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# HAITI

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## **Background**

The overall humanitarian situation in Haiti remains extremely fragile. The 12 January earthquake severely damaged all public infrastructure and displaced around 2.1 million people. Many are still in serious need of humanitarian assistance with 1.3 million residing in camps and 600 000 living with host families, who were already living below the poverty line before the earthquake.

In the aftermath of the earthquake, households suffered considerable asset loss and increased food insecurity. Humanitarian efforts concentrated on providing life-saving emergency aid and addressing Haiti's immediate needs. Despite these efforts, chronic food insecurity continues to remain an issue throughout the country.

It is therefore imperative to continue providing humanitarian assistance to the earthquake-affected people and to support the Government of Haiti in rebuilding infrastructure and implementing durable solutions in order to expedite the release of humanitarian aid in a timely manner.

## **Challenges facing food security and livelihoods**

Despite the generous humanitarian response, the agriculture sector remains a concern. Damages in this sector are mostly related to the loss of housing, livestock, seed reserves, tools, irrigation and storage facilities. Many families migrated towards rural areas and the consequences of these long stays have contributed to the depletion of local resources and an increased pressure on food security.

In the agricultural season immediately after the disaster, farmers sowed less seeds than normal, and a drop of 15.9 percent across crops and regions was observed. Some departments have suffered poor harvests while others lost part of their crops due to natural hazards. Households' economic activities are resuming but are still not reaching pre-earthquake levels. Families have been coping with migration, asset loss and increased food prices especially from January to March 2010. All those elements highlight the need for more external support to stabilize food security among rural populations and to rebuild household seed stocks.

Endemic infections and outbreaks of contagious diseases compounded by the collapse of infrastructure and the lack of adequate veterinary services have resulted in a total breakdown of livestock production. The protection of livestock assets is therefore essential and emergency interventions aimed at reducing livestock losses will play an important role in saving livelihoods and building resilience.

## FAO response

FAO's overall objective is to continue to reduce the food insecurity caused by the 12 January earthquake with a particular focus on vulnerable groups, such as displaced populations and host communities in rural areas, women-headed households, and households with chronically ill and handicapped members.

In 2011, FAO's main activities will include strengthening income-generation capacity, supporting agricultural production and reinforcing the capacity of vulnerable rural communities to prepare for, withstand and recover from crises.

The interventions aim to support food production in collaboration with local partners and farmers' associations. The distribution of agricultural input packages will facilitate the return, reintegration and resettlement of displaced persons.

In addition, FAO plans to improve food availability which will reduce the risk of long-term food aid dependency, in turn contributing to lower food prices in local markets, thus improving access to food for low-income families and newly vulnerable earthquake-affected households.



## PROPOSALS: FAO EMERGENCY AND REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE

**Total funding requested: USD 24 660 000**

Reduce food insecurity of rural households directly and indirectly affected by the earthquake through strengthening production capacity	
Objectives:	To contribute to improving the food security of earthquake-affected families in Ouest, Sud-Est and Artibonite departments, by increasing their food production capacity.
Activities:	Facilitate access to bean, maize, cowpea and vegetable seeds (pepper, tomato, okra, swiss chard, spinach), hand tools and fertilizer among affected households in the target areas; engage in the rehabilitation of small-scale agricultural infrastructure; and support community-based seed multiplication and propagation of vegetative planting material.
Beneficiaries:	100 000 vulnerable farmers (65 000 women).
Implementing partners:	National and international NGOs.
Duration:	January – December 2011.
Funds requested:	USD 5 000 000.

### Emergency assistance to the food security and nutrition of vulnerable earthquake-affected populations through support to kitchen gardens in urban/peri-urban areas

Objectives:	To improve the food security and nutrition of earthquake-affected people.
Activities:	Identify stakeholders; implement demonstration sites; train promoters and beneficiaries; distribute inputs and materials for vegetable gardening; set up and follow up on kitchen gardens; and establish kitchen gardens in schools.
Beneficiaries:	100 000 IDPs and other vulnerable households (including 65 000 women and 60 schools).
Implementing partners:	Local and international NGOs.
Duration:	January – December 2011.
Funds requested:	USD 3 000 000.

