The Reconstruction of Haiti:
Strengthening Argentina's Capacity for Effective Cooperation

IDRC Grant 103985-004

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Final Technical Report
April 2007 - September 2008

October, 2008
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SYNTHESIS

This project was designed with two principal goals in mind:

- To contribute to strengthen the capacity of Argentina to effectively cooperate in the reconstruction of the state, the economic foundations and the social fabric of Haiti;
- To articulate relevant stakeholders and to increase social awareness about the meaning of and opportunities for cooperation with Haiti.

In keeping with these goals, the project's underlying rationale was:

i. To contribute through research to the production of knowledge on key aspects of the Haitian political, economic and social problematic, with an emphasis on the generation of policy-oriented insights particularly on three main thematic threads:
   a. Institutional strengthening, with a focus on the major constraints and favorable conditions for state-building;
   b. Productive development, stressing the identification of major bottlenecks and institutional preconditions as well as the analysis of its implications for the re-composition of the country's social basis; and
   c. Democratic consolidation, with an emphasis on the present process of democratization and its main progress and obstacles.

ii. To identify what is learnt through the research work on Haiti in order to assess the need of adjusting or fine-tuning the process of knowledge production and the way what is learnt may be used in other situations;

iii. To disseminate research results with a view to validate in the regional context the efforts to rebuild the Haitian state and the ongoing process of design and implementation of public policies;

iv. To favor the “sensibilization” of public opinion in Argentina and, in particular, of key public and private actors on the nature and scope of the Haitian problems as well as on the relevance of Argentina’s involvement in the crafting of solutions.

During its 18 month life, the project was able to achieve the above goals, for which some adjustments or redefinitions were made in some of the activities planned in the original proposal. Briefly, its achievements include:

- Production of a larger number of reports (7) than committed in the original proposal, focusing in particular on the situation of the state and democracy in Haiti, the structure of the Haitian economy and the current experience of, and possibilities for Argentina’s cooperation;
- Research on the possibilities and limits for South-South cooperation underway on the basis of the lessons drawn from the Haitian case, with support from the Fundación Carolina (Spain);
- Organization of two meetings of the Working Group on Haiti (WGH) with the participation of Argentina’s public officials, scholars and members of social organizations concerned with Haiti to discuss research work in progress as well as to identify new issues/topics for knowledge production;
- Organization of an international discussion meeting gathering the members of the WGH, scholars and public officials from the ABC + U, Mexico, Bolivia, Haiti, Canada and Spain, NGOs representatives and officials from international cooperation agencies in which the project’s research products were presented and agreements were reached on
the issues on which future contributions from the project could have greater value-added;
- Organization of an evaluation meeting on the process of knowledge production and diffusion with the participation of the teams of IDRC sponsored projects on Haiti in Brazil, Chile and Mexico, plus scholars from Uruguay who will be in charge of developing a similar project in Uruguay;
- Implementation of two “immersion” visits of Haitian public officials and scholars to Argentina in order to promote their dialogue with Argentine counterparts and improve knowledge in this country on the issue of democratic consolidation in Haiti;
- Implementation of different type of actions to ensure the dissemination of results/outputs among the relevant audience, including the development and continuous updating of the website of the project;
- Development of links with a Canadian institution working on Haiti that enabled the identification and initial design of joint initiatives on knowledge production.

In this way, the project has met the 18 month work plan committed in the original proposal in a proper and timely way. In addition, the findings and outputs of the project have provided clear insights to the project staff about the kind and content of work that should be pursued in the future in order to better contribute to strengthen Argentina’s capacity to cooperate with the reconstruction of Haiti. At the same time, the project has also been quite successful in building new strategic alliances and finding additional support for research and discussion meetings in order to complement the funding provided by IDRC.

PROJECT CONCERNS

The recent experience of participation of the so-called middle-income countries of Latin America (Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Uruguay in the Southern Cone –also known as the ABC+U- and Mexico in Central America, therein “LAMICs”) in Haiti is an expression of a new trend, namely, that the difficulties of different kinds various Latin American nations face to consolidate a democratic order are regarded a matter of regional politics. Moreover, such participation endorses the notion that local turbulences -in particular those in which states lack authority to control manifestations of collective violence- may merit actions and initiatives transcending the traditional principle of non-intervention without risking democracy.

At the same time, LAMICs’ participation is a test case for future cooperation within the region in addressing pressing political and socio-economics woes. Indeed, Haiti has been the ground for the joint participation of the ABC + U (plus other developing countries from the region and elsewhere) within the framework of the international community's efforts to restore minimal conditions of democratic governability and social peace in that country. Further, the way this experience evolves will have an unavoidable impact on the LAMICs’ perception about the meaning of repeating initiatives of this sort.

In sum, for LAMICs the issue of the crisis of the state and democratic feebleness is at present a point of great relevance in their link with the global agenda and provides a window of opportunity for increasing their maneuvering room in the region and playing a new international role. The issue lays thus the ground for them to undertake initiatives of their own vintage and enhance mutual cooperation around the complex question of state-building, development and democratic consolidation.

