



Ensuring Haitian Women's Participation and Leadership in

All Stages of National Relief and Reconstruction

A Gender Shadow Report of the 2010 Haiti PDNA

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Preamble

Recognizing the devastation that the 12 January 2010 earthquake in Haiti, and its aftermath, has caused on the country and its people, in particular women and girls who are disproportionately affected due to the gender-based violence and discrimination they face,

Recalling that the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Platform for Action and the Convention on the Rights of the Child form, respectively, the basis of the international legal framework for the protection and promotion of the human rights of women and girls,

Recalling that the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence Against Women (“Convention of Belém do Pará”), provides a regional legal framework for the protection and promotion of the human rights of women and girls,

Recognizing that violence against women and girls is a human rights violation that hinders and prevents individual, community and national development,

Recalling the commitment of governments to the Millennium Development Goals, in particular Goal 3, to promote gender equality and to empower women and girls,

Recalling that Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000), whose 10th anniversary is upon us, “urges Member States to ensure increased representation of women at all decision-making levels in national, regional and international institutions and mechanisms for the prevention, management, and resolution of conflict,”

Recalling Security Council Resolution 1892 (2009) on Haiti, which emphasizes “the need for increased efforts to support the participation of women in the political process,” and “[s]trongly condemns the grave violations against children affected by armed violence, as well as widespread rape and other sexual abuse of women and girls,” and “[r]equests the Secretary-General to continue to take the necessary measures to ensure full compliance of all MINUSTAH personnel with the United Nations zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse,”

Recalling Security Council Resolution 1820, which “[r]equests the Secretary-General and relevant United Nations agencies, inter alia, through consultation with women and women-led organizations as appropriate, to develop effective mechanisms for providing protection from violence, including in particular sexual violence, to women and girls in and around UN managed refugee and internally displaced persons camps...”

Recalling the commitment of governments to the Paris Declaration and the Accra Agenda for Action on Aid Effectiveness,

Recognizing the important work already undertaken by the United Nations Gender in Humanitarian Response Working Group in their February 2010 paper on “Gender Mainstreaming in the Humanitarian Response in the Aftermath of the Earthquake in Haiti,”

Concerned that qualified Haitian women and Haïtian women’s organizations are not given the opportunity or are being excluded from deliberations and decision-making processes related to the reconstruction and economic and political recovery of Haiti,

continued....

Welcoming the statement made by former Chilean President Michelle Bachelet during her visit to Haiti in February 2010 that, “Haiti’s reconstruction will be faster if women are an intrinsic part of the process.” (UNIFEM News 20 February 2010),

Underlining the 18 March 2010 Statement issued by 26 Haitian groups, including the women's groups, Enfofamn and SOFA, decrying the quasi total exclusion of Haitian civil society in the deliberations during the donors' conference in Santo Domingo that addressed the “Plan for Reconstruction of Haiti”,

Underlining the 22 March 2010 Statement issued by CONAP, refusing to support the PDNA process and urging that all steps aiming at the construction of Haiti, cannot occur without the genuine participation of the populations,

Underlining the 17 March 2010 Plateforme Femmes Citoyennes Haiti Solidaire that aims at ensuring equality between women and men in the vision and plan of action for a new Haiti,
Urges the immediate inclusion of Haitian women’s voices and their equal participation in all sectors related to the reconstruction of their country, and

Exhorts the International Donors, the Government of Haiti, and the United Nations to fulfill their commitments and obligations set forth in the above-mentioned laws, declarations, resolutions, and statements, as the case may be, without further delay.

Aknowledgments



The Gender Shadow Report a response to the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) in Haiti is filed by the following organisations

Women's International Network of the World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (AMARC)

Equality Now

Gender and Disaster Network

Groots International

Huairou Commission

Lambi Fund of Haiti

MADRE

ORÉGAND (Observatoire sur le développement régional et l'analyse différenciée selon les sexes)

Poto Mitan: Rebuilding Haiti Initiative

.g+dsr

We would first like to thank all who worked on parallel platforms, statements, declarations locally, nationally, regionally and internationally with the aim to ensure women's participation and leadership in all phases of reconstruction of Haiti. We would also want to acknowledge the considerable work undertaken by the team who drafted the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA). We would like to offer our heartfelt thanks to the following individuals who acted as:

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Summary

Haiti at a Crossroads

On January 12, 2010 the worst earthquake in 200 years struck Haiti causing catastrophic destruction in the hemisphere's poorest country. The quake struck near the capital of Port-au-Prince, the most densely populated part of Haiti. The death toll has been estimated at over 200,000.

In fact, Haiti was devastated even before the earthquake struck. Nearly 80 percent of Haitians live in extreme poverty, and more than half suffer from malnutrition.¹ Unemployment is a staggering 70 percent, and tens of thousands of people die each year from preventable illnesses related to a lack of clean water.² Average life expectancy at birth is only 50 years, and one in 16 women faces a lifetime chance of dying during childbirth.³

These grim indicators stem from policies—many implemented at the insistence of donor countries—that have propelled poverty, social inequality and environmental destruction in Haiti. These policies have enabled the richest one percent of the population to control nearly half of the country's wealth; and have rendered the agricultural nation of Haiti dependent on importing half of all its food—the highest percentage in the hemisphere. The women of Haiti, who are both over-represented among the poor and responsible for meeting the basic needs of the vast majority of the population, have suffered disproportionately in this policy environment.

Today, as the international community pursues recovery for Haiti, the country is at a crossroads. It could recreate the status quo ante of widespread misery or rebuild in ways that promote human rights and sustainable development, including much-needed resiliency to disaster. Realizing the latter vision requires, above all, that Haitian women's and grassroots organizations participate effectively and play leadership roles in ongoing relief and reconstruction processes. It is these organizations that represent the majority of the population and those most deeply impacted by the disaster.

The Post-Disaster Needs Assessment

This report was written in consultation with a coalition of women from diverse backgrounds working both in grassroots communities in Haiti, and in the international arena. To be released on the same day as the Haiti Donors' Conference being held at United Nations Headquarters, it highlights gender concerns absent from Haiti's Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA), the operative blueprint for Haiti's reconstruction. The report offers donors, international agencies and other stakeholders human rights-based policy guidelines to promote and protect the rights of Haitian women.

Although the PDNA is comprised of eight themes: governance, environment, disaster risk and management, social sectors, infrastructure, territorial development, production sector, and cross-cutting sector (including gender, youth, culture, social protection), only one theme (cross-cutting sector) peripherally addresses gender.

Territorial Development, Production Sector, Environment and Disaster Risk Management: Haiti's population is in a self-perpetuating cycle of extreme poverty caused by and contributing to the rapid deterioration of its natural environment.⁴ Clearing trees to make charcoal, the main source of fuel in the country, is a way of survival in extreme poverty. Nearly 85% of the country is mountainous—the

¹ MADRE, <http://www.madre.org/index/meet-madre-1/where-we-work-53/haiti-168.html#healthcare>.

² Id.

³ World Health Organization, <http://www.who.int/countries/hti/en/>

⁴ Konbit Pou Ayit, a Haitian NGO engaged in coalition-building and direct assistance for the environment, <http://konpay.org/node/63>.

majority of which has lost its fertile soil due to erosion.⁵

More than half of all Haitians depend on agriculture for their livelihood, with women providing most of the labor for subsistence agriculture. Yet, the challenges of production in key sectors, including agriculture, livestock, fisheries and food, are many⁶.

The promotion of sustainable agriculture is of critical importance to Haiti's recovery. Investing in ecologically sound agriculture must be paired with policies that promote local products designed for the local market, vs. export, would help Haitian women farmers and vendors build on the expertise they have in agriculture and marketing. Such projects would help create food security and income for rural families. Many of these projects benefit women, who bear more of the labor burden in the agricultural economy.

Governance, Infrastructure, Social Sectors and Cross-Cutting Sector: The earthquake devastated Haiti's frail infrastructure, including housing, public buildings, main roads, and the port and airport of Port-au-Prince. The disaster worsened already inadequate and inequitable access to basic social services throughout Haiti.⁷ It also created a severe lack of safety and security especially for those living in camps⁸ exacerbating the already grave problem of sexual violence.⁹

Reconstruction programs must seek to remedy past gender inequalities in Haitian public institutions, and increase women's participation in the public sector and in governance. Large-works projects aimed at rebuilding national infrastructure must consider the needs of women as heads of households and caretakers for families. Efforts must be made to identify and reserve jobs in areas of administration and management for women, and to offer training to women who seek employment in gender non-traditional jobs. Furthermore, Haitian authorities must immediately prioritize strengthening security in camps. In the long term, a key to protecting Haitian women and girls' rights is strengthening and expanding the capacity of local women's organizations so that they can lead the effort to end violence.

Why Haitian Women's Participation is Critical

Women in Haiti are disproportionately impacted by the earthquake, both because they face gender discrimination, exposing them to higher rates of poverty and violence; and because they are responsible for meeting the needs of the most vulnerable, including infants, children, the elderly and the thousands of newly disabled people.¹⁰ Women's full participation and leadership in all phases of the reconstruction of Haiti (as mandated by UN Security Council Resolution

5 Id.

6 Newsweek, *Devastation in Haiti: The Looming Threat*, (Jan 25, 2010), <http://www.newsweek.com/id/232425>.

7 The Government of the Republic of Haiti, HAITI: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE PDNA AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE SECTOR EVALUATION OF DAMAGE, LOSSES AND NEEDS THE DISASTER AND ITS IMPACTS, 8 (2010).

8 Id. at 7. Human rights advocates living in the camps have documented rising numbers of rape. Michelle Faul, *Rape in Haiti: Women, Girls Detail Violent Attacks in Aftermath of Haiti Earthquake*, Assoc. Press (Mar.16, 2010).

9 See, Amnesty International, DON'T TURN YOUR BACK ON GIRLS: SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST GIRLS IN HAITI (2008), <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR36/004/2008/en>.

10 See, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights: THE RIGHT OF WOMEN IN HAITI TO BE FREE FROM VIOLENCE AND DISCRIMINATION; Doc. OEA/Ser.L/V/II Doc 64 (Mar. 10 2009).



1325¹¹ and other internationally recognized standards) requires that a gender perspective be integrated into ongoing discussions and planning.¹² Such a human rights-based approach is mandated by international law and crucial to rebuilding Haiti on a more sustainable, equitable and disaster-resilient foundation.¹³

To overcome discrimination and to fulfill their roles as primary caregivers, Haitian women require and are legally entitled to a policy architecture that upholds the full range of their human rights, including social and economic rights. Women's leadership and care-giving work should be recognized and supported by policy and program mandates and transparent resource commitments that enable women to play meaningful, sustained and formal roles in all stages of the relief and recovery process.

Conclusions

We applaud the actions of donor States to assist the people of Haiti in this time of crisis, and present the following principles to help guide governments, international organizations, and other stakeholders in providing for the protection and promotion of women's human rights in the reconstruction plan for Haiti. Because disasters amplify existing social inequalities, a gender perspective is critical to avoid recovery policies that inadvertently reproduce discrimination against women.¹⁴ Our detailed recommendations highlighted throughout the report provide specific guidance on ensuring women's rights to participation and consideration in these processes.

We respectfully remind donor governments of their obligation to ensure that policies are non-discriminatory in outcome as well as intent. The UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement call on governments to consult with Haitian women and ensure their participation in decisions that impact their lives.¹⁵ Effective consultations enable participants to actually influence outcomes and are anchored in formal partnerships with Haitian women's groups (particularly local grassroots groups), who are empowered and resourced to take public leadership in the process of reconstruction.¹⁶

The Donors' Conference must ensure Haitian women's effective participation and leadership in all stages of the National Relief and Reconstruction Plan by implementing the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, including:

11 UN Security Council Resolution 1325, S/Res/1325 (Oct. 31, 2000) (emphasizing the need for women's "equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security").

12 e.g., UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, UN Doc. E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2 (Feb. 11 1998); G.A. Res. 58/214, U.N. Doc. A/RES/58/214 (Feb. 27, 2004); Accra Agenda for Action (2008), available at <http://www.undp.org/mdtf/docs/Accra-Agenda-for-Action.pdf>.

13 See, e.g., Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, (Principle 4), UN Doc. E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2 (Feb. 11 1998); Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Gender Equality (OECD): EMPOWERING WOMEN SO THAT DEVELOPMENT IS EFFECTIVE (2009); Accra Agenda for Action supra note 2.

14 See supra, note 3; OXFAM International, Briefing Note: The Tsunami's Impact on Women (2005) (explaining women's special vulnerability during and after natural disasters).

15 Supra note 2.

16 One methodology is available in the UNCHR Tool for Participatory Assessment in Operations, available at <http://www.unhcr.org/450e963f2.html>.

Participation¹⁷: Haitian women are both disproportionately impacted by the crisis and key to their country's recovery. Haitian women's organizations should therefore be consulted and included in needs and damage assessments, and the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all relief and reconstruction programs, particularly aid delivery. Grassroots women must be materially compensated for time spent working on relief and recovery efforts and offered childcare, transportation and other support to enable their full and equal participation.

Non-discrimination¹⁸: Reproductive health services must be provided to women and measures to protect women from sexual violence must be implemented. These include safe access to storm-resistant temporary shelters, adequate street lighting and safe spaces where women and LGBTI people can organize and access culturally appropriate psychological counseling and other needed services. Communities must be rebuilt in ways that are safe and inclusive of women and uphold women's property rights.

Capacity Development¹⁹: Provide resources and facilitate technical assistance for women's organizations to rebuild and enhance their capacity. Such programs should meet needs identified by women's organizations themselves and be implemented by grassroots and other women's groups when feasible. Economic recovery programs must be geared towards women who work in the informal sector and who are single heads of households, offering them a full range of training, credit and business support services.

Accountability²⁰: In order to ensure accountability, it is critical to establish fair and transparent accountability systems with the active engagement of all sectors of Haitian government and civil society, including women's groups. Accountability is crucial to fulfilling national and international gender equality commitments made by Haiti at all levels of governance and reconstruction efforts. Reform aid mechanisms, consistent with Haitian sovereignty, to strengthen democratic governance and build the national economy to reflect the rights and priorities of Haiti's poor majority.

