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Surveys indicates earthquake victims who received housing subsidies under Haitian government's housing program are still in crisis one year later

(PORT-AU-PRINCE, January 7, 2014)— As the Haitian government and foreign donors claim success in the closure of Haiti's earthquake displacement camps and resettlement of families, [results of a survey](#) conducted by the Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti (IJDH) and the *Bureau des Avocats Internationaux* (BAI) indicate that earthquake victims who received cash rental subsidies under the Haitian government's 16/6 resettlement plan face another housing crisis as their aid money runs out.

The survey found that in the short term, the cash rental assistance program, which provided up to \$500 in rental assistance for one year or home building materials, succeeded in moving families out of displacement camps where they were living in unsafe and desperate conditions.

But according to Nicole Phillips, Staff Attorney at IJDH who directed the study, “a shocking number of aid recipients’ standard of living was lower in housing available under the 16/6 plan than before the earthquake, and has worsened since subsidies ended.”

- 51% of survey participants still live in the home to which they were relocated by the program. Out of those still living in the same home, 61% have not been able to pay rent.
- 56% reported that their most pressing need was housing, up from just 9% in 2012.
- 80% reported that their overall living situation in 2013 was worse than pre-earthquake.

Ms. Phillips said that the survey results also indicate that “earthquake victims are still struggling to survive, and their access to basic necessities like food is worse than before the earthquake.”

- 68% of survey participants reported that at least one family member went one or more days without food (51% went multiple days). Of those that reported not eating, 63% reported that their children went without eating.
- 37% ate worse than when living in the camps and 63% ate worse than before the earthquake.

BAI and IJDH urge the Haitian government to adopt a long-term and sustainable housing strategy for poor Haitians who are still displaced from the earthquake. According to Ms. Phillips, “the plan must provide affordable housing in addition to providing support services to help Haitians find employment so that they can provide for their families’ basic necessities in the short term and in the long-term.” A sustainable solution is one in which the government, and other services providers like the IOM and NGOs consult with displaced Haitians and empower them to create long lasting sustainable improvements in the area of housing and all other basic human needs. The survey results are available at <http://www.ijdh.org/2014/01/topics/housing/fact-sheet-on-haitis-housing-crisis/#.UsrfAfRDsn4>.