The way the issue of Haiti emerged in Argentina’s public agenda did not duly make justice, however, to its strategic relevance, reflecting the second-order priority of the question in policy-making circles and the scarce interest/knowledge of society at large. Indeed, the decision of the government to cooperate through the envy of troops and the provision of technical assistance was basically grounded on short-term speculations (mainly the costs of not getting involved
once Chile and Brazil had jumped in) rather than on a clear perception of what was at stake, i.e., a historical opportunity to build a new strategic architecture in the region based on closer, trusting relations (eventually a shared leadership) among the three Southern Cone countries.

Furthermore, the decision to cooperate was essentially a presidential decision in which deliberation was limited to a large extent to the closer circle of the President, whereas participation of, and debate by other key political actors, such as the Congress, was marginal. Decision-making on the issue was even closer for interested social actors, such as some NGOs working on human rights or human security. The process lacked therefore due consideration of the value of those deliberations and debates to raise the awareness of society about the magnitude of the Haitian malaise as well as to generate a collective consciousness about the commitment to take with Haiti’s people. On top of all this, the decision about the actions to be carried out was made on the basis of a very rudimentary and scattered knowledge both in the public sector and in relevant domains of society (the academy, social organizations concerned with the Haitian crisis, etc.) on several dimensions of Haiti’s reality (culture, who is who in the local political game, etc.) crucial for an effective intervention.1

Summing up, Argentina –like the other LAMICS in the region- faces today a context granting a broader space for their active engagement in the search for solutions to situations of states on the verge of collapse and severe threats to democratic institutions in Latin America. The case of Haiti is a critical instance to take advantage of that space and reap important gains (trust-building among and within countries, increasing leverage in strategic decision making in the region, revitalization of multilateralism in the hemisphere, improvement of the quality and scale of cooperation), provided that those countries’ participation is effective enough. However, the way participation has taken place so far casts doubts on such effectiveness and provides enough reasons to start working for developing a clearer understanding of what is at stake and honing expertise. Research-action endeavors consistent with these needs should follow suit.

With the former in mind, this project proposes to work in two closely intertwined dimensions:

- In Argentina, the institutionalized production of knowledge about the Haitian situation, the dissemination of its results and the “sensibilization” of society on the issue;
- In Haiti, the generation/strengthening of local capacities to deal with it's most critical political, economic and social problems.

This twofold concern is premised on the notions of “solidarity diplomacy” and “committed citizenship at the regional level”.

In line with these concerns, the project has supported research geared to reduce the knowledge deficit in Argentina to fully grasp the extremely severe political, economic and social crisis of Haiti as well as to identify policies and actions duly addressing this country’s fundamental development priorities and needs. This meant to place research efforts on: First, existing major constraints and deficits, both in the Haitian political system (state apparatus, constitutional order and electoral rules, judicial system, historical legacy, etc.) and society (cultural traits, social structure, institutional legacies, etc.), for state-building and democratic consolidation with a view to identify the policy initiatives through which Argentina’s participation could best contribute to address those problems. Second, on the characteristics, scope and evolution of ongoing Argentina’s initiatives in support of Haiti’s economic and social recovery as

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well as on new areas of cooperation in light of the conditions and structure of that country’s economy and social fabric.

Research conducted in the project built on the findings of the IDRC sponsored research work on Argentina’s recent participation in Haiti\(^2\) and on the insights provided by the meeting “Haiti: Desafíos para el Desarrollo,” organized by the Regional Office of IDRC at Montevideo in December 2006, to map out conditions and possibilities for collaboration of Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Mexico in Haiti’s reconstruction, as well as by the workshop ‘Reconstruction of Haiti: Research Capacity Building in LAC” also organized by IDRC at Montreal in September 2007. Important to be noted, research content was fine-tuned during the life of the project in light of new knowledge needs research itself revealed.

Research production sought to involve from the beginning the input and direct contribution of Argentine practitioners working on Haiti under the understanding that it is extremely difficult to generate new, meaningful knowledge on a country with the characteristics of Haiti without significant experience on the ground. The process of knowledge generation also sought to include systematically Haitian participation, both from its academic and policy community, in order to give due weight to the “local” perspective. In its second half, the project started to build bridges with Canadian research initiatives on Haiti in order to lay the ground for future collaborative work. At the same time, though the project was an integral part of a broader endeavor of strengthening the region’s contribution to the reconstruction of Haiti through the consolidation of similar projects in the other LAMICs, it gave priority to the process of learning and consciousness-rising in Argentina without including, therefore, a network configuration with the other projects for knowledge production.

In addressing its main concerns the project complemented the above tasks with a series of activities (focused in particular on the use of electronic means) geared to foster the dissemination of research products within relevant audiences (see Dissemination of Results/Outputs below) as well as to call the attention of public opinion about the scope and magnitude of Haitian problematic. In the same vein, the project carried out efforts to strengthen Haitian capacities to address their problems in the field of institution building and democratic consolidation through visits to Argentina by Haitian scholars and public officials. To this task, the project was able to mobilize additional resources to those provided by IDRC.