Transparency²¹: Every new pledge toward the recovery and reconstruction of Haiti should require that international assistance to Haiti's public and private realms integrate gender equality issues and concerns including through the participation of women in the decision-making processes relating to the distribution of international financial assistance. Governments and aid agencies should provide funding and training to enable women's organizations themselves to develop mechanisms to hold governments and non-state actors accountable to their commitments. Such aid must also require open and transparent systems of accountability, so that the implementation of the commitment to gender equality may be monitored.

We call upon donor governments to affirm these principles and follow the report recommendations in the planning for Haiti's national relief and reconstruction throughout the PDNA process and beyond.

17 Principles 7, 18(3) and 23 supra note 2; also reflected in the Accra Agenda for Action, 21(b) supra note 2.

18 Principles 4, 11(2)(a); 19(2) supra note 2.

19 Principles 4(2), 18, 22, 23(3), 28, 29, supra note 2; also reflected in the Accra Agenda for Action, supra note 2.

20 Principle 27; also reflected in the Accra Agenda for Action, supra note 2.

21 Id.

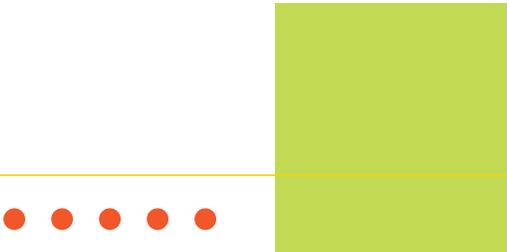


Crosscutting Themes

Section 1

Selected Issues:

1. Cross-cutting concerns in disaster risk assessments and PDNA are typically given short shrift or taken up as an 'add on' issue in later phases of recovery, further marginalizing these issues and losing the benefit of the 'window of opportunity' for building resilience post-disaster.
2. Cross-cutting concerns are typically analyzed on a population basis, e.g. "youth, single headed households, disabled." This stovepipe approach analytically divides what is joined in real life and can be divisive in the wake of catastrophic events.
3. Cross-cutting concerns are often integrated into recovery planning in narrow spaces (e.g. "psychosocial effects") rather than holistically.
4. Cross-cutting issues are often minimized in funding proposals and project design because they are understood as supplemental rather than core, though insurance or health or child care services are bedrock concerns for disaster-affected people.
5. Narrowly defined indicators are often employed to measure complex social interactions, e.g. between the needs of widows and widowers, girls and boys, professional women and women living in extreme poverty.
6. Indicators for cross cutting issues (e.g. "female headed households") are often confuse with indicators of social vulnerability without analysis of diversity among this group and consideration of both vulnerability and capacities arising from this way of life.
7. Employment opportunities are often overlooked post-disaster for persons at high risk due to interacting conditions increasing social vulnerability, such as disability, age and gender status. Instead, "vulnerable" or "special needs" populations are examined in the context of social support neglecting their need and desire for post-disaster income.
8. Children's rights, needs and interests post-disaster are typically divorced from those of their primary caretakers though in most cases the issues are joined, e.g. women's economic security promotes food security among children.
9. Women's employment patterns typically lead to reduced levels of support through pensions or other workplace benefits, further complicating their long-term recovery.
10. Cultural diversity is integral to pre-disaster society but often overlooked in recovery planning in the interests of "the public," though no such undifferentiated "public" exists in any meaningful way.
11. The capacities of high-risk social groups (e.g. elders, youth and persons with disabilities) are often overlooked while evident vulnerabilities such as transportation barriers are emphasized. Both are important to incorporate into all recovery planning.
12. Post-event spending by the state on rubble clearing, road building and housing construction typically benefits male youth and able-bodied men, with the apparent assumption that assisting men



in this way benefits the entire household. This is not always the case due to gender and age based entitlement patterns in the household.

13. Intangible or ‘invisible’ forms of engagement in reconstruction and recovery work are not as visible as physical activity, government activities or activities undertaken by elites, further marginalizing those who work behind the scenes, building solidarity and collective will to rebuild their lives in their own ways.

14. Top-down recovery interventions conducted without meaningful participation of beneficiaries undermine people’s creative and self-directed recovery and can reinforce the interests of powerful ‘stakeholders’ (internal and external) rather than those whose health and well-being is most at stake.

15. Lack of consultation with locals is disempowering, leads to missed opportunities for building both on technical expertise and on local knowledge, and short-circuits sustainable development that reduces future risk.

Recommendations:

1. Review of all proposed recovery initiatives should include assessment of how cross cutting concerns are to be integrated, monitored and evaluated. Community-based organizations knowledgeable about social groups and areas with the most challenging recovery needs should be resourced to conduct their own assessments.

2. Population statistics such as “percent female” or “percent illiterate” should not be relied upon as indicators for high-risk social groups. At a minimum, cross-tabulated statistics are required (“percent male/female with low/high levels of literacy in xxx and xxx languages”).

3. Attention to cross cutting issues is essential across all sectors (e.g. economics, housing, education) and throughout the planning process and should not be pigeon-holed in one sector or one phase.

4. Accountability mechanisms should be in place to monitor distribution of financial and other resources through long-term recovery. This includes monitoring how cross-cutting issues are identified and addressed.

5. Quantitative indicators such as those used to identify social groups at increased risk of poor recovery must be multidimensional and based on the best available data. Campus and community research centers as well as organizations active at the local level can often provide local data from studies of community issues and action.

6. The capacities, resources, skills, networks and life experiences of high-risk social groups should be well understood in planning and implementing disaster recovery programs. This should be done in consultation with women’s and community based organizations.

7. Employment-intensive recovery projects must include all disaster-affected people and be guided by early and sustained consultation with community groups to avoid stereotyping and misunderstanding the needs of heavily impacted groups such as elders and person with disability,'

8. Child care providers, custodial parents, extended kin and fictive 'kin,' as well as neighbors are all essential to children's recovery and should be integral to the design of child-focused recovery programs.

9. All recovery programs must be based on empirical evidence about pre-disaster norms and social patterns rather than on assumptions. Those least visible to planners (e.g. street children, sex workers, undocumented residents, prisoners, persons with mental illness) may be in greatest need.

10. Translating information about recovery programs into multiple languages to reach all residents is necessary but not sufficient. It is also essential to identify the types of media used by different groups (targeting the hard-to-reach), who has most access to these, who controls their use (e.g. women/men and radios), and how residents assess the credibility and practicality of post-disaster communication.

11. Early and sustained community consultation is an integral recovery planning activity. It should engage a variety of community representatives knowledgeable about needs and capacities in their own neighborhood, age group, workplace, etc. These focus groups, interviews, expert consultancies, and partnerships can provide essential benchmark data for measuring recovery.

12. Direct assessment with women across age group and marital status is needed to help ensure that governmental and nongovernmental recovery assistance reaches women through the household equitably. Support for community-based, women-led and participatory action research is one such strategy.

13. Rebuilding also takes place at the grassroots, from the moment of crisis and emergency rescue through life in temporary encampments, serial relocations and eventual resettlement. Funding is essential to support this intangible work of "reweaving the social fabric," e.g. by prioritizing the reconstruction of community women's facilities and networks and those of faith-based and human rights groups.

14. Meaningful participation must be secured of those most marginalized pre-quake and hence most likely to be marginalized in the aftermath. Community consultations, for example, must be participatory, inclusive, democratic, planned for times and places that accommodate all (including women with children, persons with disabilities, recent migrants and those with low literacy and language skills). Decision making roles should be set aside for those whose futures are most at risk, including over the use of external recovery resources.

15. Participatory action research should be funded to assess the tangibles and intangibles of disaster recovery over time and in diverse contexts. This allows for the marrying of external





expertise with local knowledge (e.g. of local markets, street children's means of protection and support, environmental effects on agriculture post-quake, people's use of media and language). It also provides the quake-affected population a critical avenue for articulating the futures they envision and desire, which is arguably where real recovery begins.

16. Need to focus on the need for overall 'mainstreaming' of grassroots and rural participation at all stages of national relief and reconstruction.

17. Call for a Task Force or some advisory body that identifies gaps, opportunities and ways to evaluate and monitor participation by this large sector of Haiti's population.



Section 2

Governance

Selected Issues:

1. Governance usually refers to a process of decision-making, and processes by which decisions are implemented by public institutions. The relationship between government and civilian actors, including women's organizations and the broader civil society, are part of a good governance concept, but this relationship and the fundamental participation of civil society in the public realm--and in particular women's groups--is often overlooked.

2. As many public servants perished in the earthquake, a new cohort of public servants will have to be recruited and trained. Since women have historically been significantly under-represented in Haitian public institutions, this is an opportune and critical time to remedy past inequalities and increase women's equal participation in the public sector and in governance.

3. Violence against women includes domestic violence and violence in public spaces. Violence in the public spaces negatively impacts a woman's ability to freely participate in and contribute to public (urban and rural) life. Violence and discrimination can significantly reduce and/or impair a woman's access and contribution to government and governance. There are still today no legal provisions against sexual discrimination and domestic violence, so few cases are reported and investigated, and Haiti remains one of the most violent countries on earth for women.

4. It is critical that legislative and judiciary bodies in Haiti take into account the realities and concerns that Haitian women face. The drafting, enactment, and implementation of laws and policies must integrate gender equality principles, without which women will risk a lack of protection under the law, or no recourse to justice at all. Mainstreaming gender equality must be an integral part of the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of policies and programmes in the political, economic, cultural, and social spheres.

5. Haitian women generally have less access to legal aid and systems of justice due to systemic barriers, therefore implementation of gender-sensitive systems and policies must be put into place to remedy denial of justice to women and girls. For example, the crime of rape was only integrated into the Penal Code of Haiti in 2005, due to the efforts of the late Magalie Marcelin, a Haitian women's rights lawyer who perished in the earthquake.

6. Considering the reports that have indicated that members of the National Haitian Police (PNH) and of MINUSTAH have perpetrated human rights abuses, including Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) against women and children, it is clear that systems and policies to prevent such abuse, protect women and girls, and punish the perpetrators of violence must be in place, including guaranteeing a critical percentage of women in all ranks of the PNH and MINUSTAH.

7. Inclusion and involvement of women in the governance of the internally displaced camps must be established. Gender mainstreaming needs to be instituted in all aspects of camp life, including matters related to aid disbursement, security, healthcare, food, and housing. Governance committees should be gender-balanced, and if that is not possible in certain situations, strong mechanisms should be put into place so that women's voices can be heard.

8. Very few Haitian women are part of the judiciary. There is a clear need to support and encourage women to study law, and become lawyers and judges. Affirmative action programs that aim at encouraging and supporting Haitian women in the judiciary should be considered and implemented.



9. Women in Haiti comprise less than five percent of the **Parliament**. **There is a need to support and encourage women as political candidates.** Affirmative action programs that aim at having a minimal percentage of seats reserved for women in Parliament would ensure a move toward equal representation and leadership in Haiti's legislative and political bodies. **In addition, there are only two Ministers in the Haitian government who are women, the other sixteen being men.** More representation at this level would make women's issues and needs more visible, as well as their ability to be leaders.

10. Almost half of the households in Haiti are headed by women, who need to be assured of their safety and security, need jobs in order to support their families, childcare if they have children, food security, housing, healthcare, and opportunities for training and education. Women earn less than half of what men earn, and most women are employed in the informal sector, making it harder for them to be providers and to improve the well-being of their families and communities.

11. Women must be viewed as key players in the process of rebuilding Haiti, and in all aspects of national life thereafter, not solely as beneficiaries or victims. Discriminatory laws and practices that limit the ability of women in all fields of public life, from employment to government service, must be reviewed and amended to ensure equality and gender mainstreaming.

12. Haiti has a population of approximately 10 million people, 52% of them women. **Child labour is a severe problem. According to the Inter-American Commission for Human Rights, 100% of Haitian girls between the ages of 5 and 9 work in the informal market. Nearly half of all children are not enrolled in schools, and almost 60% of women cannot read or write.** Early marriages are common: the legal age for a woman to get married is 15. A full 72% of the population lives on less than \$2.00 a day, and 54% on less than \$1.25. Studies have shown that human vulnerabilities and social inequalities are important to rectify, or human and environmental health will suffer, sustainable development will not be possible, and natural disasters will more deeply affect a country and its people, making it harder to prepare for future emergencies and to rebuild and recover.

13. Severe environmental degradation, coupled with the havoc wrought by the earthquake and previous natural disasters, may cause conflict over scarce resources. Conflicts may also arise with the population shift back to rural areas from the capital and other hard-hit cities. It is therefore imperative that policies and programs are put into place to address the restoration of the environment, and to develop a disaster-response system that includes preparedness, prevention (where possible) and mitigation, and risk reduction. Gender is a cross-cutting issue linked to both: without the direct involvement of women, neither sustainable development nor a disaster-response program will be successful.

14. A full 80% of Haitian women are forced to give birth without qualified medical assistance, due to lack of health facilities or access to them, and due to prohibitive costs. This must be addressed as part of an overhaul of the healthcare system, so that all Haitians have access to some form of affordable healthcare.

15. Reforms of various kinds are sorely needed: land reform, agrarian reform, reforms of the justice system. These are also directly linked: land reform would allow for a greater feeling and

fact of “ownership” by a broader spectrum of the population, while agrarian reform would allow Haiti to re-develop its agricultural base—both to meet its own food needs and for export—and reform of the justice system would increase both the perception and reality of fairness, inclusion, and security needed for the country to thrive.

Recommendations:

1. **Haitian women and women’s organisations are crucial actors in the rebuilding of Haiti, and only their meaningful participation and leadership at all levels of governance will ensure that the needs of women, men, girls, boys, communities, and the country will be adequately addressed. Civil society generally, and women’s groups in particular, must be included in damage and needs assessments, decision-making, policy formulation, and programming undertaken by the Haitian government as part of the rebuilding process. Strong consideration should be given to supporting and helping to finance such participation and inclusion.**

2. **The equal participation of women and men in national and local government decision-making is critical to ensuring that any decisions made and budgets allocated are relevant to the living conditions and needs of women, men, and communities, both urban and rural. Women and men in the public sphere should be trained in gender-sensitive budgeting and in needs assessments that take gender into account, and gender mainstreaming in the political sphere—to include greater numbers of women in public office—should be a top priority, starting with upcoming elections.**

3. **To track gender responsiveness, all public institutions should have gender equality indicators and indexes at the local and national levels. Women must be given the opportunity and the tools to act as leaders within the government and within civil society. Affirmative action programs in public institutions should be implemented and promoted, and the same should be encouraged for the private sector.**

4. **Measures should be put in place to ensure that women have access to legal aid, legal counsel, and legal recourse. Mobile legal clinics are one such idea. Workplace sexual harassment should be subject to its own administrative and legal remedies. Strict laws against sexual violence must be passed and enforced to their full measure. Laws related to women prisoners or those arrested should be looked at with an eye towards the treatment of women by the police and the prison system, and the status of families left without their primary caregiver.**

5. **Women police officers for both the PNH and UNPOL should be recruited to ensure an accessible and inclusive security sector that takes into consideration and answers the needs of women. Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) training should be given to all police officers in Haiti (PNH), and all UNPOL personnel on the ground now, as well as those who will be deployed in future. In addition, special protection units for women and children within each police station ought to be available throughout the country.**

6. **Ensuring women’s safety and security also involves gender-related planning. This takes into account women’s specific needs regarding transport, housing, employment, education, health, training and capacity-building, and public services. Partnering with women’s organisations to develop such plans will better assure their success.**



7. Involve women in the design and implementation of all phases of Haiti's reconstruction. Award construction contracts to woman-owned businesses, recruit women for urban and rural planning projects, and involve women in the development of new housing, schools, and clinics. This will demonstrate that women are leaders, capable of doing anything, and women will also be more able to earn a "living wage" to support themselves and their families.

