



## IN NUMBERS



**1.55 million people**  
food insecure of which  
**280 000** severely



**2 out of 3** farmers have lost  
 $\frac{1}{3}$  of their stocks



**Food insecurity halved** in  
the hardest-hit areas



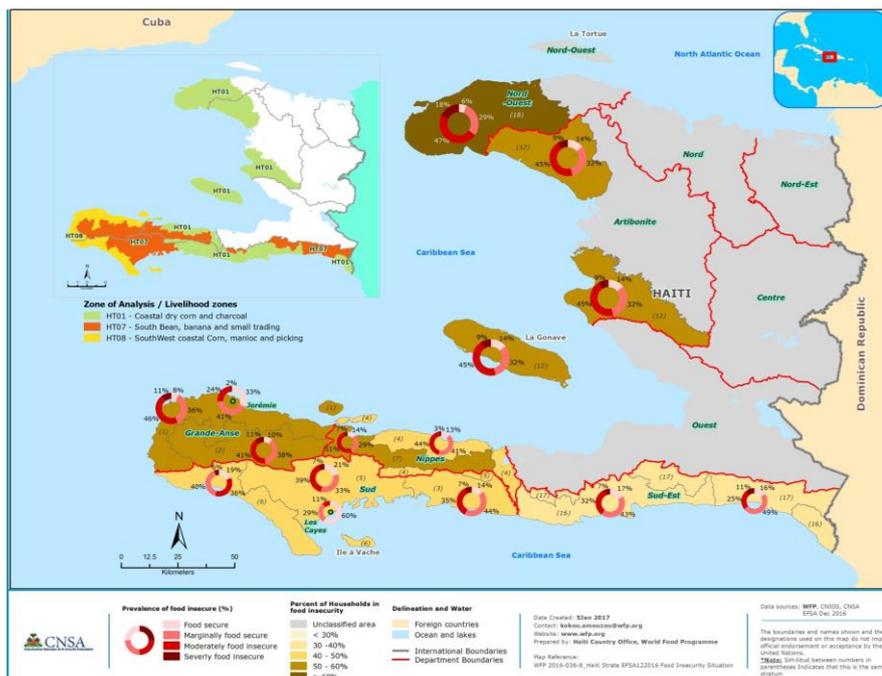
**USD 19.5 million**  
still needed to support  
700 000 people under the  
2017 Humanitarian Response  
Plan (HRP)

## KEY POINTS

- The number of people food insecure in the hardest-hit areas has decreased from 1 million to 400 000 people, according to the **latest Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA)**, conducted by FAO, WFP and the National Commission on Food Security. In the departments of Sud and Grand'Anse, where immediate food and agricultural support was provided, the level of food insecurity has decreased from 79 to 41 percent and from 78 to 54 percent, respectively. Food insecurity is higher in the departments of North West (65 percent) and Nippes (58 percent) and the coastal part of Artibonite (57 percent) and la Gonave (54 percent), which were not prioritized for emergency response following the preliminary assessment of mid-October 2016.
- Haiti's **agricultural spring season** which traditionally makes up 60 percent of Haiti's annual production is the main source of food for rural households throughout the year. FAO is providing seeds and tools, as well as cash transfers, technical training and extension services to support farmers in the recovery of their agricultural production.
- FAO has completed the distribution of seeds and tools to 21 650 households in the most affected departments for the implementation of the winter staple crop season and short-cycle horticultural crops.
- FAO has started the distribution of seeds and tools to the 39 000 targeted households in the departments of South, Grand'Anse and Nord-Ouest for the spring season. Veterinary clinics are being set up and will reach 2 500 herder families. Fishing equipment will be distributed in the following weeks to 3 000 fishers. Cash-for-work will start next month for the rehabilitation of irrigated perimeters and watersheds, involving 3 267 households in the most affected areas by Hurricane Matthew.
- Under the **2017 HRP, FAO requires USD 22.2 million<sup>1</sup>**, of which USD 2.7 million has been received, to restore the livelihoods of **700 000 people**, including vulnerable farmers, small-scale herders and fishers affected by the Hurricane, as well as vulnerable farmers affected by the 2015/16 droughts.

## MAP

Hurricane Matthew – Food Security Impact, Rapid EFSA, December 2016



<sup>1</sup> The gap of USD 12.8 million compared with the USD 35 million previously indicated as the total amount requested by FAO under the 2017 HRP has been integrated under the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA).