RESEARCH FINDINGS

During its 18-month length, the project was able to generate several relevant research results to meet the above concerns. By and large, this has to do with a hands-on research agenda addressing complex knowledge needs about the Haitian politico-institutional and socio-economic reality in a quite dynamic environment in terms of international cooperation, as well as the possibility of fine-tuning it as new knowledge needs/priorities were identified (see Project Management and Implementation below). The following are the most significant finding the project has delivered:

- The “exceptionality” of Haiti due to different factors: its cultural heritage (language and customs); deep structural “contrasts” (i.e. cleavages existing in the economy, society and political system); a “conflict-prone” and “zero-sum” political culture; and an extremely weak and incapable Haitian state to guarantee basic services and rights. These are all background conditions that make it particularly challenging the tasks of articulating efficacious economic and social policies, furthering political coexistence, and strengthening democratic practices and the “state of right”. Further, this trait rules out any approach to

\(^2\) Lengyel, Miguel, op.cit, 2006.
cooperation relying straightforwardly on “standard” policy scripts or “transplanted” institutions, no matter the scale or magnitude of the initiatives at stake;

- The need of fine-tuning the ongoing pattern of LAMICs’ (in particular the ABC countries’) cooperation along both the South-South and a North-South-South axes in order to make it more suitable to address Haiti’s extremely acute economic, social and political problems. The MINUSTAH has so far played a positive role to rebuild social peace and channeling more effectively humanitarian aid; yet, it faces several constraints to do similarly in political, economic and social cooperation due to its restricted mandate, its lack of enough financial and human resources, and its limited leverage to define goals and conditions of technical assistance. This is so particularly in view of the complexity of the ICF (Interim Cooperation Framework), the own agenda of donor countries, the crude lack of coordination among donors and within Haiti’s state apparatus, the insufficient involvement of beneficiaries, the disarticulated ONGs’ approach to cooperation, and the weak absorption capacity of Haiti. At the same time, the MINUSTAH’s strengths cannot be neglected, in particular its long term commitment, its greater “closeness” to the Haitian reality due its strong Latin American identity, and its role as a counterweight to American influence. The key question thus becomes how to build upon the experience of the MINUSTAH to devise and put in place a new coordination mechanism able to effectively take care of cooperation for development;

- Political cooperation in Haiti is a highly sensitive and demanding question because of different reasons (as clearly stated by the papers of López and of Hirst & Llenderozas commissioned by this project): a deeply entrenched political culture favoring factional conflicts, violence as the way to deal with differences and disrespect for democratic practices; the complex set of definitions (i.e., the representative system for the central and local powers, conducting [or not] a constitutional reform, improving the judiciary, etc.) required to establish basic conditions of governability; the need to articulate cooperation initiatives with local political actors and to respect national sovereignty; and the challenge to identify the kind of support that best fits the needs of the Haitian political system and society. With this as a backdrop, three main areas could be prioritized for political cooperation: institution building particularly for protection and promotion of basic rights, capacity development in the state apparatus and the generation of political cadres within the Haitian society;

- The imperious need to improve the effectiveness of cooperation for development (a blatant failure notwithstanding the giant amount of money devoted to it in the last decade and a half), for which the South-South modality is proving to be quite promissory vis-à-vis traditional North-South patterns. More in particular, while South-South cooperation does not increase the quantity of aid or cooperation reaching Haiti, it does improve its quality because of its ability to better understand local conditions and needs, grasp internal processes and work on a peer-to-peer basis among States. There are three issue-areas in particular in which LAMICs have a know-how to provide, namely, dealing with acute social emergency situations, generating richness in a poor country setting, and conceiving development plans;

- Key preconditions for the effectiveness and enhanced value-added of LAMICs’ development-oriented multidimensional intervention (that is, an intervention addressing simultaneously issues of internal security, human rights protection, political cohesion and stability, conditions of sustainable economic development and provision of public goods) are a much greater coordination of their individual initiatives, a greater focalization of cooperation in areas of previous expertise, and the definition of fields or subjects for joint action through horizontal cooperation or cross cooperation with Northern countries (see commissioned papers by Hirst and Lopez Accotto).

- The role of NGOs in the cooperation for development should be reconsidered in that its enormous presence in Haiti (about 750 NGOs that channel 70% of development funds) does not guarantee the outreach and quality of cooperation. Furthermore, it tends to
displace the role of the State in the provision of services while hampering the construction of bridges and agreements between the State and the citizenship;

- The positive implications of Argentina’s current technical assistance initiatives (institutional strengthening of the Haitian Planning and Finance Ministries, promotion of self-production of fresh products through the Pro-Huerta Program, state capacity building for investment promotion and poverty monitoring, food safety) in terms of capacity building in Haiti and mutual learning, underscoring the need of knowing in depth that country’s reality and working closely with Haitian counterparts from a long-term perspective as a way to increase the positive impact of Argentina’s cooperation (and of South-South cooperation more in general);

- The identification of new areas (agricultural development and human rights protection and promotion) for deepening/expanding Argentina’s cooperation in Haiti on grounds of both Haitian needs and Argentine expertise (see commissioned papers by Hirst and by Longo) as well as the detection of new opportunities for cooperation in areas largely unexplored (sustainable energy production, intellectual property, and remittances) by research on international cooperation in Haiti (see commissioned papers by Tomasini and by Delich);

