

## Giving Citizens a Voice in Rebuilding Haiti April 27-30, 2012



The catastrophic earthquake that hit Haiti in January 2010 claimed more than 200,000 lives, displaced more than 1.5 million people and caused widespread destruction, placing an overwhelming burden on already weak government institutions. As Haiti now enters its third year of recovery, the newly-formed government continues to face a myriad of economic, social and political challenges. Since the earthquake, NDI has been working to reduce the potential for political instability by helping a national network of 190 community action groups participate in the post-earthquake reconstruction process. Join NDI in meeting with Haitian political and civic leaders working together to rebuild their communities. NDI has worked to strengthen Haiti's democratic system since 1986, in particular by helping develop more responsive and representative political parties and assisting citizens engage in open and constructive dialogue with elected officials.

### ITINERARY

**Day 1:** Travel from the U.S. to Haiti arriving in Port au Prince in the early afternoon. Take part in a briefing on the political situation and NDI programs in Haiti. Have dinner with political party and government leaders as well as with the U.S. ambassador.

**Day 2:** Depart in the early morning to the Plateau Central (Center Department). Stop first in the town of Hinche to participate in a regional forum with members of NDI's network of community action groups, or Initiative Committees, advocating for their communities' economic development and reconstruction needs with parliament and executive branch officials. Depart in the mid-afternoon for the neighboring town of Savanette, to meet with women members of parliament to discuss challenges women face in playing a greater role in Haitian political life. Return to Port au Prince in the early evening and have dinner with youth activists.

**Day 3:** Depart early morning to the South Department to visit Jacmel, a town hit hard hit by the earthquake, and participate in a community meeting focused on reconstruction issues such as job creation, public safety and education. Return to Port au Prince in the early afternoon. Have dinner with representatives of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, NDI's principal donor in Haiti.

**Day 4:** Take part in a morning discussion with NDI coordinators working in all 10 of the country's departments on the status of the reconstruction process and the impact of NDI activities. Depart for Miami in the early afternoon.

All travel arrangements and logistics will be handled by NDI. Participants are responsible for travel costs. Please contact Meghan Meyers for more information at (202)728-5526 or [mmeyers@ndi.org](mailto:mmeyers@ndi.org)