
Livelihoods and host family assistance	Fonkoze Mercy Corps	\$14.3 million

THANK YOU

Thank you for coming to the aid of the families left homeless, hungry, and frightened by the January Haiti earthquake. To follow the American Red Cross response as it evolves, please visit redcross.org/haiti. You can also receive regular updates through the Red Cross Mobile Apps, Blog, Disaster Online Newsroom, Flickr, Twitter, Facebook and YouTube sites.

You can help the victims of disasters, domestic and international, by making a financial gift to the American Red Cross. Please consider helping the Red Cross as we prepare for the next emergency. Call 1-800-RED CROSS or visit redcross.org.



A business solution to Haiti's poverty

Foreign aid was vital after the Jan. 12 earthquake. But long-term prosperity depends on business development.

By Michael Fairbanks
 posted July 12, 2010 at 9:25 am EDT

Port-au-Prince, Haiti —

Celebrities, not-for-profits, and the multilateral banks have rallied since Haiti's Jan. 12 earthquake. They saved lives and created some order. They also reconnected Haiti to important networks of foreign aid and charity. The question now is, how do we connect Haiti to networks of prosperity?

I was invited by the leaders of Haiti's private sector to speak about enterprise solutions to poverty at a conference last month, held two hours outside Port-au-Prince, the capital. It took place at a former Club Med that is now the interim Haiti headquarters of the World Bank.

The list of not-for-profit organizations advocating this approach grows each day. Haiti's thoughtful president, René Prével, told me that he did have "some reservations about aid," and that he was "open to the private sector" to help rebuild.

Even Bono recently made the pivot away from just charity and debt forgiveness. He is lauding indigenous entrepreneurs, and says, "Smart aid aims to put itself out of business in a generation or two."

But the private sector here has an atrocious record. "The country's elites conspired for two centuries to maintain business models that exploited the poor," says Pierre Marie Boisson, a Harvard-educated, Haitian international banker. "The exchange rate regime is exacerbated by the influx of aid and favors importers and wholesalers, not the poor."

Profiles in business courage

Haitian Richard Coles is a descendent of both the English and Africans. His family has owned land since the world's only successful slave revolution in 1803. He employs 3,000 people at his apparel-assembly plant, pays above-average wages, and provides on-site medical care.

Scores of men and women in long lines do the same work. It is hot, but I am the only one sweating. The combined noise of a thousand sewing machines makes the tin roof vibrate; the plant drones like a beehive.

Mr. Coles speculates that maybe 1,000 lives were saved the day of the earthquake just by being at work in his factory, instead of being unemployed and at home.

"The poor believe the elites were always together, but we weren't," he says. "We supported different politicians, different policies. Things have changed. We agree on one thing: We have failed the nation."

Jean Buteau gave me a tour of his mango processing plant. Haiti has the microclimates to grow over 140 varieties. His suppliers are small farmers, some of whose children attend two schools he built. He could export up to five times what he does now, but Haiti doesn't have the specialized infrastructure: multimodal transportation, refrigeration, or a world-class port.

He has just expanded his plant with help from the Soros Economic Development Fund. It has classrooms, a quality-control lab, and locker rooms with showers for workers. He plans to employ another 150 people this year, and produce a nutritious quick-frozen product for working Haitian families who could then buy it on the street.

"There are two types of people who buy their food every day," he says, "the rich who want it fresh, and the poor who only have enough money for today."

Olivier Barrau runs the Alternative Insurance Company. He built it to serve the well-to-do, as well as the 80 percent of Haitians who live on less than \$2 a day. "We don't have a prevention culture in Haiti; and when you react, you are not efficient," he says. "People don't think of insurance for the poor, as if they have nothing to protect. But the goal of insurance is to make sure people can survive hardships."

The challenge, Mr. Barrau says, "is to build a safety net for rural people whose certificate of deposit is their cow, whose demand deposit is their goat, whose cash is a chicken."

Mathias Pierre started GaMa, a computer hardware business. "I could have gone to America, but I stayed and earned my engineering degree," he says. When riots in 2008 engulfed the capital, his store was destroyed. "I realized then, I had a nice car, a fine home; the people didn't know that I was one of them," he recalls.

