

## **Passage of the Assessing Progress in Haiti Act, S. 1576**

The United States Government role in Haiti has lacked sufficient independent oversight and the existing reporting too often fails to provide the most crucial information that would improve and refine the U.S. Government response. Bi-partisan legislation has emerged that will take meaningful steps towards stronger accountability and provide Congress with better tools to fulfill its oversight mandate. The Assessing Progress in Haiti Act has already passed the House and been introduced in the Senate. It has also drawn support from a large number of NGOs working in Haiti. Swift passage in the Senate will ensure that crucial information is collected and reported in a timely manner while it can still assist in the planning and implementation of U.S. efforts in Haiti.

Specifically, the legislation requires all relevant agencies to submit a report to Congress that addresses vital issues that have not been adequately examined. For example, two areas in particular can help successfully reorient U.S. efforts:

- Reporting on the “extent to which United States and international efforts are in line with the priorities of the Government of Haiti.”
- Reporting on “mechanisms through which Haitian civil society, including vulnerable populations, is actively participating...and recommendations on how these can be improved.”

For too long, Haitian civil society groups have been marginalized in reconstruction efforts. Regardless of the number of roads constructed or hospitals built, it will require strong Haitian institutions to ensure the country flourishes long after international aid agencies and donors leave. The reporting requirements of the Assessing Progress in Haiti bill (S.1576) will enhance the U.S.’s ability to engage the Haitian government and help build its capacity to work with Haitian grassroots and civil society to ensure that Haiti’s reconstruction is sustainable and inclusive.

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**For more information, contact the following contributors:**

Ian Schwab, American Jewish World Service, [ischwab@ajws.org](mailto:ischwab@ajws.org)  
Elise Young, ActionAid USA, [elise.young@actionaid.org](mailto:elise.young@actionaid.org)  
Jasmine Huggins, Church World Service, [jhugginscws@gmail.com](mailto:jhugginscws@gmail.com)  
Shelley Moskowitz, UUSC, [smoskowitz@uusc.org](mailto:smoskowitz@uusc.org)