## BACKGROUND

On 3 and 4 October 2016, Category 4 Hurricane Matthew, the strongest in the Atlantic since Felix in 2007, cut a path of destruction across Haiti, carrying devastating winds, heavy rainfall and widespread damage in the southwest of the country: the most affected departments are Grande-Anse, Sud, Sud-Est and Nippes. The death toll from Hurricane Matthew in Haiti is rising to least 546 and cholera is spreading. An estimated 2.1 million Haitians (more than 20 percent of the population) were affected and 1.4 million is in need of assistance.

## CHALLENGES FACING FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

**Damages to crops, livestock and fisheries as well as rural infrastructure, particularly marketplaces and water-irrigated perimeters, are extensive.** In the most affected areas, up to 100 percent of crops were damaged or destroyed and pastures to feed livestock have also been affected. The death of small livestock has diminished vital sources of animal protein, and sheds and fences will need repairing.

**Subsistence agriculture – a primary food source for most Haitians – was especially hit.** A large portion of Haiti's rural population engages in agriculture, relying on their own production to meet their food needs. Some cyclone-hit areas saw the total destruction of fruit-bearing and other trees, as well as backyard vegetable gardens.

**Affected families need urgent support to avoid food shortages and quickly replant fast-growing crops.** With many subsistence crops ruined and community markets either damaged or inaccessible, the availability of meat and fresh produce is increasingly limited. Farming and fishing families risk becoming dependent on food aid in the coming weeks if they are not supported to restore their livelihoods.

**The Hurricane has aggravated the effects of El Niño-related events,** including a drought which has already diminished food production and access to fresh water over the past year. The combined effects will further reduce peoples' capacity to purchase food to feed their families, or agricultural inputs in order to resume production.

## FAO RESPONSE

### PRIORITY ACTIVITIES



**Crops** (beans and Lima bean seeds; sweet potato cuttings; planting materials; rehabilitation of irrigation infrastructure)



**Livestock** (veterinary treatments; small livestock restocking; fodder production)



**Fisheries** (fish feed; repair/replacement of lost/damaged vessels; engines and fishing gear)

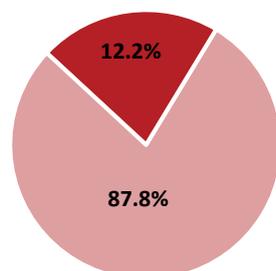


**Food security coordination,** information, assessment and analysis.

### ACTIONS TAKEN TO-DATE

- ✓ The EFSA was released, as well as the rapid agricultural needs assessment.
- ✓ FAO reached 21 650 households in the most affected departments for the 2016 winter season, including 4 500 in Grand'Anse, 11 850 in Sud and 2 000 in Nord-Ouest. An additional 3 300 households (800 in Sud, 1 500 in Artibonite, 500 in Ouest and 500 in Sud-Est) each received vouchers of HTG 1 500 (USD 23) to use at seed fairs. Each household bought 8–9 kg of bean seeds.
- ✓ FAO started the distribution of agricultural inputs (seeds, cuttings and agricultural tools) for the 2017 spring season targeting 17 300 households. Vegetable seeds are being procured for distribution to 21 700 beneficiaries.
- ✓ Veterinary clinics are being set up for 2 500 herder families. Fishing equipment will be distributed in the following weeks to 3 000 fishers. Cash-for-work will start next month for the rehabilitation of irrigated perimeters and watersheds, involving 3 267 households in the most affected areas.
- ✓ Results of the PDNA undertaken by FAO and partners upon the Government's request were released in February 2017.
- ✓ Procured bean, Lima bean and vegetable seeds and sweet potato cuttings.
- ✓ Procured veterinary supplies and fishing equipment.

### FUNDING



**FAO requires**  
USD 22.2 million

**To assist**  
700 000 people

### ASSESSMENTS

The EFSA indicates that 1.55 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance, of which 806 000 in need of urgent food aid.

The rapid impact assessment on agricultural damages conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Inter-American Bank, World Bank and FAO showed total losses of USD 604 million.

The results of the PDNA (coordinated by the Ministry for Planning and External Cooperation) estimate damages to agriculture sector at USD 573.5 million and total recovery costs at USD 343 million.

**Resource partners:** the Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO)

## CONTACT

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