Mr. Pierre started training programs for disadvantaged youth. He wrote a biography, which sold out in months. When the earthquake hit, he loaded up a truck with computer supplies and went to the president's temporary headquarters. The government was back online in hours – days before the nongovernmental organizations arrived.

Gladys Coupet, Citibank's chief country officer, was injured in the collapse of her building during the earthquake. She returned to work heading up key public-private sector initiatives.

"Our buildings were designed for hurricanes, heavy and inflexible; not earthquakes where we need structures that are light and agile," she says. "It is a metaphor for our economy in the throes of globalization."

The need for a culture of innovation

Much of the information that comes out of Haiti is from celebrities, US-based news crews, and the PR firms hired by donor organizations. One rarely hears the Haitian voice, and almost never that of the Haitian private sector. Even though humanitarian aid helped to lift the country out of crisis, it will never create prosperity for the average person.

Mr. Boisson, the banker, agrees. "We need a national vision of investment-led growth and shared prosperity," he says. This means creating a culture of innovation: finding attractive export market segments to serve with unique products, building new distribution systems, lowering energy costs, and providing skills to Haitian citizens who will be compensated for the high value they create.

During my visit, I saw the value that a large employer can provide to Haiti; how entrepreneurs can meet the changing needs of working Haitian families; that home-grown role models exist. I also saw reservoirs of deep introspection and even compassion inside Haiti's private sector. It remains for those of us outside Haiti to find these men and women and connect them to global networks of productivity and investment.

Kurt Jean-Charles is the founder of Solutions S.A., which creates mobile software applications for the over 1 million cellphone subscribers in Haiti. He evoked the promise of private-led growth when he told me, "Entrepreneurs put aside their comfort to create something new, and in the process, advance society."

Michael Fairbanks is cofounder of SEVEN, a philanthropy run by entrepreneurs. He co-wrote "Plowing the Sea," Harvard Business School Publishing's first book on enterprise solutions to poverty, and edited "In the River They Swim." He advises government and business leaders in Haiti.



Haitians Don't Deserve Our Sympathy

By Michael Fairbanks

Co-Founder of The SEVEN Fund; Senior Advisor to Rwandan President Paul Kagame

Posted: April 15, 2010 08:42 PM

The devastation in Port au Prince on January 12th was enacted by nature and exacerbated by man. The chain of events that enabled this is a lesson in systems thinking, and proof that horrific outcomes are the *only* result of a system that is perfectly designed to achieve them. Haitians were crushed and killed because construction was faulty, because building codes and enforcement were inadequate, because their private sector evades taxes, because their economy is on the wrong side of globalization, because the Americans fixed it so that rice farmers in Arkansas were protected. Despite all this, Haitians don't deserve our sympathy.

Unfortunately, there are other outcomes of the earthquake that will be exacerbated by the donors' response. I was invited to convene and facilitate the first panel discussion at the Sustainable Haiti Conference in Miami to shape the discussion around the impending aid flows. Stanford economist, Paul Romer, the innovator behind New Growth theory, likened the massive aid commitments (USD 11 billion in the short-term, and some USD 34 billion over ten years) to the notorious "waterfall method" of planning, where requirements cascade toward design, implementation, verification, and maintenance phases. The problem is that in the fast moving, ambiguous environment of nation building, needs and goals change faster than the plans.

Dambisa Moyo, the Oxford-trained Zambian economist who has staked her career on African self-determination, explained the difference between humanitarian aid, and aid that fosters growth. She suggested that no country was ever lifted out of poverty by aid. She cited Paul Kagame's Rwanda as an example of a country that has cut its aid in half as a percentage of its government budget, and is growing wages at up to 30% each year by focusing on entrepreneurship, foreign investment, broad political participation, and regulatory reform.

