
HAITI EMERGENCY AND REHABILITATION RESPONSE

Executive Brief

January 2011

HIGHLIGHTS

- FAO's immediate earthquake response in Haiti concentrated on support to 1) the affected population in rural areas to resume their livelihoods, 2) the integration and resettlement of the displaced population and 3) emergency food security interventions (particularly input distribution during the spring and summer planting seasons), food security assessments, coordination of agriculture interventions and national food security data management.
- The earthquake was an unprecedented urban tragedy with a **massive national impact**; the destruction of the capital, the massive displacement, the disruption of the economic fabric and infrastructure affected seriously also the rural areas.
- Haiti is now facing **three emergencies** simultaneously in addition to the earthquake and recent cholera outbreak, since 5 November the country has also been hit by Hurricane Tomas, the twelfth hurricane of the 2010 Atlantic hurricane season. While the impact of the hurricane was less severe than foreseen, it nonetheless hit Haiti with torrential rains and wind as strong as 130 km/h. Centre, Northwest, North and Nippes departments experienced severe losses in the agriculture sector. A thorough assessment of the impact of cholera on Haiti's agriculture will be issued by CNSA by the end of January.

EARTHQUAKE AND AFFECTED POPULATION

- On 12 January 2010, an earthquake measuring 7.3 at the Richter scale left over 220 000 dead people, 300 000 injured, 1.7 million homeless, and more than 600 000 urban displaced to rural areas (already very poor that did not have absorption capacity), some of whom have already started to return to the cities. The earthquake affected the cities of Port au Prince, Leogane and Jacmel, damaging the port, airport, roads and devastating the country's economic centre.
- The earthquake also had a severe impact on the rural areas around the main cities: 32 percent of farmers in the earthquake affected rural areas lost their seed stocks, (mainly of maize and beans) and 4 percent lost their livestock. In addition asset losses (29 percent of farmers' houses were destroyed or damaged), falling agricultural incomes, distorted markets and reduced availability of revenues have been recorded. Rural families hosting urban displaced have resorted to extreme coping mechanisms such as asset stripping, selling of animals (32 percent have sold more animals than usual to buy food), and consumption of household food reserves. Moreover, increased pressure on the environment is likely in these areas.
- Between 1996 and 2010 Haiti has faced 15 disasters, before the earthquake it was already a country in a protracted crisis, with 57 percent of the population undernourished (FAO) and scoring an alarming 28 on Global Hunger Index (IFPRI).

FAO-WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment

(September 2010)

- The aggregate 2010 crop production (including all seasons) is forecast at about 503 600 tonnes of cereals, 148 000 tonnes of pulses, 1 232 900 tonnes of root crops and 313 200 tonnes of plantain representing a reduction of 9 percent, 20 percent, 12 percent and 14 percent in cereals, pulses, root crops and plantain respectively.
- The food situation had improved between February and June 2010 thanks to food assistance, the resumption of agricultural activities helped by the distribution of seeds and fertilizers, access to cash/food for work income-generating activities, and the recovery of agricultural and non-agricultural food trade.
- The current rice harvest might be seriously compromised in areas directly affected by hurricane Tomas and the cholera outbreak.

FAO EMERGENCY FUND MOBILIZATION

- Before the earthquake, FAO's emergencies portfolio in Haiti was USD 24.3 million, and focused on watershed management, seed multiplication as well as input distribution. Immediately after the earthquake, USD 7.6 million was reallocated for urgent input distribution in the affected and displaced hosting areas.
- After the 12 January 2010 earthquake in Haiti, a Flash Appeal was launched on 15 January 2010. It was revised in February and later on in July 2010 (mid-year review), amounting to USD 1.4 billion, of which the agricultural component was USD 58.8 million. FAO appealed for USD 32.5 million and, as of today has received USD 24.1 million. FAO's total ongoing emergency programme portfolio reaches USD 30 million.
- FAO has received funds from a number of donors and funding agencies (Belgium, Brazil, CERF/ERRF, the Clinton Foundation, EC/ECHO, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Norway, South Africa and Spain).
- In November 2010 a new Consolidated Appeal for the year 2011 (CAP 2011) was issued, aiming at ensuring continued humanitarian support to longer-term recovery programs in Haiti. The appeal advocates for a total of USD 907 million, of which USD 43.1 million are destined to the Agriculture Cluster.

