

HAITI EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE

ROME-BASED AGENCIES IMMEDIATE (SIX WEEK) PLAN OF ACTION

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The coming agricultural cropping season, which provides for 60 percent of Haiti's overall food production, requires our urgent support.

In the aftermath of the devastating earthquake that rocked the Republic of Haiti on 12 January 2010, an estimated two million people urgently require food assistance and some 500,000 have left the capital, Port-au-Prince, for rural areas. The impact of the disaster has national proportions that necessitate immediate action linked to a medium- to long-term recovery plan.

In an effort to assist the Government of Haiti in its food-security and agriculture interventions, the three Rome-Based Agencies – the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP) – have formed a tripartite taskforce to support a Haitian-led food security programme. This combined effort was announced in Rome on 12 February 2010 with the Haitian Minister for Agriculture, Natural Resources and Rural Development.

Against a request from the Government for over 2,000 tonnes of seeds (1,000 tonnes of bean and 1,000 tonnes of maize seed), 60,000 tonnes of fertilizer and other agricultural inputs (including tools and phytosanitary equipment), the Agriculture Cluster analysis indicates that 2,800 tonnes of various seeds, root crop cuttings, tools and other inputs, as well as 17,000 tonnes of NPK and 6,000 tonnes of urea fertilizers, are required to support the March 2010 planting season. In addition, other assistance is needed in the form of food- and cash-for-work programmes, training activities and the rehabilitation of infrastructure and technical advice.

WFP will provide the necessary logistics capacity to deliver seeds to the village level and IFAD will draw on existing grants to boost agricultural production in areas directly affected by the earthquake, particularly for displaced people and the communities in which they are hosted.

In line with the UN Flash Appeal, the Agriculture Cluster, in collaboration with local authorities, is requesting USD 70 million over the next twelve months to support time-critical efforts to start the coming agricultural season and continue to boost food production throughout the year.

This document presents a synthesis of the activities the three Rome-Based Agencies are envisaging for the next six weeks to support a prompt response to the post-earthquake scenario in Haiti, with a particular focus on the March planting season. It also includes information on the urgent activities which are not yet funded, and for which both FAO and WFP would like to request additional support.

Key messages

- The main planting season begins in March and supplies 60 percent of national food production needs. Despite this, funding to the Agriculture Cluster remains low.
- The gains made in agricultural production and food security since the 2008 hurricane season could be significantly reversed if immediate financial support is not forthcoming

for the purchase of quality seeds and tools and provision of targeted technical assistance in addition to continued support for urgent food and nutrition needs.

- Efforts must focus on emergency support that aims to increase national food production access to food, create employment and prevent further deterioration of food security.

Context of the joint response

The earthquake and subsequent aftershocks caused massive damage to Port-au-Prince and surrounding villages, displacing an estimated 1.7 million people and resulting in the deaths or injury of hundreds of thousands¹. Approximately 500,000 people have moved to rural areas, placing considerable strain on already-vulnerable households. The situation in rural areas may become even more difficult given this population movement, with nearly 600 new settlements established in rural areas since the earthquake.

Haiti is already highly food insecure, with almost 60 percent of the population undernourished (5.4 million people), and suffers from high levels of extreme poverty. The current crisis has exacerbated structural issues that have contributed to hunger, despite the gains made in agricultural production since the 2008 hurricane season². Malnutrition is a pressing concern with stunting rates as high as 40 percent in the poorest zones of the country. Twenty two percent of children are underweight and acute malnutrition was hovering near 10 percent before the earthquake.

The three Rome-based agencies work closely together to ensure that in the aftermath of the January earthquake, Haiti can face the upcoming spring planting season with all the required resources. By doing this, the RBAs seek a natural continuum from early emergency relief towards sustainable development and nation-wide food security.

FAO 6 week plan

The Agriculture Cluster, which operates under FAO leadership and is composed of more than 80 agencies, NGO's and the MoA, has identified direct and indirect impacts on the agriculture sector. Some housing, irrigation systems, storage facilities and tools were lost or damaged. However, the most significant impacts have resulted from the direct effects of internally displaced populations on rural areas. The movement of urban populations to the countryside have placed significant burdens on host communities and families. Local populations are adopting extreme coping strategies, including consuming seed and food reserves, using household cash savings and assets stripping.

Immediate FAO response

The FAO Emergency Operations and Rehabilitation Programme for Haiti integrates humanitarian assistance activities and structural interventions to support the Government of Haiti's Programme of Action to rebuild the agriculture sector, improve food security and create employment and livelihood opportunities for the rural population and internally displaced people moving to rural areas as a result of the earthquake³.

¹ Government estimates place the number of dead at 212 000, with three million affected, of whom 1.7 million are now displaced.

