

SUMMARY OF THE EVALUATION OF EU C-OPERATION WITH THE REPUBLIC OF HAITI

ABSTRACT

EU strategic co-operation with Haiti, over the period 2008-2012, was adequate to the context of fragility of the country and sufficiently flexible to cope with a series of external shocks, including a dramatic devastating earthquake, in 2010. EU interventions have kept in view the shorter and longer term approaches, addressing core development problems and raising emergencies. Results and sustainability of our co-operation have been suffering from a weak institutional context towards which the EU political and policy dialogue were not sufficient. For the future the EU should have at the core of its strategy the strengthening of the State (public financial management reforms, consolidation of the rule of law, improvement of sectoral strategies and a comprehensive approach to central, decentralised and non-state actors) through a high-level political dialogue, sector-wide approaches in priority areas and improved articulation of available instruments. A comprehensive framework for disaster risk management is to be envisaged, while sectoral support to transport and territorial development should move towards more modern and longer term approaches. The potentially high profile of our co-operation should also benefit from a stronger visibility of the EU.

Purpose

The purpose of the evaluation was to provide an overall independent assessment of the EU's past and current co-operation with Haiti and to identify key lessons in order to improve the current and future strategies. This Evaluation was carried out following a request from the European Parliament.

Main conclusions:

- EU strategy was adequate to the context of fragility and was correctly adjusted to cope with external shocks; however, strategy implementation faced difficulties linked to the reiteration of emergency crises and the State institutional weaknesses. Visibility was not consistent to the level of importance of the EU support;
- The use of Budget support within such a fragile context was courageous and innovative; the macro-economic effects have been relevant and helped State consolidation. The strengthening of public financial management, sectoral allocations and policies, however, did not benefit as much as they could from the approach taken, suffering from EU weak political and policy dialogue;
- In supporting the State consolidation the EU did not elaborate a comprehensive approach taking into account the central and local levels, as well as non-state actors; results achieved at local level and with non-state actors activities were not framed by the comprehensive strategy required for their sustainability;
- Coordination and dialogue have made progresses over the years, and particularly through joint exercises between the EU and MS. Yet the EU role, despite an overall positive contribution in establishing platforms and mechanisms for coordination, was not followed by equal efforts in fulfilling contents;
- Development and emergency aid co-ordination was rather successful, but development intervention would require a more strategic approach to territorial development; synergies and complementarity of instruments were rather positive, though could have been more effective; whilst little synergies were found between the national and regional level along with the bi-national co-operation;

- Disaster and risk management activities along with food security and agriculture support have been scattered, lacking sufficient strategic approaches;
- The important support to transport has contributed to economic reconstruction of the country, but suffered from institutional weaknesses and little political willingness to engage in the necessary reforms;
- The support to the education sector was aligned to country priorities but overambitious, with a mixed picture of results.

Main Recommendations:

- State building to be at the centre of the EU strategy, in line with the principles for intervention in fragile contexts; this include support institutional building, transparency and efficiency of public financial management, budgetary allocations and effectiveness of public expenditure, with stronger political policy and policy dialogues;
- To support a comprehensive approach to local governance and non-state actors involvement to strengthen strategies and sectoral institutions;
- To support sector-wide approaches with stronger EU engagement in policy dialogue and sector co-ordination;
- To enhance effective use of different available instrument for co-operation;
- To establish a strategic framework for disaster risk management and resilience;
- To establish a more comprehensive approach to transport, with preliminary sectoral political economy analysis;
- To establish a longer term framework for urban development, linked to clear institutional commitments;
- To strengthen the strategic and institutional framework for food security and agricultural support;
- To consolidate gains in access to and quality of education while strengthening national policy and institutional framework.