### Emergency support for the protection of livestock assets in the earthquake-affected areas

Objectives:	To support the livelihoods and improve the food security of vulnerable populations, whose assets were lost due to poor coping mechanisms, by enhancing livestock productivity in Centre, Ouest-Sud and Sud-Est departments.
Activities:	Provide basic veterinary animal health services to targeted vulnerable populations; support community-based, primary level veterinary workers and the formation of farmer groups; and collect participatory epidemiology data.
Beneficiaries:	200 000 vulnerable rural family members (100 000 women and staff of MARNDR's Veterinary Service).
Implementing partners:	FAO, MARNDR, and national NGOs.
Duration:	January – December 2011.
Funds requested:	USD 4 410 000.

## Strengthening national capacity to coordinate, prepare for and respond to emergency situations in the agriculture sector in Haiti

Objectives:	To strengthen the capacity of national counterparts in preparedness, assessment and response to food security emergency situations in the country; provide timely and reliable food security information; and strengthen interagency collaboration and coordination of interventions.
Activities:	Support the network of national institutions, international organizations and national civil society organizations; define operational structures and strategic priorities for emergency and rehabilitation work for crisis-affected areas of the country; provide training and support on new working tools and coordination approaches; initiate a joint response to regional crises arising from drought, floods, or transboundary plant and animal pests/diseases; organize a national workshop for the coordination and diffusion of a contingency plan in the agriculture sector under the chairmanship of MARNDR and the Department of Civil Protection; support the development of strategic planning and management tools to improve and coordinate the emergency response approach both at national and regional levels; facilitate information exchange among all partners and foster a common approach to food security information monitoring and analysis; strengthen the capacity of national institutions and local communities for disaster preparedness; reinforce the ability to mitigate the impact of emergencies affecting food security and productivity of rural populations; forecast and provide early warning of adverse conditions in the food and agriculture sectors, and of impending food security emergencies; assess needs and devise programmes to help the transition from relief to reconstruction and development; and strengthen local capacity to cope with risks through improved agricultural practices, technologies and support services.
Beneficiaries:	550 000 disaster-affected Haitian farmers (300 000 women and 200 organizations participating in the Cluster).
Implementing partners:	MARNDR.
Duration:	January – December 2011.
Funds requested:	USD 2 250 000.

**Urgent support to women's livelihoods to strengthen coping mechanisms and improve food security through support to food processing and commercialization**

Objectives:	To support the income-generation capacity and improve the food security of households directly and indirectly affected by the earthquake in Ouest, Sud-Est and Artibonite departments.
Activities:	Identify suitable communities, local partners and facilitators from participating communities; organize awareness-raising and working sessions with vulnerable families to explain the purpose of self-help groups (SHGs), including the opportunities provided by the membership in SHG; facilitate the process of establishing SHGs; identify the activities and define needs for equipment and training; procure equipment and distribute to the beneficiaries; train beneficiaries in the operation and maintenance of small processing equipment as well as basic bookkeeping skills and micro-enterprise management; and monitor and follow-up activities to ensure self-reliance and empowerment of beneficiaries.
Beneficiaries:	20 000 members of vulnerable female-headed households (12 000 women).
Implementing partners:	Local and international NGOs.
Duration:	January – December 2011.
Funds requested:	USD 4 000 000.

**Disaster risk reduction, environmental protection and support to the coping mechanisms of vulnerable households affected by the earthquake**

Objectives:	To provide urgent livelihood support to vulnerable earthquake-affected communities, increase community resilience to environmental degradation and reduce food insecurity.
Activities:	Implement anti-erosion and soil conservation activities; finalize selection of watersheds, stakeholders and beneficiary identification through vulnerability criteria; organize activities related to soil conservation; build and rehabilitate rural roads; train field staff and promoters on natural resource management; establish nurseries, plant seedlings and carry out reforestation activities; provide technical assistance to farmers; and monitor and follow up.
Beneficiaries:	50 000 vulnerable earthquake-affected people (30 000 women).
Implementing partners:	Local and international NGOs.
Duration:	January – December 2011.
Funds requested:	USD 6 000 000.