² Three-quarters of the population lives below the poverty line (on less than USD 2 per day), and half of them live on less than USD 1 per day and face extreme poverty and chronic food insecurity.

³ The Programme of Action, with an 18-month timeline, was prepared by the Government of Haiti with support from the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture and FAO.

Urgent funding is required for the government, FAO and Non-Governmental Organizations and other partners to deliver the necessary support to smallholders, rural communities and other stakeholders to rebuild the agriculture sector. Timing is critical given the impending March planting season, the main production season, and the secondary planting season in June. Support to agriculture is urgent and essential in the time remaining before the start of the rains in April.

The objective of FAO's emergency operations and rehabilitation programme in Haiti is to safeguard food security during the coming six weeks to protect the next planting season. This reflects the most urgent needs for the 18-month period as outlined in a separate programme document. It is in line with the Government's Programme of Action to rebuild the agriculture sector which will be supported by the Agriculture Cluster.

Over the next six weeks, FAO is taking immediate action and expects to reach over 68 000 farming families in the earthquake's epicentre (Table 1), in addition 70 000 hosting families and displaced populations in rural areas in Artibonite will be targeted. The immediate actions will target female-headed households (over 10 000), the most vulnerable households (food insecure) and people that were directly affected by the earthquake. About 10 000 urban people affected by the earthquake in the peri-urban areas of Port au Prince will be also be targeted.

Table 1: Farming households in critical need in the earthquake epicentre area

Location	Number of beneficiaries
Côte de fer	5 574
Bainet	11 271
Vallée de Jacmel	4 732
Cayes Jacmel	5 242
Jacmel	10 586
Grand Goave	8 643
Leogane	10 061
Petit Goave	12 062
Total	68 171

Table 2: Total quantities of seeds and tools required

Input	Unit	Total quantity
Maize seed	Tonne	927
Sorghum	Tonne	69
Bean seed	Tonne	910
Cowpea seed	Tonne	118
Vegetable seed	Kg	2,359
Pick axe	Piece	91,018
Hoe	Piece	138,198

Planned targeting of beneficiaries for the March planting season: 68,000 farming households in the epicentre area, 70,000 farming households in the displacement areas. An additional 10,000 households in urban areas.

Current seed and tool procurement during the next six weeks (based on existing funds)

The focus of FAO's post-earthquake assistance to Haiti over the coming six weeks includes the following ongoing procurement activities:

1. Maize (900 tonnes) to be procured in the coming weeks (purchase order issued for 300MT).
2. Sorghum seeds (70 tonnes) to be procured in coming weeks.
3. Bean seeds (900 tonnes) to be procured in the coming weeks (tender for 500 is being finalized).
4. Cowpea seeds (130 tonnes) in the coming weeks (local tender has just been launched);
5. Purchasing of vegetable seeds (2.5 MT) are being planned and additional can be funded through donations; these could reach Haiti in two to four weeks.
6. Vitroplants of banana (50,000) should reach Haiti by mid-March and a further 50,000 by mid-April when funds are available. An additional total of USD100,000 is required, for storage, distribution and providing technical training.
7. Pick axes (6,144), shovels (8,296) and wheelbarrows (1,000) procured and delivered to Port-au-Prince and distributed to affected area in Leogane.
8. Purchasing additional agricultural tools (138 000 hoes should be in Haiti in the coming weeks).

FAO financial requirements during the next six weeks

1. Local procurement of other inputs (including fertilizers, animal feed, livestock inputs, agricultural tools, sweet potato and Ighame), training and cash-for-work activities, small-scale rehabilitation of infrastructure and soil erosion control activities. Estimated cost: USD 10 million.
2. Cash for work (10,000 persons/day for 50 days) in the earthquake epicentre. Estimated cost: USD 3 million.
3. Coordination, technical assistance and training for the next 11 months weeks. Estimated cost: USD 765,000.
4. Support to agriculture cluster assessments and information systems. Estimated cost: USD 500,000.
5. Distribution of seeds and tools, and community mobilization and training through contracts with NGOs, local government institutions and farmers' associations. Estimated cost: USD 2 million.
6. Support urban and peri-urban agriculture (ca. 10,000 families) affected in Port au Prince area.

The funding gap for agriculture is estimated to be USD 18 million for carrying out critical agriculture and food production activities during the next months.

FAO Implementation arrangements

1. FAO will collaborate with WFP for transport of seeds and tools from the Dominican Republic to Haiti (some in Port au Prince, others in the north of the country through Fort Liberté).
2. Distribution of seeds and tools and community mobilization and training through contracts with NGOs, local government institutions and farmers' associations as part of technical work be promoted through the agriculture cluster.
3. Agriculture Cluster mechanism is an essential part of FAO's work with NGO's and partners to support the Government plan.

