

Haiti 2010-2013

WORKING TOWARD SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS



World Food Programme

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In the days after 12 January 2010, more than 2.5 million people were left in a situation of food insecurity.

However, thanks to solidarity from all sides, generous remittances from Haitian families living abroad and large-scale food distribution coordinated by the Haitian Government and supported by our partners and especially benefiting from the effective and efficient support of the World Food Program (WFP), a major food crisis threatening the country was avoided.

However, despite good progress made since 2010, the country is still facing high rates of chronic malnutrition and food insecurity.

Haiti's problems did not begin on the 12th of January 2010, but the disaster stressed once again our problems of underdevelopment.

The Haitian government is determined to break the vicious cycle of hunger through structural interventions in collaboration with the Haitian civil society and with the international community. The Government is fighting on many fronts to stop the multiple causes of malnutrition due to unbalanced, undiversified and insufficient food intake, especially during the hunger gap between harvests and in remote and isolated mountainous areas.

In addition, the fragility of our ecosystem and the vulnerability of our environment to climatic hazards often force us to deal with emergencies related to natural disasters. The damages caused by a protracted drought last March as well as tropical storms Isaac and Sandy are the most recent reminders.

The best way to cope with this vulnerability is to adopt a transversal approach based on emergency measures to protect the most vulnerable populations. It is also necessary to develop structural policies to create jobs, which would increase the purchasing power of vulnerable population, to enhance agricultural production and to improve basic services and infrastructures.

In this context, the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Rural Development (MARNDR) is currently implementing an ambitious emergency program aiming at creating jobs, reducing vulnerability and improving the food security situation through substantial increase in agricultural production.

Agricultural recovery also requires the maintenance, rehabilitation and construction of sustainable infrastructure of production, through, among others, cleaning of irrigation and drainage canals, stabilizing gullies and riverbanks, rehabilitation and construction of rural roads and watershed protection. These interventions generate jobs and income for part of the population and especially for vulnerable rural households.

In November 2011, following the request for support made by the Government of Haiti to WFP in view of establishing a viable school feeding program fully supported by the Haitian Government and based on procurement of locally produced food by 2030, the WFP Board approved a new project to support Haiti for the period 2012 -2014.

Already in 2012, a third of all cereals procured by WFP for the school feeding programme consisted of rice and corn produced in Haiti. This rice is also used in humanitarian emergency distribution. All milk distributed to children through WFP is produced locally by small producers.

Support for school feeding, a nutritional program for the most vulnerable populations, a food and cash for work programme, pre-positioning of emergency food stock to meet humanitarian needs in the event of an emergency and transfer capacity to national institutions are the main activities of WFP in Haiti. These strategic actions are the result of a close consultation carried out with the Government of Haiti. These programmes are in complete alignment with the current dynamics of agriculture production recovery for food security.

We take this opportunity to thank WFP for its continued support to the Government's efforts and congratulate its leadership for the strategic shift of operation since the adoption of the WFP Strategic Plan in 2008 by the Board of which Haiti is a member. In December 2010, Haiti's mandate to the Board was renewed for another three years.

This new strategic focus of WFP's actions brings fresh momentum to support various Governments and Haiti in particular.

Haiti has begun to benefit from the positive changes that are showing the way forward to support our nation in its fight against food insecurity. Many challenges and structural barriers, however, are yet to be overcome. The first is to strengthen the capacity of our national institutions. This will take considerable and sustained efforts to strengthen governance and foster political leadership.

I reiterate my congratulations to the WFP team in Haiti for the work it has accomplished.

Michel Chancy
State Minister for Livestock Production
Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Rural Development (MARNDR)

The year 2009 ended on a very optimistic note in Haiti: a bumper harvest, improved food security indicators, a strong focus on supporting investments to accelerate economic growth. The year also concluded with an alert that resources for the school meals program, the nutrition programs and for emergency preparedness were dwindling while it was paramount to sustain and strengthen these systems as a fundamental element of Haiti's development.

On 12 January 2012, in 35 seconds, all this was replaced by death, devastation, the risk of a major national food and nutrition crisis and by massive national and international efforts to deploy a humanitarian safety net on which Haiti's resilience could bounce.

Three years later, important progress has been achieved on the earthquake recovery front; the humanitarian crisis has been contained and the focus is now on addressing outstanding needs to complete recovery efforts expeditiously.

Most importantly, massive support went beyond the immediate humanitarian response, as considerable investments went into reinforcing local capacity at all levels through a shared focus on building safety nets. A clear vision is developing and mechanisms are being set in place to reinforce national capacities to respond to inevitable recurrent disasters and to reduce their impact, support resilience and preserve progress made through development efforts.

On 12 January 2013, three years after the earthquake, a drought, tropical storm Isaac and hurricane Sandy have devastated harvests and Haiti is struggling with the first major food security crisis since the earthquake — this time in rural areas.

This crisis calls on all of us to support results achieved in the 'building back better' approach we all committed to for the earthquake response. Meeting the March 2013 planting season, surviving until the July harvest season, these are some of the challenges that millions of Haitian are currently facing. It is now easier than it was three years ago to support them in order to quickly restore their food security, so that preparedness for the 2013 hurricane season is achieved and that new, inevitable climatic challenges will be effectively and efficiently responded to. Demonstrating the leadership it is called upon to exercise, the Government of Haiti has planned the response and is making resources available. What we all need to do now is maintain our focus, resources and energy to sustain the resilience strategies and capacities built over the last three years.

On the occasion of the third anniversary of the earthquake, the World Food Programme would like to highlight the Government of Haiti's commitment to building national resilience strategies, as demonstrated: by the signature of an agreement mobilizing seven ministries to build a nationally owned school meals program; by the commitment, in the country's transition plan, to take over the coordination of the humanitarian response; by the will to increase the share of local products in the emergency stocks; by the commitment to address malnutrition, as underlined by Haiti's engagement in the Scale Up Nutrition movement.

The World Food Programme would also like to thank local authorities at departmental, communal and communal section levels for their invaluable guidance, support and partnership with the WFP teams that cover seven of the country's ten departments. It is their engagement with the World Food Programme's partners and beneficiary representatives that makes it possible to provide adequate immediate and long-term solutions to food insecurity. We would like to thank the beneficiaries of food assistance with whom we have been in continued contact to support their incredible resilience. We would like to thank and commend national and international NGO partners for their presence and extraordinary work on the ground, their vision, precious advice and expertise. And we would like to stress the efforts made together with UN sister agencies to build on complementarities between respective mandates and capacities to mutually enhance results.

The World Food Programme would like to thank donors for their active contribution to the design of these strategies, for sharing their vision and experience, for their help in identifying specific, fully sustainable, fully Haitian models. We would like to point out the very important level of resources made available in cash and in-kind for assets, goods and expertise that have made the results highlighted in this three-year review possible.

Jointly maintaining our focus to sustain and build on these achievements will make it possible to overcome the challenges posed by 2013 and the many other challenges that Haiti will face in the future.

Myrta Kaulard
Representative and Country Director
World Food Program, Haiti

PART I

FOOD SECURITY: RECENT TRENDS IN HAITI



2010: The Earthquake

In the afternoon on 12th January 2010, at 4:53 pm, a magnitude 7 earthquake struck Haiti. The epicentre was located at 17 km from the capital and lasted for some 35 seconds. With a population estimated at over 3 million inhabitants, Port-au-Prince was the most affected city. The cities of Léogane, Grand Goâve, Petit Goâve and Jacmel were also gravely damaged. With a massive human cost: over 230,000 dead, about 300,000 injured and 2.3 million displaced, this earthquake was amongst the deadliest and most destructive in recent decades. Today, nearly 347,000 people are still homeless and living in tents in camps around Port-au-Prince and other affected areas. Government institutions and the international community have experienced significant human and material losses.

A Severe Food Crisis Avoided

Immediately after the earthquake, a severe food crisis loomed over Haiti. Overnight, millions of people who had lost everything no longer had access to food. Haiti is a food-impooverished country and each year depends on imports for more than 50 percent of its food. Rice is the staple food for many Haitians and the country depends on imports for up to 80 percent for this product. The earthquake had severely damaged the port of Port-au-Prince, which, under normal circumstances, supplies 65 percent of all imported rice. Most importers had curtailed all import activities. Thus, one month after the earthquake only 2,495 tons of rice was imported, as reported by customs, whereas previously 35,000 to 40,000 tons of rice were imported every month. In addition, 80 percent of small wholesalers in the areas directly affected lost some of their storage facilities. They were unable to fully re-engage in the market due to lack of capital and lack of access to credit. Therefore, the various actors along the chain were only able to sell small quantities at a time.

Just hours after the earthquake, WFP began distributing high-energy biscuits. From 12 to 28 January 2010, deliveries of rice, beans, oil, sugar and salt were made to hospitals, orphanages and affected neighbourhoods in the capital as well as to other affected areas. WFP used emergency food stocks prepositioned each year in its four logistics bases across the country. WFP also procured available stocks of rice from importers. In order not to compete with the commercial sector during the same period, WFP organized a large food import operation in regular contact with the latter and in close coordination with the Haitian authorities thanks to the generous support from donors.

