



PREPEP



Programme de Revitalisation et de Promotion de l'Entente et de la Paix

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The PREPEP program is a continuation of the Haiti Transition Initiative (HTI), initiated following the social and political turmoil of 2004. It is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

The PREPEP program has four main objectives:

- ◆ to enhance citizen confidence and participation in peaceful political transition;
- ◆ to empower citizens and the Haitian government to address priority community needs;
- ◆ to build cooperative frameworks between citizens and government entities at all levels; and,
- ◆ to promote peaceful interaction among conflicted populations.

The PREPEP is a process-oriented initiative that seeks to cultivate inclusive community and government interaction; interaction that results in the provision of strong, sustainable, and responsive government services. PREPEP implements quick-impact activities in Cap Haitien, Gonaives, Les Cayes, Petit Goave, Port-au-Prince (specifically Bel Air, Cite Soleil, Delmas and Martissant) and Saint-Marc.

Highlights of Progress in Cite Soleil Throughout the Year 2007

In the early part of 2007, PREPEP was very successful in implementing visible and positive projects in Cite Soleil despite the terrible socio-political unrest that plagued the slum area. Within this past year, over 161 projects have been approved of which 94 have thus far been successfully completed. They include a wide range of infrastructure rehabilitation projects such as school buildings, public parks, drainage canals, and paving. Those results were possible thanks to the involvement of the community, community leaders and the participation of local government.

The first quarter of 2007 was marked by unrest due to gang violence, kidnapping and murder, and the crackdown operations of MINUSTAH troops against those gangs. This situation hampered PREPEP activities while Cite Soleil alternated between moments of instability and fragile peace. Several gang bases were dismantled, which facilitated the resumption of all project activities. Community participation was instrumental through the life of these projects resulting in vast improvements in the security situation of neighborhoods such as Cite Militaire, Boston, and Simon Pele. Simon Pele is one of the places in which PREPEP work has been the most effective, thanks to community participation and the effort of law enforcement authorities in bringing peace and security to the area.



Concrete Paving of Corridor Belekou

In early April, the Haiti Stabilization Initiative (HSI) was introduced to over 60 community leaders representing several neighborhoods throughout Cite Soleil. This new component of the PREPEP aims to build community cohesion in Cite Soleil. With the dismantling of gangs and the legitimate election of municipal officials, the HSI program was established to encourage leaders to join together to restore the image of Cite Soleil and to continue to work to push criminal gang elements from their community. Consequently, the first major group of HSI projects (Cite Soleil Tribunal, Boston public park, Boston National School) that were approved were identified with these civic leaders and their implementation was coordinated with the municipality.

The implementation of the HSI program in Cite Soleil, similar to PREPEP in other parts of the country, has resulted in the increased capacity and professionalism of young contractors, who will contribute to the development

of the country for decades to come. Contractors working in the program are mostly young engineers between 25 and 35 from the very communities in which PREPEP and HSI projects are implemented. Contracts are won by contractors who not only prove their capacity to implement the technical aspects of a project but who also gain the trust of the community involved. The selection of reliable and honest contractors is one of the main keys to PREPEP's success in Cite Soleil and around the country.



The US Ambassador visiting Cite Soleil

Another major impact of the HSI program in Cite Soleil is that residents who have fled the slum have started to return to their homes as a result of peace and stability. They have also resumed their socio-economic activities. Several high ranking officials including the US Ambassador Janet A. Sanderson, the UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moun, and three US Senators visited Cite Soleil to see first hand the positive shift towards peace and stability.



PREPEP Statistics for 2007

The year 2007 was another successful year for the PREPEP and HSI programs with more than 450 projects completed worth almost \$10 million. Nearly 50% of the funds were disbursed for projects in Port-au-Prince, much of which was targeted to Cite Soleil. The remaining funds were distributed in the five most volatile provincial towns.

In 2007, the PREPEP program disbursed over 52% of the funds to infrastructure rehabilitation projects such as roads and bridges. 12.25% of the total funds disbursed were invested into public areas such as public parks and markets. Almost 11% was allocated to canal construction and rehabilitation.

