



Who We Are : Observatoire Citoyen de l'Action des Pouvoirs Publics en Haïti (OCAPH), sometimes referred to as Haiti Citizen Watchdog, is a civic engagement watchdog organization based in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

Our Mission : We advocate for the Haitian people's right to a government that truly responds to their needs. Our approach combines monitoring current government activities and equipping citizens to themselves bring about change.

Our History: OCAPH was established in 2009 when it became clear that Haiti's democracy was in an extremely fragile state. A small group of concerned citizens came together to create a non-profit organization that would promote greater government transparency and help to build a more informed citizenry with the power to hold their government accountable as public servants.

Our Activities: Our very first project was to organize a series of town hall meetings between civil society groups and government officials to debate issues including judicial reform, corruption, human rights, women's status, agricultural reform, disaster management and budget tracking. Then, after the devastating 2010 earthquake, we took on the role of citizen watchdog and closely monitored international aid, reporting cases of misuse and waste. In 2011, we produced the nation's first citizen guide to the budget, and over the next few years we used the guide to carry out training for grassroots organizations.

Early in 2015, we put together a conference on the state of the reconstruction process five years after the earthquake. More recently, we have begun to focus on upcoming elections, calling on the government to expedite issuing registration cards so that citizens can vote. On May 18, we carried out the first-ever national citizen poll by cellphone; more than 15,000 citizens seized the opportunity to tell electoral candidates to focus on jobs, health, hunger, and education as top priorities should they be elected. And in response to the growing crisis of repatriation from the Dominican Republic, we issued a set of recommendations to the government for more effectively addressing the crisis. For 2016, we are planning several additional projects that reflect OCAPH's continued pivotal role in government monitoring and citizen empowerment.

Who We Work With: To broaden and deepen our reach, we frequently collaborate with other indigenous civil society groups such as IDEJEN (youth); MOFKA (women); RANIFH (disabled); and others. Although our primary focus is to monitor government activities and help citizens advocate for their rights, we also remain open to constructive dialogue with governmental entities.

For More Information: OCAPH's French and Creole language website is www.ocaph.org. We are in the process of creating an English language site. Contacts: Karl Jean-Louis, OCAPH Senior Advisor Governance Specialist, Port-au-Prince, at karl@ocaph.org, 509-47-78-44-44; or OCAPH Outreach Director Elaine Koerner, Washington, D.C. elainek@ocaph.org.