8. Help women to build non-traditional skills, such as carpentry, masonry, and welding. Train women in business skills, and help them to find jobs when their training is complete. Pay women's groups to monitor disaster-recovery projects. This will help women to gain more confidence and the experience necessary to fully participate in public life, which will hopefully lead to greater civic and political involvement.

9. Demonstrate accountability, inclusiveness, and equity in all phases of the recovery and rebuilding process, and be as transparent as possible in policies, programs, and financial matters, including aid. This is important not only for the sake of international donors, but also for Haitian civil society in general—and women in particular—so that there is both the perception and the fact of justice and equality, and a rights-based approach to social and national reconstruction.

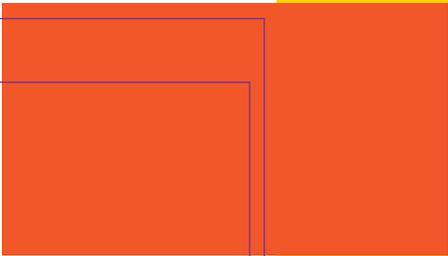
10. Involve women and women's groups in the planned decentralization process, and involve as well grassroots civil-society groups who know the needs and challenges of their own locales. Needs assessments at the local level can be carried out by these groups, working in conjunction with one another, which utilizes their considerable experience and expertise, while developing more robust democratic and participatory processes. These assessments can then form the basis for further cooperation in the planning and implementation phases of rebuilding programs, each step in the process creating a stronger foundation for local governance.

11. Give priority to the development of social services to help women, including women's centers and other safe spaces, children's support services, and services in IDP camps that will help to ensure women's safety and well-being, and that of their families. The assurance and fact of safety will increase the likelihood of a more peaceful, productive, and successful rebuilding process, let alone a more healthy overall society.

12. Make use of media such as radio to reinforce a sense of inclusion, stake-holding, transparency, and accountability. Utilize community radio as the strong pre-earthquake network again becomes operational, including women broadcasters, to report on the rebuilding process and progress. Tap women and community-based journalists and artists, and any forms of available information and communication technologies, to help reinforce the connection between public institutions and civil society.

13. Make public education more accessible and affordable, and ensure that gender mainstreaming becomes an integral part of all educational processes and levels, from the primary to the tertiary. If and when possible, consider making primary education free of charge. Vocational schools and other forms of business-related training and entrepreneurship should also be accessible and gender inclusive. Loans, grants, and other forms of credit—used to obtain an education—should be available and accessible to women and men alike.

14. Woman-friendly transportation means and methods should also be a priority. Women need



various forms of transport that are safe, timely, and helpful to their work and family needs. Without such means, women are not able to adequately participate in the social and economic life of their communities and country, nor in the public sphere.



Productive Sector

Section 3

Selected Issues:

1. The rebuilding of Haiti's productive sectors and massive job creation are key goals of the national reconstruction effort post the January 12 earthquake, which badly damaged Haiti's ports and international airport, and major roads that are central to the transport of good in and outside of Haiti.

2. Pre-Earthquake, half of Haitians engaged in agriculture but often it was subsistence agriculture – not enough to support them. Unemployment was estimated at between 60%-80%, and many people scraped by doing odd jobs or relying on remittances from Haiti's Diaspora that made up roughly 25% of Haiti's \$ 7 billion gross domestic product. Today, the challenges of production in key sectors including agriculture, livestock, fisheries and food are many. Agriculture remains the largest employment generator sector in Haiti: it occupies over 50% of the workforce. Therefore agriculture is one of the pillars of the country's stability, an essential axis of its development.¹

3. Sustainable agricultural projects help increase food security and income for rural families. Many of these projects benefit women, who bear more of the burden in the agricultural economy

4. Some of the activities adopted by the international community are threatening to disrupt the local economy if they continue to plan relief under the assumption that goods must be imported. Food aid can be harmful when it displaces the local economy. It puts local farmers out of business and creates an unhealthy dependency.

5. Market Women, also known as "ti machann" in Haiti often earn money selling locally grown produce at the local market. They depend on the productivity of the local food economy to earn a living.

6. Many women are heads of households and engage in agricultural work or as small-scale entrepreneurs and market vendors. They are viewed as the "poto mitan" – or pillars of Haiti's economy and state. While the urgent focus on rebuilding roads and infrastructure will benefit these women by helping to support their ability to transport and store product and goods to markets– a problem now –it is likely to disproportionately favor employment for men to do heavy labor, construction, demolition or big debris removal.

7. The primary economic role played by women in Haiti's 'informal' economy – and initiatives to bolster their access to credit and cash, goods and services, training, and help to access local and new markets, as well as possible export markets is not acknowledged in reconstruction efforts. The access to capital and the operations of small-scale women farmers and entrepreneurs whose economic activities have been badly crippled by the earthquake; these women need a range of support to take up their activities – activities vital to the economy of the nation.

8. The major influx of outside food aid for the massive relief effort has also begun to hurt market women who have fewer customers for their market produce.

9. In order for Haitian women to participate, they will need greater access to education and training in areas of trade and commerce. Right now, the majority of Haitian women are living in sub-poverty

¹ "Action Plan for the Reconstruction and National Development of Haiti," Government of Haiti, March 2010

levels, with often-limited access to education and specialized training.

10. A key cornerstone of Haiti's new PDNA plan calls for major expansion and investment in the textile or 'garment' industry, often negatively known as the 'maquiladora' industry in Latin and South America. The focus on expanding the textile industry is based in part on a 19-page economic growth plan commissioned by U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon last year and written by a non-Haitian -- Oxford University economics professor Paul Collier, and championed by former US President Bill Clinton, who is the US Special Envoy to Haiti. The plan is based on two factors said to be in Haiti's favor: an existing preferential trade deal and very cheap Haitian labor.²

11. In 2008, the US Congress passed the existing Haitian Hemispheric Opportunity Through Partnership Encouragement Act, or "Hope II," a trade agreement that lets Haiti export textiles duty-free for a decade. Companies like Hanes and New Balance have boasted annual profits of 22%. Under HOPE II, some Dominicans transferred their factories to Haiti.

12. The Obama administration is backing the push to increase garment factories, and extend the terms of HOPE II, and to create other free trade zones to take advantage of Haiti's 'competitive' edge and low wage employees. There are currently 25,000 clothing assembly jobs, 75% less than 20 years ago, and most are in a single industrial park in the capital that was damaged in the earthquake. New plans call for expanding to two new sites, and putting new factories in other parts of the country.

13. For clothing assembly employees, the working wages at Haitian "sweatshops" are too low to be considered a decent living -- something even employers agree about. Working conditions vary at the plants. But are deemed inhumane by critics. For example, Post-quake, the 1,200 employees at South Korean-owned DKDR Haiti SA were making a new "outsourcing" minimum wage of 125 gourdes a day -- about \$3.09 -- roughly the same as the minimum wage over 20 years ago, and worth half the purchasing power as in 1984.³

14. Women make up many of the employees in these factories, and complain of extremely long hours, poor working and often dangerous working conditions, and a lack of services needed to help working mothers such as employee child care, maternity leave or other standard practices given to employees in the US and other countries. Women's and labor groups have long denounced horrible conditions at Haiti's baseball manufacturing companies and clothing assembly plants.

15. While profits remain handsome for foreign investors from South Korea and Japan, it's unclear how much benefit Haiti derives from foreign-owned companies, who also benefit from various tax incentives to support their investment. The focus of economic growth on an industry that depends of keeping wages as low as possible to compete and exports goods is not a strong solution for Haiti, say critics. They argue that a far greater investment in domestic agriculture and innovation will yield more long-term benefit to Haitians, and that other types of businesses merit investment such as new and alternative energy, technology and a new investment in tourism and

²"Can low-paying garment industry save Haiti," Associated Press, February 21, 2010.

³ Ibid.



culture can help Haiti develop and help Haitians live as a modern state.

16. Years ago, tourism made up a significant part of Haiti's economy, but years of economic and political crisis have nearly destroyed Haiti's tourist industry. Yet Haiti remains a culturally rich, vibrant country, one with a beautiful, still very undeveloped coastline, and cities that retained a crumbling but considerable post-colonial charm, from Jacmel to Cap-Haïtien.⁴ Haiti's tropical weather and status as a relatively 'unspoiled' island are assets that could be developed in the future. But the impact of the earthquake and the major damage sustained by so many sectors makes this kind of tourism less realistic for major economic activity now.

17. Haiti's current instability is also due in part to insecurity and the rise of urban crime linked in part to Haiti's very high unemployment. In recent years, Haiti had made strides to reduce crime, but post-quake, a large number of jailed inmates escaped from the National Penitentiary and are behind some of the recent attacks and killings of Haitians and suspected rival gang members in the capital. Until Haiti can provide more security, tourists are likely to continue to stay away.

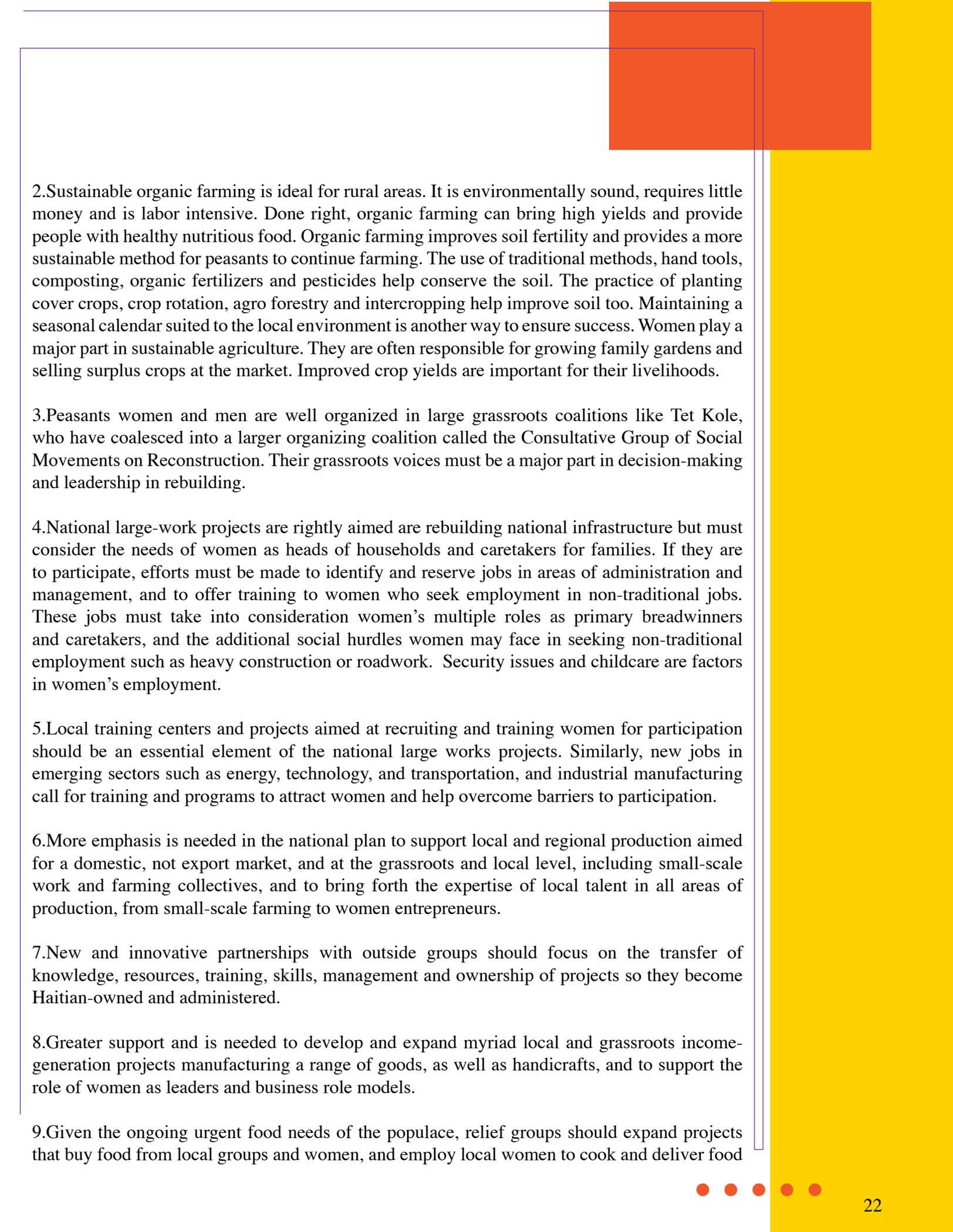
18. As the PDNA plan notes, cultural centers like downtown Jacmel that have been magnets for tourism were badly affected by the earthquake. While the PDNA plan calls for promoting the cultural heritage of such cities, it does not focus enough on the critical task of educating the nation about the national challenge of Preservation of Culture and Patrimony. Restoring and recalling Haiti's culture and traditions means paying careful attention to what should not be destroyed, including Jacmel's fragile gingerbread houses, and focusing on what can be preserved or rebuilt to honor architectural styles, and what must be memorialized to help build Haitian investment in its own patrimony.