The former Minister of Finance of Afghanistan, Ashraf Ghani, who has been short-listed to run both the World Bank and the United Nations, made a number of trenchant critiques of the international aid system. He urged Haitians to "take control," and warned them that the large

amounts of aid being discussed could "sever the sovereign relationship between the government and the people." Haitian private and public sector leaders glanced at one another and murmured, "*Bravo.*"

Over and Under-responsibility

In Washington, D.C., I testified on Haiti with several others to the Congressional sub-committee in charge of international financial institutions. I spoke to congresspersons Meeks, Miller, Waters, and Watts. They were informed, action-oriented, and had a reputation for bi-partisanship. Meeks, who represents a large community of Diaspora-Haitians in his district, sat high up in the chairman's seat as if it were a gunner's turret on a Humvee Avenger, but chaired the meeting more like a world-class statesman than a politician.

Waters had just arrived back from Haiti and spoke passionately about the need to reform USAID procurement procedures on the ground. We discussed the need to create a shared vision between donor and recipient, disbursement of aid through national and indigenous institutions, and investment in people that increases competence beyond applying for more aid.

I observed that USAID vendors represent an oligopoly; that the U.S. government procurement processes destroy innovation; that contracts should be untied to American suppliers and focused on local and regional suppliers; and that vendors should be punished for poor performance and rewarded for superior performance. This avoids the exaggerated claims, the "over-responsibility" inside the proposal, the blaming and excuses, and the "under-responsibility" over pitiable outcomes. Consistently poor performers should be forced by competitive global market forces to leave the industry.

Nancy Birdsall, the founder of the Center for Global Development, and one of America's most practical development economists, asked if the sub-committee might consider suspending the rules around the procurement of services for Haiti, just to get things done, just to see if a new approach might work.

Platitudes for the Latitudes

I wanted to learn more, so I attended the United Nations' Haiti Donor Conference in New York City. The United Nations building--with its fifties décor, broken floor tiles, leaks, and transient residents--sparked an image of the world's largest guest bathroom in need of a renovation. The leaders of the United Nations, the Multi-lateral banks, the European Union, Bill and Hillary Clinton, and President Preval of Haiti, all spoke. They were unanimous on the themes. We need to invest in shelter, education, rural development, women's rights, and debt reduction.

There were also the north-to-south platitudes: vague, politically correct truisms with no teeth to bite. "We need Haiti to succeed." "Build the engines for progress and prosperity." "We cannot accept business as usual." "We have great confidence in the resilience of the Haitian

people." "It is tempting to fall back on old habits." And, the requisite, "It is essential that Haiti take ownership in the rebuilding effort."

There were a few exceptions. World Bank president, Bob Zoellick, called for all the donors to provide budget support for the Haitian government. IDB head Luis Alberto Moreno, perhaps the greatest reformer in the room, presented a vision for "a 21st century Haiti" that focused on specialized infrastructure, services, and governance. He mentioned the IDB's more nimble arm, the Multilateral Investment Fund's recent state-of-the-art investment in Fonkoze, an alternative bank for the poor.

The President of the National Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Haiti, Reginald Boulos, a third generation Lebanese-Haitian, medical doctor and successful entrepreneur, represented the Haitian private sector. He said, "For the first time in the history of Haiti, a unified and inclusive private sector, ... has decided to break with the past and formulate a shared vision and roadmap for the sustainable development of Haiti." The room, filled with hundreds of donors and diplomats, fell quiet.

Boulos proposed that donors allocate at least 50% of all funds and guarantees to formal Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) and micro-enterprise financing; encourage broad ownership of larger companies; and implement SME set-asides, especially in the housing and construction sectors. He recommended supporting new entrepreneurs with seed capital and management assistance to unleash entrepreneurship through the creation of capital investment funds, a Diaspora investment fund, and business development centers.

Sympathy versus Empathy

Everyone in these Haiti meetings in Miami, Washington, and New York has a heart for the poor, but do they also have a mind for the poor? My colleague, faith-based author and entrepreneur Andreas Widmer, draws a distinction between the impact of sympathy and empathy in the development process. He calls it the "trap of sympathy." It is where overzealous donors bring their own experiences to bear and take decisions away from the recipients. This demeans the poor, creates a paternalistic relationship, and destroys that most precious of human qualities, self-determination.

Andreas says, "We may interfere, temporarily, in matters of survival; but when it comes to sustained solutions, we must respect the dignity of the person and support them as they find their own solutions." Empathy means that we have a mind for the poor; it means we recognize that we would probably behave as they do in the same situation.