- The identification of particularly development-sensitive issues at the national level (for instance, environment protection, education, birth policies, access to medicine etc.) that merit greater attention by bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

In sum, the project has been able to meet satisfactorily its research goal of generating policy-relevant insights on institutional strengthening, economic development and democratic governance in Haiti. More specifically, in terms of the process of knowledge production, the project’s main contributions include:

i. The value of an approach to research that puts a high premium on bridging the gap between academic and policy making circles, reasserting the contribution stemming from the involvement of relevant stakeholders in all research stages (design, development and assessment) and of them iterative exchange of ideas between them and researchers;

ii. The relevance of context-sensitive analysis for better understanding and pondering the different kind of conditions influencing the design suitability and implementation effectiveness of aid for development initiatives in Haiti;

iii. Insights on new policy-oriented research priorities/needs for Argentina in order to define actions and policies geared to properly take advantage of the new windows for cooperation with Haiti;

iv. Evidence on the high value of ex-ante analysis on the fit between international commitments and domestic policy priorities, domestic implementation capacities and impact assessment for the design of sound cooperation policies;

v. Better understanding of the policy areas in which Argentina has comparative advantages for bilateral cooperation with Haiti or can better articulate its efforts with partners in the Southern Cone and in multilateral schemes of aid for development;

vi. The need of a greater focalization on specific policy issues in order to increase the relevance of the knowledge produced to address very concrete and critical political, economic and/or social problems; in order words, to generate knowledge oriented to concrete actions;

vii. The relevance of working with strategic Haitian partners involved in the design and implementation of specific public policies.

**PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION**

Activities during the life of the project were developed as set out in the Donation Agreement with some adjustments particularly of research content, as will be spelt out further below. The
project thus focused on two main lines of actions according the general objectives: capacity building and consciousness-generation. Following is a detailed account of the main tasks carried out in each one of these lines of work.

**The capacity building line of work**

Knowledge production on three main areas, institutional strengthening, productive development and democratic consolidation, was the crux of the project's capacity building purpose. The preparation of research reports was the key means to that end in the first two areas and reflects the timely development of the original work plan. As a result, 7 discussion papers were produced during the project instead of the 2 originally planned. The two discussion papers concluded in the first year of the project were presented and the first meeting of the Discussion Group on Haiti (WGH) held in February this year in Buenos Aires, while the remaining five were presented in the second meeting of the WGH, held in Buenos Aires on the 7th and 8th of July, 2008. The chart that follows summarizes research products at the end of the project.

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<tr>
<th>Issues-area</th>
<th>Stage of Development</th>
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| **Institutional strengthening** | - One discussion paper on the state, democracy and politics in Haiti concluded and presented at the first meeting of the WGH;  
- One discussion paper on Argentina’s political cooperation with Haiti presented in draft version at the second meeting of the WGH and already concluded. |
| **Productive development** | - One discussion paper on Haiti’s economy and the possibilities for international and Argentina’s cooperation concluded and presented at the first meeting of the WGH;  
- One discussion paper on Argentina’s cooperation on Haiti agricultural development presented in draft version at the second meeting of the WGH and already concluded;  
- One discussion paper on Argentina’s cooperation on environment-friendly energy development in Haiti presented in draft version at the second meeting of the WGH and already concluded;  
- One discussion paper on Argentina’s cooperation to Haiti’s access to medicine presented in draft version at the second meeting of the WGH and already concluded;  
- One discussion paper on the Haitian agriculture and key aspects of the 2008 food crisis presented in draft version at the second meeting of the WGH and already concluded. |

In terms of the project's research agenda, the above production of research reports implies, as noted, to expand more than three times the number of products originally thought without modifying in the process the project’s thematic threads. Indeed, instead of the two reports planned in the Donation Agreement, a total of seven documents has been the final delivery of the project. The reason for this change is that the findings of the first discussion papers as well
as the insights provided by the first WGH meeting suggest the convenience of broadening the number of issues being addressed within the umbrella of the main thematic areas (institutional strengthening and productive development), while bringing also the area “political cooperation on democratic consolidation” –in which no report was originally planned- under the effort of knowledge production.

As expected and proposed in the project document, the meetings of the WGH proved highly functional for the process of knowledge production on the basis of a participatory, iterative-process oriented methodology. The Group, initially gathering a small, multi-stakeholder Argentine participation (scholars, policy-makers, civil society' members) met “officially” for the first time last February (actually, the first interaction was held in December last year to define criteria and rules for operation) to exchange ideas on the two discussion papers produced by then. The concern of the project with the multidimensionality of the Group's composition was geared to systematically involve beneficiaries in the identification of research problems, definition of approaches to address them, research design and the like. This was key to make interactions with relevant stakeholders denser and more dynamic and therein to ensure greater fit between the supply and demand of knowledge. In other words, to ensure as great as possible the “social embeddeness” and nature of the knowledge produced.

The result was very promising and productive in that the Group not only discussed the studies in depth but also generated insights on issues and problems to be further explored (the discussion papers presented at the second WGH meeting built on them) with a view to come out a the end of the process with some realistic and operative alternatives to deal with Haiti's severe problems in particular policy areas (see the First Meeting Minute attached to this report).

