



International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Organisation internationale pour les migrations (OIM)
Organización Internacional para las Migraciones (OIM)

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IOM wishes to add to the initial write-up by GiveWell.

This pilot initiative involved a three-way partnership between IOM (lead) Protect the People (PTP) and Center for Global Development (CGD). The responsibility for identifying and preparing Haitian workers to work in the US and abide to H2-A visa conditions lay with IOM. The responsibility for identifying employers in the US and confirming job orders lay with PTP. And the responsibility for carrying research on lessons learned from this first pilot lay with CGD.

The impact of this pilot goes well beyond the number of workers who were successfully granted a H-2A visa and the income they received.

Indeed, prior to project implementation, the US Government had temporarily frozen the H-2A visa for Haiti and was close to making this permanent because a high proportion of Haitian applicants were not returning to Haiti upon completion of their contract. IOM lobbied hard through US government channels to maintain the H-2A doors open for Haitian workers.

In addition, a substantial number of farmers' associations were sensitized in 6 out of the 10 Departments comprising Haiti, on the rights, but also obligations of Haitian workers hoping to benefit from the H-2A visa scheme. This included 1 Agricultural Federation, 2 Cooperatives and 5 Associations for a total of 870 farmers.

Haitian line ministries and government institutions were also introduced to the H-2A opportunity as they play an important role in ensuring that H-2A applicants come from official and legitimate cooperatives/associations and in tracking and ensuring the return of workers upon completion of their seasonal contract.

IOM also delivered cultural orientation and H-2A preparedness training for all would-be applicants; secured 141 IDs (birth certificates, passports, etc.); organized and provided briefings to 3 groups of visiting US employers, and participated in the outreach to US farmers at a number of employers' conventions.

Ultimately, it is important to measure project outcome and not just outputs. Indeed, the project aimed to ensure sustainable Haitian access to H-2A visas by demonstrating high rates of compliance with visa requirements. Despite the low number of successful applicants, it should be highlighted that they all returned to Haiti upon completion of their contracts, thereby setting the stage for others to avail themselves of this unique seasonal workers' opportunity provided by the US government. This positively sets the stage for future H-2A applicants.