Haiti is crippled by natural disasters, by models of government-private sector relations and wealth creation that are archaic, and by a culture that is event-driven and fatalistic. Donor actions will either support or subvert these qualities.

Haiti's challenges will never be surmounted by massive infusions of aid, by platitudes, over-

responsibility, and speechifying up and down the east coast of the United States. Haitians don't deserve our sympathy, they deserve better.

Haitians themselves are figuring this out; we need to be willing to be guided by them. Dr. Boulos emphasized that there were a number of principles behind his recommendations, among them: accountability, equality, and "independence from international aid."

Boulos was one of the few Haitian speakers that day. Most attendees will remember that he represented the private sector; others will note that he provided a vision of authentic Haitian ownership in change. One observer, President Bill Clinton, who sat a few feet from Boulos, removed his reading glasses, turned toward the audience and said, "I just want to make sure everyone appreciates how specific Dr. Boulos has just been."

Michael Fairbanks advises leaders of government and the private sector on enterprise solutions to poverty and is the author of several books. He has been working with the leaders of Haiti since the earthquake. www.sevenfund.org

FANMI LAVALAS EXCLUSION FROM NOVEMBER 28 ELECTIONS

TO: REPRESENTATIVE BARBARA LEE
FROM: TRANSAFRICA FORUM
SUBJECT: IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION FROM JULY 20, 2010 HEARING "THE CRISIS IN HAITI: ARE WE MOVING FAST ENOUGH?"
DATE: 8/20/2010
CC: COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE

Long before the January 12, 2010 Earthquake Fanmi Lavalas, along with thirteen other parties, were excluded from participating in this election cycle. Initially slated to be held in February 2010, the elections were pushed back due to the magnitude of the earthquake until November 2010. To date, the Provisional Electoral Council (CEP) has issued no formal report outlining the specific reasons why Fanmi Lavalas has been excluded from the November 28th Presidential and Parliamentary Elections.

On November 24, 2009 Gaillot Dorsinvil, the president of the CEP "said that the Fanmi Lavalas' registration was rejected because the original letter sent by Aristide from exile in South Africa naming Dr. Maryse Narcisse as the party's election representative ("mandataire") "did not resemble at all" the letter sent by fax a week earlier to meet the registration deadline. "It didn't have a stamp or an envelope," he said, questioning its 'authenticity.'" Such claims have been met with rejection by lawyers, including Lesly Alphons of the Association of Law Professionals who is quoted "saying that questioning the mandate's authenticity had 'no legal basis'".

Attached please find various news articles regarding the exclusion of Fanmi Lavalas to be submitted for the record.

HAITI LIBERTE: December 2 - 8, 2009, Vol. 3, No. 20.

AFTER ELECTORAL COUNCIL BARS LAVALAS FAMILY PARTY ARISTIDE BREAKS FIVE-YEAR SILENCE TO WARN AGAINST "SELECTIONS"

By Kim Ives

Calls for a boycott of next February's legislative elections are growing after the Provisional Electoral Council (CEP) on Nov. 24 disqualified former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide's Lavalas Family (FL), Haiti's largest political party, from fielding candidates.

Outrage has spread even to sectors traditionally hostile to the FL as the CEP established an unusually accelerated electoral schedule and after President René Prével lured dozens of candidates from rival parties to his newly formed Unity party with promises of generous campaign financing and threats of political hardball.

The CEP disqualified 14 of the 69 parties which registered during the week from Nov. 16 to Nov. 23 (The CEP extended the original five-day registration period in the face of widespread outcry.) Among those barred, some without explanation, were the Union party of Pastor Chavannes Jeune and the ESKANP platform, which had been part of the Lespwa (Hope) coalition, Unity's predecessor.

CEP president Gaillot Dorsinvil said that the FL's registration was rejected because the original letter sent by Aristide from exile in South Africa naming Dr. Maryse Narcisse as the party's election representative ("mandataire") "did not resemble at all" the letter sent by fax a week earlier to meet the registration deadline. "It didn't have a stamp or an envelope," he said, questioning its "authenticity."

