



FAO requires
USD 93 million



to assist
1.2 million people



4.1 million people

face acute food insecurity at crisis
or worse levels*



agricultural production
dropped by **12%** in 2019
compared with the previous year
due to the effects of El Niño



over the last 12 months, the cost
of the food basket increased by
an average of **25%**

*Source: Haiti Integrated Food Security
Phase Classification (IPC) Technical
Working Group, Acute Food Insecurity
Analysis (March–June 2020 projection),
October 2019

Impact of COVID-19 on food security and agriculture

- During the past ten years, Haiti has been hit by multiple earthquakes and hurricanes, as well as a series of droughts linked to the El Niño phenomenon, irregular distribution of rainfall and floods while still facing cholera, diphtheria, malaria, a migration crisis and recurrent protection issues. These factors have caused widespread damage to crop, livestock and fish production, and to rural infrastructure, severely affecting the livelihoods of vulnerable households.
- Political instability, sharp inflation (+34 percent in one year), the depreciation of the national currency and underlying poverty have also fuelled socio-political unrest over the last few years.
- Following confirmation of the first COVID-19 case on 19 March 2020, the Government declared a state of emergency, which has been prolonged until July 2020, and adopted essential containment measures to prevent the spread of the virus, including the closure of factories, schools, airports and ports, banning of meetings of more than ten people, night curfew, prohibition of informal street selling and reduced opening hours of public markets.
- The pandemic has further exacerbated the situation in an already fragile context, mainly causing: reduced availability of and access to food products, particularly due to the closure of the border with the Dominican Republic; increased food prices, including for staple foods such as beans, rice, sugar and vegetable oil; the slowdown/closure of economic activities; and market disruptions.



Likely evolution of the impacts of COVID-19 on food security

In addition to likely below-average harvests in June–August 2020, farmers may face difficulties to prepare for the next fall and winter cropping seasons due to the secondary effects of the pandemic on income as well as the expected price increase of agricultural inputs. Access to food is likely to be further hindered by the increase of food prices, which would in turn contribute to the deterioration of food security conditions over the next few months. An expected above-average hurricane season (June–November) may also further threaten livelihoods and food security. More specifically, the main expected impacts may include the following.

- **Food prices to further increase.** Crops (maize and beans) are currently suffering from water deficit, which may result in below-average harvests in June–September. Production deficits, combined with restrictions of market opening hours, reduced food imports and other food supply chain disruptions are expected to exacerbate the current inflationary pressure on food and agricultural inputs prices. Seed prices in 2020 have increased compared with the previous year – e.g. from USD 3 500 to 3 695 for 1 tonne of bean seed and from USD 1 100 to 1 490 for 1 tonne of maize seed.
- **Farmers to lack the necessary resources to start fall and winter planting seasons.** Expected low harvests and the difficulties faced by farmers to commercialize their products will result in significant income losses. This, in turn, may limit their purchasing power to acquire the necessary agricultural inputs to kick-start the fall planting season (starting in August) and the winter planting season (starting in November), which are key seasons for food production, particularly given the pre-existing widespread food insecurity situation in the country. This dynamic is likely to lead to a vicious cycle of declining production, reduced agricultural labour opportunities and increasing food prices, causing food security to deteriorate across the country.
- **Poverty and food insecurity to increase.** Vulnerable households are likely to face reduced income and purchasing power due to the lack of formal and informal labour opportunities, inflation, decreased remittances and the closure of the border with the Dominican Republic, which disrupted the livelihoods of many Haitians living along the border, who used to work in the neighbouring country before the essential health-related restrictions came into force. The absence of social safety nets may contribute to the deterioration of the food security situation across the country. Projections made in the framework of the Global Humanitarian Response Plan for COVID-19 indicate that a significant proportion of the 3 million people already facing Crisis conditions (IPC Phase 3) in Haiti are expected to shift into Emergency (IPC Phase 4).
- **Above-normal hurricane season to threaten lives and livelihoods.** The North Oceanic Atmospheric Administration's Climate Prediction Centre predicts a 60-percent chance of an above-normal Atlantic hurricane season, which runs from June to November. If Haiti is hit by one or more hurricanes over the few next months, existing vulnerabilities and the impact of COVID-19 would be exacerbated, resulting in devastating effects on the livelihoods and food security of vulnerable households.

Anticipatory actions and response

Within the framework of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Corporate COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme, the proposed actions have been identified to meet the urgent short-term needs of the most vulnerable food-insecure populations and protect their assets. It also represents FAO's contribution to the United Nations Global Humanitarian Response Plan for COVID-19.

