

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1016

To measure the progress of relief, recovery, reconstruction, and development efforts in Haiti following the earthquake of January 12, 2010, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 10, 2011

Ms. LEE of California introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To measure the progress of relief, recovery, reconstruction, and development efforts in Haiti following the earthquake of January 12, 2010, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Assessing Progress in
5 Haiti Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) On January 12, 2010, an earthquake meas-
2 uring 7.0 on the Richter magnitude scale struck the
3 country of Haiti.

4 (2) According to the United States Geological
5 Survey (USGS)—

6 (A) the earthquake epicenter was located
7 approximately 15 miles southwest of Port-au-
8 Prince, the capital of Haiti; and

9 (B) the earthquake was followed by 59
10 aftershocks of magnitude 4.5 or greater, the
11 most severe measuring 6.0.

12 (3) According to the Government of Haiti, more
13 than 316,000 people died as a result of the earth-
14 quake, including 103 citizens of the United States
15 and more than 100 United Nations personnel.

16 (4) According to the United Nations and the
17 International Organization for Migration—

18 (A) an estimated 3,000,000 people were di-
19 rectly affected by the disaster, nearly one-third
20 of the country’s population; and

21 (B) more than 1,300,000 people were dis-
22 placed from their homes to settlements.

23 (5) Casualty numbers and infrastructure dam-
24 age, including to roads, ports, hospitals, and residen-
25 tial dwellings, place the earthquake as the worst

1 cataclysm to hit Haiti in over two centuries and,
2 proportionally, one of the world’s worst natural dis-
3 asters in modern times.

4 (6) The Post Disaster Needs Assessment
5 (PDNA) conducted by the Government of Haiti, the
6 United Nations, the World Bank, the Inter-Amer-
7 ican Development Bank, and other experts estimates
8 that damage and economic losses totaled
9 \$7,804,000,000, approximately 120 percent of Hai-
10 ti’s gross domestic product in 2009.

11 (7) Haiti is the poorest, least developed country
12 in the Western Hemisphere with, prior to the earth-
13 quake—

14 (A) more than 70 percent of Haitians liv-
15 ing on less than \$2 per day; and

16 (B) a ranking of 149 out of 182 countries
17 on the United Nations Human Development
18 Index.

19 (8) House Resolution 1021, which was passed
20 on January 21, 2010, on a vote of 411 to 1 ex-
21 pressed—

22 (A) the House of Representatives “deepest
23 condolences and sympathy for the horrific loss
24 of life” caused by the earthquake; and

1 (B) bipartisan support for the recovery
2 and reconstruction needs of Haiti.

3 (9) The initial emergency response of the men
4 and women of the United States Government, led by
5 the United States Agency for International Develop-
6 ment and United States Southern Command, was
7 swift and resolute.

8 (10) Individuals, businesses, and philanthropic
9 organizations across the United States and through-
10 out the international community responded in sup-
11 port of Haiti and its populace during this crisis,
12 sometimes in innovative ways such as fundraising
13 through text messaging.

14 (11) The Haitian diaspora in the United States,
15 which was integral to emergency relief efforts—

16 (A) has annually contributed significant
17 monetary support to Haiti through remittances;
18 and

19 (B) continues to seek opportunities to
20 partner with the United States Agency for
21 International Development and other agencies
22 to substantively contribute to the reconstruction
23 of Haiti.

24 (12) Significant challenges still remain in Haiti
25 as it works to recover and rebuild.

1 (13) According to the International Organiza-
2 tion for Migration, approximately 800,000 people re-
3 main in spontaneous and organized camps in Haiti.

4 (14) According to numerous nongovernmental
5 organizations and United States contractors, the
6 pace of reconstruction has lagged significantly be-
7 hind the original emergency relief phase.

8 (15) The widespread irregularities that oc-
9 curred in the elections held in Haiti on November
10 28, 2010, led to outbursts of violence which under-
11 mined the recovery efforts.

12 (16) On October 21, 2010, an outbreak of chol-
13 era was detected in the Lower Artibonite region.