19. One focus on the new PDNA plan is to develop a portfolio of 'intellectual property rights' for 'the raw materials for the productions of the mind and for certain sections of traditions.' Here, transparency and respect for the rights of local communities and indigenous traditions means calling for caution in applying economic tools like intellectual property rights designed to gain and retain commercial right to market and profit from a given concept or Haitian tradition. Who will control the 'cultural' riches of Haiti? They belong to all Haitians, not to private groups who may want to patent and reap economic benefit from it. The role of the state and civil society as custodians and watchdogs of Haiti's culture is critical and is needed to establish criteria for the future commercialization of Haiti's patrimony. In all aspects of such a national project, there must be mechanisms established for a transparent public dialogue and engagement by Haitians at all levels.

Recommendations:

1. The earthquake offers a unique opportunity for the international community to work in partnership with Haitian peasant groups to increase the capacity of the grassroots to feed the country and support the local economy.

⁴"Funky beach town of Jacmel could be key to Haiti's economic recovery," by William Booth, *Washington Post*, March 16, 2010.



2. Sustainable organic farming is ideal for rural areas. It is environmentally sound, requires little money and is labor intensive. Done right, organic farming can bring high yields and provide people with healthy nutritious food. Organic farming improves soil fertility and provides a more sustainable method for peasants to continue farming. The use of traditional methods, hand tools, composting, organic fertilizers and pesticides help conserve the soil. The practice of planting cover crops, crop rotation, agro forestry and intercropping help improve soil too. Maintaining a seasonal calendar suited to the local environment is another way to ensure success. Women play a major part in sustainable agriculture. They are often responsible for growing family gardens and selling surplus crops at the market. Improved crop yields are important for their livelihoods.

3. Peasants women and men are well organized in large grassroots coalitions like Tet Kole, who have coalesced into a larger organizing coalition called the Consultative Group of Social Movements on Reconstruction. Their grassroots voices must be a major part in decision-making and leadership in rebuilding.

4. National large-work projects are rightly aimed at rebuilding national infrastructure but must consider the needs of women as heads of households and caretakers for families. If they are to participate, efforts must be made to identify and reserve jobs in areas of administration and management, and to offer training to women who seek employment in non-traditional jobs. These jobs must take into consideration women's multiple roles as primary breadwinners and caretakers, and the additional social hurdles women may face in seeking non-traditional employment such as heavy construction or roadwork. Security issues and childcare are factors in women's employment.

5. Local training centers and projects aimed at recruiting and training women for participation should be an essential element of the national large works projects. Similarly, new jobs in emerging sectors such as energy, technology, and transportation, and industrial manufacturing call for training and programs to attract women and help overcome barriers to participation.

6. More emphasis is needed in the national plan to support local and regional production aimed for a domestic, not export market, and at the grassroots and local level, including small-scale work and farming collectives, and to bring forth the expertise of local talent in all areas of production, from small-scale farming to women entrepreneurs.

7. New and innovative partnerships with outside groups should focus on the transfer of knowledge, resources, training, skills, management and ownership of projects so they become Haitian-owned and administered.

8. Greater support and is needed to develop and expand myriad local and grassroots income-generation projects manufacturing a range of goods, as well as handicrafts, and to support the role of women as leaders and business role models.

9. Given the ongoing urgent food needs of the populace, relief groups should expand projects that buy food from local groups and women, and employ local women to cook and deliver food



to communities such as those living in tent cities. This will build up the local market and more directly benefit women, since those who are employed in small-scale market activities are often not eligible for food aid.

10. Overall, the national relief plan should move away from food aid (imported rice) by creating alternative mechanisms to grow and deliver locally grown food. Investing in local products designed for the local market, vs. export is another step to help Haitian women farmers and vendors and builds on the expertise they have in agriculture and marketing.

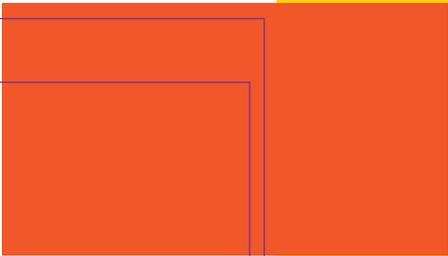
11. To succeed, the PDNA plan should consider how to make these projects ‘women-friendly’ and designed to interest and prepare women, including younger women, for participation.

12. Some sectors are traditionally known to employ many women, including the health sector, where women make up the majority of nurses, and where more and more women have become doctors and health administrators and health specialists. As Haiti’s health infrastructure is rebuilt (see Health sector for more discussion), an equal effort must be made to encourage women to pursue employment in other areas of health and academia; *and* to attract young men into nursing and other fields now dominated by women.

13. Expansion of Haiti’s assembly factory is likely to enrich a small sector of Haitians who may have the capital needed to invest in these plants, and attract foreign investment. But it will do little to allow employees of these plants to earn a decent wage and thus fails to meet the goals of the stated PDNA plan, which calls for respecting the quality of life of Haitian as workers. There is also large popular opposition to such factories by Haitian civil and trade groups who regard them as exploitive and harmful to Haiti’s national development. While such factories may have a role in short-term economic development for Haiti, they should not be the cornerstones of economic development. Instead Haitian leaders should focus foreign investment on Haitian-owned businesses and innovative foreign-domestic and public-private partnerships in areas of industrial manufacturing that can be used by the sectors most in need of rebuilding: recycling, gravel and cement production, production of new tools for agriculture and fisheries, sanitation and waste treatment, construction and production of materials designed for use in energy-efficient, earthquake and hurricane-resistant housing, new schools, etc.

14. Haiti needs nearly every kind of service now, from waste delivery to cheap mobile phones. Local production of any elements of products being imported represent opportunities for Haitians to produce goods and services that benefit Haiti, keep money in Haiti, and build up Haitian capacity in these sectors. Other major job programs in ‘green’ areas such as reforestation or environmental restoration will do a lot to make Haiti more naturally productive.

15. By focusing on how Haiti can adapt innovation and make use of the global partners who have arrived to help implement innovative, cost-efficient, sustainable solutions to key challenges, Haiti could begin producing goods that are in demand in the regional market and in post-disaster countries, since other countries and regions are now aware of their need to improve basic infrastructures to cope with major earthquakes, having learned from Haiti, and more recently, Chile’s experience.



16. While innovative partnerships could help transfer knowledge, models and best practices to Haiti, more focus is needed on local models and local solutions that could be applied, and make use of existing talent and experience at local levels. That is where investment goes a long way. It is critical to engage women and invest in programs targeting women and girls, to bring forward their concerns and vision and leadership as Haiti develops new sectors of its economy. Haiti's poverty requires a major focus on introducing more technology and new technology resources to Haitians, particularly those in grassroots sectors, and that includes women and girls.

17. While the focus on Haiti's artistic and cultural heritage is important and very rich, it could further benefit from a focus on the historic contributions of Haitian women to Haiti's rich history, and promote knowledge of Haitian artists, writers and musicians including women in schools. Making more funding available to local artists and cooperatives, cultural and handicrafts producers is an important step; so is helping Haitians to market their cultural wares in regional and global markets. There are many successful groups and artists' cooperatives in Haiti that make products and have models that deserve to be supported, including women artists' cooperatives. Government and non-profit partners can help by working to identify areas that such groups need help in – such as marketing and shipping of products to export markets – and assisting with the global promotion of Haitian-made goods including reductions on tariffs, etc.

18. Preservation extends to architecture, urban design, and archival and scholarly historic work – to virtually all aspects of Haitian life that have been affected by the earthquake. It calls for careful attention to preserving and honoring the past while making way for the new. Here too, there are ample opportunities for women and local groups to be involved in the important task of Preservation, and helping to rebuild towns and cities to honor their unique heritage. There are roles for women cultural producers – writers, artists, dancers, sculptors, and Internet designers – to share new visions of the Haiti they imagine. Here too, partnerships with outside investors and cultural groups – museums, libraries, academic groups – can help Haiti preserve and celebrate its cultural legacy and share it with a broader global audience.



Social Sector

Section 4

Selected Issues:

Health

1. Haitian government and administrative health services were crippled and affected by loss of personnel and infrastructure which only added to the challenges facing Haitians at all levels, particular Haitian NGOs and community groups.

2. Initially, Haitian groups and communities had very limited access or direct communication with the official UN and Humanitarian Cluster system and international members, who were in charge of setting up to provide rapid delivery of relief aid and logistical support to relief providers arriving to help in Haiti and fielding an overwhelming number of requests for emergency help. Considerable communication gap among the diverse humanitarian and military actors and the Haitian communities and groups due to language barriers among national and international actors

3. The overall lack of initial coordination and a perceived US military emphasis on assuring security over delivery of air food drops post-quake resulted in Delayed Health Delivery and is widely blamed for the lack of global health delivery to survivors in first two weeks.

4. Haitians living in the poorer urban zones, popular neighborhoods, rural and mountainous settlements were less well served, however – a complaint that still remains true, though foreign and local medical teams have provided mobile teams to help in communities in more remote areas. UN Cluster system posed a challenge for Haitian community groups and limited their access and integration in the humanitarian system to improve service delivery. The huge number of different groups and ad-hoc efforts to deliver help to Haitians has made this an enormously difficult task. Some international nonprofit medical groups with long experience in Haiti – for example Partners in Health, Save the Children, and Doctors without Borders -- moved quickly to provide emergency care, and continue to draw upon community health advocates and local leaders to identify and respond to emergent health needs. But local Haitian NGOs and newly arriving outside NGO groups found it difficult to integrate their resources and talents into the humanitarian cluster system; many chose to establish ad hoc clinics instead, adding to the initial chaos and duplication of effort that marked the initial response.

5. Major concern and challenge is the lack of Haitian women's and grassroots organizations as key stakeholder in the UN/humanitarian Cluster team model poses a problem, since it keeps the key groups closest to affected communities outside the loop of decision-making and information sharing. Although, UN Cluster teams have opened up their system to allow anyone to participate in weekly meetings, but opposition to a perceived UN or US 'soft occupation' means they will not actively participate.

6. Lack of adequate attention to Women and Girls' needs. Multiple challenges of delivering health care to a large, displaced national population in Haiti, with new threats of rain, mudslides, flooding and future hurricanes on the horizon, additionally contribute to the many problems facing Haitian women and girls as they try to recover from the earthquake and its aftermath. Women and girls are facing conditions living in other IDP camps and informal tent settlements, or simply living out in the street without adequate shelters and very poor environmental conditions, without adequate access to latrines, water to wash, potable water to cook or drink, fuel for cooking, access to enough food, and sleeping in dangerous conditions next to unknown men, and vulnerable to threats of violence, theft

and sexual violence.

Transportation and Roads

1. Women have **less ownership and access to private transportation and rely heavily on public transport**. In the post disaster scenario poor transportation is thus going to affect women's needs related to care giving, health, production and marketing, as they require effective commuting systems.

2. Lack of sufficient lighting on the roads, to water points (as **Haitian women predominantly fetch water**) and at the bus stops is a threat to personal security of women and girls

3. Women who live in neighborhoods that are linked to urban centres through unpaved roads and paths are less likely to be able to reach and access social services.

Education

1. About **80%** of schools belong to the private sector, there is a considerable difference in the percentage of enrolment to schooling between girls and boys . **The rural-urban difference** is also considerable as nearly **25%** of the women in urban areas have finished secondary school, whereas only less than **2%** in rural areas. During times of conflict and disaster due to stereotypical gender roles ,cost of private school education and division of labor girl school attendance often declines.

2. There is also a significant difference in the levels of literacy between men and women.

3. Informal schooling for girl children as well as evening vocational, technical, and literacy training for women are poorly attended .This is because of **a lack of awareness of the constraints** faced due to gendered division of labor and care giving roles as well as their risk of **increased exposure to domestic and gender-based violence in post-earthquake**.

4. Drop out of children and adolescents especially girls from schools and colleges who were orphaned or from affected families is an important concern.

Community

1. Women led or women's ngos met vital needs pre-disaster and as a result of the earthquake have suffered losses both in infrastructure and personnel



2. Women's essential role in recovery is ignored due to prevailing culture where women suffered disproportionately during pre disaster period too.

Recommendations:

1. Better communication between grassroots Haitian groups who are poised to deliver health and social service support is needed within the UN Cluster system. The reliance on English and French language written communication and news updates also limits the ability of ordinary Haitians to know about news updates of the UN Cluster effort. One step to help address this is a regular radio bulletin of information in Kreyol produced in collaboration with Haitian community radio journalists, and aimed at the Haitian public.

2. Haitian women's and community groups are also well poised to help deliver supportive services, recruit and train Haitians to provide community health services and other activities within camps, including participation in Gender-based violence prevention teams.

3. Large-scale active engagement and training of local community members is an important approach toward supporting health and wellness, and encouraging local groups to unite to improve living conditions in informal settlements, access to food and water, and security for children and women. The immediate recruitment and training of local Haitians across Haiti to participate and deliver disaster preparedness activities is an essential step to reducing the health hazards and risks associated with the forthcoming hurricane season

4. Women-specific health needs: The emerging PDNA blueprint for national action in Haiti acknowledges the myriad health challenges facing homeless and unemployed Haitians in camp settings and the additional vulnerability of women and girls in overcrowded, dangerous camp settings. But there is a lack of detail related to specific strategies to address women's and girls' access to needed services, including non-food pack items such as sanitary pads and 'dignity supplies' to promote personal hygiene. Conditions currently favor an increasing risk health problems including exposure to tuberculosis.

5. Review the existing PDNA plan for health delivery from a women's-, girls'- and family-centered perspective to identify gaps and new opportunities for improving delivery of new services and programs to these members, and foster their participation and sharing of local approaches to solving challenges

6. Reconstruction of hospitals and community health centers do not generally take into account the sexual and reproductive needs of women. They also silo leave out men in family-based programs though men may be decision-makers in family health.

7. Provide all large camps and informal settlement areas with access to a medical team, or mobile medical team that can provide also reproductive health care, but with at least a trained nurse permanently in place, with on call support from auxiliary nurses, midwives and doctors.

8. Increase supplies of medicines, food, potable water, mosquito nets, fuel for cooking, and vitamins for residents; and additional non-food items needed by women and girls such as sanitary pads and dignity kits.

9. Preposition additional supplies of medicine including reproductive health emergency kits, food and non-food items for use during the forthcoming hurricane season and encourage health providers to consider plans for further health emergency responses that may arise with new hurricanes, etc.

10. Work with camp residents and women's groups to recruit men and women from within camps and local communities to establish a camp and local corps of community-based and lay health providers who can help provide a range of critical health, wellness, and health education and disease prevention services.

