

# Gender Violence

In Haiti



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# SWAGA

- Supporting Women Against Gender Aggression

# Problem:

- Specific: Gender violence in IDP camps
- General: Criminal activity and generalized violence in the IDP camps:
  - high risk camps will become havens for criminal violence and human insecurity.
  - Diagnostic nest case scenario: criminal violence will not become endemic to the camps.
- General: Gender norms



# Gender Violence Support Centres

- Awareness workshops
- Community representatives (women)
  - *De facto* community leaders
  - Training
- Safe-walks / patrol high-risk areas
- Reporting/advocacy assistance for women



# Addressing Deeper Issues:

- *Prevent* violence in the camps
- Modify gender norms:
  - Stigmatize
  - Awareness
  - Social Mobility and Women's Empowerment



# Canadian Organization:

- CIDA:
  - Grassroots work
  - Extensive experience in Haiti
  - In-house experts



# Track II and Local

- Initiated by NGOs, through NGO networks
- Community representatives

# Location/Timing/Political Context

- Location: In priority IDP camps
- Timing: Present low-level violence, high risk of future escalation
- Political Context: An increasing UN/International policy priority. A CIDA priority.



# Inclusion of Stakeholders:

- Community leaders in IDP camps
- HNP and MINUSTAH
- Community Police
- NGOS: Kofaviv: Commission of Women Victims for Victims, Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti, Solidarity Among Haitian Women
- *Does not oppose interests of:*
  - Elite classes
  - Government
  - Opposition Parties



# Benefits to Canada

- One of CIDA's priorities
- Country focus in Haiti
- MDG
- Long-term implications
  - Not short-term aid
  - Option to build on successes in the future



# Long-term Impact:

- Change social norms
- Increased general sense of security and empowerment
- Locate and support women community leaders

# Risks

- Safety of community representatives
- General reprisals
- Will be contrary to organized crime and paramilitary groups
- Increase political tensions

# But not too many risks!

- Risks are manageable:
  - Connections with UN Peacekeepers/HNP
  - Constant monitoring of risk areas in camps
  - Remain sensitive to, and aware of, political norms (the benefit of local representatives)
  - Empowering women does not necessarily mean challenging the power of other political actors

# Measuring Impact/Success

- Community representatives, at the outset, will produce specific goals of the project.
- Success measurement guidelines:
  - # of women reporting
  - Estimates of gender violence
  - Security indicators
  - Judicial indicators



# Accountability

- CIDA oversight body will collect financial and progress reports from partner NGOs
- Partner NGOs supervise and collect feedback from community representatives

# Alternatives

- Women's community policing force
  - An existing community police force
  - RCMP and HNP already training/sending women police
- Legal Support Initiative:
  - Provision of advocacy for women who wish to report crimes.
  - Timing is wrong: legal system is not established.
  - Too reactionary – immediate prevention better addresses the problem



# Implementation

- Connect with appropriate NGOs
- Assess capabilities and prioritize camps
- Micro. Program design
- Recruit/search for community representatives
- Rep. training