

Mr. President, distinguished delegates,

Haiti is a country where a natural disaster is always around the corner and where emergency support has always been a main feature of WFP's operation. Its very thin vegetation cover and the high levels of deforestation and erosion make Haiti vulnerable to flooding and droughts. Even moderate events have dramatic and often devastating effects on agricultural production and household revenues and, consequently on food security. In 2012 it was listed as one of the countries most at risk from climate change.

In April 2011, one year after the devastating earthquake, WFP started its PRRO 10844. It allowed us to respond to a number of natural shocks: hurricanes Thomas and Sandy, tropical storm Isaac and a severe drought in 2012. The main focus areas of operations, apart from emergency food assistance, were recovery activities through nutritional support and food or cash for assets. We also provided support through investments in national and local capacity of Government counterparts and cooperating partners to restore them to pre-earthquake levels.

The new operation put before you for approval will need to continue to support the country in coping with recurrent shocks, the protection of livelihoods and the fight against malnutrition. However, this new operation aims to take a step beyond a response approach to recurrent disasters by linking with medium and long-term programmes. Relying on know-how at community level, the PRRO aims to build on existing coping mechanisms to support improved resilience at household level and thus reduce vulnerability to recurrent disasters.

To do this, the operation will focus on the following core activities:

- First: Support and enhancement of national emergency preparedness and response capacity;
- Second: Nutritional support to treat acute malnutrition, while moving towards a strategy of prevention of chronic malnutrition through SBCC (Support Social and Behavioural Change Communication) interventions and the 1,000 day approach;
- Third: Cash and Food for assets, with a preference for cash transfers to stimulate and boost markets where food is available, to build resilience, mitigate risks and thus reduce vulnerability to shocks.
- And last: Support the Government in the set-up of a targeting system that will constitute a crucial part of a future national safety net.

This three-year project has been developed in close partnership with vulnerable communities, civil society, Government bodies at local and national level, the UN Country Team and our cooperating partners from the NGO community. Following many bilateral consultations, the concept and the design of the PRRO were endorsed during a joint workshop in October 2013.

The project is fully integrated with the three pillars of the Haitian Government's food and nutrition security strategy, namely (i) food safety net

interventions; (ii) investments in agriculture and (iii) improved basic social services and nutrition. It is also fully aligned with the UN Integrated Strategic Framework.

Key institutional partners in this project are the Civil Protection Directorate and the following three Ministries: Agriculture, Social Affairs and Health. Further we work closely with national and international NGO's, Community Based Organisations and UNDP, UNICEF and FAO.

A key component of the PRRO is the joint programme by CARE, Action Contre La Faim (ACF), WFP and the Government, named Kore Lavi, which loosely translates into "support livelihoods". Its goal is to reduce food insecurity and vulnerability through 4 main activities:

- Assist Haiti to establish a targeting system in support of its social assistance programs,
- Support the government in developing a system for a dynamic food voucher-based safety net system promoting locally produced foods and capable of scaling up during emergencies.
- Expand knowledge and promote good practices to prevent undernutrition in children, using a food-assisted First 1000 Days approach;
- Build the capacity of key government institutions and local civil society stakeholders.

Specifically in regard to our Rome based sister agency FAO, the operation will take advantage of joint experiences in cash for asset activities based on community development plans in critical watershed areas. A household centred approach allowed FAO to integrate best practices at grassroots level and technical know-how to ensure quality of assets and sustainable resilience practices.

Outside the area of cash for assets, WFP and FAO have also jointly supported the CNSA, the national coordination body for food security in the Ministry of Agriculture, which is now recognised by the humanitarian community and other stakeholders as the authority and primary source for food security analysis and information.

This investment results in an effective mechanism to identify and target the most vulnerable areas of the country. Still required, though, is an innovative and improved methodology to target vulnerable households through a standard tool that allows systematic follow-up at family level. Under the leadership of the Ministry of Social Affairs, a platform of partners including the World Bank, UNICEF, UNDP, national social protection bodies as well as WFP, has been created to develop a standard vulnerability assessment tool, using a so-called proxy means test, which considers the multi-dimensional character of vulnerability at household level.

This targeting system will be tested in a number of the most vulnerable communities to ensure that it can be used in different contexts and inform

different types of assistance programmes, ranging from food security to nutrition and health projects.

Such a standardised tool, less open to individual interpretation, will facilitate a faster and more consistent identification of response mechanisms. It will also allow for a better integration of different activities in the areas of social protection and a more efficient use of resources by the different actors in this field, particularly after natural disasters.

In conclusion I would like to say that the added value of the PRRO 200168 is the combination of the safety net programme under Kore Lavi with the emergency preparedness and cash for assets into an integrated programme. The concentration of joint activities in the most vulnerable and disaster-prone areas of the country will substantially enhance community resilience by tackling some of the root causes of poverty.

Thank you for your attention.