4. Support to assessments and information systems in particular through the Committee National de Sécurité Alimentaire (CNSA).

Ongoing FAO activities for which implementation will continue during the next 6 weeks

1. Follow up the cash for work program in Leogane and surrounding affected rural areas to clear basic rural infrastructure damaged by the quake. At least 4,000 beneficiaries to be expanded to 10 000 will be targeted.
2. Continue ongoing projects for seed multiplication and strategic seed stocks and watershed management.
3. Lead and support the Agricultural Cluster.
4. Ensure technical support to the PDNA mission and to the government for the agriculture sector.

WFP 6 week plan

The devastating earthquake has left an estimated two million people requiring urgent food assistance. WFP's strategy to assist the population involves a four-pronged approach that includes meeting immediate food needs, supporting the restoration of key infrastructure, reducing and preventing child malnutrition and facilitating social stabilization and rural livelihoods. Food assistance, provided appropriately and in partnership with other forms of support, can play an important role in each of these areas, and WFP's long experience in Haiti combined with its global expertise provides an excellent platform for engagement from relief through the recovery process.

Even before the earthquake, food insecurity was significant and widespread in the country. National food production only covers 43 percent of Haiti's food requirements, requiring significant amounts of food imports. The earthquake has destroyed the major port in the country, in Port-au-Prince, and while urgent repairs have recently permitted some humanitarian cargo to flow, it may be months before the port resumes its normal importation activity, impacting food supply and access in areas even beyond the earthquake affected area. Moreover, having lost their homes and most of their possessions, thousands of people are moving from the city to rural areas, adding additional strain in communities which were already vulnerable to food insecurity and hazards. They will require assistance to restore and rebuild their livelihoods.

Assessments which are currently underway by the Government, WFP, FAO, IFAD and other United Nations (UN) agencies and NGOs will further shape the future direction of WFP operations. All operations will be undertaken in close cooperation with Government, other UN agencies, NGOs and bilateral donors, and within the cluster framework.

Working with a range of UN and NGO partners, WFP will use its range of food assistance tools (food, cash, voucher transfers, along with analysis, logistics, local food procurement) to support the Government of Haiti to:

1. Meet immediate food needs and increase household consumption.
2. Support early recovery through the restoration of key infrastructure and rural livelihoods.
3. Reduce and prevent child malnutrition.
4. Facilitate social stabilization and a return to normalcy.

During the next six weeks, these goals will be advanced through the following activities within Port au Prince and surrounding areas, and in rural parts of the country accommodating increased flows of displaced people from the capital.

In rural areas:

1. Targeted food assistance is ongoing to over 250,000 people, primarily those displaced from the capital who have moved to rural areas.
2. Combined food- and cash-for-work, with FAO, IFAD and NGOs planned, to support estimated 500,000 people engaged in land clearance, field preparation activities and to rehabilitate rural roads, small-scale irrigation facilities, food storage and support other efforts to prevent further soil erosion.
3. Logistics support is being provided to enable delivery of seeds, cuttings, fertilizers and tools on behalf of Government, FAO and agriculture cluster partners.
4. Local food purchase is planned to support humanitarian assistance activities throughout the country. While benefiting farmers, including small farmers. Local purchase of beans currently planned, while other opportunities are being explored, including opportunities to apply a purchase for Progress approach, linking purchases from small farmers with partnering efforts to build skills and support market infrastructure.
5. School feeding is ongoing benefiting both displaced people and hosting communities. Distribution of nutritious supplements is ongoing to over 130,000 children under five, pregnant/lactating women.

In urban areas (Port-au-Prince and other affected cities)

1. Targeted food distributions to 1.5 million vulnerable people settled in informal camps will begin on 1 March, following the initial "surge" distributions of rice, where WFP and partners reached over 2.7 million people, through fixed sites in Port-au-Prince and were successful in both increasing consumption and reducing tensions.
2. Food- and cash-for-work focused on debris clearance and other labour-intensive rehabilitation activities, will start early march in partnership with UNDP and NGOs, and will initially reach 70,000 participants (assisting 350,000).
3. Food for school aged children has started in 70 former schools and will scale up to reach 300,000 children, evolving into a daily school meal (i.e. cantine scolaire) when schools re-open in April.
4. Blanket supplementary feeding for children and women is ongoing with UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA and five NGO partners, including the provision of "Supplementary Plumpy" for children under three and High Energy Biscuits for older children and pregnant/lactating women, with plans to reach an estimated 53 000 children and 17 000 women.
5. Institutional feeding targeting estimated 370 orphanages and hospitals, certified through WHO, UNICEF or Government, will continue for estimated two months or until the normal support to these institutions resumes.

