

International Financial Institutions Commitments to Haiti

The world's largest multilateral Haiti donors, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and World Bank, have committed over \$2.5 billion in aid to the country in the aftermath of the January 12, 2010 earthquake. Yet, the majority of this money has not yet been disbursed. Meanwhile, impoverished Haitians' living conditions continue to worsen, both in overcrowded displacement camps and rural communities around the country, as promised aid fails to hit the ground.

The IDB and World Bank have approved multiple grants for investments in Haiti following the earthquake that entail large amounts of funds. But, there is very little transparency on these institutions' websites on how those funds are being spent. Specifically, the HAWG calls on:

1. The IDB and World Bank to provide greater transparency on their disbursements to Haiti. Both the IDB and the World Bank must ensure that their external website data on projects accurately reflects project approval and disbursement amounts and dates. As of early January 2012, financial data available on the banks' external websites showed disbursement rates of 20% for the World Bank and 27% for the IDB. In contrast, both banks claim high actual disbursement rates.
2. The World Bank, which serves as Trustee of the multi-donor Haiti Recovery Fund (HRF), to transparently disclose HRF disbursements. According to the United Nations Special Envoy for Haiti, a third of HRF funds, nearly \$100 million, have yet to be spent on the ground.
3. The IDB and World Bank to provide progress reports detailing procurement, contractors, and disbursements on all the above funds committed for Haiti's reconstruction.

Multilateral donors to Haiti—especially the IDB and World Bank—must transparently disclose their disbursements, including projected dates of disbursement and procurement. In addition, the World Bank, Trustee of the multi-donor Haiti Reconstruction Fund, should disclose the amounts of HRF funds it disbursed and when remaining funds will be spent. Finally, the IDB and World Bank should provide semi-annual disbursement progress reports on all approved grants. These actions will help increase overall aid accountability within Haiti and improve the image of multi-lateral support in the eyes of the Haitian people.

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