Lawyer Lesly Alphonse, president of the Association of Law Professionals, ridiculed the rejection, saying that questioning the mandate's authenticity had "no legal basis."

"When the mandate's form is not specifically imposed by the legislation in question, one cannot demand an authenticated mandate," he said.

The day after the CEP's rejection, Aristide took to Haiti's airwaves for the first time since he was overthrown in a Feb. 29, 2004 U.S.-backed coup d'état. "It was me who wrote the mandate, signed the mandate and sent the mandate," Aristide said in a wide-ranging 43 minute interview with Venel Remarais of Port-au-Prince's Radio Solidarité. He compared the exclusion to an "electoral coup d'état" and warned that ""it would be a huge error, after other errors already made in 2004, for us to take the direction of exclusion or 'selections' instead of elections."

Aristide criticized Prével only obliquely, stopping short of any direct accusations, and requested a government letter for safe conduct ("laisserpasser") back to Haiti since "my diplomatic passport has long since expired." Then he said he would come personally before the CEP.

"If the authorities don't want elections, everyone will see what they want and what they don't want," he said. "I think in 1990 it was the first time the Haitian people had a chance to participate in free, honest and democratic elections. That was on Dec. 16, 1990. If we continue with free, honest and democratic elections, it will be good for the country's political health and can bring stability which can help our economy so we can progress. If we go from coup d'état to coup d'état instead of elections, then we will just keep going from problem to problem."

Narcisse engaged in two days of fruitless negotiations with the CEP. "We presented them with the proof of how the letter was sent by DHL from South Africa to Miami, then brought by courier from Miami to Haiti and then notarized in Haiti," Narcisse told Haiti Liberté. "If that was not enough, what could be better proof than Aristide's intervention on the radio?"

The CEP is supposed to be politically independent, but even pundits like Marvel Dandin of Radio Kiskeya, a strong supporter of the 2004 coup, have begun to question the CEP's "credibility" and the viability of February's elections. "The general impression at this time is that the President controls the CEP," Dandin said in a Nov. 30 editorial. "Perception or reality?" he rhetorically asked, quickly responding that it didn't really matter since "in politics, perception counts as much as, if not more than, reality."

Indeed, Préval has arbitrarily devised an unconstitutional formula where vaguely defined and easily manipulated "sectors" of Haitian society nominate two representatives, one of whom Préval selects to sit on the nine-member CEP. The last CEP, formed in 2006, had representatives from the Protestants (Cultes Reformés), Catholics, Episcopalians, Handicapped, Unions, Conference of Political Parties (Social Democrats), Convention of Political Parties (Conservatives), Women, and Popular Organizations. That CEP also barred the FL from running in the April and June 2009 partial Senate elections, prompting a nationwide boycott that made participation "between 2% and 3%," according to the National Council of Electoral Observation (CNO).

The latest CEP, formed in October, keeps the very same representatives for five sectors: Protestants, Episcopalians, Handicapped, Unions, and Women.

The Popular Organizations sector, whose representative Rodol Pierre was a fierce critic within the last CEP, was removed and replaced, with appropriate demagoguery, by a Vodou sector. The political parties now have only one representative instead of two, with the ninth seat going to the Federations of ASECs and CASECs, local community councils.

While hand-picking the new CEP, Préval was also hastily assembling his new party, Unity. The party has wooed candidates from both the center and the right like the social democratic Fusion, Alliance, Mirlene Manigat's Assembly of National Progressive Democrats (RDNP), MOCHRENA the Struggling People's Organization (OPL), and Chavannes Jeune's Union. Jeune accused another Union leader, Jean Marie Claude Germain, who is also Préval's Environment Minister, of making a false party seal to forge documents adhering Union to the Unity alliance. This fraud is why, Jeune claims, Union is barred from running its own candidates.

Even Marie-Denise Claude, the daughter of the late firebrand pastor Sylvio Claude (who was killed in the 1991 coup) deserted the Social Christian Party of Haiti (PSCH), which she headed and her father founded, to try for a West Department Senate seat under the Unity banner.

