



September 12, 2008

Haiti Food Crisis Response Update Report

Background:

Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. The unemployment rate is nearly 80% and an estimated 78% of the population is living on less than \$2 per day. Its crippling poverty contributes to chronic food insecurity, which was exacerbated by the recent rise in global food prices. In Haiti, the prices for staple foods have increased over 40% since the beginning of the year. The burden of steep increases in food prices is heaviest on the poorest Haitians living in urban slums and rural areas. In response to angry, violent protests staged in provincial towns and Port-au-Prince in April 2008 by Haitians unable to meet the rising cost of food, the international donor community increased measures to respond to the needs of the estimated 2.5 million who are most vulnerable to food insecurity.



Tropical Storms produced flooding throughout Haiti. Efforts are underway to distribute much needed water, food, and supplies to the victims.

In late August and early September 2008, four tropical storms caused major flooding and wide-spread destruction in Haiti and affected approximately 800,000 persons¹. Although faced with an already high level of food insecurity, Haiti's agricultural sector has suffered terrible damages and the entire harvest of the current agricultural season has been either lost or severely damaged. USAID/Haiti along with the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), Department of Defense (DOD), World Food Program (WFP), and multiple relief organizations are responding rapidly to deliver water, food, and supplies to the victims.

USAID Response to the Food Crisis:

USAID/Haiti's multi-year (MYAP) PL 480 Title II development food aid (Regular Program), totaling \$34.258 million in FY 2008, is one element of the USG response to Haiti's chronic food insecurity. Under this program, the United States will ship approximately 9,710 Metric Tons (MT) of commodities in 2008. As of August 31, this Title II program is providing 193,698 people with enough food for at least one meal a day. In addition, the United States Government undertook a three-pronged emergency response to help the Haitian people cope with the April crisis:



US Marine Helicopters from the USS Kearsarge are loaded at the airport in Port-au-Prince. More than 260 MT of supplies are expected to be delivered in the coming days.

1) **Emergency PL 480 Title II:** USAID is providing \$45 million in emergency food aid commodities through single-year assistance programs (SYAPs) - \$25 million for the World Food Program, \$10 million for Catholic Relief Services and \$10 million for World Vision International. At their peak, these programs will enable 1,952,140 beneficiaries in both urban and rural areas to receive daily food rations. Under these programs,

¹ UN Haiti Flash Appeal 2008

approximately 36,660 metric tons of food, including beans, rice, corn soy blend, vegetable oil, lentils, soy-fortified bulgur, peas, and corn meal, are being shipped to Haiti for safety net food distribution, school feeding, and food for work activities. The Emergency Title II program reached 1,310,620 beneficiaries by August 31, 2008; when combined with the Regular Title II Program, the USG feeding programs reached 1,504,318 beneficiaries.

2) **Short-Term Jobs Program:** USAID reprogrammed \$1 million in FY07 resources, \$6.5 million in FY08 resources and received the early release of another \$8 million for a total of \$15.5 million to create thousands of short-term jobs, including working on community improvement projects such as road paving, canal cleaning and productive agriculture infrastructure. These programs provide Haitians with economic opportunity to address their own food needs while contributing to the longer-term solution to Haiti’s agricultural production and development constraints. Each person-day of work, equivalent to one day’s wage, is estimated be sufficient to purchase enough food to provide three people with a day’s ration. By year’s end, these programs should provide 1,069,230 person days of work for beneficiaries. As of September 7, these programs have provided 441,299** person workdays for beneficiaries. In response to recent hurricane damage, an additional \$5 million will be re-directed towards short-term job programs, enabling more Haitians to purchase basic foods and otherwise rebuild lost livelihoods.

3) **Emergency Seeds and Tools Program:** \$150,000 in International Disaster Assistance Funds from the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) for emergency seeds and tools will enable 30,000 farmers to plant basic food crops in the upcoming November-December agricultural season.

Beneficiaries Reached to Date:

Food Crisis Response Program	Program Target	Actual 8/31/08
1a. PL 480 Title II – Emergency Program (SYAP)	1,952,140	1,310,620*
1b. PL 480 Title II – Regular Program (MYAP)	319,390	193,698
2. Short-term Jobs Programs (person days of work)	1,069,230	441,299**
3. Emergency Seeds and Tools Program	30,000	0***

* This 1,310,620 combined with 193,698 beneficiaries under the regular program equals the 1,504,318 total for Title II programs.

** International Organization for Migration and CHF International data is through September 7, 2008.

***The Emergency Seeds and Tools Program is under procurement.

USG Title II Haiti Program - Target vs. Actual Beneficiaries



COMMODITY MOVEMENT AS OF SEPTEMBER 7, 2008 (MT) ¹					
PVOs	Amount from prior In-country Stocks/Transfers	Arrived in Haiti ²	At Port	At Warehouse	Cumulative Distributed
CRS	2,608	7,854	3,217	2,916	4,560
WVI	736	9,190	3,452	3,848	2,635
WFP ³		5,702	213	3,270	2,202
ACDI/VOCA ⁴		130	130	0	0
TOTAL	3,344	22,876	7,012	10,034	9,397

¹ VARIANCES UP TO 3% OF TOTAL ARE TRANSITING COMMODITIES.

² MAY-AUGUST 2008

³ 16.63 MT OF VEGETABLE OIL WERE STOLEN IN TRANSIT. A SEARCH IS UNDERWAY.

⁴ ACDI/VOCA COMMODITIES EXPECTED TO CLEAR PORT IN SEPTEMBER.

The total amount of commodities expected for this year-long Emergency Title II program (SYAP) and the Regular Title II program (MYAP) is 46,370 MT. Since the start of the emergency program on May 26, 2008, 22,876 MT has arrived in Haiti. As of September 7, 2008, CRS, WVI, and WFP have distributed a total of 9,397 MT, or 41% of the 22,876 MT of commodities that have arrived in Haiti. The balance of these commodities will be distributed according to the schedule reflected in the chart on the previous page.

Tropical Storm Relief Update:

Due to the extensive flooding throughout Haiti caused by the tropical storms, a large number of bridges were destroyed which severed roads and cut off delivery of relief supplies to many cities; including Les Cayes, Jeremie, Port-de-Paix, Jacmel, St. Marc, and Gonaives. Standing maize, sorghum, bean, cassava and banana plantations have been destroyed in at least 75 communes in the ten regions of the country. The humanitarian situation remains precarious, especially given inadequate access to affected areas.



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WFP, CRS, and WVI are currently distributing food commodities at their predetermined rate to meet their September targets. The USG Title II Haiti graph included in this report show the weekly distribution numbers through the end of August, as an inclusion of only the first week of September will skew the data against the monthly projected target. The numbers reported for the first week of September are on target enabling them to meet the goals of distribution for the month. The situation changes on a daily basis according to accessibility to distribution sites.

In response to the flooding, to date, relief organizations have distributed approximately 461 MT of emergency food commodities to 71,528 beneficiaries throughout Haiti, including approximately 27,400 people in the Artibonite Department, 24,000 in the Southwest Department, 7,700 in the Northwest Department, 4,000 in the Nippes Department, more than 2,500 in the South Department, and 2,400 people in the Grand Anse Department.