

Republic of Haiti
Providing an Education of Quality in Haiti Project

Chair Summary*

November 10, 2016

The Executive Directors approved an IDA grant in the amount of US\$30 million to the Republic of Haiti for the “Providing an Education of Quality in Haiti Project” on the terms set out in the President’s Memorandum.

Executive Directors welcomed the Bank’s continued engagement in Haiti and expressed support for the Project’s objectives of strengthening public management of the sector, supporting the enrollment of students, and improving learning conditions in selected public and non-public primary schools. Directors valued the project’s contribution to the World Bank Group’s twin goals by strengthening public education which chiefly serves the poor, extending the Government’s stewardship over the large non-public offer of education services, and increasing access to quality education for children in poor communities. They appreciated the focus on resilience in line with the focus of the Forward Look.

Directors recognized that Hurricane Matthew has exacerbated the challenges of access to a quality education, particularly in the hardest hit southern departments of Haiti, threatening the gains in access witnessed since the 2010 earthquake. Directors welcomed the Bank’s rapid response to the client’s request for support after the Hurricane and urged rapid implementation of the operation to help children return to school in affected areas, while supporting systemic improvements in the sector. They welcomed the Project’s flexibility in responding to the challenges posed by Hurricane Matthew, while continuing to strengthen Haiti’s institutional capacity to adopt sound education policies, improve education planning, and deliver primary education services. They appreciated the efforts to provide gender disaggregated data, and called for such data collection to lead to concrete actions and outcomes.

Directors recognized the strong collaboration between Haiti’s key partners in the education sector and noted that with political changes and economic constraints, coordinating efforts will help support aid efficiency and mitigate risks. Managing risks through enhanced capacity building and infrastructure support were also recognized in helping improve the quality of education and in general. They called for enhanced Government leadership in tackling reconstruction efforts and for the World Bank to intensify and broaden its efforts to support Haiti in strengthening its resilience in the face of natural disasters.

Directors acknowledged the risks stemming from ongoing uncertainty over Haiti’s political leadership, weak institutional capacity at the central and local levels, and the country’s challenging governance environment, and called for strong government commitment to move forward with the project. Directors emphasized the importance of the Project’s proposed accountability mechanisms involving a broad range of stakeholders, the building of capacity at all levels, and close monitoring of the project’s fiduciary and governance frameworks in order to manage these risks. They encouraged staff to continue to engage and respond to any further deterioration in the country context.

* This summary is not an approved record