1) Ensuring availability of and stabilizing access to food for the most food-insecure populations

FAO is implementing anticipatory actions to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable households. Ongoing interventions include:

- Implementing productive safety nets: cash+ through the provision of vegetable seeds and agricultural tools along with unconditional cash transfers (USD 100 per household) to 3 000 vulnerable households living in urban or peri-urban areas.
- Strengthening agricultural livelihoods support to 800 vulnerable households, while ensuring compliance with health regulations, in view of an above-normal hurricane season.
- In the framework of cash+ activities, each household will receive unconditional cash transfers valued at USD 96.1 as soon as a cyclone alert is issued.

In parallel, FAO continues the implementation of its emergency and resilience programme to respond to the immediate humanitarian needs of vulnerable populations directly affected by food insecurity through livelihood protection activities and diversification of food sources and incomes. The main activities are the following:

- Distribute cereal (rice and maize) and pulse (different varieties of beans, peas and groundnut) seeds, as well as sweet potato and cassava cuttings, to 9 900 vulnerable households in four departments (Grand'Anse, Nippes, Nord-Est and Nord-Ouest) in time for the 2020 spring agricultural season (March–June). The support will continue for the preparation of the summer and fall agricultural seasons for which 6 600 vulnerable households will be supported.
- Provide seeds and technical support for vegetable production to 7 500 vulnerable households, grouped into associations, including 60 percent of female-headed households.

- Provide small livestock (goats) to 1 000 female-headed households.
- Provide animal health treatment and protection to avoid the decapitalization and loss of livestock and poultry, which are an essential source of income and protein for households, benefiting at least 7 500 animals belonging to 2 500 households.
- Engaging 800 vulnerable households in cash for work for the rehabilitation of irrigation canals and water retention basins.
- Promoting climate-resilient good agricultural practices through farmer field schools.
- Strengthening food security coordination in the framework of the humanitarian-development nexus.

2) Ensuring continuity of the food supply chain

- Support 5 000 farmers for harvesting through the provision of bags and wheelbarrows for better crop transportation.
- Reduce post-harvest losses by training 5 000 farmers in the prevention of post-harvest losses through farmer field schools and appropriate storage facilities (Purdue improved crop storage bags, drums, and for farmers' groups through the provision of small silos and warehouse as well as hullers for maize, rice and groundnut).
- Enhance local processing capacities by training 1 000 farmers' groups and 100 local entrepreneurs in management and operation of agricultural processing equipment such as dryers, mills and hullers, and by providing the relevant equipment in relation to the evaluation of local market conditions and opportunities.
- Develop local feed and farming input supply modalities by developing seed security plans in 100 communities. This includes a cash-for-seeds plan to prevent seed consumption/losses during climate shocks (drought, floods and cyclones), and linking 5 000 farmers to local seed producers and shops.
- Facilitate access to markets (information, transport, logistics, private sector direct linkages) by broadcasting market information collected by the Ministry of Agriculture using local radios through public-private sector partnership agreements, and providing carrying tricycles to 5 000 farmers' groups to better transport production to markets.

- Support 2 000 farmers, members of female producer groups and farmer cooperatives, by enhancing their organizational and operational capacities with trainings and linkages to market information and to local micro-finance services. Based on FAO experience, basic warrantage operations will be developed by 100 groups in cooperation with micro-finance institutions to ensure access to credit.

3) Ensuring food supply chain actors are not at risk of transmission

- Broadcasting reliable information on prevention measures on COVID-19 and community engagement

through rural community and commercial radios in the departments of Grand'Anse, Nippes, Nord-Est and Nord-Ouest.

- Distributing 13 000 hygiene kits (nose and mouth cover masks, soap, chlorine) for beneficiaries and training agents to protect them against the transmission of the virus.
- Providing awareness raising material (kakemonos, banners, toolboxes, t-shirt and caps) and putting in place measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- Training local authorities.

Funding



FAO requires
USD 93 million

- **USD 17 million** under the Global Humanitarian Response Plan for COVID-19
- **USD 76 million** under the Humanitarian Response Plan for 2020

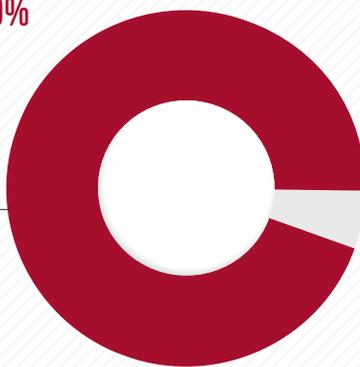


to assist
1.2 million people

FUNDING GAP

USD 88.7 million

94.9%



5.1%

RECEIVED

USD 4.3 million

Resource partners

the Government of Belgium, the Central Emergency Response Fund and FAO's own resources

Coordination and partnerships

- Ministry of Agriculture/Food Security National Coordination
- Food Security Cluster (co-led by FAO and the World Food Programme)
- Global Network Against Food Crisis
- Hand-in-Hand Initiative

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