But Préval's main political prizes come from the Lavalas Family. A number of secondary and regional FL leaders were brought into Lespwa and "won" Senate seats during the 2009 elections, including Milot's Moise Jean-Charles and Cité Soleil's John Joel Joseph. The most recent defection, this time to Unity, is that of Nahoum Marcellus, who was the FL's strongest leader in Cap Haitien. He will run for a North Senate seat, while former Lavalas deputy Saurel Francois and Lavalas base group leaders like Printemps Bélizaire and Job Glorius will run as Unity candidates for three of the 99 Deputy seats up for grabs.

Meanwhile, the OPL, Fusion and Evens Paul's KID have formed their own electoral coalition: Alternative.

Surprisingly few candidates have actually registered during the Nov. 25 to Dec. 2 candidate registration period, which was extended 48 hours. For example, only 19 candidates, eight of them from Unity, were registered for West Department races at press time. Some of this may have to do with the 17 documents candidates must gather to register, or the 50,000 gourdes (\$1,242) fee for would-be deputies and 100,000 gourdes (\$2,484) for would-be senators.

All of this has the makings of a fiasco, and the United Nations occupation force smells trouble. The U.N. Mission to Stabilize Haiti (MINUSTAH) took the unusual step of issuing a statement urging the CEP to provide "solid justifications" for disqualifying parties and to display "a spirit of equity, openness, and transparency so that the elections can be as inclusive as possible."

The CNO expressed its misgivings about the elections, noting for example that the registering of parties and candidates is happening in two weeks rather than the nine weeks normally allotted. The CNO also said that the exclusion of parties like the FL was "outside of transparent modalities and of all acceptable public justification."

Other criticism is more pointed. "We must block the road for the macabre strategy of the head of state," said Deputy Jean David Genesté on a Nov. 27 radio show. He said that Préval wants to get a Parliamentary majority so he can change the Constitution and put in place a powerful Constitutional Council.

Meanwhile, popular organizations have called for mobilization and threatened a boycott. On Nov. 30, the Assembly of Organizations for Change (ROC) held a press conference which accused Préval's government of "perpetuating a policy of exclusion and subjugating the democracy that the Haitian people are bent on creating." ROC condemned "all the opportunists who pretended to be with the people but who now have sold their conscience for a post of senator or deputy to the peril of the popular struggle."

"We call on Lavalas to mobilize," ROC concluded. "We call on people around the country to mobilize so that the forces of death have to cancel their death plans. If Dorsinvil's CEP does not reverse this decision against the majority, the masses should demand his immediate resignation and that of Préval and there will be no elections on February 28 and March 3, 2010."

In some of his sharpest remarks, Aristide compared Préval's efforts to supplant the Lavalas Family with Unity to dictator Jean-Claude "Baby Doc"

Duvalier's ill-fated attempt to artificially spawn a political movement with his National Committee for Jean-Claudist Action or CONAJEC in the early 1980s.

"If we analyze it, we can say that Lespwa has done zero, because it hasn't delivered" Aristide said. "The maneuver of assembling x and y to make the Unity platform is a kind of CONAJEC, like Jean-Claude tried to do. But it won't lead anywhere."

December 3, 2009

Communiqué de Presse, décembre 2009
Elections : Le RNDDH désapprouve les agissements anti-démocratiques du nouveau CEP

L'ancien Conseil Electoral Provisoire (CEP), décrié par des membres de la classe politique et par son vice-président, suite aux contestations soulevées par la publication des résultats des récentes élections sénatoriales partielles, est destitué et un nouveau CEP est créé par arrêté présidentiel, le 16 octobre 2009. Les membres du nouveau CEP sont investis dans leurs fonctions le 21 octobre 2009 et, trois (3) semaines plus tard, un calendrier électoral a été publié.

Le Réseau National de Défense des Droits Humains (RNDDH) note que les candidats impliqués dans les actes de violence perpétrés dans le département du *Centre* lors des joutes législatives partielles du 19 avril 2009 ont été sanctionnés par le CEP ; il souhaite ardemment que les responsables de ces actes soient punis conformément à Loi.

