

## Six Months On: World Bank Group Support for Haiti's Recovery

Since the January 12 earthquake, the World Bank helped to assess the socioeconomic impact of the tragedy, prepared emergency infrastructure, education and community-based projects to assist the Haitian population, cancelled Haiti's outstanding debt to IDA, and provided emergency funding to the private sector.

**Strategy and Coordination:** The World Bank played a leading role in coordinating the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA), along with the United Nations, the European Union and the Inter-American Development Bank. The PDNA is the only comprehensive post earthquake damage and loss assessment and is the foundation for designing the reconstruction strategy.

**World Bank Funding and Projects:** IDA on March 18 approved the Infrastructure and Institutions Emergency Recovery Project (\$65m). This aims to rebuild public institutions and transport infrastructure and support crisis response and reconstruction planning. The Bank has also approved \$12m of additional financing to restore and expand access to primary education and \$15m for community-driven development. Projects in preparation include \$30 million of budget support and \$25m for community-based housing.

**Disbursements and Debt Relief:** From January through June, the World Bank disbursed \$56.6 million of funds in Haiti, including \$12.5 million of budget support two weeks after the earthquake. In addition, the Bank worked with bilateral donors to cancel Haiti's remaining debt to IDA, made effective in May, saving the country around \$39 million.

**IFC Support for the Private Sector:** Since the earthquake, IFC approved 7 projects for \$45 million; 3 of these projects for \$14.3 million in the garments, hotels, and mining industries, are already under implementation, in addition to a major energy project approved prior to the quake. These investments are expected to support 5000 existing jobs, create close to 5,000 new employment opportunities, and to create strong demonstration effect. Furthermore the completion of an IFC advisory project in the telecommunications sector brought close to \$60m in government coffers, with the Vietnamese Viettel acquiring government shares in the country's fixed line operator. Other advisory activities are ongoing in the infrastructure, investment generation, capacity building to small businesses, and access to finance areas.

### Selected Concrete Results:

- Offices were acquired and equipped for the Ministry of Economy and Finance and the Tax Office, enabling the government to function and revenues to be collected.
- More than 170,000 buildings have been assessed through the damaged building assessment initiative, under the Ministry of Public Works.
- Around 90,000 cubic meters of trash and debris were removed from key drainage canals in Port au Prince, reducing flood risk for temporary camps in the capital.
- 50,000 solar lanterns were purchased and distributed, increasing safety and reducing fire hazard.
- The transfer of US\$3m to the World Food Program has provided supplementary food to 200,000 children aged 6-23 months, while US\$1m to the Pan-American Health Organization supports basic healthcare services to pregnant and lactating women and children from 0-24 months.
- 140,000 children are being funded to attend school and 50,000 children in more than 1,200 schools are receiving a hot meal every day.
- Six water supply systems were completed, benefitting 37,000 people in rural communities in the South which are struggling to absorb the exodus from the capital.