In the first meeting it was also agreed that the group would expand its constituency, bringing stakeholders from other Latin American countries (particularly the Southern Cone), from Haiti and from developed nations involved in cooperation with this country. In this last sense, the expectation was to enlist a multi-stakeholder participation from Chile, Brazil, Uruguay and Mexico, key actors from Haiti, and members from Canadian and Spanish institutions such as the North-South Institute and FRIDE, respectively. The rationale for this was to place the analysis of Argentina’s cooperation with Haiti within a broader framework comprising the perspectives of other countries of the region that are articulating to some extent their cooperation efforts with Argentina, of developed countries interested in linking their own concerns with South-South cooperation and, of course, of Haiti, the country that is the main target of these initiatives and whose say should be deemed crucial.

It should be noted that the two first discussion papers were commissioned to policy actors directly working in Haiti at the moment of their production. The paper in the issue-area of institutional strengthening was prepared by Ernesto López, Argentina’s Ambassador to Haiti until last March, while the one on productive development was elaborated by Alejandro López Accotto and Federico Villapando, the Argentine public officials responsible for providing technical assistance to the Haitian Planning and Finance Ministries up to now. The decision was grounded in the conviction that the contribution of people working in the field would be fundamental to get the sort of the scoping, locally grounded, analyses that would serve to set in motion the knowledge production process sought by the project.

The second meeting of the WGH was prepared with all the above criteria in mind and went beyond the most optimistic expectations. It counted with the support of Argentina’s Foreign Relations Ministry and gathered about seventy people, including scholars, public officials, diplomats, members of international organizations, representatives of cooperation agencies, NGOs members and journalists. In addition to Argentina, Latin American countries represented were Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Haiti, Mexico, Paraguay and Uruguay, and Canada and Spain from outside the region. In addition to IDRC, international organizations linked to cooperation
attending were AECI, FRIDE, OAS and UNDP. It should be noted that a particular effort was made to ensure the participation of Haitian actors, which was met with success in that six Haitians (government officials and advisors plus scholars) and two more people living and working in Haiti (Argentina's and Chile's Ambassadors) (see Agenda and List of Participants of the event).

The two-day meeting was extremely fruitful on several grounds. First, it provided an space for a deep and extremely frank debate (many participants, including officials from the governments represented, pointed out and praised this fact as an unusual trait in this sort of events) on the main security, political, economic, social issues concerning Haiti, its prospects for reconstruction and development, and concrete criteria and subjects for international cooperation, particularly from Latin American (see the Minute of the meeting). Second, the papers commissioned by the project served to ignite the debate in various discussion sessions and received in the process various insights on which authors could later tap to produce the final versions. Third, the meeting was a genuine instance of “networking” in that it allowed some people to meet and know each other, to deepen discussions and exchanges they were already having, and to explore and even lay the ground for cooperation initiatives; this was particularly the case of Haitians with counterparts from different countries and ambits. Fourth, the meeting was a tremendous push to install the project as a point of reference in the region for the production of policy-relevant knowledge on international cooperation with Haiti (see Project Administration below).

It has to be mentioned that the decision was made not to organize a third meeting of the WGH in Port-au-Prince in October or November this year for two reasons: First, the date would be too close to the Second Meeting, making therefore too difficult to generate new inputs to ignite/support a meaningful debate. Second, it would be necessary to rethink the format of the WGH in order to allow a deeper discussion around very specific issues; a sort of “small policy forum” format, instead of a seminar-like one would be more propitious to better respond to the need for the generation of a different, more policy-proposal kind of knowledge product.

It should also be noted that knowledge production activities went beyond programmed. Indeed, the project’s team prepared a “subset” research proposal addressing the implications of the case of Haiti in terms of state (re)building for future South-South cooperation (particularly among Southern Cone or ABC countries within Latin America). The project was submitted successfully to the Fundación Carolina, started to be developed in June this year by the project’s team and, at the moment of writing this report, research production activities are being carried out as scheduled.

As for knowledge production in the area of democratic consolidation the project organized, in line with what was proposed in the project document, two main activities. The first one consisted of two visits of Haitian actors from different ambits, with relevant incumbency/stakes in the issue. The first visit took place in June 2007 and included three Haitian scholars, two of which also held positions in different agencies of that country's public sector (CRESDET, the agency responsible for local development policies, and the Service of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation of the Ministry of Security, respectively). The second in September this year and included three public officials from the Ministry of Security and the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation.

In the first visit, the visitors expended one week in Buenos Aires during which participated in the following activities:

- As part of an agreement struck with the Program on Political Analysis and Prospective Scenarios (PAPEP) from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) (to jointly cover the costs of bringing the Haitian visitors (the PAPEP granted partial scholarships to
the visitors), a training course on democratic governability in Latin America jointly
organized by such a program and FLACSO/Argentina, combining a presential component
which took place in Buenos Aires and a virtual component to be implemented in the
following three months (its was finished in December 2007);

- Attendance (supported by the project) to a seminar on Development, Global (Dis)order
and International Cooperation organized by the Universidad Torcuato Di Tella, in which
the issue of Haiti was specifically addressed;

- Meetings with selected Argentine public officials in different areas of the Executive
branch of Government (Ministries of Finance, of Foreign Relations, and of Political Affairs
and Justice) and in the Parliament (Foreign Relations Commission).