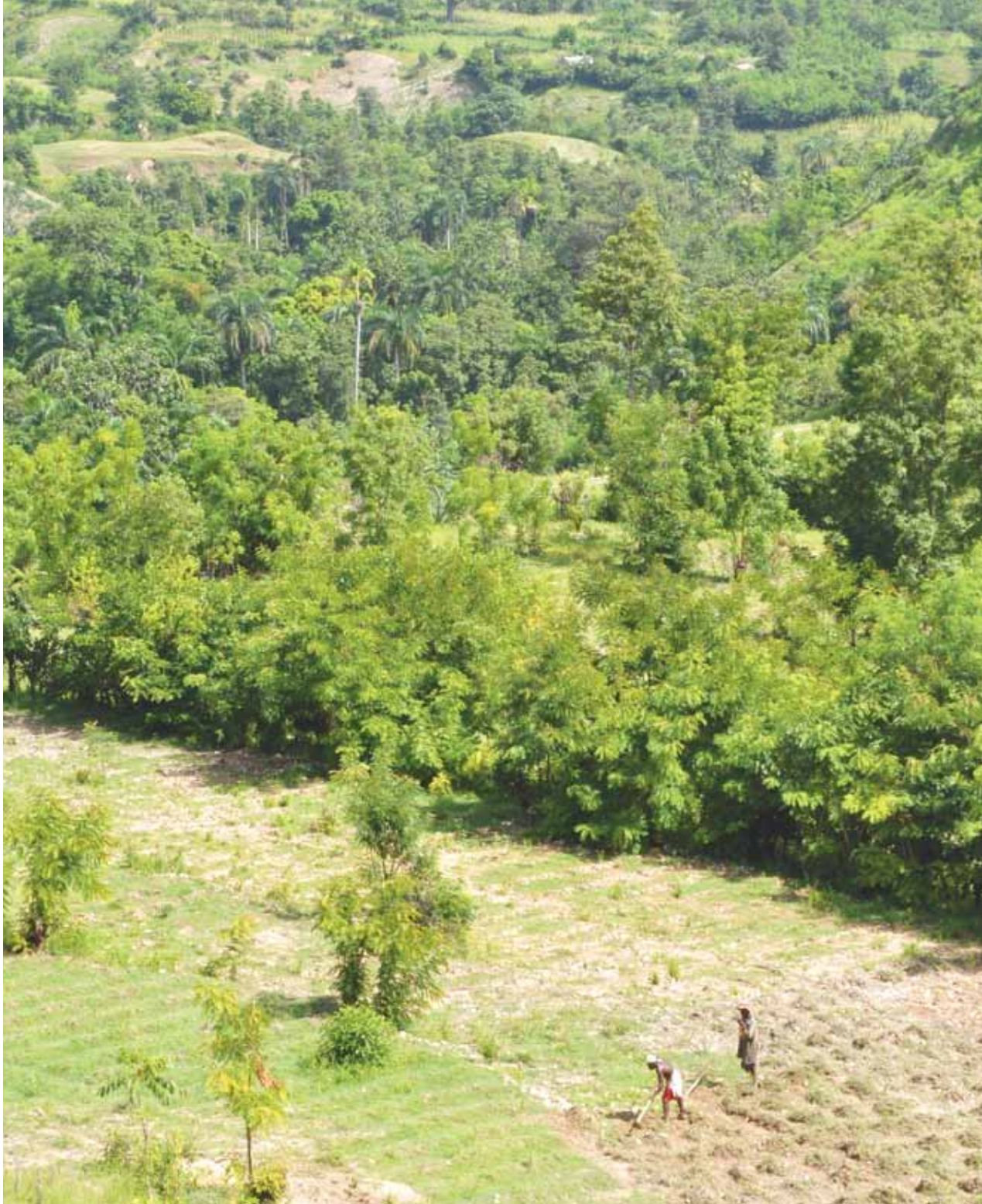


A humanitarian bridge was established to carry large quantities of emergency supplies by air, sea and land from a logistic centre established in neighbouring Dominican Republic. From early February to mid-April 2010, despite the enormous logistical challenges and the complexity of having to operate in a highly urbanized and almost completely destroyed setting, a massive distribution operation was put in place which ensured that basic food was available to more than two thirds of the population of Port-au-Prince and other areas affected by the earthquake. Helicopter airlifts were also organized to reach remote rural areas affected by the earthquake.

Under the direction of the Ministry of Health and the coordination of the nutrition cluster, WFP organized the distribution of fortified foods for all pregnant and lactating women and all children from 6 to 59 months to prevent malnutrition among the most vulnerable groups living in IDP camps.

Two months after the earthquake, importers were again in a position to organize the supply and meet the needs of the local markets from other ports of the country and from a barge which was set up near the damaged port of Port-au-Prince. Rice prices, which had risen sharply in Port-au-Prince markets immediately after the earthquake, began to decrease steadily from March to September 2010. Emergency food distribution ended in mid-April 2010, upon the request of the Ministry of Agriculture. Subsequent actions focused on establishing and strengthening WFP interventions aimed at reducing food insecurity and malnutrition, targeting specific groups which remained most vulnerable. Therefore, programmes such as school meals, nutrition and cash/food for work were prioritized. In mid-April 2010, more than 4 million Haitians in Port-au-Prince and other areas affected by the earthquake had received food assistance.

An initial food security survey conducted in early February 2010 showed that about 1.3 million people lived in food insecurity in areas directly affected by the earthquake. An additional 600,000 people displaced in rural areas were food insecure. A second survey was conducted in June 2010 to assess the evolution of food security amongst the population affected by the earthquake. The food insecurity prevalence was reduced from 31 to 27 percent between February and June 2010. The number of people living in food insecurity, meanwhile, dropped from 1.3 to 1.1 million in the areas directly affected by the earthquake. A severe food crisis had been averted. This was possible thanks to the coordination of government and the commitment of delegates, mayors, civil society, national and international NGOs, the national police, soldiers from several countries, the media and, of course, the generosity of donors.



In addition, a nutritional survey conducted in May 2010 showed that the overall prevalence of acute malnutrition ranged from 2.49 to 5.37 percent by strata among children under five years of age. Severe acute malnutrition was in the range of 0.47 to 1.01 percent. Rates of acute malnutrition remained well below the emergency threshold and were in line with the results of previous nutrition surveys (2006, 2008-2009). According to the survey, nutritional programmes granted to vulnerable populations helped prevent a deterioration of the nutritional situation 6 months after the earthquake.

Agriculture Cushioned the Shock

The earthquake resulted in the exodus of some 600,000 people to rural areas. By the end of 2011, the vast majority of the displaced population had returned to Port-au-Prince. Many rural households had to contend with considerable additional expenses to support the displaced population from the earthquake-affected cities. This resulted in a decapitalization of rural households' assets, thereby increasing their vulnerability today.

Fortunately, 2010 was a good agricultural year overall and food production remained slightly below the record high of 2009. Except for the epicentre, the agricultural sector was little affected by the earthquake. At the macro-economic level, the success of the 2010 crop year helped cushion the fall of the national GDP as a result of the earthquake. Good agricultural production also helped stabilize the need for imported food in a context wherein the capacity of the actors along the supply chain had not been fully restored. In rural areas, the success of the spring crop season improved access to food for communities that had hosted many of the IDPs from Port-au-Prince. Some regions, however, such as the central highlands and the dryer parts of the Northwest department, experienced some setbacks in agricultural production. Overall, agriculture provided a vital safety net during the months following the earthquake. The good prospects of the agricultural sector in spring 2010 also led the Ministry of Agriculture to encourage donors to support local procurement strategies implemented by WFP.

While agriculture played a key role in stabilizing the situation in Haiti after the earthquake, it had not been spared from various shocks. Indeed, a cholera epidemic was declared in October 2010 and Hurricane Tomas hit Grande-Anse, one of the richest agricultural regions of the country, in November 2010. Food and cash crops were seriously damaged. Food security for many households, especially in the South and Artibonite, was affected during the last quarter of 2010.



2011 : A Transition Year

The year 2011 has fortunately not been impacted by major shocks to food security. Cyclones' routes passed by the Haitian coasts without causing damages and rainfall was not generally higher than normal. As a result, agricultural production was generally quite good. Nevertheless, production losses were experienced in the Northeast due to a lack of rain and in the paddy fields along the Artibonite irrigated perimeters due to the disruption of the fertilizer supply within the framework of the Government subsidy programme.

Despite favourable conditions, field trips in urban areas already reported in June 2011 that the cutback or closing of humanitarian projects in response to the earthquake was experienced as a real shock, especially by the most vulnerable households. For the beneficiaries who were surveyed in June 2011, humanitarian aid was interrupted too quickly and without transition toward a medium term food safety net targeting the most vulnerable households.

