INTERIM
HAITI
RECOVERY
COMMISSION

IHRC FACT / FICTION

Claim	"The IHRC operates completely independent of the Government of Haiti and does not engage the government in their efforts."
Reality	In fact, the IHRC works in close coordination with the Government of Haiti, is Co-Chaired by Haiti's top government administrator, and was created in large part to ensure that the reconstruction is carried out in full accordance with the government's short-term and long-term reconstruction plans. This close working relationship ranges from IHRC technical experts working on projects with their GoH counterparts, to the sharing of technical expertise, programs and personnel. Both parties are bound together by the common goal of effectively advancing the reconstruction process, and as that process continues to advance, the working partnership serves to reinforce the capacity of the government.

Claim	"The IHRC has been ineffective in leading the reconstruction and progress has been far too slow in coming."
Reality	The role of the Commission is not to lead the reconstruction, but rather to align donor finance and facilitate projects and programs that fall within the Government of Haiti's reconstruction plans. As such, the Commission does not implement reconstruction projects – once a project has been facilitated and approved by the IHRC, it is up to the implementing party to complete the project. Projects can only be completed as quickly as they receive funding. While the IHRC works with donors to secure funding for projects, there is a need to disburse pledged funds in a more timely fashion.

Claim	"The IHRC wants to shape Haiti's future, but it does not allow Haitians a seat at the table or a voice in the matter."
Reality	In truth, the IHRC is an unprecedented agency in that it has given Haitians a seat at the decision-making table and a strong voice in dictating the course that their nation takes towards short-term recovery and long-term prosperity. The IHRC Board has 14 Haitian voting members, mirroring the number of international board members, and is co-chaired by the Prime Minister of Haiti Jean-Max Bellerive, the chief administrator of the Haitian government. The Haitian Diaspora is also represented on the Board, illustrating just how involved Haitians are in the IHRC and its work. Additionally, the Commission counts many Haitians among its full-time

	professional staff.

Claim	"Haitian Board members are unhappy with their limited participation in the work of the IHRC and do not feel a part of the process."
Reality	The Commission had its share of growing pains last year and did not initially do a sufficient job of communicating with the Haitian Board members and keeping them apprised and involved in all the emergency recovery work being done at the time. Since then, the Commission's staff has made a concerted effort to reach out to Haitian Board members more regularly and engage them in the Commission's work, whether it's through regular meetings with Commission staff, sector-specific outreach sessions with Haitian stakeholders or periodic breakfast/dinner meetings. The IHRC understands that it stands to benefit from the Haitian Board members' knowledge of Haiti and from the strong relationships that they have forged over time with key Haitian reconstruction stakeholders and, even more importantly, with the broader Haitian population, who stand to benefit most from Haitian participation in the process.

Claim	"The IHRC operates out of view of everyday Haitians, 98% of whom don't have access to the internet, preventing them from sharing a sense of involvement in – or understanding of – the Commission's reconstruction efforts."
Reality	While the Commission's website is an important plank of its communications efforts, it is by no means the only one. Haitian media and international media, alike, have had the opportunity to attend all IHRC Board meetings, which are open to press. Additionally, the Commission Co-Chairs, staff and Board members participate in TV, radio and newspaper interviews here in Haiti and do their best to make themselves available to the Haitian media and answer questions that they may have about the Commission and its efforts.

Claim	"The IHRC has failed to garner adequate funding for the reconstruction."
Reality	In fact, as of its February Board meeting, approximately $3 billion in funds have been pledged to the 87 projects approved by the IHRC Board to date. While this number is impressive, only about half of that total, $1.6 billion, has been disbursed. If projects are to be implemented

	promptly and completely, the donor community must fully honor its generous pledges in a timely manner.

Claim	"The long-term intent of the IHRC and those guiding it is to wrest control of Haiti's planning and development from the Government of Haiti."
Reality	The IHRC was conceived and created as a body that would work to aid the Government of Haiti in its reconstruction efforts for a finite period of time. The Commission's mandate is set to expire in October 2011. Until that time, or such time as the Government of Haiti deems appropriate, the Commission will continue to work with its GoH partners to advance the reconstruction. The IHRC is also focused on further strengthening the institutional capacity of the Government of Haiti, as it must be the driving force behind the reconstruction for the long-term.