In the second visit, the visitors expended four days in Buenos Aires during which their activities consisted of:

- A series of meetings with Argentina's public officials from the Executive branch of
government (Ministries of Foreign Relations and of Political Affairs and Justice), with
Congress representatives and with NGOs working in the field of human rights (Servicio
de Paz y Justicia and Abuelas de Plaza de Mayo);

- Participation in the second seminar jointly organized with the Programa de
Fortalecimiento Legislativo (Congress Strengthening Program) at FLACSO/Argentina, in
which the issue of political stability and the food crisis at the global level and in Haiti in
particular was specially addressed (see the Consciousness-generation line of work
below).

The second activity in the area of democratic consolidation took advantage of the participation
of Haitian actors in the Second WGH to organize a series of small exchanges (mostly one-to one
person) between them and public officials in selected areas of Argentina's government
(Ministries of Finance, of Foreign Relations and of Political Affairs and Justice). These meetings
were prepared as part of the agenda the visitors would have in Argentina and their main goal
was to allow direct exchanges on specific topics of potential collaboration (i.e., reform of the
judiciary, police reform, prison systems, etc.).

As part of its capacity building activities, the project organized –in line with the original plan-
the second meeting to discuss the process of knowledge production (the first one was held in
September 2007 in Montreal with IDRC's financial support), riding on the Second WGH Meeting
of July this year. The exercise involved the people working in each of the four IDRC sponsored
research-action projects on Haiti, as well as from LACRO in Montevideo. In the meeting there
were presented and discussed the progress each of the projects had made, the difficulties
found in the process of knowledge production and “sensibilization”, and the lessons learnt with
a view in the second phase of the projects.

The project was able also to make progress in the development of links with a Canadian
institution, the North-South Institute, working on the Haitian situation. Concretely, a preliminary
agreement was reached to carry out future joint research on two issues, namely, an
assessment of the trade opportunities and preferences that could be granted to Haiti in order to
facilitate a growth of its exports not only to Canada but also to Mercosur and Mexico (currently,
Haiti imports 10 times more than it exports and the latter are actually falling), as well as of the
establishment of a development fund built in part on a percentage of the remittances sent to
Haiti by it’s Diaspora abroad. Conversations have also been held to explore the possibility of
jointly organizing on the Haitian problematic in international conferences or co-producing a
book gathering the research work so far conducted by both sides. It is expected that these last
two cooperation possibilities prosper during the second phase of this project (see The Consciousness-generation line of work below).

Finally, the project had the commitment from the scratch to support the development of young scholars and researchers. In this sense the incorporation of a young management and research assistant in the project team (see Project Administration below) was complemented by a drive to identify new talents for research as a way to expand to expand the project's analytical and technical capacities through the identification and incorporation of young scholarly talent.

**The Consciousness-generation line of work**

In keeping with the purposes set in the project to “sensibilize” the Argentina public opinion in general and key political and social actors in particular about the humanitarian significance and strategic/political relevance of Argentina's effective involvement in the search of solutions for Haiti's problems, the actions undertaken during the project’s life include:

a. The organization of a two seminars on different dimensions of the Haitian situation (democratic consolidation, and political instability and food security) in March and September 2008, jointly with the Programa de Fortalecimiento Legislativo (Congress Strengthening Program) at FLACSO/ Argentina, involving about 15 legislators and Congress advisors each and close to 10 political actors from other institutional ambits (Ministry of Foreign Relations, political parties with strong interest in the country's foreign policy, etc.) the second one. In both meetings the project's research products were a key input for exchange;

b. The convening of social actors (individual or group such as NGOs) in the WGH meetings. It should be noted that efforts in this direction were only partially successful as various NGOs particularly working in the field of human rights (Servicio de Paz y Justicia, SERPAJ, Jubileo 2000 and Madres de Plaza de Mayo/Linea Fundadora) were quite refractory to participate. By and large, this has to do with the current radicalization of their standing concerning the participation of Argentina in international peace-keeping initiatives in Haiti on grounds that it is just a disguised form of intervention. No doubt, this is an area calling for renewed efforts through innovative means in the second phase of the project;

c. The submission of proposals to present the project's research products in national and international academic events. This has been particularly the case of the papers on Haiti's economy and the possibilities for Argentina's cooperation, conditions for political cooperation already concluded and the one on the implications of state (re)building in Haiti for future South-South cooperation (particularly among Southern Cone or ABC countries within Latin America) under preparation by the project’s team. The first two papers will be presented at the CLADE Congress to be held in December this year in Buenos Aires, Argentina whereas the project's team has submitted a proposal for organizing two panels –one on the ABC countries cooperation in Haiti and the other on the prospects of South-South and North-South-South cooperation- in the XXI IPSA Congress to be held in Santiago de Chile in June 2009;

d. Conversations with one the newspapers of greatest circulation in Argentina, Clarín, to produce a set of articles on Haiti and the way international and Argentina's cooperation are working in that country have move forward and, at present, the modality and timing of the this endeavor are under discussion;
DISSEMINATION OF RESULTS/PRODUCTS

The project undertook different actions to further its visibility as the unique research initiative in Argentina geared to improve understanding of Haiti’s political, social and economic problems and the way international cooperation may contribute to deal with them, to ensure an effective diffusion of its products/results and to achieve a significant outreach. The actions undertaking may be synthesized as follows.