In the capital of Port-au-Prince, many families had to reduce the number of meals taken daily. "The biggest shock was the increase in prices since the urban population is entirely dependent on markets for food", said Gary Mathieu, Director of the CNSA. According to data collected by a food security survey, price increases were also affecting the rural population, which depends on the market for 60 to 70 percent of its food. The nutritional quality of food also deteriorated. "The people still living in camps are the most vulnerable. Some families may go a day without eating", said Jean-Carel Norcéide, food security specialist for WFP since 1997.

Rising food prices have threatened the recovery efforts. The purchasing power of the population has declined by about 10 percent in 2011. "This is a silent crisis that affects everyone", said Myrta Kaulard, WFP Representative in Haiti.

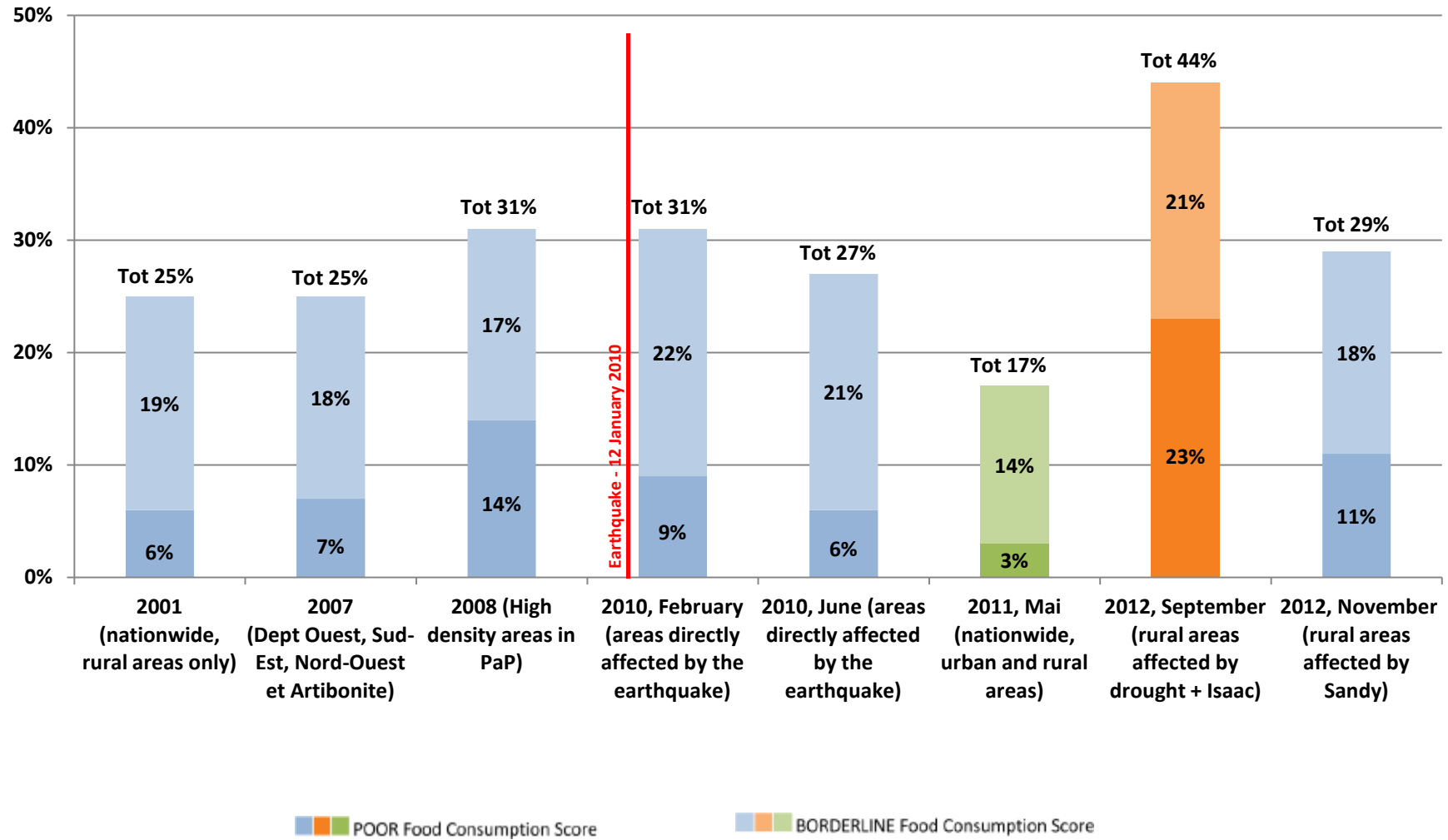
For many Haitians, the persistence of food insecurity is indeed seen as an emergency. This is why the Haitian authorities have asked WFP to focus its work on a series of programmes designed to provide food assistance to the most vulnerable and to support recovery efforts in the country.



The food consumption score has been used since 2001 to measure food insecurity in Haiti. The national food security survey conducted in June 2011 showed that a year and a half after the earthquake, food insecurity had significantly decreased to its lowest level (17 percent) in over a decade. The graph below shows the evolution of the prevalence of food insecurity based on the food consumption score from 2001 to 2012.

In 2011, CNSA introduced a new methodology for measuring food insecurity combining three indicators: the food consumption score, the hunger scale and the dietary diversity score. This composite index has provided a new baseline to measure food insecurity which is not comparable with historical data. According to this indicator, the prevalence of food insecurity in 2011 was 38 percent, of which severe food insecurity was 8 percent.

Prevalence of Food Insecurity based on the Consumption Score - 2001-2012



2012: A Food Crisis

2012 was marked by a series of natural disasters which affected more than 1.1 million people: drought, Tropical Storm Isaac and Hurricane Sandy. Price instability on the international markets in July 2012 combined with poor national harvests resulted in increasing food prices on consumers' markets in Haiti. Sandy caused considerable damages to road infrastructure and as a result, numerous rural areas remained inaccessible for several weeks.

The cumulated effect of an extended drought period and the passage of Tropical Storm Isaac severely affected the performance of the spring 2012 crop season at the national level. CNSA recorded a drop of 42 percent in corn production, 33 percent in sorghum and rice, 37 percent in plantain banana, 22 percent in tuber crops and 6 percent in pulses, compared to 2011. Cash crops such as coffee, banana, avocado, mango and citrus were also affected by strong winds caused by Isaac. Lack of rain during the drought that preceded hurricane Isaac also had a negative impact on pastureland, affecting livestock body conditions and thus reducing their commercial value. Losses in the agriculture sector caused by the drought were estimated at USD 80 million, while Isaac resulted in additional losses of USD 70 million. The extension of the drought period had an adverse effect on areas planted or the summer crop season.

Hurricane Sandy hit Haiti from October 24 to 26, 2012, causing widespread flooding, particularly in the southern peninsula, Gonâve Island and parts of the North-West. It affected areas relatively less vulnerable as they were spared the full impact of the drought and Isaac (Grande Anse, Nippes and part of the Southern departments). However, this means that all departments of Haiti have now been severely affected by natural disasters.

Three days of heavy rainfall by Sandy caused significant agricultural losses. Initial estimates from the field indicate that losses have reached USD 104 million. Specifically, newly planted winter rice, summer corn, banana plantations, root crops (yam) as well as cash crops such as coffee and cocoa have been particularly affected. Overall, within a short period of time, a total of USD 254 million in losses was recorded in the agricultural sector alone (drought, Isaac and Sandy).

In the North/North East departments, heavy rains on 9th November caused severe flooding affecting several communes, including the city of Cap-Haitien. The cumulated impact of various shocks culminating with Sandy, led the Government of Haiti to declare a State of Emergency on October 30, 2012 and request support from the international community.



Increasing Food Prices

On the International markets, corn and wheat prices sharply increased in July 2012 (up 23 percent) and then stabilized at high levels for the rest of the year (drought in the United States and the Russian Federation). Rice prices remained stable during the year owing to good production forecasts in Asia. As rice accounts for approximately 60 percent of all staple food imports to Haiti, it has had a stabilizing effect. Rice prices have indeed remained stable on the main consumer markets in Port-au-Prince since 2011.