WFP is also considering market interventions to ensure short-term rice supply in Port-au-Prince is sufficient to meet needs, as importers have not yet re-established their normal level of activity resulting in rice prices that are 25 percent higher than before the earthquake. According to a recent market assessment, 90 percent of the capital's rice requirement are met through imports, normally requiring 16-20,000 tons of rice, against which only 2,000 tons has been imported commercially since the earthquake. WFP is consulting with the Government regarding the possible need for a temporary market intervention (e.g. emergency monetization) to help alleviate the shortfall over the next four to six weeks.

As an international financial institution, IFAD's role in the rebuilding of Haiti after the January 12 earthquake is slightly different to those of WFP and FAO, though equally important. In the aftermath of such devastation, IFAD sees three major challenges: First of all, in the zones most afflicted by the earthquake, major efforts must be undertaken to reconstruct livelihoods and rebuild capacities for food production. Second, in the areas not devastated directly by the earthquake, but which are now facing a significant inflow of migrants without previous experience in agricultural production, innovative solutions to tackle concerns on food security and employment must be found. This means joint efforts not only to boost the cultivation of basic food products, but also to contribute to the creation of thousands of new jobs. The third challenge is to ensure the right balance between short-term needs and longer-term development. This includes organizing emergency aid in a way that does not distort the reconstruction of vulnerable rural markets. Achieving long-term goals also requires the establishment of storage facilities for endemic seeds and plants, and training people to administer them. These stocks are needed to strengthen resilience and to guarantee a prompt response in the case of future catastrophes.

IFAD has planned its short-term response with a view to preparing the ground for sustainable medium and long-term development. IFAD will build its medium-term efforts on four pillars:

- a) Additional and more continuous support to ongoing country programme, with three effective projects representing an investment of US\$12.5 million in 2010, to accelerate its implementation.
- b) Additional programmatic activities will be implemented, including a US\$3.2 million post-earthquake support programme for food security and employment generation in the rural areas of south-western Haiti.
- c) In collaboration with FAO and with the agreement of the Government of Haiti, IFAD is also continuing during upcoming planting seasons a post-food crisis programme initiated in 2008 for the distribution of seeds and agricultural tools. This programme, with a total value of US\$10 million, will cover the needs of 15,000 rural households, or 75,000 people.
- d) In addition, IFAD has called on its Member States to contribute towards extensive debt relief for Haiti. Haiti's debt to the institution is currently estimated at US\$58 million and is expected to reach US\$78 million over the life of active loans. Liberating Haiti from its debt burden would make more funds available for long-term development efforts.

For the above-mentioned rebuilding and development efforts to become effective, special arrangements must be made right from the very beginning. During the next six weeks, IFAD will implement the following activities to ensure and support a smooth transition from recovery to development. Needless to say, throughout all these efforts, IFAD will continue to pay special attention to the most vulnerable groups: women, households headed solely by women, and young people, who all play a critical role in the rebuilding of the country.

Next six weeks:

- The IFAD Executive Board will approve the US\$3.2 million post-earthquake support programme for food security and employment generation and work will start. This grant programme will boost food production by restoring Haiti's productive infrastructure as well as the supply of agricultural inputs. In addition, it will generate employment through

labour-intensive activities in agricultural and environmental management activities, such as soil conservation, reforestation and forage crop planting. The geographic scope of this grant is in the departments of West and Nippes, and it is expected to reach 12,000 households, or about 60,000 people.

- The nation-wide seed and tool distribution programme will be continued in cooperation with FAO. This programme, with a total value of US\$10 million, will cover the needs of 15,000 rural households, or 75,000 people.
- A technical proposal will be prepared on how IFAD Member States can contribute towards extensive debt relief for Haiti's outstanding debt with the institution.
- Ongoing and upcoming needs assessment missions will be coordinated with other UN agencies.
- IFAD will take part in the Haiti donor meeting to be organized in New York City in March.
- Extra support will be given to the IFAD in-country office, with two additional resource persons to provide implementation, monitoring and administrative support to ongoing projects. These projects, which are being implemented in the rural areas of the Departments of the North-East, North-West and the Plateau Centrale, now face a completely new project environment due to the reverse migration. The in-country team will also ensure the smooth kick-off of the new projects that have been designed or are in preparation.
- In Rome, extra administrative support has been provided to the Haiti country management team in order to guarantee rapid response to administrative issues, for example, withdrawal applications and procurement issues.

Ongoing activities, for which implementation will continue:

- Regular IFAD project activities in the Departments of North-East, North-West and the Centre. These projects focus on sustainable production, and income and employment generation in the rural areas, and they are implemented by the Haitian Ministry of Agriculture and the country's Ministry of Finance through its executive agency FAES (Fonds d'Assistance Économique et Social).