**The ‘Je Nan Je’ Haiti Land and Housing Rights Campaign Overview**

20 months after the January 12 earthquake, which killed over 300,000 Haitians, injured 200,000 to 300,000 and displaced another 2.3 million people, few reconstruction accomplishments can be claimed. Despite the fact that over 1,900 temporary shelters have been built, almost 600,000 Haitians are still living in inhumane conditions and struggling to access key services such as water, food, sanitation, healthcare and education. Over 75% of the population is living on less than $2 per day, including 90% of all rural families. Most financial and governmental services are still centralized in Port-au-Prince, which has a 70% population rate living in poor slums. Lack of infrastructure and health services and improper implementation of the Haiti National Risk and Disaster Plan has made the country increasingly vulnerable to storms, flooding and cholera outbreaks. Although a documented 439,604 Haitians have been infected by cholera and another 6,266 killed by it, the actual numbers are much higher, considering that a majority of Haitians cannot access official health clinics and hospitals.

The Haitian people, as well as citizens, governments and international institutions around the world, want to understand why so little has been done to resolve these many challenges. In March, 2010, 55 donors from different international governments and multi-lateral institutions pledged to donate $5.6 billion in aid, including $4.59 billion in program support to Haiti by the end of 2011, to help support its redevelopment plan. Yet, with only a few months remaining, only 43 percent of pledged program funds, or $1.97 billion, has been disbursed. Haitians, however, have little access to information detailing how this money has been used and why the remaining $2.61 billion has not yet been disbursed. This is especially true for the country’s grassroots, women’s and peasant movements as well as for the most vulnerable still living in displacement camps. Hence, a new commitment to aid transparency and overall accountability must be undertaken, if the majority of the Haitian people are to have ownership over their own reconstruction process.

One of the great challenges to creating new development structures and higher accountability within Haiti’s reconstruction process has been the lack of dialogue between Haitian grassroots and civil society, local communities, local and municipal governments, the central government, the UN system, donors, bilateral agencies and international governments. In addition, a great lack of information-sharing has perpetuated the reconstruction, as evidenced by lack of use of the Creole language in planning meetings and documents and little grassroots consultation. In order to move forward into a new stage of long-term development that is more sustainable and inclusive of grassroots movements and the most vulnerable members of Haitian society, these linkages must be prioritized.

**The ‘Je Nan Je’ Land and Housing Rights Platform:**

The Je Nan Je Platform, with support from ActionAid, was created in 2011 out of deep concern for the reconstruction process taking place in Haiti. The platform is made up of grassroots networks, social movements and women’s groups that represent over 800,000 Haitians, and includes the following members : KROS, RENHASSA, KONAFAP, KPGA, COSADH, APV, MPP, COZPAM, FANM DESIDE, KABAGRANGOU, MPNKP[[1]](#footnote-1) and ACTIONAID. In order to support high development accountability, transparency and good governance, the platform is launching an advocacy campaign under the same name, ‘’JE NAN JE,’’ to help guarantee the rights to land and safe, affordable housing in the context of Haiti’s reconstruction.

The platform members, constituting a great diversity of Haitian women’s networks, rural peasant movements and urban community development organizations, have a long history of advocating for progressive development and human rights policies within country. Experts in their field who work closely with poor and marginalized communities, the platform promotes higher transparency, accountability and participatory democracy within the reconstruction process, with special attention to the issue of land and housing rights.

The Je Nan Je Platform and ActionAid[[2]](#footnote-2) believe that access to land and housing is a fundamental human right and consider the condition of 5.4 million Haitians living in abject poverty, including 600,000 living in displacement camps, to be a major violation of that right. Having a safe and secure place to live, and a sustainable livelihood, are critical components of ensuring the welfare and dignity of the country’s citizens. Therefore, the January 12 earthquake presents a crucial opportunity for the Haitian people, with support from international donors and institutions, to collaboratively rebuild the country on the basis of civil rights, equity, inclusion, security and resiliency. This includes prioritizing safe, affordable housing and access to land for Haiti’s peasant population and most vulnerable earthquake survivors. The Platform and ‘Je Nan Je’ campaign believe that in order to ensure that the National Development Plan is sustainable and owned by the majority of the Haitian people, national and international stakeholders must go one step further. They must support Haitian grassroots platforms, peasant movements and women’s networks as equal partners in the reconstruction process.