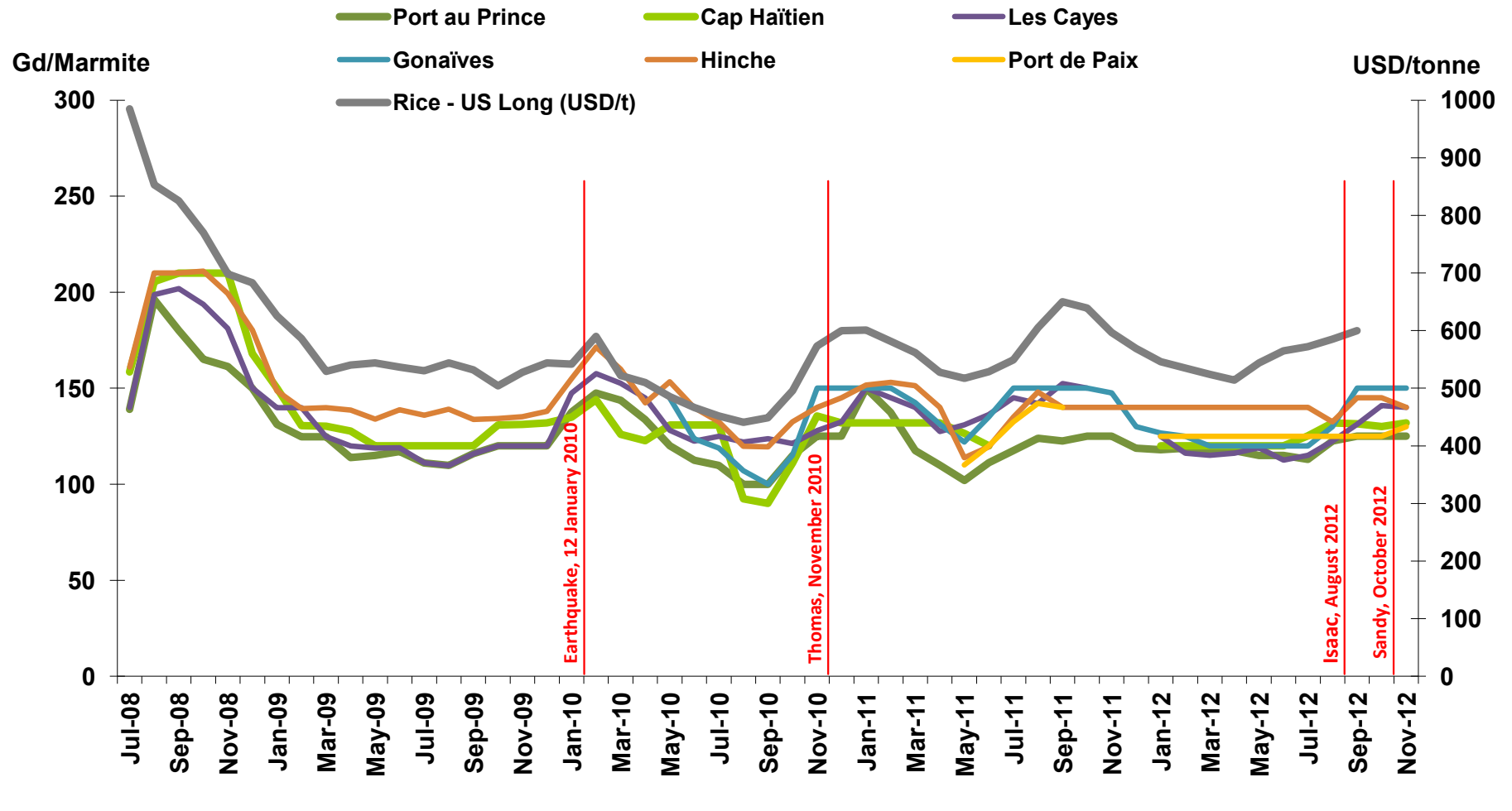
Higher corn and wheat prices were passed onto the Haitian markets a month later. Significant crop losses also contributed to price inflation on national markets. Field visits showed that imported food is predominant on local markets and provides the bulk of what is being consumed in affected communities. Increased demand for imported food places a stress on the food distribution chain, which is poorly financed. In time of stress, commodity flows are increasingly run on an expensive credit basis by the actors along the chain. As a result, food prices are rapidly increasing on local consumer markets. Interviews in rural areas showed that prices for local produce, such as corn and plantain, have also increased.

Food Crisis in Numbers

Surveys' results show that the food security situation deteriorated acutely, reaching average prevalence levels of severe food insecurity as high as 39 percent among the rural population in areas affected by drought and Isaac and 17 percent in areas affected by Sandy only. In 2011, the prevalence of severe food insecurity was 8 percent at national level.

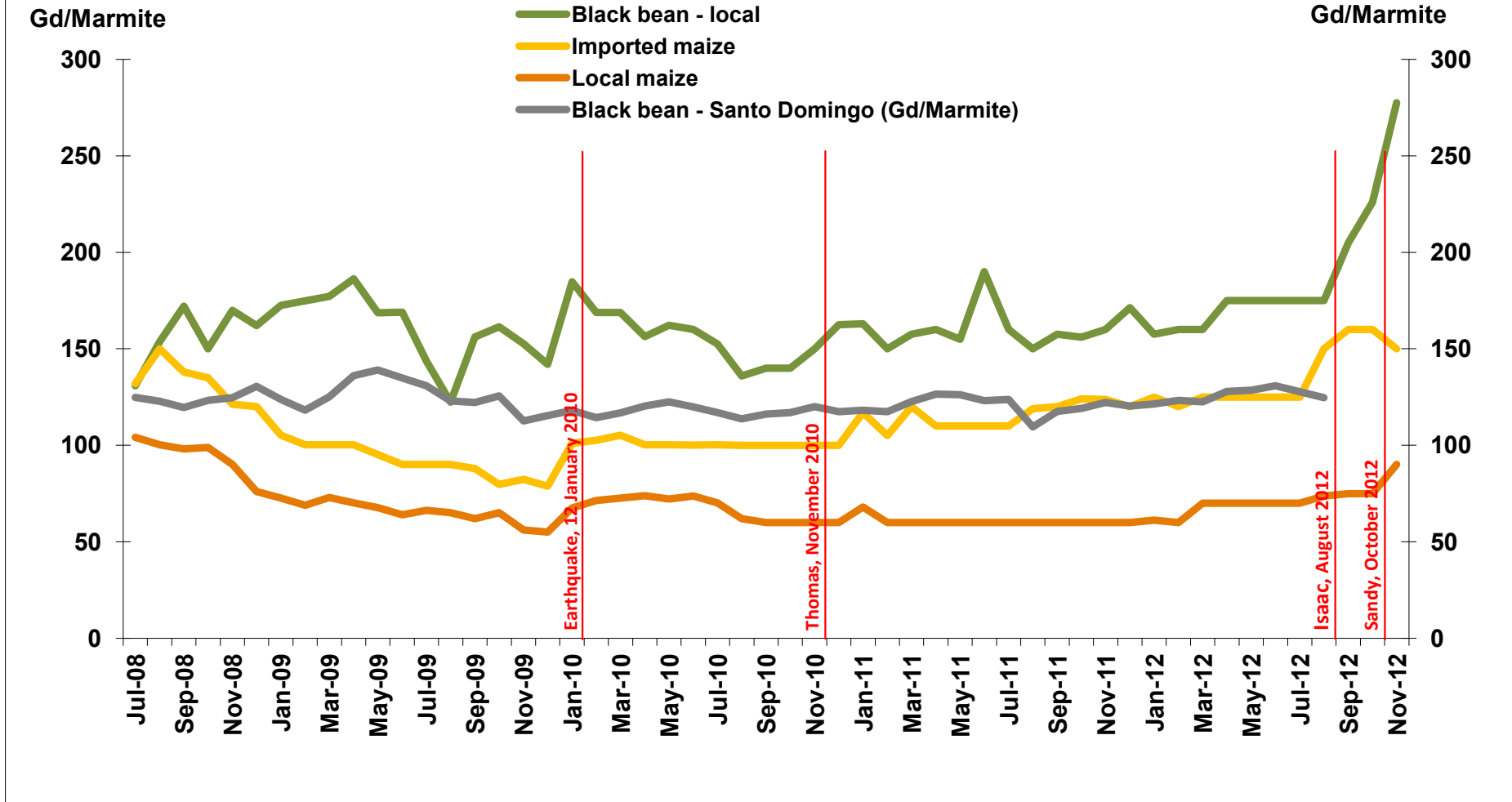
In the rural part of the 109 communes most affected by drought, Isaac and/or Sandy, 1.14 million people are living in severe food insecurity. Considering data from the national food security survey conducted in June 2012 for the rest of the rural and urban population, there is now an estimated 1.53 million people living in severe food insecurity in Haiti compared to 0.8 million in 2011. The total number of people living in food insecurity (severe and moderate) is much higher with an estimated 6.74 million people, compared to 3.81 million in 2011.