- A quite focused and systematic effort to develop contacts with relevant Argentine public officials, scholars and civil society actors with the purpose of getting them acquainted with the project’s goals and activities, stimulating their involvement, and getting their feedback on the project’s products and their suggestions about its future endeavors. The main target was high- and mid-level rank officials in different domains (the Executive, Legislative and Judicial branches of government), senior researchers and NGOs’ managers (from organizations such as Servicio de Paz y Justicia [SERPAJ], Centro para la Apertura y Desarrollo de América Latina [CADAL], Jubileo 2000) interested in Haiti’s situation. This effort required a hands-on attitude towards the tasks involved: identification of officials, establishment of contacts, presentation of the project, follow-up of links established, keeping actors updated on the project’s activities and agenda and the like. This effort has had rewarding payoffs in that more than thirty policy-makers, about a dozen of civil society actors and close to twenty scholars have been responsive, interacting quite directly and on a regular basis with the project. In this last sense, the way the links with Argentina’s Ministry of Foreign Relations, particularly the Secretariat of International Cooperation and Coordination have evolved are worth noting. Indeed, during the first year of the project such a Ministry had an arm-length relationship with the project, being quite reluctant to be institutionally involved, let alone support, its activities. The Second WGH was a watershed because of its success both in terms of the audience convened and the quality of research products presented and the debate held. As a result, relationships with the Secretariat have become fluid and highly productive, to the point that has explicitly expressed its intention to work closely with FLACSO in the second stage of the project. Conversations are at this moment underway to make this intention operative.

- A similar effort was carried out with regards to members of international organizations (such as the Inter-American Development Bank, [IADB], the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, the Secretaría General Iberoamericana [SEGIB], the Organization of American States [OAS], the United Nations Development Program [UNDP], UNICEF) and cooperation agencies from developed countries (particularly Spain and Canada) interested in South-South cooperation for development, getting also positive rewards in terms of the project’s exposure and outreach as well as to start discussing potential financial contributions for the project’s second stage;

- More concretely, in terms of dissemination of results, different actions were carried out:

  - The distribution of electronic versions of the discussion papers and of the WGH’s minutes among scholars, policy-makers and civil society members directly involved, or concerned with the issues the project addresses, to other socio-political and civil society actors with stakes in the issue, such as legislators, interest groups and private sector members, and to scholars and policy-makers not directly involved in the issue but working in related topics/areas of government. This effort had a broad geographical as distribution reached
Latin America, North America and Europe. For this task FLACSO’s mailing list -gathering more than 10,000 references- was used for selecting recipients, but also an effort to identify additional contacts was made in order to ensure that all relevant stakeholders had been duly approached. Although quite intensive in terms of workload, this task proved rewarding as it elicited feedback from some of the people contacted on the project’s products as well as its activities and initiatives;

- The development of the project’s website with the main goal of generating a site providing, from the perspective of a LAMIC directly engaged in cooperation with Haiti, not just information about the project itself but essential information and data on the political, social, economic and cultural reality of that country. In other words, the idea was to make the site as a relevant vehicle of information, analysis and “sensibilization” on the Haitian reality. This required defining, on one side, a user-friendly design, for which specific expertise was hired. On the other, a substantive profile adding genuine value to existing websites on Haiti, to which an exhaustive review of them was carried out. The website was thus developed with a view to:

- Install it as the unique website in Spanish and from Argentina providing general and specific information on Haiti in an ordered, functional and interactive way and granting easy access to the general public and specialists and practitioners on the issue;

- “Sensibilize” the virtual community on Haiti’s problematic and the need to contribute to the development of that country within the framework of South-South cooperation as an increasingly important element within international cooperation for development;

- Bolster this project as an experience of South-South collaboration for knowledge production and consciousness-raising on the Haitian problematic;

- Establish a communication bridge with civil society organizations from Argentina and other developing countries interested in cooperating for Haiti’s development;

- Contribute to the academic and policy debate on Haiti’s reconstruction and on the participation of Southern Cone countries in such an endeavor by providing inputs for analysis and decision-making and a space for the exchange of information and ideas;

- Make a daily follow up of the Haitian situation and disseminate updated information on Argentina’s participation through interactive tools, personalized interviews and any other relevant news about the country’s involvement in Haiti;

- Provide updated information about the different dimensions of cooperation (diplomatic, military, economic, social and cultural) for Haiti’s reconstruction, with a special emphasis on the activities of MINUSTAH and the various international organizations engaged in the provision of assistance to that country.