FAO SHORT AND MEDIUM-TERM EMERGENCY AND REHABILITATION RESPONSE

In order to streamline FAO's emergency activities in the country and to ensure a programme approach, FAO has developed the "FAO Emergency and Rehabilitation 3-year Programme in support of the Investment Plan of the Government of Haiti".

This Programme is designed around three interlinked components: i) coordination, ii) support to food security, and iii) reduction of risk related to natural disasters.

Components and Program Profiles for three years	Requested (USD)	Received (USD)	Gap (USD)
Coordination of the response in agriculture	9 500 000	1 750 000	7 750 000
Support to food security of earthquake-affected families	63 000 000	15 436 825	47 563 175
Support to the reduction of risks related to natural disasters	27 000 000	6 959 169	20 040 831
TOTAL	99 500 000	24 145 994	75 354 006

- **Coordination of the response in agriculture.** This component aims at reducing levels of food insecurity in Haiti through a coordinated, effective, timely and targeted range of FAO agricultural activities. One of the most important activities under this component is the coordination of the Agriculture Cluster, which brings together more than 200 institutions and organizations. FAO has been leading the Cluster since the week after the earthquake, providing technical advice and guidance to all institutions and organizations involved in agriculture and helping to bring national and international NGOs in line with the Ministry and the *Table Sectorielle* in all technical and planning matters. The Agriculture and Food Aid Clusters were lately merged into a Food Security Cluster that will be jointly led by FAO and WFP. FAO is also supporting the *Coordination Nationale de la Sécurité Alimentaire (CNSA)* through a project that aims at enhancing food security, related information collection, analysis and management.

- **Support to food security of earthquake-affected families:** This component contributes to increasing food production capacity and rural employment. It includes input distribution, support to food and vegetable crop production, seed multiplication, and livestock and fisheries support. Given the damage caused by the 12 January earthquake and owing to its proximity to the most important planting season of the year in Haiti (which provides 60 percent of the available food in the country), FAO adopted a blanket distribution strategy in the directly affected areas in Ouest and Sud-Est departments.

During all planting seasons in 2010, FAO and the Agriculture Cluster partners, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, have reached 560 000 households (approximately three million beneficiaries) throughout the country, both in rural and urban areas by distributing seeds, tools and fertilizers. FAO alone has reached 390 000 households (approximately 1.9 million individuals).

Since the earthquake and throughout all planting seasons, FAO has provided 1 143 tonnes of bean seeds, 516 tonnes of maize seeds, 450 tonnes of rice seeds, 16 484 kg of vegetable seeds and 78 tonnes of cowpeas/pigeon peas. In addition, 189 426 agricultural tools have been distributed, including garden hand tools and watering cans. FAO is currently building the necessary seed stocks for the upcoming spring season.

FAO is currently shifting from direct input distribution to seed multiplication and other more sustainable and transition-oriented activities. In this regard, FAO is providing support to small farmer associations, "Groupements de Production Artisanale de Semences" (GPAS), in maize and bean seed production to ensure the supply of quality seeds to small farmers, and at the same time help GPAS to develop economically viable and sustainable enterprises.

- **Support to the reduction of risks related to natural disasters:** This component contributes to enhancing livelihood and income opportunities and contributing to self-reliance in selected watersheds. It will provide immediate support to the populations directly affected by the earthquake by laying the foundation for sustainable agricultural development and natural disasters risk management.

After the earthquake, the massive movement of people from urban to rural areas was expected to lead to increased pressure on already scarce land resources and more rapid environmental degradation. This has been central to the reconstruction plan - natural resource and watershed management activities need to be combined with measures to improve agricultural productivity by enhancing access to land, inputs, water and markets.

Activities are currently ongoing to improve environmental conditions and livelihoods in selected watersheds. This assistance provides an immediate support to the affected population, while building the foundations for longer-term interventions related to reforestation, sustainable agriculture development and watershed management. In this regard, FAO has set up five school fruit tree nurseries and 18 community nurseries in Léogâne. Furthermore, 155 900 banana trees have been planted and 75 000 more are planned for 2011. The strategy for implementation of watershed management activities focuses also on opportunities for income generation through promoting High Intensity Labour Initiatives (HIMO), which is one of the priorities of the Haitian Government in assisting the population to restore their livelihoods. These activities are part of a joint UN programme.