11. These teams can work with residents to develop innovative, local solutions to delivery of incoming aid, medicine, and security to displaced and vulnerable families and residents that engage them in decision making and problem solving, moving away from an over-reliance on outside aid that may not arrive

12. Train grassroots community health educators and equip them with basic information about disease prevention, wellness, environmental safety and steps related to disaster risk reduction

13. Support the establishment of local and community-based family wellness centers staffed by visiting doctors and relief teams that work with local residents who can help identify and ferry ill or injured individuals to medical care, and serve as a local infrastructure to work with Disaster Preparedness Committees during the hurricane season.

On addressing GBV

1. Place UN peacekeepers, or additional police or private security guards to provide protection against rape who are positioned at latrines, washing stations and community wells where women and girls are often targeted for rape.

2. Reach out to men and boys as Fathers and Allies to help safeguard against rape.



3. Recruit women to join the police and consider forming additional GBV teams in cities and densely populated areas of Haiti.
4. Train health service providers to treat GBV survivors and equip them with appropriate post rape treatment kits.
5. Establish psychosocial support to GBV survivors including counseling services
6. Focus on the needs and vulnerability of girls and elderly women in camp settlements.
7. Orphan girls in pre and post disasters are to be considered as high risk group for trafficking. Strengthening linkages between camps, local women's and orphan care provider groups and the UN Cluster on Child Protection can help reduce this threat.
8. Provide greater public education and take steps at the national level to foster a 'climate of impunity' for rape and work to strengthen the Haitian justice system to make rape a crime that is punished.
9. Promote the advocacy and leadership of Men As Allies against Sexual Violence, engaging Haitian and diaspora male leaders to make this issue a pillar of the New Haiti agenda.
10. Provide women receiving food aid with escorts if needed to carry food home.
11. Focus on maintaining the supply of water to camps to avoid women or girls having to leave camps to seek water, increasing their exposure to risk of attack.
12. Teach women and girls local methods to purify water
13. Provide women and families with fuel for cooking and maintain camp water reservoirs.
14. Purchase local foods from local vendors and encourage community-oriented food production and food delivery within camps, moving away from outside food aid that is limited to rice and has insufficient protein to meet daily nutritional requirements.

Reproductive Health (Pregnant women and OB GYN concerns)

1. Provision of basic prenatal and post-partum care as needed as well as lactation counseling.
2. Provide nutritional packages that satisfy the needs of pregnant women. Chronic malnutrition and anemia are exacerbated and need close monitoring particularly in these women.
3. Recruit local women to support pregnant women as birth attendants, and to provide child care for women or new mothers.
4. Form support groups for pregnant women and new parents.

5.Focus on education, training and hiring more nurses, lay midwives and birth attendants and position them in needed areas, with resources and linkages to medical teams

6.Distribution of humanitarian aid should include within its medical facilities emergency contraception that can prevent pregnancy as well as post-exposure prophylaxis that can prevent HIV infection within three days of intercourse or rape.

7.Every health-care facility must be a resource center for **comprehensive sexual education** and family planning, distribution of prevention and contraception methods, and emergency contraception.

Mental Health

1.Create a national plan to focus on the national, regional and local delivery of mental health services, including grief and post-trauma counseling.

2.Work with outside groups who have developed innovative models and trainings to help speedily deliver resources, training and education, and professional volunteers to provide mental health counseling to Haitians.

3.Focus on what local Haitians can do now: recruit local women (and men) to facilitate community-based counseling and support groups (for women, men, children) in and outside of camps, church groups and settlement areas to provide Haitian women and with opportunities to process their emotional responses to the quake and the enormous stresses of survival.

4.As part of the proposed PDNA plan, establish and help fund mental health services and mobile mental health service units and work with existing community groups to identify and delivery such services

Physical Therapy – needs of disabled

1.Establish a national plan to address the needs of a large, newly disabled population. This means a focus on the rights of disabled Haitians, and programs to assure they have access to goods and services, transportation and other needs like other Haitians.

2.The rebuilding of Haiti requires special attention to the need to incorporate access for the disabled in new public and other buildings that will be created. Engaging and educating architects, urban planners and engineers about best practice models and urban planning schemes to support this goal is one step.

3.Provide appropriate medical care, including physical therapy and access to prosthetics for the newly disabled, working with experienced partners like Handicapped International to identify best practices and models.

4.Address the urgent need for prosthetics by supporting public-private local manufacturing of





prosthetics, and hiring within the disabled community, since these members will face additional hurdles to accessing work.

5. Support local women's and grassroots groups to address the local needs of newly disabled people.

HIV/AIDS

1. Review the existing national HIV /AIDS plan and PEPFAR funding and revise these to address the changed situation, including the displacement of a million people that calls for shifting HIV resources, and tiered emergency, and rebuilding steps related to HIV and AIDS services and programs, particularly in a decentralized system that is advocated.

2. Assure that HIV care providers and clinics have ARV and second-line medicines. available for those who may need a change of treatment due to new ARV-resistance

3. Support the interest of PWA groups in Haiti in playing a greater role in helping to develop and deliver community-based HIV service for those living with HIV who are at greater risk of developing illnesses such as tuberculosis and water born infections.

4. Women have limited access to Post-Exposure Prophylaxis in cases of rape in areas outside of the capital. So do pregnant women. PEP programs must be integrated into existing emergency health provider projects across Haiti, and linked to the national system for reporting and monitoring HIV/AIDS.

5. Community based activities must be undertaken to determine the emergent needs and gaps in health delivery related to HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis.

6. PWLHIV (People Living with HIV/AIDS) groups and leaders are well poised to help carry out HIV prevention and needs assessment activities, and to help run support groups to counsel those with HIV. They can also engage in TB and malaria education – and broad wellness education.

7. The national PDNA plan must increase funding and delivery of HIV/AIDS related services, and reach out to mobile and emergency teams who are providing emergency health services to help identify needs, and recruit local community providers of these critical health care and health education services. Condom distribution is a key prevention activity.

8. Haitian AIDS groups have demanded that their grassroots groups be given greater access to ARVs, particularly those stockpiled by the Global Fund in a capital warehouse. This step could help decrease the risk of further or future drug treatment interruptions. UN and Haitian AIDS leaders should work closely with PWA groups to develop a relief plan that promotes a greater role for community AIDS groups and access to ARVs and HIV medicines that adheres to national treatment protocols, and addresses donor concerns about the proper use and supervision of ARVs .

9. Such a plan could help assure that adequate medicine and trained doctors are available to provide care at tent cities and informal settlements, and a role of HIV grassroots AIDS groups to provide supportive services, counseling to residents, with a focus on family needs.

10. Greater support is needed to give visibility to Haitians living with HIV/AIDS and to work against the stigma that surrounds the disease, one that continues to be linked to homosexuality in this heavily Catholic island nation. That includes public education and media programs targeted at those in high risk communities and funding for workplace programs, including rural ones.

11. Financial support for a stronger national PWLHIV network is a step that can help accelerate community-based programs and engage to help deliver care and services and education communities in HIV education and prevention activities.

12. Groups that remain at particularly high risk for HIV/AIDS in Haiti are commercial sex workers and women who engage in transactional sex, men who have sex with men, and prisoners. The current post-quake environment calls for increased support for women to engage in livelihood activities to avoid transactional sex, and provision of condoms and education to reduce sex worker's exposure to HIV.

TB and Malaria

1. One critical need is to establish isolated sections of camps or clinics to treat TB patients, and to initiate TB screening of individuals. Provision of TB medicines is also essential. The lack of X-rays to help diagnose TB is a current challenge for providers in areas with limited equipment.

2. With the arrival of the rainy season, conditions exist for malaria to spread, requiring communities to take steps known to reduce the breeding grounds for mosquitoes, and using mosquito nets to protect themselves from exposure to mosquito bites.

3. Making malaria prophylaxis and treatment more available is also critical, as is health screening for malaria.

4. The arrival of the rainy season offers multiple challenges to reduce the Stillwater breeding grounds of mosquitoes. Recruiting locals to engage in clearing clogged drainage pipes is one steps, but the rains that create new fresh pools of rainwater for mosquitoes to breed make this a major challenge.

Education

1. Child care assistance must be provided and considered essential in order to promote access to new or existing employment, educational, or community participation opportunities for women and girls.



2. Informal schooling places and timing must reflect awareness of the constraint of care giving roles that young girls and women undertake.

Transportation

1. During the reconstruction, the location of new settlements and transportation lines should take into account women's livelihoods while determining their location. Security should be provided in transportation lines.

2. Appropriate lighting in roads and stops must be made available during and after reconstruction in order to ensure an increased level of safety on the roads.

3. Safe transit must be considered and made available to women in camps and throughout the country both in cities and rural areas during the short and long term recovery period.

4. Women security officials to be engaged at the camps and those affected families to be involved in security planning and encouraged to develop safety initiatives for the women and children to be followed.

5. Meeting times and places for community consultations must be safe and accessible for women and respect other demands on their time.



Infrastructure

Selected Issues:

Basic economic infrastructures

1. Natural disasters and the absence of adequate public policies have combined effects which deteriorate and destroy basic economic infrastructures. The immense damage caused by the four hurricanes of 2008 reinforced by the January 12 earthquake destroyed three quarter of the basic economic infrastructure of the country (markets, canals irrigation, ports, airports, primary and secondary roads, etc). Important initiatives have been decided upon and implemented for repairing these infrastructures after the consecutive cyclones, but these initiatives have maintained a strong degree of indifference as for the integration and participation of women in the planning of these actions, which in addition did not well answered the needs of the directly concerned populations. Following the January 12, 2010, proposals touch on the installation of minor roads, urban planning with grid roads and restoration of electric infrastructure, harbour and others. The place of the women in these processes is marginalized.

2. An important issue for Haitian citizens in the reconstruction of the Energy and Electricity sector is the need to rebuild houses and commercial buildings that are designed to withstand earthquakes, flooding and hurricanes . As heads of households, women need to be informed about how to build safer and more energy-efficient buildings and how to build to reduce the risk of fires, electricity- and energy-related accidents.

Housing

1. Women in Haiti constitute 52% of the population. These women have a lesser access to economic resources, are underrepresented in decision-making spheres, are concentrated in at risk physical spaces and generally occupy very precarious residences. The earthquake of January 12 deprived more than one million Haitians women and men of their place of residence. Following the spike in the price of renting a residence, women are obliged to occupy dangerous housing in high-risk environmental zones. These financial obligations take the greatest part of the meagre income or savings of these women and/or put them in situation of dependence which can then heighten their susceptibility to violence of all kinds by their companions or husbands. The death of hundreds of thousands of women is an illustration of this situation. In rural areas the reality which prevails consists of an occupancy of very precarious housing deprived of the most practical conveniences and whose physical and family capital can be hard hit in cases of the refunding of small loans unsuited to the reality of customers. One speaks about relocation of victims of the disaster, two months after the catastrophe, but the women living in camps continue to be victims of rapes and other violence.

Telecommunications:

1. The boom in Haiti's telecommunications was accompanied by an exclusion of women. The new trades which were developed were exclusively male. The economic initiatives which are associated are the prerogative of men in a very great majority. In general, women having a lower level of schooling than the men use less the new information and communications technologies which could be a solid tool of economic and social emancipation and empowerment. Unfortunately, this under-sector contributes to "objectify" women by conveying negative images of the woman and her body. Their faulty operations which remain until now, deprives women of practical means for research of



assistance in a general.

New opportunities in the sector of infrastructure:

1.The infrastructure sector is in full expansion since the past ten years. Massive investments from the public sector and the international community testify to this irrefutable fact. Women were excluded from the benefits that came from this sector in terms of: new poles of training and intermediate trades which were in strong demand on the local market, the female labour-intensive employment, initiatives related to indirect selling services by women, intensive middle management training for a mobilization of a critical mass, the improvement of quality of life of women and reduction of their vulnerability related to secure means of transport, decent housings and a whole device of community structures linked to drinking water, water waste systems, sanitary infrastructures and education/training.

Energy

1.The reconstruction of Haiti's Energy sector offers new opportunities for training and employment of women in this non-traditional field. Haiti's national plan should consider programs and approaches to support women's increased participation in this area.

Recommendations:

Basic economic infrastructures:

1.In the medium and long term: To involve women in the definition, implementation and follow-up of development policies which relates to the infrastructure sector.

2.To systematize the taking into account of the 30% quota as a temporary special measure in order to support the participation of women in the infrastructure sector.

Transport

1.In the medium and long term: To set up public policies as regards to transport which takes into account gender inequalities.

2.To develop a road grid which take into account the practical needs and the specific interests of women.

Housing

1.In the medium and long term: To ensure consciously the participation of women in the general processes of refitting the national territory.

2.To engage women in any process of relocation of the populations affected by the 12th of January earthquake and those at risk by making them benefit from direct and indirect use of trainings in construction in addition to having the possibility to reside in more appropriate and secure housing and having access to community equipment that better answers their needs and

those of their family.

Telecommunications

1. In the medium and long term: To promote better participation of women in this under-sector while allowing them to take an active part in the access and control of the benefits generated by this under-sector.
2. To fight sexist stereotypes, which are related to the development of telecommunications in Haiti.

New opportunities in the sector of infrastructure

1. In the medium and long term: To ensure equality in participation of women and men, with access and control to the benefit and resources of the infrastructures sector.
2. Create new jobs for women while organizing sessions of professional training of a short duration in the first instances, to support the development of economic initiatives with the adequate financial and social tools (day care centers, guard of children in residence).

Solar and Green Energy

1. Haiti's massive deforestation makes energy a critical sector where alternatives are needed to wood for charcoal for cooking fuel. Today, women are the majority of vendors of charcoal for cooking in markets – thus local suppliers of energy. The introduction of alternative solar cooking sources and other alternative energy methods is an area where women need education and training to participate in new projects.
2. There is an overall need to consider opportunities to educate, recruit and train women as well as grassroots communities to participate in non-traditional employment involving green or alternative energy projects (solar, wind, water, other).

Fossil Fuel and Natural Gas

1. Amid reports that new offshore reserves of oil and natural gas have been found in the sea around Haiti, the Haitian government is signing accords for foreign companies to begin offshore exploratory drilling. Greater transparency and public discussion of these new resources and the economic impact of new oil and gas reserves on communities in Haiti are among a list of critical issues related to national development in which women's participation is critical.