The structure of the website reflects these concerns and purposes, comprising: information about the goals and scope of the project; a section providing basic data on Haiti. information about its political, economic, social and cultural characteristics and about the country’s current situation; a section on research, debates and knowledge products about Haiti political, economic and social problems (including a virtual library on the subject); a section on Argentina’s, regional and multilateral cooperation with that country; and a news sections that is updated on a daily basis. The website also provides a link to most of the existing sites on Haiti addressing, from different sources and perspectives, the issues the project is concerned with.
Facing the second phase of the project, the project’s team considers that the website requires some redesign, essentially to make it more agile without losing, at the same time, its value as a vehicle for reaching information on the complex Haitian reality as well as the ebbs and flows of international cooperation.

- The meetings of the WGH (Buenos Aires, December 2007 [preparatory meeting], February and July 2008) were another means to disseminate the project’s outputs and activities by gathering and connecting people from all domains (public sector, civil society, the academia, the media) with interest and stakes in Haiti in Argentina and many other countries in the region and elsewhere.

In sum, the project implemented during its life-cycle a quite broad-scale effort to become itself known in all relevant domains and spheres, to reach key stakeholders and to search for the most effective ways to distribute and present products.

Although the project has not developed specific instruments or mechanisms to keep track and assess its outreach and the way their products fit knowledge and/or policy needs, some facts may be taken as proxies in these regards:

- The increasing number of hits (about 20 per day) the project’s website recorded since its launching, as well as a broadening number of geographical and institutional sources from where these hits come;
- Requests (about 70) for discussion papers, the vast majority of which came from Argentina’s public officers and scholars.

A more systematic effort will be likely to be made during the second phase of the project in order to more rigorously assess its dissemination activities, outreach capacity and impact. The idea is to develop a composite index including to parts: a first one consisting of a record of requests for the project’s products as well as their magnitude and sources, particularly from people that have not been targeted, discriminated by professional field and geographical origin. A second part including an information matrix on stakeholders’ assessment of the project’s products and the use they make of them (information, consultation, reference, input for decision-making, and the like). The project’s team has started to work in the design of this assessment instrument in the last three months.

PROJECT ADMINISTRATION

During the life of the project it was possible to consolidate and strengthen the configuration and working of the project team through the combination of different skill endowments and the incorporation of fresh blood towards the mid of the period. Succinctly, the manager coordinator, Valentín Thury Cornejo, and the management and research assistant, Bernabé Malacalza – incorporated in November 2007-, have nuanced but complementary interests and capabilities that fit nicely with the substantive requirements of the project and the management challenges and administrative workload (which increased as the project unfolded) as well. The incorporation of Bernabé was also functional to the goal of the project from its inception of providing opportunities for and supporting the development of young scholars and researchers. In this sense, the achievement of the grant from the Fundación Carolina was key for making this incorporation possible in that it allows covering the increased salary costs.

The project team was able to manage the workload, involving both strategic issues and multiple piecemeal tasks, in quite satisfactory manner. Without making an exhaustive list of them it is worth mentioning the following activities:
a. Providing overall strategic orientation and ensuring progress according to pace and direction;
b. Periodic discussions on how to move forward the development of links with relevant individual and institutional actors;
c. Periodic discussions on research priorities, drawing information both from primary and secondary data sources;
d. Coordinating the overall production and dissemination of outputs;
e. Mapping out alternative sources of funding to support or expand the project’s activities;
f. Identifying and contacting the target recipients of the project’s products;

g. Preparation of projects for submission for additional funding, including the contacts with researchers and pertinent officials;
h. Revision of documents employed in the management of the project (e.g., contracts, terms of reference, etc.);

As part of the effort to strengthen the profile of the project into a differentiated endeavor in Latin American for high-quality research and information brokering on Haiti’s complex situation and Argentina’s effective cooperation, several actions mainly focusing on the establishment of strategic alliances were sought:

- The development of links with specialized regional/hemispheric/international institutions with a view to work on specific themes and/or develop institution-building activities jointly. The case of the OAS within the region, of the North-South Institute in Canada (see The Capacity Building Line of Action above), and of AECI and SEGIB in Spain are the main cases in point;

- The search of additional sources of funding either to co-support activities originally planned in the project document or to develop new relevant initiatives particularly in the field of knowledge production. The first case concerns the training of Haitian people while the second refers to the production of a study on the implications of LAMICS’ cooperation for state rebuilding in Haiti for South-South cooperation more broadly. The following chart summarizes co-financing obtained during the first year of the project as part of the above actions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Co-financing institution</th>
<th>Contribution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Training</td>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>$ 8,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research study on South-South cooperation</td>
<td>Fundación Carolina</td>
<td>$ 19,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL CO-FINANCING</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$ 45,500</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As for the execution of the budget, it was met quite closely with regards to the original previsions, as it is be shown by the financial report to be submitted, notwithstanding that the WGH meetings largely went beyond the breadth originally sought (in terms of the number of participants as well as their geographical origin). Overall, the total budget originally agreed was adequate to carry out the tasks and activities required to fully meeting the general and specific goals of the project.

Finally, support from IDRC (particularly from the Regional Office at Montevideo) was extremely consistent and constructive. It took place in several ways, among them, the permanent availability and predisposition on the part of the Regional Office Director, Federico Burone, and his Executive Assistant, Maria Scherschener, to exchange ideas about different facets of the project, provide valuable recommendations and support for its timely and sound implementation as well as circulating valuable information about Haiti-related issues.