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# CIVIL SOCIETY STRENGTHENING PROGRAM

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Fostering productive complementary and collaborative working relationships, strengthening Civil Society Organizations' systems, and improving service delivery by increasing trust and advocacy for democratic change

## BACKGROUND

In Haiti, civil society organizations (CSOs) serve as both service providers and advocates. Those that focus on service provision are often faith-based organizations or Haitian CSOs established by diaspora organizations. These CSOs aim to fill the void left by local and central governments in the provision of services by actively fostering political participation among the general population, combating corruption, and formulating public policy. However, despite their extraordinary efforts to date, these organizations have been unable to meet the demand for basic services. Furthermore, the ability of Haitian CSOs to improve access, coverage, quality, and efficiency in partnership with central and local governments remains a challenge. Due partly to core institutional capacity gaps, Haitian service CSOs still face major challenges in providing services to people that the government cannot reach.

To date, millions of Haitian households remain without access to reliable and steady sources of electricity, food, clean water and sewerage, health care, and basic education. Local CSOs continue to advocate for the rights of the most vulnerable Haitians whom the government has neglected. However, their intervention has been severely hampered by their lack of organizational capacity.

Therefore, USAID intends for the Civil Society Strengthening Program (CSSP) to provide CSO partners with the relevant organizational support to help them be more efficient in serving their communities. CSSP was developed to strengthen the capacity of Haitian civil society organizations, including faith-based organizations and diaspora groups, so that they can develop, implement, and monitor their advocacy and service-delivery activities to the highest quality standards.

## OBJECTIVE

The objectives of CSSP are to:

- Strengthen the advocacy, administrative, and organizational management of CSOs;
- Build comprehensive, efficient, and effective networks of CSOs at the national and regional levels; and
- Support productive working relationships between CSOs and development actors.

This locally led and implemented program will strengthen the capacity of up to 250 CSOs to manage their operations and improve their collaborative advocacy efforts, so they will be better equipped to push for democratic social change and development on behalf of their constituents.

## ACTIVITY DESIGN

Where common objectives are identified, CSSP will engage the private sector in advocacy efforts, increasing trust and promoting democratic change. The project team will foster productive complementary working relationships among CSOs, the Government of Haiti (GOH), and the private sector to improve service delivery. Papyrus and its partners Group Croissance, Institut de Formation et de Services, and Counterpart International will stay informed of GOH territorial priorities and plans, identify opportunities for CSO collaboration, and build broad-based alliances to provide a tailored and resilient approach to their activities.

The project will channel a significant portion of program funds to CSOs in the form of grants and will rally key diaspora resources via private foundations like Ayiti Community Trust and the Digicel Foundation. By matching project grants and developing relationships with CSOs, sustainability will endure beyond the life of the project. Adding a global lens to program strategies and activities will aid the transfer of key skills to the consortium of CSOs.

## KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Through the activities of CSSP, diverse groups of CSOs are individually and collectively strengthened in their administrative and advocacy capacity. CSOs participate in issue-driven networks that develop and sustain innovative, productive relationships with government, private sector, and donors to drive more forceful and efficient advocacy and service delivery. Furthermore, through participation in CSSP activities, CSO networks will be better equipped to influence governance, find and create space for civil society to promote a fairer economy, and represent their constituents' interests by monitoring development policies. CSSP prepares CSOs to participate more effectively in Haiti's efforts and ability to plan, finance, and sustainably implement local development, inclusively, and with accountability.

Since 2010, the American people have committed over \$4 billion to help the Haitian people to develop a more resilient, democratic future. To find out more about USAID's work in Haiti, please see <https://www.usaid.gov/haiti>, and follow @USAID/Haiti on Twitter and Facebook.