



LEVERAGING EFFECTIVE APPLICATION OF DIRECT INVESTMENTS FACT SHEET

March 2016

Life of Project: July 2011—March 2017

Implementing Partner: Pan American Development Foundation

OVERVIEW

Haiti's small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are essential to the country's economic development. SMEs, however, have difficulty accessing financing, limiting their ability to grow. Haiti's development also depends on effective enterprises that produce a social good, which struggle for funding as well. To facilitate access to capital, USAID's Leveraging Effective Application of Direct Investments program (LEAD) provides matching grants to leverage investment in both SMEs and social enterprises and targets industries and businesses with the greatest potential to create jobs, including construction, tourism, agribusiness, and alternative energy, with a special emphasis on job creation for women and for people with disabilities.

OBJECTIVES

LEAD aims to attract investment in Haitian commercial enterprises, particularly those with potential for growth, income generation, and job creation, as well as to increase the development impact of remittances invested in community-level social enterprises.

ACTIVITIES

- Business plan competitions that award matching grants to leverage investment in commercial enterprises
- Provide matching grants to facilitate investment in social enterprises at the community level
- Support training and business development services through local business service providers
- Promote investment in Haitian businesses among Haitian diaspora and other capital providers
- Build capacity of stakeholder and intermediary institutions, including business associations, government agencies, business service providers, and financial institutions to provide support to SMEs, socially-responsible enterprises, and overseas providers of capital on a sustainable basis

KEY RESULTS

- More than 100 firms received technical assistance
- 40 firms received matching grants to expand their businesses
- More than \$12 million in private funds have been leveraged
- Policy research involving 500 members of the Haitian diaspora studied opportunities and challenges for diaspora investments and provided recommendations for expanded engagement
- More than 9,000 jobs have been created with an estimated additional 4,000 jobs created through participating enterprises by the end of the project