One of the poorest countries in the Western Hemisphere, Haiti remains susceptible to natural disasters and vulnerable to price spikes in the global food market. Drought conditions, political instability, and worsening economic conditions have resulted in food insecurity across Haiti.

SITUATION

- Drought conditions in parts of Haiti continue to limit livelihood opportunities—notably agriculture and livestock activities—and exacerbate acute food insecurity, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET). While rainfall in some areas of the country has resulted in adequate agricultural production and the availability of locally grown food in some markets, much of the population depends on imported food—such as rice and maize—to meet their needs. However, ongoing political instability and deteriorating economic conditions in the country are contributing to the relative weakness of the Haitian gourde and resulting in increasing imported food prices, making it more difficult for vulnerable households to afford enough to eat, according to FEWS NET.

- As a result of drought conditions, as well as political and economic instability, populations across the country are projected to face Stressed (IPC 2) or Crisis (IPC 3) levels of acute food insecurity through at least September 2019, FEWS NET reports.*

RESPONSE

- USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (FFP) partners with the UN World Food Program (WFP) to provide cash transfers for food to approximately 50,000 food-insecure individuals in drought affected areas of the country. FFP also supports WFP to lead resilience-building activities in southern Haiti, which improve the ability of vulnerable communities to mitigate, adapt to, and recover from natural disasters or sudden shocks.

- In addition, with FFP support, WFP maintains stockpile contingency food supplies in Haiti sufficient to assist approximately 300,000 people for one month in the event of a disaster or shock.

- FFP supports World Vision to provide conditional food and seed vouchers to more than 26,000 food-insecure people in the North-East and Centre departments of Haiti in exchange for participation in communal asset creation and rehabilitation activities to improve food security in vulnerable areas.

- FFP also partners with CARE and the Government of Haiti to develop a social safety net program that improves vulnerable households’ access to locally produced, nutritious foods. Aimed at boosting food security and reducing malnutrition, the multi-year development program benefits nearly 86,500 food-insecure individuals. In addition, in close coordination with relevant government authorities, the program has developed a powerful information database for mapping and targeting the most-vulnerable households throughout the country.

FOOD FOR PEACE CONTRIBUTIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Contributions (FY)</th>
<th>Metric Tons</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY 2019</td>
<td>$15.8 million</td>
<td>2,560 MT</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY 2018</td>
<td>$27.7 million</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2017</td>
<td>$62.3 million</td>
<td>14,135 MT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a standardized tool that aims to classify the severity and magnitude of acute food insecurity. The IPC scale, which is comparable across countries, ranges from Minimal (IPC 1) to Famine (IPC 5).

*Metric tonnage does not reflect funding for vouchers or cash transfers.

Photo: A Haitian food vendor supplying local agricultural products to participants of a USAID-supported development activity.