14 (17) Initial efforts to contain the epidemic were
15 disrupted by Hurricane Tomás and resulting wide-
16 spread flooding, which led to the spreading and en-
17 trenchment of the disease throughout the country.

18 (18) According to the Haitian Ministry of Pub-
19 lic Health and Population, as of February 25,
20 2011—

21 (A) more than 4,627 people have died from
22 cholera; and

23 (B) more than 248,442 have been infected
24 from the disease.

1 (19) According to the Pan American Health
2 Organization and the Centers for Disease Control
3 and Prevention, cholera could spread to as many as
4 400,000 people within the first year of the epidemic,
5 potentially causing 7,600 deaths at the current case
6 fatality rate.

7 (20) The United States has provided more than
8 \$45,192,163 worth of assistance to combat the chol-
9 era epidemic, including by assisting with stockpiling
10 health commodities, equipping cholera treatment
11 centers, providing public information, and improving
12 water and sanitation systems.

13 (21) The efforts to combat the cholera epidemic
14 have helped to drive the mortality rate from cholera
15 down from nearly 7 percent to 1.8 percent of all
16 contracted cases as of February 25, 2011.

17 (22) Throughout the series of crises, the people
18 of Haiti continue to demonstrate unwavering resil-
19 ience, dignity, and courage.

20 (23) At the international donors conference
21 “Towards a New Future for Haiti” held on March
22 31, 2010, 59 donors pledged over \$5,500,000,000 to
23 support Haiti.

24 (24) The United Nations Office of the Special
25 Envoy for Haiti estimates that nearly

1 \$1,900,000,000 has been disbursed, with an addi-
2 tional amount of approximately \$2,000,000,000
3 committed.

4 (25) Haiti needs sustained support from the
5 international community in order to confront the on-
6 going cholera epidemic and to promote reconstruc-
7 tion and development.

8 **SEC. 3. REPORT.**

9 (a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than six months
10 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President,
11 in consultation with the heads of all relevant agencies, in-
12 cluding the Department of State, the United States Agen-
13 cy for International Development, the Department of De-
14 fense, the Department of Health and Human Services,
15 and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shall
16 transmit to Congress a report on the status of post-earth-
17 quake humanitarian, reconstruction, and development ef-
18 forts in Haiti, including efforts to prevent the spread of
19 cholera and treat persons infected with the disease.

20 (b) CONTENTS.—The report required by subsection
21 (a) shall include a description, analysis, and evaluation of
22 the—

23 (1) overall progress of relief, recovery, and re-
24 construction in Haiti, including—

1 (A) programs and projects of the United
2 States Government;

3 (B) programs and projects to protect vul-
4 nerable populations, such as internally displaced
5 persons, children, women and girls, and persons
6 with disabilities; and

7 (C) projects to improve water, sanitation,
8 and health, and plans for improvements in
9 these areas in the long-term;

10 (2) extent to which United States and inter-
11 national efforts are in line with the priorities of the
12 Government of Haiti and are actively engaging and
13 working through Haitian ministries and local au-
14 thorities;

15 (3) coordination among United States Govern-
16 ment agencies, and coordination between the United
17 States Government and United Nations agencies,
18 international financial institutions, and other bilat-
19 eral donors;

20 (4) mechanisms for communicating the progress
21 of recovery and reconstruction efforts to Haitian
22 citizens, as well as recommendations on how these
23 can be improved;

24 (5) mechanisms through which Haitian civil so-
25 ciety, including vulnerable populations, is actively

1 participating in all major stages of recovery and re-
2 construction efforts, and recommendations on how
3 these can be improved; and

4 (6) mechanisms through which the Haitian di-
5 aspora is involved in recovery and reconstruction ef-
6 forts.

7 (c) USE OF PREVIOUSLY APPROPRIATED FUNDS.—
8 Funding for the report required under subsection (a) shall
9 derive from existing discretionary funds of the depart-
10 ments and agencies specified in such subsection.

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