Distribution of Funds by Sector of Intervention during 2007

Sector	Number of Projects	Amount Disbursed (\$US)	% Funds
Canal	54	1,044,856	10.59
Civic Education	10	220,431	2.23
Civil Society	1	9,485	0.10
Education	39	890,948	9.03
Electrification	11	132,405	1.34
Environment	13	342,154	3.47
Human Rights	1	56,302	0.57
Logistical Support	6	86,899	0.88
National Governance	5	54,568	0.55
Public Utilities/Infrastructure	56	1,209,227	12.25
Play for Peace	4	52,160	0.53
Roads, Bridges, Paving	224	5,160,544	52.30
Socio-cultural	2	15,957	0.16
Terrain d'Entente	15	303,042	3.07
Water Systems	16	288,498	2.92
TOTAL	457	\$ 9,867,476	100.00 %

Distribution of Funds by Region of Intervention during 2007

Sub-Offices	Number of Projects	Amount Disbursed (\$US)	% Funds
Cap Haitien	47	1,072,995	10.87
Gonaives	70	1,775,324	17.99
Les Cayes	55	1,039,212	10.53
Petit Goave	37	542,727	5.50
Port au Prince	120	2,598,972	26.34
St.Marc	35	682,834	6.92
PREPEP	364	7,712,064	78.16
HSI	93	2,155,412	21.84
TOTAL	457	\$ 9,867,476	100.00 %

The Public Square : Ti Coq

« You, you're from Ti Coq » is a classic insult that people from Les Cayes use whenever they want to criticize someone with a bad up-bringing, someone who is dirty or mean. In reality, Ti Coq is a neighborhood in La Savanne right beside the ocean, a neighborhood that for many people was an unsafe place to go. Today however, Ti Coq is transforming itself and changing its image.



Partial view of Ti Coq public Square

The history of Ti Coq goes like this: Once upon a time, Ti Coq was the home of a man named Espri Lòm (Spirit of Man). He had his family, his house and his small banana garden near where he lived. One day, a young boy was playing on the road and crossed over the gate into the garden of Espri Lòm to find his soccer ball. In anger, Espri Lòm chased after the boy with his machete. With the first swing of his machete, he cut down a banana tree; with the second swing, he hit the boy's backside but the boy got away. The community became incensed because Espri Lòm had hurt the boy, and they tried to catch him, but Espri Lòm was able to escape by hiding in the mangroves. For revenge, some young people from the area destroyed Espri Lòm's banana garden. They turned the garden into a community area and called it "Gran Baz Wè sa Pè sa" (Contemplate that, but do not touch that). They also formed a gang called "Gran Baz."



The repaired street and public space has become a welcoming community meeting place

Over the years, the gang got involved in a variety of different activities. The gang allowed boat captains who were trafficking Jamaicans and Haitians to negotiate with potential passengers in the space. However, one day the traffickers wanted to bypass the "Grand Base" group and a conflict erupted between different gangs in the city. The police intervened and prohibited all public meetings in the area and also issued an arrest warrant for many of the youth in the "Grand Base" gang.

This solidified the already poor reputation of the neighborhood in the eyes of other residents of Les Cayes. People avoided the neighborhood, afraid for their safety. The community decided that the situation had to change. The government funded several projects for the youth, trying to engage them in productive activities, including a bakery and a brick making factory – but the departure of Aristide meant these projects were put aside.



A public event at Ti Coq Place

However, PREPEP staff worked with the municipality to identify some potential projects for the area and recently, 100 meters of a community road were paved, the drainage system was repaired, and the Ti Coq public square was built. Also, a public lighting project was approved to allow residents around the Ti Coq community to get the most use from their community park. This also permitted the start up of micro enterprises in the evening. These projects have changed the face of the community. The present day group « Gran Baz » has organized several activities for the community, including meetings of election candidates, dances and other entertainment activities.

One of the women from Ti Coq, Recelia Thermidor, has lived her entire 50 years in the community. She now volunteers several times each week to clean the square. She says, “walking from my house to the public square has given me a renewed sense of peace. Cleaning the square is a way for me to keep this peace for the future for my children and other children in the neighborhood.” Recelia was injured by a stray bullet in a battle between two rival gangs, but is now proud to say that she lives in Ti Coq.



Recelia voluntarily sweeps the renovated public space several times each week.

Ti Coq no longer signifies “dirty” or “poorly raised” and people from other neighborhoods are coming to the area to visit and relax by the beach, a true community transformation.

Looking Forward to 2008

The following is a list of priorities for each of the IOM sub-offices for the coming year, 2008.

Cap Haitien

The PREPEP team in Cap Haitien plans to continue with infrastructure projects as these are the priority needs identified by the community. These projects will be reinforced by environmental, conflict resolution and capacity building projects for local government offices and community associations.