FAO developed a Contingency Plan for the 2010 Hurricane Season in order to assist the Government's emergency response to the impact of hurricanes in the agricultural sector. The plan has focused on two main outputs: 1) the establishment of a communication and coordination network among all partners in the agriculture sector throughout the 2010 hurricane season, and 2) the storage of 300 tonnes of beans and maize seeds along with over 80 000 tools in four strategic locations around the country, which would be available to quickly restore production in the affected zones.

The FAO team in Haiti, together with the Government and international agencies, has finalized the assessment of the impact of Hurricane Tomas on the agriculture sector. According to the assessment, Grand Anse, Nippe, Sud, Sud Est, Ouest (Léogâne – Petit

Goave) and North Ouest departments have experienced losses. The FAO response includes clearing of canals as well as distribution of seeds and tools.

RESPONSE TO THE CHOLERA OUTBREAK

Since the month of October, 2010, Haiti has been facing a severe outbreak of cholera, which has been made more complex by the ongoing humanitarian situation resulting from the earthquake and Hurricane Tomas. The cholera affected communities are primarily rural farming ones, depending on this season's rice cultivation for their food security and livelihoods. Early reports reveal that farmers are afraid of cultivating their fields during this rice harvesting season due to the, now well known, fact that cholera originally has been primarily transmitted through the river and irrigation canals. As a result, a part of this season's rice harvest will most likely be lost and farming families in Artibonite will not have reduced access to revenue and food during the coming months, prolonging the upcoming "hunger season". A thorough assessment of the impact of cholera on Haiti's agriculture will be issued by CNSA by late-January.

The humanitarian response was mobilized quickly after the first confirmed cases, and has been multi-sectoral involving Government institutions, UN agencies including FAO and non-governmental organizations. FAO is mobilizing financial and human resources to better respond to the disaster, including provision of messages on food safety and agriculture-cholera linkages. Health and WASH clusters are consulting with FAO in order to better tailor messages to rural communities. FAO, in consultation with the Agriculture Cluster and the Ministry of Agriculture (MARNDR) and the Ministry of Health (MSPP) is also developing and distributing messages to directly target farmers to ensure that they farm safely and continue to work in the fields, ensuring all important agriculture production. The Agriculture Cluster has also offered to coordinate its rural networks to ensure the success of the Health and WASH promotion campaigns.

EU FOOD FACILITY- *SÉCURITÉ ALIMENTAIRE ET GESTION DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT.*

- One of the most important projects in terms of volume (USD 13.4 million) is the EU Food Facility project, which started before the earthquake in May 2009 and will run until the end of June 2011. The project is being implemented in the North-East Department to create better conditions for the economic development of the region by contributing to enhanced food security through the improvement of environmental conditions and diversification of agricultural production, including a small livestock component.

AGRICULTURE INVESTMENT PLAN

- FAO has also supported the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) and the Investment Plan for the Growth of the Agricultural Sector, a comprehensive document on the short and medium-long term recovery and development of the sector. The latter requires an investment of USD 768.5 million, and is based on the findings of the PDNA and the priorities identified by the Government.

PRIORITY FUNDING NEEDS

Coordination of the response in agriculture

- Coordination as well as food security analysis and information management needs will increase with the current emergency situations and during the rehabilitation phase.

Support to food security of earthquake-affected families

- Support to local seed production through seed multiplication activities, seed fairs and vouchers.
- Support to national animal healthcare system and vaccination campaigns.
- Support to livestock, especially milk production.
- Support to income generating activities through food processing interventions and improved storage facilities.
- Assessment of the current status and potential of continental fishing and fish farming.

Support to the reduction of risks related to natural disasters

- Support to contingency planning.
- Support to sustainable natural resources management to reduce vulnerabilities, including reforestation as well as water and soil conservation on the slopes.

Hurricane Tomas and cholera outbreak

- Restocking of emergency seeds and tools in four strategic locations.
- Response to Hurricane Tomas: immediate repair of damaged rural infrastructure, distribution of essential seeds (maize, beans and vegetables), tools and fertilizers. Immediate response to cover the losses in the livestock/fisheries sector. Specific interventions will be defined as soon as the ongoing joint assessments in the agriculture/fisheries sector have been completed for the most affected agroecological zones.
- Communication and awareness raising campaign on cholera targeting rural populations, especially seasonal workers operating in rice fields.

- Technical assistance to the Government in responding to ongoing and future disasters.
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