Macro-Economy

Section 6

Selected Issues:

1. Haitian women are significant economic actors whose activities are vital to the support of households and to local and regional economies. These facts are well known but not often reflected in PDNA. Due to the dominant macroeconomic and quantitative approach and lack of sex-disaggregated data, women's economic needs and interests as well as the contributions they make to the nations' economic revival are readily overlooked in recovery planning.

2. Women's income generating work is predominantly in the informal sector which is also readily overlooked in needs assessments and recovery plans but the backbone of survival for the poorest of the poor whose lives are most affected in disasters.

3. Women's residences are very often places of work—that is, they are sites in which women generate income either directly (e.g. home-based contractual labor) indirectly (e.g. food products produced by women in the home and then marketed)

4. Women play vital roles providing and marketing food and other essentials of daily life, e.g. through homestead gardening & small animal husbandry for consumption and/or trade. Women are important traders in informal markets for basic goods and these markets are disrupted in disasters.

5. There are clear economic divisions of labor in Haiti and therefore is economic activities that fall within the domain of women are address with interventions through the household or through men, either because they have status as heads of households or because they are leaders of local groups, women are then eliminated women from decision-making and economic control.

6. Women's title to land and to housing is often difficult to document and may be destroyed in a disaster, subjecting them to loss of these key economic resources. Further, pressure from male relatives who seek control over these resources has been found to increase as competition increases in the recovery period.

7. Women and other marginalized groups may not be fully aware of the risks to their land ownership or rental rights and therefore information on recovery processes needs to be made available through vehicles that are accessible to women (market places, public squares, radio – although in temporary camps without electricity radios are less accessible than prior to the earthquake).

8. Women who are employed in the labor force are disproportionately in the contingent labor force, employed part time, lacking benefits, subject to fluid working conditions and hours. Women are less likely than men to be represented in worker associations leaving them open to exploitation as economic activity, often with less oversight and accountability, regains momentum.

9. The gender-based division of labor positions women and men differently in the production process with different kinds of impacts, coping resources and, potentially, different opportunities for economic recovery.

10. Haitian women are viewed as the economic engine of their society. They make up the majority of its informal economy, working as *timarchann* or market vendors of agricultural produce and market goods as well as *Madamn Saras* (trader/wholesalers).

11. In the context of marketing activities and in marketplaces, women, particularly rural women, are known to establish dyadic links to other women known as *pratik* relationships, which sets up mutual concessions between buyers and sellers and enables sharing of benefits and limiting waste.

12. The influx of food aid has reportedly decreased market demand for their food products, a situation that needs to be rectified by purchasing from local women and hiring them to cook food for tent settlements rather than importing food aid from abroad.

13. Women in other post-disaster contexts have been less able than men to access cash-for-work programs of benefit to household recovery. Gender stereotypes often drive the development of post-disaster economic development plans and thereby reinforce gender disparities in economic opportunity, missing important opportunities to reinforce resilience rather than vulnerability.

14. In Haiti, some women are benefiting from street sweeping and some storm drain clearance of current cash for work programs, but they are less likely than men to benefit from the bulk of new jobs in major construction, major debris removal, new road building. New cash for work jobs need to address the need to employ women and might consider jobs in the area of disaster preparedness to address anticipated floods, tropical storms, hurricanes and other disasters of the coming rainy season.

15. An increase in already high proportions of female-headed households has been anecdotally suggested in Haiti due to deaths of husbands and other male relatives.

16. Women are also caring for injured and newly disabled family members reducing their ability to engage in other paid work or income generation activities.

17. Pressures on women increase as a result. Pressures on elder women in rural Haiti will also increase due to out-migration from cities and increase in size of rural households to feed and care for.

18. Women entrepreneurs are subject to high failure rates in the best of times and are at risk of failure post-disaster. Microfinance programs targeting women are often underutilized in economic recovery projects.

19. New projects must address the needs of women entrepreneurs for small amounts of capital, and for support to help them rebuild their small businesses. Grassroots microfinance and training programs, along with local twinning partnership projects and promotion of best practices, are steps to take that will support Haitian women entrepreneurs to overcome the additional obstacles of the post-disaster environment.

20. Employment intensive recovery planning does not consistently recognize and mitigate constraining factors for women including child care. Delays in redevelopment of social infrastructures (community sites, places of worship, schools, etc.) particularly affect women workers who are less able than men to resume income generating activity (in or out of the labor



force) due to care giving responsibilities.

21. As traditional caregivers, women are also caring for injured and newly disabled children, and for family members coping with trauma and psychological injuries caused by the earthquake. These social and supportive services are needed for families, as well as for women who bear additional stresses of trying to care for families while coping with their own losses and injuries.

22. Women's safety can be jeopardized post-disaster as they seek to return to work in dangerous conditions or turn to survival sex during in emergency shelters and camps or are abused by partners resentful of new income or resources to women post event.

23. There are increasing reports of violence and rape of women and girls in tent cities, particularly when they are using latrines and seeking private space to bath and take care of other sanitary needs. This calls for attention to the additional security needs of women and girls engaging in work activities outside of homes.

24. Despite the significance of their economic contributions, women's local knowledge and expertise is not consistently utilized in planning, implementing and evaluating economic recovery initiatives. Good practice models in this area are available based on past disasters but too rarely consulted.

Recommendations:

1. Consultation early and often is required to plan and carry out gender-responsive economic recovery. Women are subject experts whose views should be consulted about economic needs and interests. Women's ministries, bureaus and agencies as well as community based women's cooperatives, businesses, and professional associations should be considered key stakeholders and fully engaged in economic recovery planning.

2. It is important that consultations be organized so that women have the opportunity to participate in women-only groups. In Haitian society it is recognized that women often take on subservient demeanor in the presence of men. Socio-economic status also needs to be considered when organizing consultations because women may take submissive behavior in the presence of women who are from a higher class or who are seen as having greater levels of education

3. One proposal worth consideration is the establishment of a gender advisory task force that includes members of Haiti's women's networks, and draws upon local women's experience. This advisory group could proactively work with PDNA sector teams on the broad goal of gender mainstreaming of the rebuilding Haiti process, and help identify gaps, new opportunities and strategies to improve on women's participation in economic recovery and other critical sectors. It could also help monitor progress or new challenges that emerge and strategies to address them.

4. Sex-disaggregated data must be collected or developed for use throughout in economic recovery project design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. No economic aid programs should be accepted or initiated without gender analysis in order to ensure that women and men benefit equally. Competence in gender analysis should be expected of economic recovery consultants.

5. Pro-poor economic recovery plans must target women, especially seniors, women with disabilities, and women heading households alone.

6. The needs and economic vulnerability of newly disabled women and girls is an important issues to address in a proactive way by offering access to physical therapy, prosthetics and other medical care, and by considering how their economic status has been affected. Programs to employ disabled women must also be aware of their security needs and their potential increased vulnerability to violence and sexual violence.

7. Girls: The effects of the quake on girls' education must be mitigated and monitored as these are the family workers and employees of Haiti's future.

8. Set-asides for women/men who earn their livelihood in the informal sector are needed and should be implemented and monitored by women.

9. Joint titling of land and new residences (in women's and men's names) should be implemented as a condition of assistance.

10. Losses experienced especially by women when residences are destroyed should be identified and quantified for compensation and recovery projects, e.g. loss of equipment, supplies, tools, inventory, garden space, small livestock, markets, access to hired labor, etc.

11. Evaluation of economic recovery initiatives in the short term (e.g. cash-for-work) and long term (e.g. rebuilding banking systems and markets) must include a gender component and staff skilled in gender analysis.

12. Women-owned businesses must be monitored and supported and may benefit from input from women entrepreneurs and FROM targeted funds controlled by women or grassroots networks that may assure greater transparency and accountability. These funds should be provided for post-quake development.

13. Nontraditional job training should be required or promoted in economic recovery to enable both women and men to broaden their skills set and potentially increase earning potential. Models exist in Turkey, India and Indonesia, for example, for training women in seismically sound house construction.

14. Child care assistance is essential to promote women's opportunities to take up their pre-disaster occupations and jobs. Child care homes, centers and networks should be targeted in economic recovery planning and barriers to the capacity of women to provide child care for employees be addressed as a matter of urgency.



15. Interventions to mitigate and respond to gender based violence in the aftermath should incorporate hazards to women due to survival sex, unsafe travel to work sites and/or working conditions, and domestic abuse arising from perceived favoritism, e.g. relief assistance targeting women.

16. Women's cooperatives and similar groups should be consulted as subject experts to utilize their knowledge about how women and men, respectively, are positioned in the production process and were affected by the earthquake and subsequent changes.

17. A project to gather and centralise this expertise and make it available in a repository of women's best practices and local expertise would benefit the national effort.

18. The capacities and resources of female-dominated workd associations and women's professional networks should be utilized to help rehabilitate women as key economic actors. Home-based worker associations especially should be economic partners to use their specific knowledge about local economic activity on the ground, their informal communication networks, and their technical and professional expertise, and to help identify potential gender disparities in economic recovery. Their expertise should be sought out and included in the above-mentioned repository.

19. Women be represented in decision-making bodies and roles related to the allocation of local economic recovery funds, and local women's networks consulted regarding programs that are needed to address needs of local women and girls.

20. As Haiti plans to try to increase textile manufacturing (industrial garment industry/factory production) it is important to address how it may impact women. This industry traditionally employ a large number of women, but must assure workers rights are respected, including wage, conditions, and employee services that support women's employment such as childcare.



Territorial Development

Selected Issues:

1. In general, the question of gender relations is not considered in the report of the thematic group on territorial development. It is a pity to have to highlight this absence in the year 2010 whereas the national and international norms are clear in this regard. The following remarks are preliminary and shall be refined with the particular and informed aid of Haitian women's groups as well as feminist geographers and regional planners.

2. The analysis of the spatial organization in Haiti omits the historical causes/dimension of the problems, their consequences/impacts for the population and in particular for the women. For example, the notion "demographic explosion" refers to the maternal and reproductive functions of women with a certain negative undertone. The same applies to the notion "social imbalance" since it is often the women's responsibility on the community and family level to equalize the existing social imbalances in Haiti by trying to create an equilibrium within the fragile, but existing social relations in Haiti. In general, the analysis of space in Haiti is classical with regards to its parameters and paradigms and would greatly benefit from opening these in terms of new social and gendered parameters and paradigms. Finally, the descriptive statistics used shall be divided by gender and should thus reflect and comprise gender specific data. A systematic analysis of the gender specific division of the social and economic spaces as well as the roles and responsibilities of women within family and society shall be conducted before providing any possible solutions. These solutions shall particularly integrate the specific problems faced by women and especially poor women.

3. The descriptions of the consequences of the quake shall not further omit the increase in women's (daily) tasks; neither omit their (increasing) level of social, economic and physical insecurity nor their impoverishment.

4. The suggestion of an "integrated/comprehensive territorial development" approach is a very interesting approach as such but needs to integrate the concept of gender specific use of land/territory.

5. The conservation and the delivery of deeds of ownership by the civil state causes a range of problems for women for whom the access to property usually is restricted and thus is more difficult and less frequent/rare. Especially in the post-disaster situation, the major part of the violence happening aims at de-sizing women of their properties. The destruction of properties is a major problem especially for women whose income is uncertain and whose reconstruction capacities are reduced. The spatial (re)organisation and the land use/space planning have to consider/must ignore women's security which is a present major concern and priority for Haitian women either in urban or in rural areas.

6. The different levels of the territorial entities (department, commune, communal section) as well as the process of decentralization have to consider/ must not ignore the dynamics of inclusion of women in positions of power, their access to services and the (re)conceptualization and adaptation of these services in order to reflect and meet women's needs and their social and economic functions.

7. The decision to use territory for an economic purpose shall be subject to consultations with the



local population, especially the women. In addition, the consequences of these changes in purpose on women's economic activities shall be analyzed prior to any further proposition. The present(ed) report fails to include informal income-generating activities whose principal actresses/performers are women. The report also omits mentioning the present occupations of the designated territories as well as the consequences of the change in purpose on the present occupant.

8. The report mentions the necessity of developing agro-business including the coffee plantations. It also refers to the necessity to develop organic agriculture as a « niche ». However, the traditional or subsistence agriculture – being an important source of income for women and for the subsistence of rural families – is not mentioned. The same applies to the agro-alimentary self-sufficiency, which is a major challenge for the Haitian population. Finally, the cooperative structure of agricultural production could benefit if being included since they could allow for an equitable structure of the production and commercialization.

9. The new proposed tourism and industrial purposes do neither take into consideration the creation of jobs for women nor the job quality. The same applies to the suggestions with regards to the “stabilization of the populations” and the “displacement of the populations” which do not consider neither the family work of women nor their responsibilities for the well-being of their children and dependant adults.

10. Finally, no explicit statement whatsoever is done on the principle of participatory democracy, which is part of the Constitution of 1987 and to which the report nevertheless refers implicitly.

Recommendations:

1. The structural appointments suggested to allow for the proposed strengthening of the regional poles, sub-poles and districts shall be effected while integrating the needs and demands of women in matters of material as well as social infrastructures. This implies the integration of women in the decision-making levels of the new autonomous local governments as well as the integration of a gender approach in all planning efforts also including the level of urbanism. Include for example the security of women in public spaces, their needs in their daily social and economic life and include the needs of children and dependant adults for whom the women are in charge of.

2. That the efforts of road development and construction (e.g. transversal highways) shall be designed with regards to their impact on women of the local population but also with respect to the promotion of mobility and to meet the needs of displaced women who usually more often use public transport and less often possess a car on their own.

3. Evaluate the possibility to development industrial zones rather than free trade areas. Although providing a formal employment for women (by providing them more regular income), the free trade zones often do not allow for working conditions, which are acceptable against the background of international labor standards. If the decision to create free trade zones was

adopted the existence of working conditions recognizing international women's rights (including their reproductive rights, labor force management respecting the women labor rights, trade union rights etc.) should be guaranteed.

4. The subscribed projects on the creation of renewable energies shall be accessible for women and households with low income; the subscribed technologies shall be adapted to women's needs either with regards to the generation of income or to the personal and the families' well-being.

5. The new proposed body in charge of land use planning shall be composed by equal representation of men and women. The body shall be required to adopt and integrate a gender approach in all aspects of its work (including accountability and transparency) on the national and international level.

6. The proposed patterns of land use planning and the local pattern of development and planning shall be developed to include the contribution of urbanist women and architects as well as local women's groups; it shall be obligatory to include an analysis on the needs of women as well as their mode of occupation of the territory.

