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HAITI

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Closing Date for Responses: February 10, 2017
Closing Time: 3:30PM EST
RSVP Deadline for Consultation: February 10, 2017 by 3:30PM EST
Notice Type: Exchanges with Industry

Subject: USAID/Haiti Invitation to Youth Civic Engagement Consultation

According to the Global Youth Development Index and Report 2016, Haiti is ranked among the three countries with the “greatest decline in their youth development index between 2010 and 2015. This decline means that Haitian youth face worsening unemployment, abuses of human rights, financial dependency, and inadequate access to healthcare, education and other basic services. Therefore young Haitian citizens have become increasingly civically passive, and their voices are not heard in policy and planning processes.

Civil society leaders consulted under the design of USAID’s new civic engagement program stated that there is a deep lack of democratic culture, civic awareness, civic consciousness, or collective interest, and many young Haitians have a very negative perception of politics and public affairs. This poor opinion of politics reduces further their propensity to engage in social and public actions in their communities. During the October 2015 and November 2016 presidential and parliamentary elections, nearly 78 and 79 percent of the Haitian electorate (respectively) did not exercise its right to vote. Unfortunately, no long-term youth public policy has been defined to cope with the constraints youth face, which accentuates their civic apathy and disengagement.

In fall 2016, USAID/Haiti conducted a Youth Assessment to contribute to its next five-year strategy and to identify opportunities to better work with youth in the new strategic period. Some of the initial findings include a lack of evidence-based youth programs and policies; a lack of opportunities for active participation in decision-making; and a lack of coordination and strategic partnerships among youth networks. As youth represent a majority of the Haitian population, and due to its critical role in Haiti’s development, USAID’s Democracy and Governance office (DG) hereby invites development stakeholders interested in improving youth civic engagement and community involvement to attend a consultation on Youth Civic Engagement.

During this event, the information collected during this Youth Civic Engagement Consultation will serve to better guide the design of an upcoming civic engagement program.

USAID invites interested organizations to provide written response and share suggestions/recommendations on the following questions:

1. What motivates (and hinders) Youth Civic Engagement?

2. What are the best ways to educate youth about their civic rights and responsibilities?
3. How can Civil Society Organizations (CSO) and community groups contribute to increasing and sustaining positive youth civic engagement?
4. How can youth groups engage with the government?
5. How can youth actively engage in building community resilience and Disaster Risk Reduction?

Please provide your responses to the above questions to Marva Butler, mbutler@usaid.gov, no later than, February 10, 2017. Responses will be used to obtain information for planning purposes, and will not be accepted by USAID to form a binding contract.

This Youth Civic Engagement Consultation will take place on **Friday, February 24, 2017** at the Karibe Hotel, Juvénat 7, Pétion-Ville, Haiti from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Haiti local time. A draft agenda is attached.

Due to space requirements, **RSVPs are required**. Please RSVP with your Name, Organization and Contact Information, no later than February 10, 2017. We kindly request no more than 3 participants per organization.

Sincerely,

Marva Butler
Contracting Officer
USAID/Haiti

**Youth Civic Engagement Consultation
Pétion-Ville, Haiti
Friday, February 24, 2017**

Draft Agenda

8h00 am - 8h 25 am	Check in and welcome
8h30 am - 8h45 am	Introduction / Ice breaker
8h45 am - 8h55 am	USAID opening remarks
9h00 am - 9h30 am	Presentation of youth assessment findings
9h 30 am – 9h45	Objectives for the day and methodology
9h50 am – 11h10 am	Thematic discussion: Youth civic education
11h15 am – 11h 25 pm	Coffee break
11h30 am - 1h00 pm	Thematic discussion: Youth and civil society
1h00 pm – 1h45h00pm	Lunch
1h50 pm -3h10 pm	Thematic discussion: Youth community service
3h10 pm -3h30 pm	Summary Closing session