Overview

Haiti, on average, is hit by a major hurricane every seven years, making it the Caribbean’s most vulnerable nation. In cities, impoverished families settle on steep hillsides, unchecked ravines and dangerous floodplains, where there is little to no infrastructure and diminished access to services. Even seasonal rain causes serious problems. Haiti’s vulnerable populations, particularly those located in the Northeast and West departments, routinely experience weather patterns that trigger disasters.

Objectives

The Urban Planning to Generate Resilience Against Disaster Events (UPGRADE) project was established to increase Haiti’s resilience to natural disasters in the Northeast and West departments. It is a three-year, $4.9 million project funded by USAID’s Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA). UPGRADE seeks to make systematic improvements in urban disaster risk reduction, helping communities prepare for disasters, while simultaneously improving their social conditions.
Activities

UPGRADE will use a community-driven approach to:

- Improve the quality of homes in Martissant and Ouananminthe communes
- Rehabilitate community centers, schools and churches to be used as provisional shelters
- Repair damaged evacuation roads
- Improve community roads
- Install solar lamps in shelters and public areas
- Reduce the spread of disease through hygiene awareness, solid waste management and improved access to clean water

Recent Partners

This project is made possible through the support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). PADF is also partnering with the Centre for International Studies and Cooperation (CECI), a Canadian cooperation whose mission is to combat poverty and exclusion worldwide.

About USAID

USAID administers the U.S. foreign assistance program providing economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 80 countries worldwide. Agency for International Development (USAID). PADF is also partnering with the Centre for International Studies and Cooperation (CECI), a Canadian cooperation whose mission is to combat poverty and exclusion worldwide.

About PADF

The Pan American Development Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, brings together many stakeholders to improve livelihoods, empower communities, strengthen civil society, support human rights, protect the environment and respond to natural disasters in Latin America and the Caribbean. Established by the Organization of American States in 1962, PADF has worked in every country in the region. In the last decade, PADF has reached more than 92 million people, investing more than $600 million in development resources throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.

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