IMPORTED RICE PRICE IN VARIOUS MARKETS - 2008-2012



Source: CNSA and FAO (international prices)

BLACK BEAN AND MAIZE PRICES IN PORT-AU-PRINCE -2008-2012



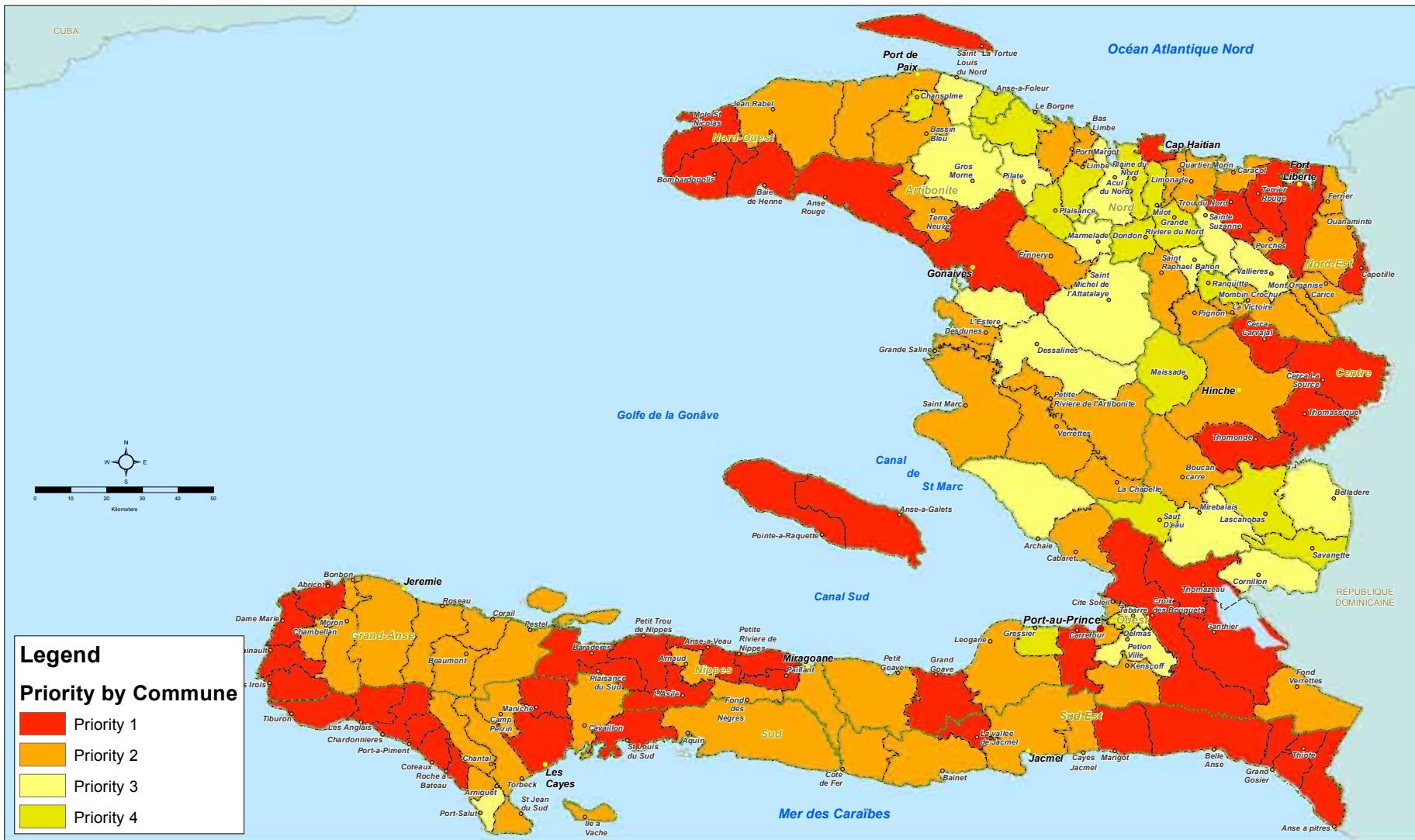
Source: CNSA and FAO (international prices)



A nutritional survey conducted just after Sandy showed that the prevalence of global acute malnutrition amongst children below 5 years of age increased to 4.8 per cent, compared to 2.65 percent in April 2012. Severe acute malnutrition reached 1.5 percent compared to 0.8 percent in April. These results indicate a deterioration of the nutritional situation while the prevalence still remains below the emergency thresholds. This deteriorating trend is in sharp contrast with the overall improvement of the nutritional situation since 2006. This calls for increased vigilance and targeted interventions or the achievements of recent years could be reversed.

Critical crop losses have severely reduced income opportunities for the rural population. Visits to households in the worst affected communes have shown that there are no food stocks available. Work opportunities in rural areas have severely contracted, not only due to losses in the agricultural sector, but also due to the drastic reduction of food security interventions since the earthquake.

To cope with the crisis, the poorest segment of the rural population has engaged in negative coping strategies which are highlighting the difficulties they face in accessing food. These include reduction of the number and the quality of meals to critical levels; increases in tree felling for charcoal production; increases in distress sales of reproductive livestock; increased migration to urban centres and the Dominican Republic; increased purchases of food on credit, increased begging and increases in under-aged domestic work ("restavek"). CNSA and its various partners have identified priority areas requiring emergency food security responses (see map below).



Legend

Priority by Commune

- Priority 1
- Priority 2
- Priority 3
- Priority 4



H A I T I

Priorization of communes according to their level of affectation by the floods, Hurricane Sandy, Tropical Storm Isaac and the drought (November 2012)

- National capital
- Department capital
- Commune capital
- Department boundaries
- Commune boundaries

Date creation : 09 - Nov - 2012
 Num. Carte : VAM-LogCluster-HTI-034-A1
 System Coord./Datum : Geographic/WGS84
 Num. CLUE :
 Les frontieres et les noms et les designations utilisees sur cette carte n'impliquent pas l'endossement officiel ou l'acceptation par les Nations unies.
 Email : maps@logcluster.org
 Website : www.logcluster.org/ops/ht04
 Logistics Cluster, Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Food Insecurity based on the composite index - 2011 and 2012

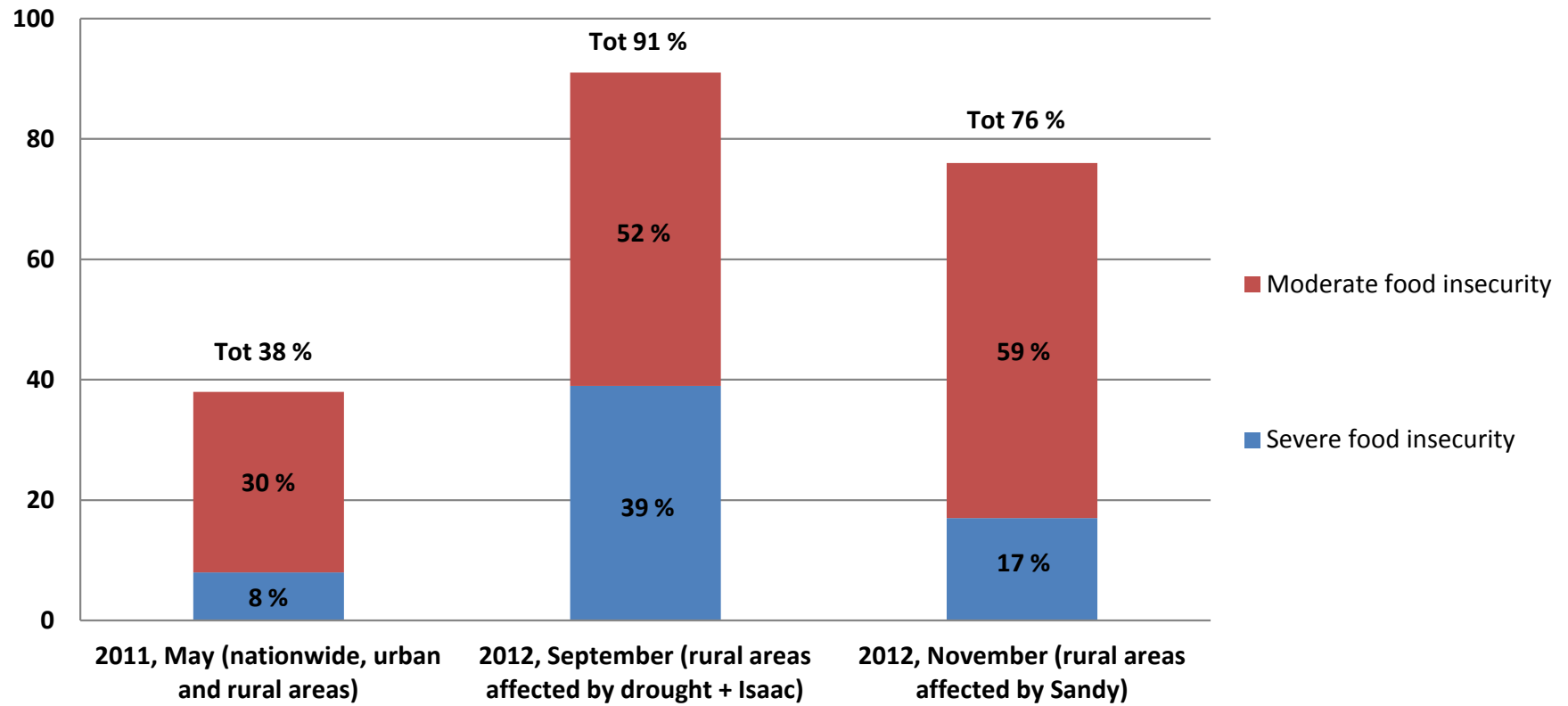




Image de la tempête tropical Isaac le 23 août 2012, un jour avant son passage sur Haïti (http://www.nasa.gov/images/content/680679main_Isaac.A2012237.1520.250m.jpg)





2013 : The Response to the Food Crisis

Without a targeted response to food insecurity caused by various shocks between May and October 2012, the situation will continue to deteriorate over the coming months. The earliest prospect for improvement lies with the next spring crop season whose harvest is expected to begin in June 2013. Currently, there are very few crops expected to be harvested before the next major spring season.