Toutefois, le RNDDH observe avec consternation que dans le cadre de l'enregistrement des partis politiques et du processus d'organisation des prochaines élections législatives, le CEP a pris la liberté d'écarter de la course électorale, des partis politiques reconnus, habitués aux compétitions électorales, sous prétexte que ces partis ne répondent pas aux exigences électorales. Tel est le cas de **Fanmi Lavalas** qui, en dépit du fait qu'il soit dûment mandaté par son représentant national, a été purement exclu de la course électorale. L'équité procédurale et la certitude légale n'ont pas été les conditions d'admissibilité des partis, groupements ou regroupements de partis politiques désireux de participer aux élections. Certains groupements politiques ont bénéficié de traitement de faveur alors que d'autres sont purement écartés du processus électoral, sans aucune justification.

De plus, le CEP s'est permis d'enregistrer, en violation de la Loi, la plate-forme politique du pouvoir en place **INITE**, sous la même dénomination qu'un parti déjà enregistré. Parallèlement, le **Ministre de l'Environnement**, Jean Marie Claude GERMAIN, est accusé par le Président de l'**UNION** d'avoir fabriqué un faux en écriture publique au profit de la plate-forme politique du pouvoir. Mais le CEP a préféré écarter l'**UNION** de la course en dépit des dénonciations portant sur les manœuvres déloyales d'un haut fonctionnaire de l'État.

Par ces agissements, ce nouveau CEP, déjà considéré par plus d'un comme une institution irrégulière, conçue sans aucune base légale et totalement dépendante vis-à-vis du pouvoir exécutif, prouve qu'il ne se soucie guère du droit du peuple haïtien à des élections libres et honnêtes et au pouvoir souverain de l'électorat, consacrés par l'article 25 du **Pacte International relatif aux Droits Civils et Politiques** qui stipule :

Tout citoyen a le droit et la possibilité, **sans aucune discrimination et sans restrictions déraisonnables** :

- a) **De Prendre part à la direction des affaires publiques**, soit directement, soit par l'intermédiaire de représentants librement choisis ;
- b) De voter et d'être élu au cours d'élections périodiques, honnêtes, au suffrage universel et égal, et au scrutin secret, **assurant l'expression libre de la volonté des électeurs** ;
- c) **D'accéder, dans les conditions générales d'égalité, aux fonctions publiques de son pays.**

En violant cet article, le CEP banalise l'importance du droit à des élections libres dans une société démocratique et la finalité de ce droit qui fait peser sur l'État l'obligation d'assurer « **la libre expression de l'opinion du peuple sur le choix du Corps Législatif** ».

Le fait par le CEP d'écarter de la course électorale, sans raisons valables, des partis politiques, constitue en soi une preuve évidente d'abus d'autorité. Conséquemment, le RNDDH invite le CEP à réintégrer les partis politiques abusivement exclus de la course électorale et à faire preuve de sagesse afin d'éviter au pays une nouvelle crise post-électorale

Monitoring – RNDDH

November 27, 2009

UN urges equal treatment ahead of Haiti elections, Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — Haiti's U.N. peacekeeping mission urged local officials Friday to provide a justification for banning 17 political groups from participating in next year's legislative elections.

The mission's statement came a day after the electoral council in this Caribbean nation barred the groups, including Lavalas, the influential party of exiled former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who called the decision "an electoral coup d'etat."

Lavalas, which gets strong support from poor people in the capital, previously was banned from the 2006 presidential election, and it boycotted Senate run-off ballots last June after the council disqualified its candidates on a technicality.

The Lespwa movement that formed around President Rene Preval when he ran for president in 2004 was also banned from next year's vote.

The council would say only that the 17 groups were excluded from the legislative elections because they submitted improper documents.

The U.N. mission issued a non-confrontational statement that did not mention any groups or politicians by name, asking only that Haitian officials avoid making decisions that might hint at unequal treatment. It also requested that officials review documents from all parties with openness and equality.

At a news conference Friday, the electoral council said its decision was irreversible. It said the Department of Legal Affairs would answer questions about why some parties were excluded and 53 were authorized to participate. The department did not issue any statements Friday, and its officials could not be reached.