7. The operational instruments of spatial planning (plan on the division of zones on the national and community level, urbanism plan, national habitat plan) shall be developed by including the expertise of women's groups, and national and international NGOs working for the realization of women's rights in order to include women's rights and the rights of their dependants.

8. The proposed training centre for territorial development shall be required to employ the same number of men and women as trainers. A gender-sensitive approach shall be integrated at all levels and in all aspects of the training.

9. The body in charge of urbanism, habitat and construction whose implementation is suggested shall be show an equal representation of men and women and shall integrate a gender approach from the outset.

10. The efforts of strengthening the intervention capacities of the functionaries, notaries, surveyors and the rationalisation and operation of the property system shall integrate the necessary consideration with regards to the situation of women.

11. The strengthening of territorial collectives is necessary to an effective decentralization shall be effected by including women on the level of political representation, by considering civil society and the new decentralized functioning aspired by this proposition.

12. The new formulation of the laws related to urbanism and land use planning, shall be done as to include the needed gender considerations.

13. If the commune is designed to be the basis for decentralization and the district its operational base as well as the strategic level of the local development, all local administrations shall be



required to attend a training on gender approaches to management and planning, to develop a plan on the inclusion of women and on the gender approach in their area of work as well as to demonstrate the achievement of the results (accountability).



Environment

Section 8

Specific Issues:

1. The January 12th earthquake in Haiti further exacerbated environmental conditions that were already at the brink of catastrophe, and its aftermath has highlighted the need for more sustainable policies and practices.

2. With the government and other national response mechanisms severely challenged by the catastrophe, disaster responses have taken place at other levels, from the local to the international. The need for better disaster-preparedness, as well as disaster-response, is also clear.

3. Women, girls, young people, people with disabilities, and other socially disadvantaged or marginalized groups have been especially hard-hit by the disaster. This reflects the same experience and evidence world-wide: the International Federation of the Red Cross has concluded that--in addition to people who are impoverished--“women, the handicapped and elderly, ethnic and religious minorities, and habitual victims of discrimination” are always the ones who suffer most in such situations.

4. Gender has been widely recognized in many global settings as a crucial component in all aspects of local and national development, including in all policies and practices related to sustainable development. In recognition of the importance of gender, the 2005 Second World Conference on Disaster Reduction in Kobe, Japan, developed the Hyogo Framework for Action (2005-2015), which emphasizes the need for a gender perspective to be incorporated into all aspects of disaster management. Equally, gender has been recognized as an essential component of environmental management, restoration, and stewardship.

5. The impact and destructiveness of natural disasters is frequently the result of unsustainable development practices. Thus development policies, decisions, and activities have a direct effect on the “disaster profile” of a country. Policies and practices related to water, housing, environmental management, energy, education, and a host of other development issues will either mitigate or exacerbate the effects of natural disasters.

6. Women and men are affected by disasters differently, and react differently to disasters, so their needs and concerns are different in important ways. Disaster responses should reflect those differences.

7. Women play a primary caregiver role for their families, and in addition are often involved in income-generation and food-related activities, as well as in the life of their communities. Yet they are often left out of decision-making and planning around disaster responses. Their input, feedback, and activism are essential to the formulation of policies and practices that address the needs of women and girls, and also address community recovery and rebuilding.

8. Gender equality is viewed in many quarters as an essential goal and component of disaster reduction policies and practices, without which risks and responses cannot be addressed effectively. Gender differences have been addressed mostly in the context of vulnerability or more generalized community responses. The abilities and capacities of women to prevent and/or mitigate disasters have not been adequately explored or incorporated into disaster response policies and planning.

9. Sustainable development and disaster-related issues are intertwined, and gender is a cross-cutting



issue linked with both. Social, economic, and political vulnerabilities, and vulnerability to natural disasters, are related. Reduction of risks related to natural disasters will best or only come about with a reduction in human risks and vulnerabilities.

10. Human health and environmental health are intimately related. Improvements in human health should translate into better health for the natural environment, and a greater ability for sustainable development practices to take root, increasing the chances for more effective disaster prevention and/or mitigation.

11. Risk reduction should include activities that take into account not only different kinds of vulnerable “conditions,” but also the source(s) of hazards, which include environmental factors as well as political and socio-economic ones. Slow on-set and “small” disasters or losses—such as land degradation and flooding or drought—can have cumulative effects over time that cause equal or even greater suffering than the major ones.

12. Conflicts, both civil and trans-boundary, can and do arise from environmental degradation, scarcity of resources, and natural disasters. Migration as a result of conflict, scarcity, disaster, or environmental degradation can also pose further challenges in those very areas. Severe environmental stress—made worse by conflict, poverty, ineffective development policies, and weak governance—can trigger complex emergencies

13. Globalization—especially in its impacts on trade, economic policies, and political decision-making—can place strains on local environments and exacerbate social inequalities. Sustainable development requires the environment to be protected and enhanced, and societal inequalities to be addressed. Decisions about how to engage in the global economy should therefore be taken with the broadest consultation and participatory processes, with outcomes reflecting the needs and views of many social groupings, including women and those at the grassroots.

14. The high costs of addressing complex emergencies and natural disasters divert funds sorely needed for development. In addition, those with access to capital are better able to cope with natural disasters and environmental challenges, thus increasing social tensions and divides. Women tend generally to have less access to capital, and less ability to acquire it, leaving them more generally in vulnerable positions.

15. The environment in Haiti has become so degraded over the years that it can no longer serve a protective function, mitigating the effects of natural disasters, which has progressively increased human vulnerability.

16. The earthquake has created or increased a range of environmental issues and risks, complicating relief and recovery efforts. Solid and medical waste, hazardous substances, sanitation and hygiene, water use and availability, energy, transportation, shelter and housing, biodiversity, earthquake debris, human remains, flooding, and mudslides are but a few of the challenges. The camps for internally-displaced persons are causing environmental, health, and safety issues as well. These issues ought to be analyzed through a gender perspective to understand their gender implications.

17. Safety and security of women, girls and boys, and the issue of gender based violence is of paramount importance to be dealt with. Women and young girls in particular are facing abuse, discrimination, harassment, rape in camps and temporary shelters. The recovery and longer term reconstruction plan of the country must include the safety of women as a high priority

18. Due to lack of shelter options, many Haitians have built their own makeshift shelter in and around the city to protect themselves from the hurricane season. Transitional shelter's more solidly built structures with roofs made of wood or metal that can better protect against hurricanes are needed to reduce risks from hurricanes and shelter families, women and children in particular who face additional risks in the city. It is very important to have sanitation and livelihood strategies for women and men, as part of the strategy. Due to massive amounts of debris and infrastructure damage in Port-au-Prince, Léogâne and other surrounding communities, there is a shortage of available land to set up adequate shelter for those displaced.

19. Human health and safety have been seriously compromised. This will only increase during periods of seasonal rain and hurricanes. Food security, nutrition, fishing and coastal management, agriculture and animal husbandry have all been severely affected by the earthquake. This is in addition to the lingering effects of previous natural disasters, plus the more daily losses and challenges associated with a weakened environment.

20. Migration from urban to rural areas has strained already compromised rural communities, which do not have the capacity—financial or agricultural—to handle such an influx. The same thing, happening in reverse at an earlier time, brought too many people to the cities, where overcrowding and unsanitary living conditions have severely strained natural and human resources, increasing human vulnerability to natural disasters.

21. Women and girls, as well other socially-disadvantaged groups (including a large number of orphans and people newly-disabled) have been at greater risk of health challenges (physical and psychological/emotional), attacks and rapes, domestic violence, and contracting HIV/AIDS, and these groups have also experienced loss of income, housing, family, and community. Give priority to reproductive health needs – ensure that supplies include sanitary napkins/tampons, diapers, etc.

22. In addition to the 300,000 deaths and even more wounded or permanently disabled, there are 1.5 million homeless and displaced, and over 3 million affected by the quake, according to the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment 2010 report. Over 600,000 have left the affected areas to go back to rural communities, and there are 300,000 or more buildings that have either collapsed completely, or have been damaged. The National Palace (seat of government) and other government-related structures have sustained extensive damage, as have roads, airports, the electricity supply, and the economy.

Recommendations:

Emergency Steps – to be taken now – Nov (through Hurricane 2010 season):

1. Experts in disaster risk reduction have warned that Haiti faces an active 2010 June to November





season of tropical storms and hurricanes that are likely to cause significant destruction and possible loss of life, considering that so many Haitians are newly homeless and lack access to hurricane-resistant shelters, or even adequate shelter of any kind.

2. For this reason, they recommend that the current humanitarian relief response in Haiti shift 20% of current monies for use in disaster risk reduction and preparedness activities, and to greatly increase the speed of such activities to help mitigate the impact of natural disasters as of June, the official start of the hurricane season.

3. Immediately create new Cash for Work jobs focused on disaster preparedness and target them to those areas deemed at highest risk for natural disasters, including the low-plain Artibonite region which is prone to flooding. Recruit women for these jobs.

4. To Donors: Dedicate new additional funding -- the equivalent of 20% of the current relief funding pool -- to be immediately applied to disaster preparedness and disaster risk reduction activities.

5. Work actively with local governments and community groups to identify, recruit and train needed Community Disaster Preparedness Committees (DPCs), and support them to help prepare residents of tent cities and informal settlements who are at very high risk of vulnerability to further natural disasters.

6. Preposition food, medicine and other supplies (sanitary, diapers, STIs, midwives in addition to what is needed for emergency relief, to be set aside for further natural disasters, particularly in rural areas and towns who are likely to be cut off in the event of major flooding or mudslides.

7. In Port-au-Prince and major cities: Sponsor meetings now of DPCs, local emergency providers (medical, food, other key services) and key grassroots organizations, with key representatives of the key UN Cluster to review local coordination of Disaster Risk Reduction plans for the Hurricane 2010 season

8. Identify local leaders and members of local government, and provide them with resources and training to self-govern and communicate locally in the event they are cut off from national communication or resources

9. Women's and local grassroots organizations are well positioned to provide community social services and aid with communication during emergencies. Providing these groups with advance basic information and some training in disaster risk reduction for their communities is an important step

10. Work with local leaders and outside experts in engineering to identify and inform the local public about any buildings or structures that may provide emergency shelter in the event of a major natural disaster, and make known the risk of possible future collapse of any buildings that may be quake-damaged now

11. Do outreach to national and community media (television, radio) and mobile phone and internet media so they can quickly publicize: SOS national emergency hotline numbers; alerts via radio SMS mobile texting; national, regional or local disaster preparedness plan(s) and contact information; where to bring injured people; information on evacuation routes; the location of emergency clinics and food distribution points; and provide local news and updates during future natural disasters.

12. Consider providing community leaders including women's groups with mobile phones to support community education and communication related to local disaster preparedness

13. Consider the emergency energy. Fuel and food needs of local communities and how to support planning for natural disasters in the area of food and food production

14. Provide citizens with easy-to-understand information about any steps they can take to further protect themselves from anticipated flooding, mudslides and torrential rain, as well as the risks of exposure to buildings that may be quake-damaged and risk collapse. This includes information on how to retrofit homes and build stronger shelters to protect from storms and hurricanes; where to avoid placing shelters; steps to take in cases of flooding, etc.

15. Prepare and make public using media and dissemination via women's and other grassroots organizations a updated list of outside experts and agencies in different areas of disaster preparedness who are available to help or offer training at the local, regional and national level

16. Consider the security needs related to sexual violence of women and girls, and of orphans and vulnerable children (OVC), and work with women's groups, schools and churches to help prepare communities to address security needs of girls and OVC in future natural disasters. These can be addressed through improved lighting, security, housing, transportation, access to water, energy, food, etc.

MEDIUM to LONGER TERM STEPS:

1. Establish collaborative processes with Haitian women, women's groups, and grassroots community groups, on all issues related to the environment; to disaster preparedness, risk-reduction, responses, and mitigation; to rebuilding the economy and physical infrastructure of the country; to healthcare and all health-related materials; and all matters needing public leadership and activism.

2. Closely consult women and women's groups--and other groups such as older persons, young people, people with disabilities, people who socio-economically disadvantaged, those working at the grassroots (both urban and rural activists)—in needs and damage assessments; in the design and rebuilding of shelter and other physical infrastructure, in the rebuilding of the healthcare system (with a strong emphasis on women's health and traditional medicine); in all matters pertaining to the environment and sustainable development; in economic programs, especially those related to job training and creation; in the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of aid programs.



3. Provide financing and other material and technological supports to women and women's groups, as well as community groups at the grassroots, who will then be better able to help rebuild the country--including the heavily-damaged infrastructure, health system, environment, and agricultural capabilities—and design and implement programs on disaster preparedness, response, and mitigation.

4. Women must be given social and political leadership positions, and their role as primary caregivers and responders must also be acknowledged, supported, and enhanced. This needs to be done both at the level of policy and also programming.

5. Capacity-building is crucial, and women should be consulted as to what their needs are and where current gaps exist. Training, credit, and business support services are especially important.

6. Strengthening democratic governance and the capacity of local governments and civil-society actors is imperative. Development in Haiti must be planned, implemented, and “owned” by Haitians, and must reflect Haitian priorities and culture; decentralization and direct participation by civil-society actors—including women and grassroots community groups—needs to become a primary operating principle.

7. Land ownership policies need to be changed, and urban and agrarian reform instituted. This will be of benefit not only to women and other civil-society groups, but to the environment, as more stakeholders are enlisted to “own” the land and become stewards of its care.

8. Reforestation and alternative energy usage should be two top priorities, with women and other civil-society groups mobilized in mass action to promote and implement these programs. Solar, wind, propane, and other forms of energy should receive funding and other supports, both in policy and in programming.

9. Public education, and greater access to public services (including housing, healthcare, education, clean water, sanitation, power), should be much more widespread, accessible, and of good quality. Education should include a focus on awareness-raising about—and protection of--the environment, and on all aspects of addressing natural disasters and the principles and practices of sustainable development. Creole and other “local” languages should be used and encouraged.

10. The justice system should be reformed—both to better serve all of its citizens, and so the government can take the lead in rebuilding a corruption-free country--and Haiti's external debts cancelled. International aid and trade must reflect Haitian priorities, and allow Haiti to rebuild with sufficient funds to develop a healthier environment and better disaster responses, including a focus on prevention, whenever possible. Women, and a focus on integrating a gender perspective into all aspects of rebuilding, should be crucial components of every policy and program.