Gonaives

In 2008, PREPEP intends to continue working on improving public infrastructure in volatile communities. This includes the rehabilitation of roads, canals, and culverts. PREPEP intends also to focus on education through the provision of benches to national schools. Additionally, improvements to drinking water systems and possibly electricity coverage are planned in order to improve security in the most sensitive neighborhoods of Gonaives.

Les Cayes

The focus of work in Les Cayes will continue to be on roads and drainage canals, with more emphasis put on school rehabilitation. A priority for the coming year will be to build on the positive relationships and collaboration with both local government departments and local community groups.

Petit Goave

Electrification, canals, and the paving of footbridges and sidewalks will be the priorities for the PREPEP team in Petit Goave as well as a continued focus on supporting the Ministry of Education to rehabilitate schools. Collaboration with local government departments as well as local community groups will be key for this to be successful.

Port au Prince

PREPEP and HSI projects in Port au Prince/Cite Soleil are being implemented in communities that continue to experience problems associated with the high cost of living and unemployment but especially gang control and violence. To

reduce the tension associated with these destabilizing elements, PREPEP/HSI will continue to respond to community-driven initiatives. This includes paving, bridge and canal projects, water systems and the rehabilitation of schools and recreational spaces. These projects are designed to reinforce credible civic leaders and organizations so that they are empowered to resist efforts by gangs to re-establish control.

Saint-Marc

In 2008, the PREPEP team in Saint-Marc will build on the lessons of 2007 to implement the most sustainable and cost-effective projects possible in collaboration with local partners. The focus will be on environmental projects including soil consolidation and river bank protection done in collaboration with the local Bureau of Agriculture and Ministry of the Environment; disaster preparedness, with a focus on completing the drainage canal systems which began in 2007; public health projects centered on road paving; and supporting the Ministry of Education to rehabilitate schools.

PREPEP IN HAITI (2004-2007) : 1200 projects worth \$ 25.8 USD million

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The PREPEP program bridges the gap between communities and the government by creating opportunities for communication and cooperation through small infrastructure rehabilitation or reconstruction projects including roads, schools, water systems, public lighting as well as socio-cultural activities. The PREPEP program has built valuable relationships with and between civic organizations and government institutions. The PREPEP has collaborated with the Ministry of Public Works, the Ministry of

Culture, the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training, the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the National Potable Water Service agencies (SNEP and CAMEP), the National Electricity Agency, the Office of the Prime Minister.

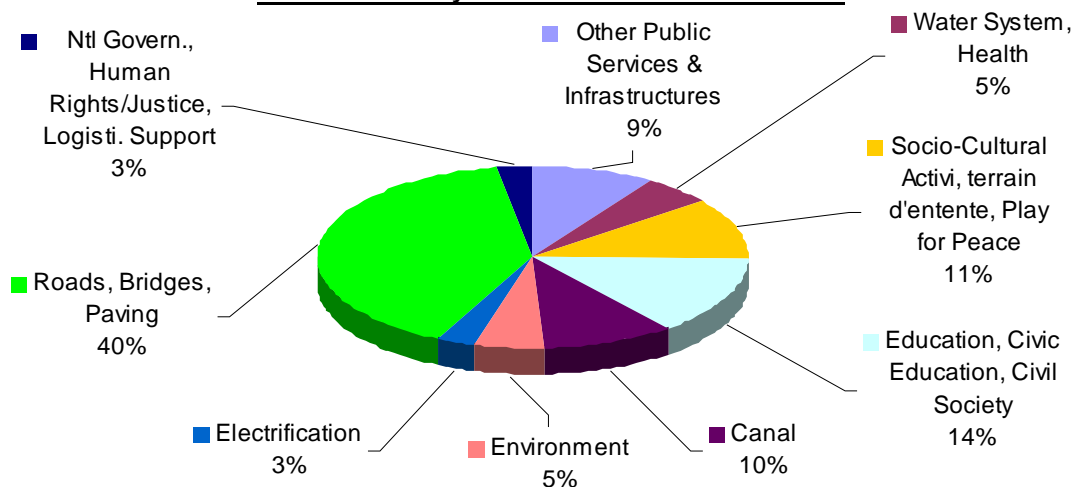
Particularly, the PREPEP:

- ◆ Stabilizes communities and the government and empowers them to meet local needs.
- ◆ Increases the capacity of local communities to sup-

port and stabilize the locale populations

- ◆ Encourages communication and cooperation between local communities, group leaders, and the Haitian civil society and the government; and
- ◆ Provides short-term employment opportunities in areas with high propensity of violence due to violence and lack of employment.

Disbursements by Sector of Intervention since 2004



Disbursements by Region of Intervention since 2004

