LEAD
Leveraging Effective Applications of Direct Investments

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Overview

PADF has been implementing the LEAD project since July 2011, funded by a USAID grant totaling USD $16.97 million. The original project received USD $12 million and an additional USD $4.97 million was provided during the extension phase. The project will run through fall 2017.

LEAD seeks to stimulate private investment in Haiti’s small and medium enterprises (SMEs), thereby increasing economic growth and generating sustainable employment. To facilitate access to capital, LEAD provides matching grants to leverage investment in SMEs.

In addition to matching grants, LEAD provides technical assistance through local and international experts so that target enterprises can attract capital, grow, create jobs and generate income. Working in partnership with U.S.-based diaspora groups, LEAD also conducts outreach events to the diaspora community in the U.S. and Canada to encourage them to invest in Haitian businesses.

LEAD operates in the three USAID priority corridors: Cap-Haïtien, Saint-Marc, and Port-au-Prince. The project 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 also for people with disabilities.

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

To date, LEAD has achieved the following results:

- More than **13,600 jobs** created by participating enterprises
- More than **300 firms** received technical assistance
- **45 firms** received matching grants to expand their businesses
- More than **$12 million** in private funds have been leveraged
- Effective engagement of the Haitian Diaspora through events, road shows, competitions, surveys and a white paper
- Support to seven community-based enterprises with funding from the diaspora

About USAID

This project is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) administers the U.S. foreign assistance program providing economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 80 countries 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.

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