The main challenge in 2013 for WFP, the Government of Haiti and all the actors in the food security and nutrition sectors will be to organize the response to the food crisis in order not to lose the achievements gained from the investments since 2010.

In the most affected areas, emergency responses are necessary to improve access to food and support a recovery in agricultural production. Priority interventions proposed by the Food Security and Nutrition Technical Group, under CNSA's coordination to improve access to food are the following:

- Increase financing to nutrition services in order to at minimum maintain the services available during the first half of 2012.
- Immediately implement Cash/Food for Work programmes through June 2013, in order to create job opportunities for vulnerable households with members who are able to work.
- Implement a food safety net such as food vouchers, cash transfers or direct food distribution, targeting the most vulnerable households (10-15 percent of the population).
- Increase financing to school meals programmes to reach at least 1.5 million students nation-wide for the 2012/13 school year.

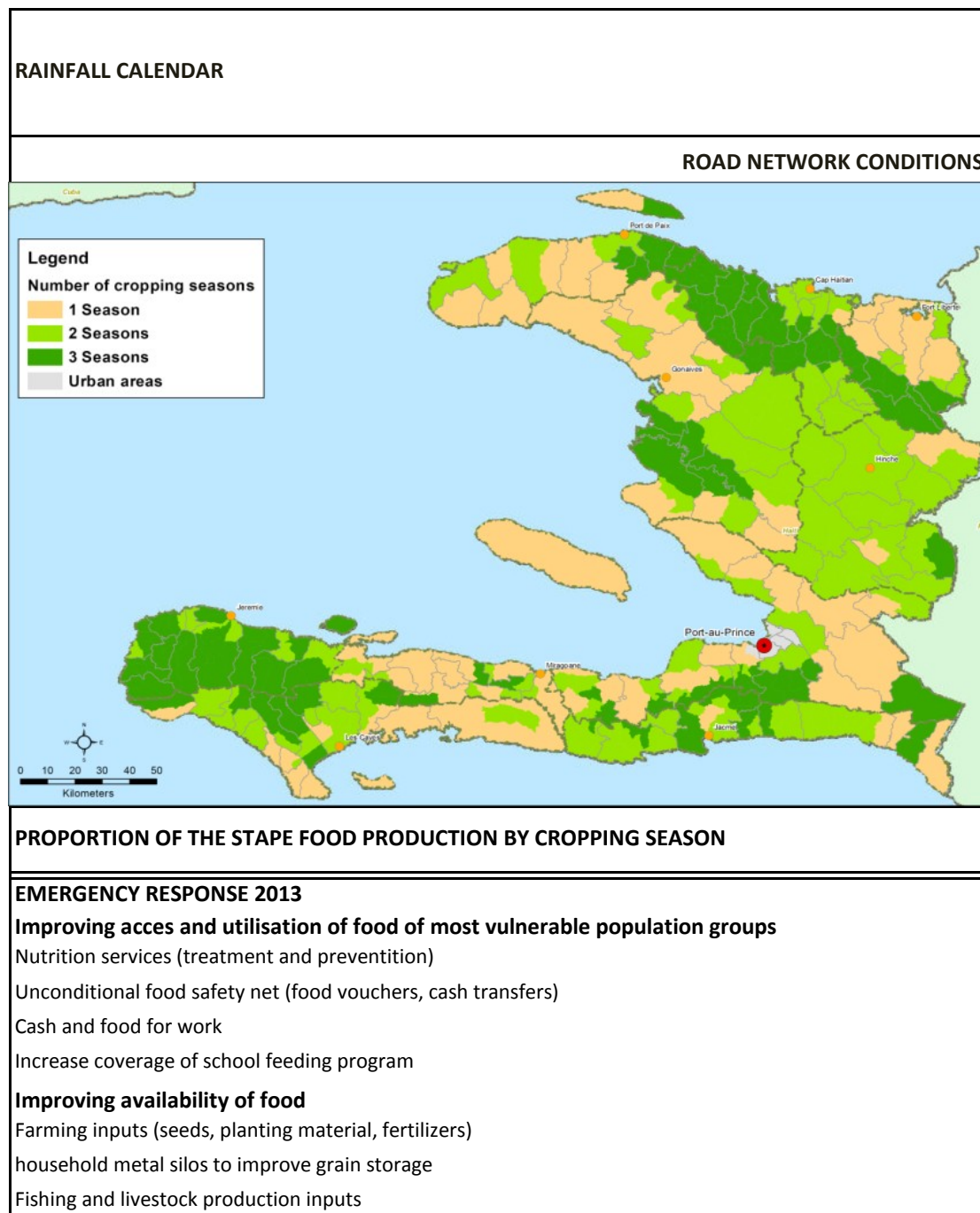
Priority interventions to support a recovery in agricultural production include the following:

- Rehabilitation of rural and irrigation infrastructure through Cash/Food for Work activities;
- Support agricultural production through local production and distribution of seed and planting material;
- Provision of silos to improve grain storage at household level;
- Provision of livestock, improvement of pasture and extension of the veterinary services coverage;
- Provision of equipment and technical assistance to fishing communities affected by Sandy.

Considering the risks of further deterioration of the food security and nutrition situation over the coming months, it is important to strengthen CNSA surveillance mechanisms and plan for a crop assessment and a national food security and nutrition survey as of June 2013.

Staple crop calendar and referral periods for food security and nutrition interventions in 2013

Haiti is crossed by three mountain ranges east-west, i.e. transversely to the direction of the winds. This relief leads to a variety of climates allowing for a diversity of agricultural production systems. Rainfall varies from 400 to 3,000 mm per year with a growing period ranging from 100 to 360 days per year. Therefore, it is important to be aware of these diversities while reading the crop calendar and to adapt its interpretation to local diversities. The map illustrates the number of crop seasons and thus makes it possible to adapt the crop calendar to different regions of the country.



						Hurricane season											
Main Rainy Season			Second rainy season						Dry season								
					Dryer period												
Difficult				Good		Difficult			Good								
Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb					
						Beginning of the commercial year for the staple food balance sheet calculation											
Lean Season				Main Harvest Period			Start of the school year										
Spring plantating/sowing																	
Harvest: beans and peas																	
Harvest: yam, taro			Harvest: maize sorghum, upland rice			Harvest: sorghum, pigeon peas											
Harvest: yam, taro			Sweet potato			Harvest: yam, taro											
Harvest: irrigated rice																	
Summer planting/sowing																	
						Harvest: beans											
						Harvest: maize sorghum											
						Upland rice		Harvest: irrigated rice									
						Autumn/winter planting/sowing											
						Harvest: beans and peas											
						Harvest: maize, sorghum											
						Harvest: upland rice		Irrig. rice									
						Harvest: yam, taro			Sweet potato								
Spring harvest: approximately 50%						Summer harvest: app. 25-30%			Winter harvest: app. 20-25%								
Feb 13	Mar 13	Apr 13	May 13	Jun 13	Jul 13	Aug 13	Sept 13	Oct 13	Nov 13	Dec 13	Jan 13	Feb 13					



Challenges over the Coming Years

From the point of view of food and nutrition security, Haiti will continue to face the following challenges in the coming years:

- Recurrence of natural disasters such as hurricanes, floods, landslides, droughts, etc.;
- Food price volatility on domestic markets given the prevailing instability on world markets and the insufficient contribution of domestic production;
- Poor watershed conditions, in part because of the lack of alternatives to meet energy demands for cooking and low agricultural productivity. The latter forces producers to cultivate marginal lands (steep slopes, dry areas) and cut trees to sell wood and coal;
- Heavy reliance on food imports to meet the basic needs of a growing population;
- Vulnerability to food insecurity for the majority of the population, especially in rural areas.

Five challenges were identified in the existing mechanisms of the food and nutrition security sector:

- The first is the need to develop a national food safety net targeting the most vulnerable households.
- The second is the need to develop new targeting mechanisms to effectively reach the most vulnerable households in all food security interventions.
- The third is the need for funding stability, long term (at least 10 years) in the food security and nutrition sector, focusing on enhancing agricultural productivity which has the potential to create thousands of jobs.
- The fourth is the need to expand local procurement initiatives via decentralized approaches and to strengthen supports to producers to enable them to better access improved production, packaging, storage and quality control technologies.
- The fifth is the need to strengthen the coordination of food security, nutrition and a social safety net in an integrated programmatic approach with a robust system of monitoring and evaluation.

Working on these five challenges will allow us to move forward towards sustainable solutions to food and nutrition insecurity in Haiti.



