



Humanitarian Assistance

Overview

USAID/Haiti's Humanitarian Assistance program addresses Haiti's vulnerability to food security and natural disasters, critical concerns as the country recovers from the devastating 2008 hurricane season. U.S. foreign assistance interests for Haiti include strengthening Haiti's institutional capacities to respond to food insecurity as well as to plan for and manage future disasters. Due to erosion and environmental degradation, severe flooding regularly results in exceptional infrastructural and agricultural productivity losses. Activities focus on providing food assistance, livelihood recovery as well as GOH institutional support.

Activities

Assistance and Recovery: USAID/Haiti, in coordination with the USAID Office of Food for Peace (FFP), the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), the Department of Defense (DOD), the World Food Program (WFP), and Private Voluntary Organizations (PVOs), has played a major role in responding to the food riots and providing assistance to storm victims. Beyond the \$45 million in humanitarian food resources provided in response to food security riots, USAID Food for Peace subsequently provided an additional \$14 million in PL 480 Title II emergency food aid to improve food security following the storms. With key logistical support from the USS Kearsarge, the WFP and PVOs received 8,400 metric tons for immediate distribution to needy storm victims, providing vital support to more than 1.5 million of the most food-insecure Haitians in hurricane-damaged areas. In response to severe 2008 storms, USAID/Haiti, OFDA and the DOD directed another \$16 million towards humanitarian assistance and emergency relief activities, including immediate air delivery of emergency and health supplies (mosquito nets, water containers, hygiene, and kitchen kits), shelter repair kits, and other early recovery activities that benefited over 37,500 storm-affected families.

Haiti Integrated Growth through Hurricane Emergency Recovery (HIGHER) program: Designed to provide extensive hurricane recovery assistance, USAID's HIGHER program will invest \$96 million to contribute to the long-term GOH hurricane recovery strategy. Activities will include restoring public services, assets and livelihoods, rebuilding infrastructure, as well as watershed flood control, soil stabilization, and irrigation system repair. The program will also help Haitians prepare for future disasters through the strengthening of national and local capacity to assess and prepare for such events, and by implementing integrated upper and lower watershed stabilization and repair programs in targeted geographic areas in a concerted effort to mitigate future damage.

Capacity Building, Preparedness and Planning: For several years prior to the 2008 hurricane season, USAID has also worked to build Haiti's institutional capacity to manage heavy rains, winds and mudslides that devastate Haitian communities every year. It has also sought to build the capacity of the local level disaster mitigation committees to gather, analyze and disseminate information to policymakers, stakeholders, and responders about potential crises. Finally, USAID continues to develop the government's capability to address particular, vulnerability issues such as Collapsed Structure, Search and Rescue training, and Shelter Management.

FY 2008 Results

- In concert with other donors, USAID/OFDA assistance enabled the GOH to conduct damage assessments in eight of Haiti's 10 geographic departments in response to 2008 storms.
- FEWSNET, with Haiti's National Food Security Coordination Agency (CNSA), provided 60 NGO staff training on food security and vulnerability assessments, and then associated program interventions to mitigate food security challenges.
- Since 2008's hurricanes struck, in Gonaives 5,321 people have participated in cash-for-work activities generating approximately 127,704 person work days while over 90 public buildings and facilities, including 46 schools, were rehabilitated.



Road rehabilitation in a village