



PHOTO : KENDRA HELMER, USAID

NATIONAL ID CARD PROGRAM

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BACKGROUND

There may be no single factor that affects a person's ability to share in the gains of global development as much as having reliable identification. In Haiti, national identification (ID) cards unlock formal services as diverse as voting, financial account ownership, loan applications, business registration, land titling, and school enrollment. Identity systems can also curb illegal border crossings and fraudulent financial transactions while guarding against human trafficking and child marriage.

As of February 2023, the Haitian government registered 5.3 million Haitian adults, but only 4.4 million have received the new ID card, meaning at least 900,000 Haitians are still waiting to receive the cards for which they have registered. Over 300,000 additional Haitians turn 18 and become eligible to vote each year, which adds to the total number of Haitians requiring an identification card. The estimated current gap of adults needing a new ID card is currently between 2 and 2.6 million.

To ensure that all Haitians have the basic right of identity and the possibility to vote, USAID, through the Organization of American States, will support the Haitian National Identification Office (ONI) to distribute over 2 million ID cards throughout Haiti.

OBJECTIVE ONE

- Strengthen ONI's technical capacities through recruitment, training, and capacity building.

ONI needs to recruit and train identification operators for the mobile units responsible for registration and develop a complete manual for the operators to ensure the nationwide standardized application of identification procedures. Strengthening the institution will also entail the design and approval of a five-year strategic plan that supports a robust identification system in terms of equipment, knowledge, and integrated processes.

OBJECTIVE TWO

- Create a Nationwide National Identification Card Distribution System to ensure access to ID cards for Haitian adults.

ONI does not have an annual investment budget that allows it to expand operations; carry out costly maintenance; or update or replace card readers, iris scanners, fingerprint scanners, cameras, and barcode readers. Mobile units and equipment will speed up registering people, printing, and distributing the new cards. Specially designed logistical procedures will be put in place to focus the distribution of cards to populations living in rural and hard-to-reach areas.

OBJECTIVE THREE

- Public Awareness Campaign to inform citizens of the importance of civil identity to access services and rights.

A gender-sensitive campaign is fundamental to inform Haitian citizens about the identification campaign's objectives, the benefits associated with the new ID card, and the requirements for registration. A well-designed campaign will rely on different means of communication to convey a coherent and clear message that resonates with all groups. The campaign will involve civil society organizations as well as government entities to reach Haitians in urban and rural areas.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- 2 million ID cards distributed throughout Haiti's ten departments.
- At least 300,000 Haitians that turn 18 years of age are registered.
- Strategic Plan for Haiti's Office of National Identification (2024-2029) approved.
- More than 4 million people reached through public awareness campaigns.