Food Safety Nets

Food/social safety nets are crucial for accelerating the fight against hunger:

- First, they can improve access to food and protect the most vulnerable, who are excluded from the country's economic activities.
- Second, they represent important mechanisms for reducing vulnerability and improving resilience to shocks. For example, school feeding programmes help prevent children from leaving school during a food crisis, while cash or food transfers can help families during a sudden increase in prices.
- Third, they represent an opportunity to better prepare for emergencies by allowing, if necessary, a rapid expansion of the beneficiaries coverage when households' socio-economic databases do exist.
- Fourth, when they are structured appropriately, they can directly contribute to the economic growth of the nation through the development of human resources.

A long-term national food/social safety net programme would target the most vulnerable households, which are those that are most affected when a shock occurs. For example, being most often landless and with limited financial resources, these people often do not have other options than to set up makeshift habitats in areas most at risk to natural disasters (lowland floodplains, riverbanks, etc.). The most vulnerable populations are also those who allocate a larger part of their income on food (about 70 percent according to CNSA). Therefore, they are most affected when food prices increase. The largest food safety net in place in Haiti is the national school feeding program. The school feeding program provides a conditional transfer related to education and thus requires beneficiaries (children) to attend schools. Nutritional programmes and cash/food transfers are important to target the most disadvantaged households that fall through the cracks of the existing social programmes.



Targeting the Most Vulnerable Households

The challenge of targeting households that are truly in need of food assistance is probably the biggest operational constraint in Haiti today. Various socio-economic surveys (food security, poverty) indicate that about 10 to 20 percent of rural households are extremely vulnerable. The biggest constraints to improved targeting are the lack of an agreed-upon national definition of poverty and vulnerability criteria or of a national household socio-economic database. In 2012, significant efforts were made to improve methods of identifying the most vulnerable households.

A standardized methodology for identifying vulnerable households is necessary. A pragmatic approach could be to combine two steps: a) pre-targeting vulnerable households engaging local communities with the support of local authorities, and b) a socio-economic survey administered to pre-selected households. Such an approach alongside construction of a household socio-economic database would facilitate coordination of food/social safety interventions.

Need for Sustained Funding beyond the Emergency

Two and a half years after the earthquake, funds available for food security interventions have reduced significantly. In 2012, due to lack of funding, the coverage for nutrition interventions decreased by 30 percent while that for the school feeding programme dropped by 37 percent (from 1.1 million to 685,000 students). In September 2011, food and cash for work interventions had to be stopped altogether. Financial contributions to WFP decreased from USD 422 million in 2010 to USD 36 million in 2011 and USD 37 million in 2012. Budget reductions in 2011 have reduced the ability of WFP to ensure a smooth transition toward medium term intervention mechanisms. Beneficiary households we met with in June 2011 confirmed that the closure of humanitarian interventions represented a real shock to their food security. Only a multi-year commitment, including the contribution of the Government of Haiti, to implement a food/social safety net programme with a nutritional support targeting the poorest households, alongside investments in the agricultural sector would sustainably improve the resilience of vulnerable populations.



Coordination

On 26th November 2012, the Haitian Government launched a Framework for Coordinating of External Development Aid (CAED), which is a permanent mechanism for consultation between the Haitian Government and all its partners. The CAED will establish mechanisms allowing the international community to support national economic and social development priorities. In 2013, WFP will continue to work with Government to ensure better coordination of the food and nutrition security sector and support the structures envisaged by the CAED

In 2012, the Haitian government laid the foundations for a sustainable and coordinated response to the problems of food and nutrition security, through the following initiatives:

- The launch of a strategic framework to fight hunger and malnutrition under the title Aba Grangou. This strategic framework regroups critical interventions to address the problems of hunger and malnutrition under three strategic pillars: a) food/social safety net interventions; b) investments in agriculture and; c) basic social services and nutrition.
- The strategic support provided to CNSA toward achieving a sustainable food security information system and the reinforcement of its coordination mandate.
- The launch and implementation of "Ede Pep", an emergency social assistance programme focusing on the distribution of dry food and hot meals through a network of mobile and fixed community restaurants. Ede Pep was instrumental in providing assistance to those affected after Isaac and Sandy.
- The funding of the Ministry of Agriculture's emergency response programme, which, as of early 2013, will provide support for the success of the crop seasons and create cash/food for work opportunities in areas affected by various natural disasters.
- The support provided to the Ministry of Agriculture, despite the various shocks to the agriculture sector in 2012, for strengthening the procurement of locally produced food for the benefit of small producers.
- The establishment of a food prices commission coordinated by the Prime Minister and mandated to define State interventions towards achieving price stabilization on local markets. An agreement between Haiti and Vietnam, signed in Hanoi by the Prime Minister, will regulate the import of 250 to 300,000 tons of rice at preferential rates during 2013.
- The membership of Haiti to the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement, which strengthens the coherence of the nutrition interventions of national and international actors and enhances access to technical assistance to this sector.

PART II

WFP's WORK SINCE 2010



WFP's Work in Haiti since 2010

In order to respond to food and nutrition insecurity as effectively as possible, WFP's work in Haiti focuses on three areas of intervention:

- 1. Emergency preparedness and rapid response capacity building.**
- 2. Implementation of interventions to reduce food and nutritional insecurity.**
- 3. National capacity building through institutional partnerships, aimed at facilitating a transfer of intervention capacities to the Haitian Government.**

WFP supports national food and nutrition safety nets through the strengthening of institutions and Haitian civil society; monitoring food and nutritional security, emergency food distribution, school food and nutrition services; and purchasing local food crop products. This support also includes supporting the coordination and establishment of institutional partnerships. These interventions represent the backbone of WFP's strategy aimed at sustainably reducing food and nutritional insecurity in Haiti.

WFP's work in Haiti supports the Government's goal of reducing hunger and malnutrition by 50 percent by the end of 2016. It also supports national strategies in the areas of food and nutritional security and the establishment of social safety nets.



WFP



World Food Programme



Emergency Response and Preparedness

Contingency Stocks

One of the lessons learned after the hurricanes of 2008 and the earthquake of 2010, which cut off roads and caused logistical challenges for re-supplying, was to recognise the importance of pre-positioning food stocks in the most vulnerable areas. Since then, WFP has worked closely with the national Directorate for Civil Protection (DPC) of the Haitian government and its non-governmental partners to prepare for the hurricane season every year from June to November.

WFP, in collaboration with the DPC and the Collective Territories, pre-positioned food and nutritional supplements in four warehouses (Port-au-Prince, Jacmel, Gonaives and Cap Haitien). In all, a stock of at least 7,000 tonnes of food is put together each year. This allows for immediate emergency assistance to 517,000 Haitians for a period of 21 days if need be. If, at the end of each hurricane season, these stocks have not been used, they are distributed to the school meals programme. Stocks are renewed the following year at the approach of the hurricane season. In 2012 rice produced in Haiti was part of these stocks. Food products made in Haiti must become a growing component of emergency stocks.

Lorries, mobile warehouses, telecommunications equipment, water purification capsules, soap and other emergency equipment are pre-positioned each year to ensure that the Haitian authorities, with the support WFP and its partners, are able to help the most vulnerable Haitians immediately after a natural disaster or an outbreak of cholera. WFP, under the coordination of the DPC and as part of the established response mechanisms, stands ready to provide, if necessary, air and/or road transport services and mapping services to the Government and to the wider humanitarian community. In 2013 WFP and the Haitian authorities will begin transitioning these WFP capacities to WFP's national counterparts responsible for Haiti so that they may have their own pre-positioning and an immediate response mechanisms.



Emergency Food Distribution

Since Haiti is exposed to very frequent natural disasters, emergency stocks pre-positioned by WFP have enabled an immediate response to every crisis situation since 2010, under the coordination of the Directorate of Civil Protection. In 2012 in response to the drought, to tropical storm Isaac and hurricane Sandy, high-energy biscuits were distributed to meet immediate needs in the first two days. Basic food rations were then distributed to the most affected populations to support them for a period of 21 days. Nutrition programmes target children under 5 and pregnant and nursing women, should the situation degenerate and to prevent a nutritional crisis. The targeting of beneficiaries is done by the Directorate of Civil Protection, in conjunction with municipal authorities, representatives of civil society and with partners responsible for the distribution and with WFP.

Emergency distributions during the earthquake's immediate aftermath were massive in order to avoid an acute food and nutrition crisis in the country. Given the destruction of the entire logistics infrastructure and the displacement of millions of people, the challenge was enormous. Thanks to the coordination of the Government, and to the generous support of donors and the commitment of all stakeholders, a serious food crisis was averted. Emergency distributions in response to the cholera outbreak, Thomas, Isaac, Sandy and drought were immediate and helped meet the challenges of the most vulnerable and most affected. Thanks to the excellent cooperation between the Haitian authorities and WFP, in each of these situations the distributions were restricted to a very limited time window in order to avoid distortions in the commercial sector and in farming. Highly targeted distribution programmes in the schools, nutrition centres and cash-for-work programmes help to spur the local economy and were thus implemented.