Grassroots & Accountability

Selected Issues:

Grassroots

1. Over 500,000 earthquake survivors have fled Port au Prince to the countryside, where grassroots organizations often make decisions that impact the entire community. As in many countries, women continue to be under-represented as grassroots leaders in Haiti.
2. At the grassroots level women often do not know their rights nor understand that they have a role to play in shaping the policies that affect their lives.
3. In Haiti women's involvement in agriculture is high and they engage in selling the produce and other goods. They work in informal sector as vendors; domestic workers thus support the communities' economic activities to a great extent. But their lack of awareness and inferior social position place them in a highly vulnerable position in the post - disaster phase.
4. Peasant women face many obstacles that include disproportionately high rates of illiteracy, lack of knowledge of backward and forward linkages, social constraints and an imbalanced amount of familial responsibility.
5. Despite noble intentions, a perceivable gap exists between huge recovery, relief and rescue operations and the needs of community at grassroots especially of women and girls who are most vulnerable. This is a result of failure to engage these groups in reconstruction process and operations effectively.

Accountability

1. Accountability generally refers to the obligation of decision-makers and key stakeholders in local, national and international governmental and non-governmental agencies and institutions to fulfill pledges and commitments made to their respective constituents in accordance with their specific goals and missions. The United Nations Secretary-General has stated that "accountability includes achievement of objectives and results in response to mandates, fair and accurate reporting on performance results, stewardship of funds, and all aspects of performance..."¹
2. Accountability, within the context of Haiti, following the devastating January 12, 2010 earthquake and its aftermath, refers to the obligations of the Government of Haiti, international donors, individually and collectively, the United Nations and its agencies, the private sector and members of civil society, to fulfill their stated obligations, including working toward the inclusion of women at all levels of decision-making processes to increase protection, security, access to services among others in a manner that is transparent, objective, independently verifiable and in accordance with principles of equality, fairness and human rights.
3. Haitian women have been, and continue to be, systematically excluded or underrepresented from decision-making processes and equal participation in the majority of sectors in their country. Contrary to national and international laws, standards, and policies, the implementation of gender equality in

¹"Towards an accountability system in the United Nations Secretariat", Report of the Secretary-General, General Assembly, 29 January 2010, page 1.



decision-making processes within the various entities mentioned above is sadly lacking. There has been a failure on the part of the Haitian government and the international donor community that supports Haiti to ensure the full participation of women in the reconstruction and recovery efforts.. Furthermore, systems to secure the protection and promotion of women and girls' rights in Haiti remain abysmal, jeopardizing the full development and independence of the country.

4. In order to ensure accountability, it is critical to establish fair and transparent systems to fulfill national and international gender equality commitments made by Haiti at all levels of governance and reconstruction efforts. The implementation of special measures, including quotas, to ensure that women in Haiti participate equally in the reconstruction of their country, in accordance with the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (A/52/231), the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) policy on gender equality, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) guidelines on gender and natural disasters, among others and UN Security Council Resolution 1325, which the UN and the Government of Haiti have obligations to implement, is critical to ensuring accountability. UN SCR 1325 calls for all parties to: adopt a gender perspective, including, inter alia: (a) The special needs of women and girls during repatriation and resettlement and for rehabilitation, reintegration and post-conflict reconstruction; (b) Measures that support local women's peace initiatives and indigenous processes for conflict resolution, and that involve women in all of the implementation mechanisms of the peace agreements; (c) Measures that ensure the protection of and respect for human rights of women and girls, particularly as they relate to the constitution, the electoral system, the police and the judiciary;

5. There is also an urgent need to establish adequate systems and measures to address violence and discrimination against women and girls in Haiti in the context of disaster related challenges, including rape, sexual violence, domestic violence, labor and sex trafficking, sexual exploitation, elder abuse and other gender-based human rights violations.

Recommendations:

Grassroots

1. The grassroots voice must be heard in the rebuilding of Haiti. The grassroots must lead the efforts in rebuilding and decentralizing Haiti. Not the politicians. Not the elite. Not foreign governments.

2. The participation of women is a well-documented factor for political, social and economic success.

3. Women must be equal partners in the process of democratic development in Haiti. As activists and leaders, the contributions of women are crucial to building a strong and vibrant society.

4. Women' groups and women's rights advocacy networks at grassroots have to play a central role in post-disaster reconstruction and relief efforts. To be specific this includes recognizing

and advocating for the differential needs of women and girls be taken into consideration for humanitarian response and early recovery.

5. International aid agencies /humanitarian organisations have to focus on supporting grassroots women's organisations devastated by earthquake through strengthening their structural and functional capacities. This is crucial given the fact these organisations have been successful in meeting women's needs in the past and that these organisations have better community outreach to - facilitate humanitarian and early recovery effort, support to the Ministry at the cutting edge level, prevent gender-based violence, and boost economic security for women and their families in the post-disaster context

6. At the grassroots women have to be made partners in multi donor funded projects on need assessments, reconstruction plans and provide an opportunity to women to assume leadership role in deciding their own and their families' future.

7. At the grassroots high priority is to be given to increasing women's access to essential services and information has to be made available to women on relief and rehabilitation activities so that they will be able to take benefit of the support being provided and available. Grassroots organizations can be effective networkers in ensuring maximum community outreach of information.

8. Involve women's micro- finance groups, women neighborhood groups, animators, women peasant groups and women's NGOs in Vulnerability and capacity assessments to get their knowledge, insights, information experiences and resources and to influence on macroeconomic policies and recovery.

9. Engage women's cooperatives in sub-contracts.

10. Convene women-only conferences to train women exclusively on their natural abilities as leaders in the community and encourage them to leverage those strengths to create change in the community. Create an environment in which women can advocate on policy, make decisions, be elected as officers, and participate meaningfully in every facet of life.

11. Create literacy, social awareness and community vigilance programs accessible to and appropriate for grassroots women.

12. Convene gender equity round tables for men and women so that men can better understand the need for gender equity and equality in the family, work and community.

13. Create a decentralized infrastructure that function through regional specific women's centers for economic development, better roads, public education, health care, social services and access to potable water and sanitation. If investment in decentralization is a priority, the major cities and towns in the rural provinces are poised to expand and become vital centers for national productivity as a result women can have the opportunity to become leaders in this decentralized growth and access information and infrastructure for better future.



14. Women's consultations should not be limited to their health and security concerns only rather they have to be involved in discussions along with men on matters concerning community welfare in the post disaster situation. Consultations with women on crucial issues of shelter designing, housing needs, relocation of families and decisions related to closure of camps is highly essential.

15. Special initiatives need to be taken to network small community level organizations with larger institutions to facilitate effective funding and implementation of women's development in post disaster context. This is very effective as the local organizations are familiar with local needs of women and children and context specific design needed for effective response.

Accountability

The Government of Haiti

1. The Government of Haiti must be held accountable to its obligations to implement the provisions of its Constitution and the international conventions to which it is a party, such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), that mandate the Government of Haiti to affirmatively promote and protect the rights of women and girls. The CEDAW Committee also called upon the Government of Haiti to:

- expeditiously draft and adopt a gender equality bill that would include a definition of discrimination against women and develop sanctions for discriminatory acts;
- set a clear time frame for the adoption of all pending draft legislation, including one on recognition of consensual unions, domestic workers' labor conditions and trafficking;
- give priority attention to the national machinery for women, including strengthening the Ministry for Women's Affairs, in order to work effectively for gender equality at all levels in Haitian society;
- train public officers, including judges, lawyers, prosecutors and police officers to promote and protect the full spectrum of women's and girls' rights;
- ensure and facilitate the increased political participation of women and institute temporary social measures, including the establishment of targets and quotas, to succeed in those goals;
- devise comprehensive strategies to promote cultural change and eliminate discriminatory stereotypes with respect to the roles of women and men in Haitian society;
- take other measures that protect women and girls from violence and discrimination, promote their rights and establish a system of justice to which women and girls have unconditional recourse.

2. The Government of Haiti has an obligation to establish clear standards of accountability to its people and institute the above-mentioned measures to ensure gender equality and the full economic, political, social and cultural development of Haiti. It must also institute sustained

periodic review and public reporting of its efforts to accomplish these goals and mandates.

3. In Haiti, renewed investment must be made to address in particular the very high risk of maternal mortality and risk of HIV/AIDS among women and girls, manifestations of gender inequality, to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Progress, or lack thereof towards the MDGs by Haiti in the aftermath of the earthquake should be reviewed thoroughly at the world summit in September 2010².

4. It is critical that constitutional, electoral, legislative and judiciary bodies in Haiti take into account the realities and concerns that Haitian men and women face. The drafting, enactment and implementation of laws and policies must integrate gender equality principles, without which women will risk a lack of protection under the law or limited recourse to justice. Mainstreaming gender equality must be an integral part of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in the political, economic, cultural and social spheres.

International Donors

1. The first independent Black republic in the Western Hemisphere, Haiti has a uniquely remarkable history of triumph over slavery, colonialism and foreign subjugation achieved through the resilience, courage, hope and belief of its people in constant national renewal. Sadly, Haiti also has suffered from generations of foreign occupation, imposed in particular by the United States, that has contributed to the disempowerment and dismantling of efforts to build viable and independent political, economic, social and cultural institutions. In post-earthquake Haiti, the extraordinary generosity of international humanitarian and financial aid has been overwhelming and welcome. Haiti is at a critical juncture to decide the course it should take to build a thriving and independent nation and must be vigilant in developing self-government and its sovereignty.

2. On 31 March 2010, the International Donors meeting to be held at the United Nations in New York will offer a unique opportunity for the international community to work in partnership with the Government of Haiti and the Haitian people, who must remain at the helm of decision-making in the reconstruction of their country.

3. The International Donors, representing governments and private funders, with the joint support of the United Nations, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the European Commission, and other major donors, including the US government, must establish clear and transparent accountability systems with the active engagement of all sectors of Haitian government and civil society, including women's groups.

4. Every new pledge toward the recovery and reconstruction of Haiti should require that international assistance to Haiti's public and private realms integrate gender equality issues and concerns including through the participation of women in the decision-making processes relating to the distribution of international financial assistance. Such aid must also require open and transparent systems of accountability, so that the implementation of the commitment to gender equality may be monitored.

² The United Nations High-Level Plenary Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), 20-22 September 2010 in New York.



5. Principles of gender equality must be multi-layered within the deliberations and decisions made within the International Donors meeting context, namely

- (1) each of the delegations assigned to the International Donors meetings and processes must include gender-sensitive expertise within such delegation;
- (2) the allocation and distribution of international aid to Haiti must require the integration of principles of gender equality in cross-cutting sectors related to the reconstruction and recovery of Haiti;
- (3) UN agencies in Haiti must be held accountable for the implementation of their stated guidelines for gender equality and protection of women and girls;
- (4) investments in the private sector, including small business and agricultural industries, must require a minimum percentage of women in both management and staff and take into account the different needs and responses required to meet household needs for energy, water, transportation, and security;
- (5) clear guidelines must be developed to ensure that the Haitian government:
 - (a) establish special measures, including minimum quotas, to ensure the full participation of women in government;
 - (b) ensure, including through legislation, that the private sector adopt and abide by principles of non-discrimination and incorporate affirmative action policies to further the participation of women in the private workforce; and
 - (c) enact laws that guarantee the promotion and protection of women's rights and ensure the effective implementation of such laws.

6. The International Donors have a particular responsibility, given the history of Haiti, to establish and maintain clear systems of accountability. Haitian civil society and the international community must monitor and assess whether and how the generous aid offered toward the reconstruction of the country is actually contributing to the rebirth of vigorous Haitian democratic institutions, a socially responsible private sector, an independent and effective civil society and widespread civic engagement. The International Donors must keep the international community abreast of their progress, indicators of success or barriers in reaching these goals, through the media and other formal public means of communications.

The United Nations System

1. The United Nations Gender in Humanitarian Response Working Group (the GENCAP report)³ has set forth in detail the urgent need for national and international stakeholders to undertake a coherent approach to the mainstreaming of gender equality and to address gender-based violence in Haiti.

Specifically, GENCAP calls for:

- 1) National government agencies and members of the international community in National and Regional Clusters working in post-earthquake Haiti to develop

³ The Gender Mainstreaming in the Humanitarian Response in the Aftermath of the Earth Quake in Haiti, prepared by the Gender in Humanitarian Response Working Group that consists of MINUSTAH-Human Rights, MINUSTAH-Gender Unit, UNIFEM, UNFPA, WFP, IOM, UNICEF, and NGOs, including the International Rescue Committee, the American Refugee Committee and International Medical Corps. ("GENCAP Report") 24 February 2010.

gender-mainstreaming and address the specific needs of women and girls in areas of physical safety and security, water and sanitation, food distribution, internally displaced camp management and coordination, shelter, non-food items distribution, access to health (including sexual and reproductive health) and education and livelihoods in all regions of Haiti.⁴

- 2) Within the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA), the incorporation of principles of gender equality, gender analysis, and participation of women at all levels of decision-making in all spheres to ensure that “women, men, girls, and boys benefit equally from the investments of the Haitian government and the international community.”⁵
- 3) Engagement of Haitian women’s associations or local NGOs that have extensive grassroots networks to assist in the delivery of services and goods to women and girls and to help implement measures to protect women and girls from violence.

2. Accountability and transparency with respect to the UN system must include the public dissemination of the measures and protocols that are put in place to implement these recommendations, as well as the resources dedicated to this implementation; sharing information with the public and interested parties about progress made in the implementation of gender equality in the management of these programs, including barriers and impediments that may impede the realization of these goals.

3. UN systems of accountability and transparency must also include the implementation of processes that systematically use sex disaggregated data, indicators, monitoring and evaluation that are gender-sensitive. When and if possible document incidences of violence against women and girls, in particular sexual violence, rape, and trafficking, in camps for internally displaced persons, and with the help of the Haitian government and women’s organizations, in the community at large. Such documentation should further guide the UN, other international stakeholders in Haiti, as well as the Haitian government to develop systems of prevention of violence against women and girls, with the assistance of civil society organizations, and securing adequate channels that would provide women and girls access to full and fair justice and rehabilitation.

4 IASC guidelines for gender based violence and gender handbook for humanitarian action, http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/iasc/pageloader.aspx?page=content-subsidi-tf_gender-default&bodyid=1&publish=0

5 GENCAP Report, p. 1