**‘Je Nan Je’ Campaign Objectives**

The Je Nan Je Platform and ActionAid believe that the ‘Je Nan Je’ Campaign offers a vital opportunity to increase the participation of civil society in the overall process of reconstruction and to facilitate stronger communication and information sharing between key local, national, international and multilateral actors. The campaign, through intensive research and analysis, capacity building for grassroots partners and awareness raising for national and international stakeholders, aims to create an inclusive, participatory space for critical debate and dialogue between the different sectors so that participants can identify collective priorities and sustainable, alternative solutions to key land and housing challenges. This includes recommendations for instituting both institutional and legal reforms in four different areas:

1. Land Tenure Reform
2. Equal Access to Safe, Long-term Housing
3. Peasant Movements’ Right to Agricultural Development and Natural Resource Management
4. Local, Regional and National Disaster Risk Mitigation

In addition, the campaign objectives include the following:

• Sensitize and mobilize the national and international community on the need to guarantee access to land and housing for all Haitian citizens, especially the most vulnerable.

• Create avenues for both national and international debate, dialogue and advocacy on the issue of land tenure reform and equal access to both land and housing, so that each sector, including local, municipal and national government, Haitian grassroots networks, women’s movements and community-based organizations, youth groups, religious groups, academics and Haitian Diaspora groups, can be fully involved in the reconstruction process. Facilitate an enabling environment for the most vulnerable to voice their needs and recommendations.

• Engage all stakeholders, including local, national and international organizations, the Haitian government, multi-lateral institutions, January 12 survivors, and issues experts to help identify a set of clear recommendations for improving transparency and accountability in Haiti’s overall reconstruction process, with special attention to land and housing development.

• Empower different sectors to work together to identify alternative and sustainable solutions to current reconstruction challenges around land and housing development and help build longer-term partnerships for future development efforts.

**Expected Campaign Outcomes**

• The 600,000 Haitians currently living in IDP camp will have increased access to safe, dignified, affordable long-term housing by the end of 2014.

• The Haiti National Agricultural Investment plan is reformed to prioritize the needs, voices and full participation of Haitian peasant movements and smallholder farmers in development plans.

• The Haitian government, donor governments and international institutions recognize the need to secure land and housing rights for all Haitian citizens and the crucial role that civil society, grassroots groups, peasant movements and women’s networks have to play in development planning, implementation and evaluation.

• Haitian grassroots, peasants and women’s movements have consistent access to key reconstruction planning, implementation and evaluation information and mechanisms in Creole, including land tenure reform planning, the national housing plan, the Martelly relocation plan, and the national agricultural investment plan.

• Civil society, peasant movements, grassroots groups and women’s networks consistently share key recommendations with both national and international stakeholders on land tenure reform, housing development and reconstruction accountability and transparency. National and international stakeholders have prioritized official roles for grassroots partnerships in the reconstruction process and routinely incorporate their recommendations into national and international planning.

1. KROS (Regional Coalition of Southern Organizations,) RENHASSA (National Haitian Network of Food Sovereignty & Security ), KONAFAP (National Coordinating Committee of Peasant Women ), KPGA (Peasant Organizations of Grand-Anse,) COSADH (Coordination of Actions on Health & Development in Haiti,) APV (Association of Peasants of Vallue,) MPP (People’s Movement of Papaye,) COZPAM (Platform for Community Associations of the Metropolitan Zone of Port-au-Prince,) FANM DESIDE (Women Decide,) KABAGRANGOU (Hunger Free Coalition,) MPNKP (National Congress of Papaye Peasant Movement) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. ActionAid is an international organization that fights against poverty and social exclusion through the development of programming, training and long-term advocacy efforts in over 40 countries around the world. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)