The U.N. mission said it would meet with all those involved to ensure free and fair legislative elections, which are now scheduled for Feb. 28 but might be postponed to coincide with a presidential ballot later next year.

The 9,000-member U.N. peacekeeping force deployed in Haiti after Aristide was ousted in a 2004 rebellion.

Legislators in the politically unstable country, one of the poorest in the Western Hemisphere, chose a new prime minister last week as tension remains high over the presence of the peacekeepers. Jean-Max Bellerive is the sixth person to hold that post since 2004.

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53 agréés, 17 rejetés: Refus consécutif de Fanmi Lavalas, Le Nouvelliste

<http://www.lenouvelliste.com/article.php?PublID=&ArticleID=76405>

Fanmi Lavalas, PDCH, Union, Konba et Eskamp sont parmi les principaux absents sur la liste des 53 (sur 70) partis, groupements et regroupements politiques autorisés à participer aux prochaines législatives.

Haïti: Parmi les 70 partis, groupements et regroupements politiques confirmés et enregistrés au Conseil électoral provisoire (CEP), 53 sont autorisés à participer aux législatives de février 2010. Suivant la liste officielle publiée mardi soir par les conseillers électoraux à cet effet, ces élections se dérouleront sans la participation de Fanmi Lavalas, exclu pour la deuxième fois consécutive d'une compétition électorale. Le dossier de cette organisation politique écartée des sénatoriales partielles d'avril dernier après la présentation de plusieurs listes différentes de candidats, est jugé incorrect par la section juridique de l'organisme électoral.

Surprise, le Dr Maryse Narcisse, qui dit détenir un mandat officiel de l'ex-président Jean-Bertrand Aristide l'autorisant à représenter valablement le parti en Haïti, exige des membres du Conseil électoral une explication claire. Elle était pourtant sereine après avoir remis une lettre - qui serait signée de Jean-Bertrand Aristide - aux conseillers électoraux un jour avant la publication de cette liste.

Fanmi Lavalas semble avoir son plan B. « Même si le parti est rejeté par le CEP, ses candidats participeront aux élections de 2010 sous la bannière d'un autre parti politique », selon une source confidentielle faisant référence au parti « Konfyans » de l'ex-député Pierre Eric Jean-Jacques, actuellement président du regroupement politique « Ansanm nou fò ».

Fanmi Lavalas n'est pas le seul parti à être disqualifié par le CEP dans la course électorale. Quinze autres formations politiques se trouvent également dans le pétrin. Il s'agit, entre autres, du nouveau regroupement politique « Patriyòt rasanble pou sove lakay » (PARASOL), la plate-forme au pouvoir récemment dissoute « LESPWA », le Parti démocrate chrétien haïtien (PDCH), l'Union nationale pour la reconstruction d'Haïti (Union), Effort et solidarité pour construire une alternative nationale populaire (Eskamp) et « Konbit pou bati Ayiti » (Konba).

Contrairement au PDCH, dont un conflit interne oppose Me Osner Févry au directoire de ce parti encore présidé par Me Joachim S. Pierre, dont la mort avait été pourtant annoncée par Me Févry, Union et Konbit sont ravagés par des dissensions. Une situation qui résulte de la formation récente de « Inite », le nouveau parti présidentiel. S'étant retiré de la plate-forme « Lespwa », Eskamp, quant à lui, voulait faire cavalier seul. Il s'est fait enregistrer en vain le 23 novembre dernier à la direction des opérations électorales.

« L'Union continue la bataille de manière légale », a déclaré le porte-parole de ce parti politique au sein duquel le Pasteur Chavannes Jeune et le ministre Jean-Marie Claude Germain se retrouvent dos à dos. Assurant que l'Union finira par se lancer dans la course électorale, il appelle les candidats à garder leur calme. De leur côté, d'autres responsables de partis ou groupements politiques invitent les membres du CEP à se ressaisir.

Le processus d'inscription des candidats, débuté ce mercredi, se poursuit jusqu'au 30 novembre 2009. Et le dépôt des pièces se fait au Bureau électoral départemental (BED). Combien de candidats seront-ils agréés par le CEP