Interventions to Reduce Food and Nutritional Insecurity

Management of Malnutrition

In parallel to distributions of dietary supplements, WFP quickly adopted a programme to support the Ministry of Health in strengthening malnutrition support services. Under the direction of the Ministry of Health, the coordination of the nutrition cluster and the support twenty NGO partners, the management of moderate acute malnutrition is accomplished through the Supplementary Feeding Programme (PNS) in two hundred and forty seven health centres spread over one hundred and fifteen communes across the country. Additional food distribution and individual monitoring of children are done on a monthly basis. Treatment of malnourished children lasts three months with a ninety percent recovery rate. Dietary supplements used in the treatment centres include Ready-to-Use Supplementary Foods (RUSF) for infants and children six to fifty-nine months old as well as mixtures of fortified maize-soybean meal plus oil, sugar and iodized salt for pregnant and nursing women.

In collaboration with UNICEF, WFP has also supported the Ministry of Health in developing a national protocol for the management of moderate acute and severe malnutrition.



Prevention of Chronic Malnutrition and Micronutrient Deficiencies

Research has shown that an adult's health status is in part determined by his/her nutritional status during a critical developmental period: the first 1,000 days of life, (i.e. from conception to 2 years old). Malnutrition during this window of life can cause irreversible brain damage in children and seriously compromise physical and mental development through to adulthood. In Haiti, 22 percent of children under age 5 suffer from chronic malnutrition; 49 percent of pregnant women and 65 percent of children under 5 years suffer from anaemia; and over 59 percent of children aged 6 to 12 months suffer from iodine deficiency.

In order to reduce the number of children who fall into malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies, under the coordination of the Ministry of Health, WFP pursues a preventive approach that focuses primarily on this window of opportunity of the first 1,000 days of childhood. This approach strategically invests in human capital and contributes to breaking the intergenerational cycle of malnutrition. The approach for the prevention of malnutrition includes three interventions:

1. The provision of Supplementary Ready-to-Use Food for infants and children 6 to 35 months;
2. The provision of micronutrient powders for children 36 to 59 months, and
3. The provision of micronutrient capsules for pregnant women and nursing mothers in collaboration with UNICEF.

Currently, all dietary supplements provided as part of this nutritional assistance are imported. In the coming years and in keeping with the Government's strategy, WFP is committed to supporting the initiatives for fortifying local food products, such as iodized salt.

Activities for the prevention of malnutrition implemented by WFP and its partners have helped to reduce the prevalence of global acute malnutrition, estimated at 4.1 percent in 2012 (SMART) versus 9 percent in 2005 (EMMUS).



School Meals

The National School Feeding Programme (PNCS) of the Ministry of Education was among the first stakeholders to move into emergency distributions immediately after the earthquake of January 2010. In the first days after the earthquake, teachers and schoolchildren's parents set up open-air canteens to feed the children and restore a semblance of normality to everyday life. After April 2010, classes resumed and the school canteens continued as well. By June 2010, half a million students received a hot meal every school day. To support the relief following the disaster, at the beginning of the 2010-11 school year the PNCS, WFP and donors decided to make a special effort to continue to support the recovery. The number of students receiving a meal each day was consequently more than doubled to 1.1 million children. In parallel, the PNCS, WFP and donors engaged in an action plan to develop a universal school feeding programme by 2030 that would be funded and managed entirely by Haitians and using food products grown and produced in Haiti. In December 2012, the Government of Haiti and WFP signed a Memorandum of Understanding to formalise the transition plan.

School meals can improve children's attendance, increase retention and ensure better academic performance, while helping to improve children's food and nutritional security.

Two years ago, WFP initiated an improved cook stoves project that is implemented in collaboration with other UN agencies and NGOs. This project currently allows the 23 schools aided by WFP to use alternative sources of energy in the form of biomass briquettes made from recycled paper and cardboard. The use of briquettes instead of charcoal reduces cooking costs and helps fight against deforestation in the country. Ultimately, this programme will expand to more than 500 schools across the country.



Local Procurement

Local procurement has considerable potential to help develop sustainable agricultural markets. It helps to better connect small farmers to market opportunities, so they can improve their income and are encouraged to increase their production and improve quality. Since 2009, the purchase of locally produced food from smallholders and their associations are one of the priority areas of WFP's work in Haiti. Under the direction of the Ministry of Agriculture, WFP is working to establish strong links between local procurement and the school feeding programme.

In collaboration with the Government, WFP has implemented a series of measures to strengthen local procurement in Haiti:

- The tender process has been simplified to allow small farmers' associations to submit bids for the amounts they are able to produce.
- Training has been given to producers to help them control all stages of the purchasing process from bidding to delivery of the food.
- A survey and evaluation of private initiatives for processing local food products were conducted and technical assistance was provided to improve the processing processes.

Since 2010, these measures have led to increased volumes purchased locally and to improved quality control and processing of foodstuffs after harvest. Despite the drought, tropical storm Isaac and hurricane Sandy, which together caused an extremely significant loss of food production, the quantities that could be purchased locally in 2012 represented more than 27 percent of all procured food products for WFP. For cereals, the proportion of small Haitian producers reached 37 percent.

One of the main lessons learned in Haiti is the need to implement interventions upstream and to assist producers such that they have better access to production, packaging, storage and quality control technologies.



Creating Temporary Work Opportunities

Food- and cash-for work actions form one of the safety nets available to the government. A few months after the January 2010 earthquake, and in collaboration with several national and international partners, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Public Works and the Ministry of Environment, an extensive cash- or food- for temporary work programme was set up in the most disadvantaged areas. Thus, from January 2010 to September 2011, over 200 cash- or food-for-work projects were carried out with the direct support from WFP, having helped to create monthly temporary work opportunities for over 200,000 Haitians. These projects have helped to:

- Support the purchasing power and access to food for vulnerable communities;
- Support post-disaster rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts;
- Rehabilitate damaged infrastructure and protect watersheds and farmland to improve resilience to natural disasters.

In 2010, in the areas affected by the earthquake, WFP focused on the work of clearing debris left by the earthquake as well as on sanitation activities such as cleaning gutters. Also in 2010 after hurricane Tomas, in rural areas the projects focussed on agricultural infrastructure (dredging irrigation canals, shoreline protection, nurseries etc.), rehabilitation of damaged infrastructure (service roads) and watershed protection.

Similarly, in 2012, after a series of shocks including drought, tropical storm Isaac and hurricane Sandy, the Ministry of Agriculture consulted with its partners in the field and developed a plan for the implementation of cash- or food-for-work interventions in the affected areas. As part of this programme, WFP had planned to implement projects that would have created 45,000 temporary work opportunities monthly until June 2013, but faced significant challenges in mobilizing the resources needed for implementation of these activities.



Capacity Building

Since 2010, within the framework of its institutional support to the Haitian Government, significant progress has been made in:

- *Emergency response:* operational and logistical capacity building including the creation of contingency stocks and a radio telecommunications network throughout the country.
- *Nutrition:* support to the Ministry of Public Health and Population in the updating of the national nutrition policy; the preparation of a nutrition strategic plan for 2012-16; development of a protocol for managing malnutrition and the formulation of a draft law on food fortification.
- *School feeding:* support to the Ministry of National Education and Vocational Training in the development of a strategic vision for the school feeding to 2030, with an action plan for capacity building of the National School Canteens Programme and the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Government and WFP defining the modalities of technical assistance from WFP in the capacity building for the National School Feeding Programme (PNCS). Very close partnerships with the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health, the World Bank, UNICEF, WHO, and several donors have been built to provide coordinated support.
- *Local procurement:* strengthening the local procurement facilitation unit of the Ministry of Agriculture in its aim to strengthen the links between farmers and buyers. Including training and mentoring, this has helped many small producers to meet the standards required by WFP for local procurement. A partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, producer associations and FAO was established to improve access to agricultural services, increasing the volume and quality of local production.
- *Creating temporary work opportunities:* departmental capacity building in coordination of the cash- or food-for-work activities of the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Public Works and the Ministry of Environment, and supporting the Ministry of the Agriculture in the development of an implementation manual for such work. A partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, UNDP, FAO and IOM has been established.
- *Monitoring of food security:* cooperation with the National Food Security Coordination in monitoring the food and nutritional security of the agricultural situation in a participatory way via the Food and Nutritional Security Technical Group.
- *At the operational level,* thanks to an extensive network of primarily local NGOs, WFP is able to intervene across the entire country. Between 2010 and 2012, WFP worked with over 107 local NGOs and 30 international NGOs.

PART III

STORIES FROM THE FIELD 2010-13



Haiti in the Hurricane Path: Sandy, October 2012

The hurricane season was almost over. For many Haitian families who were struggling to recover from a drought and hurricane Isaac, which damaged or destroyed harvests in many parts of the country, Sandy brought more devastation.

“My fields were flooded when hurricane Sandy hit us,” says Marie-Laurette Rémy, a small farmer who makes a living selling her harvest and now relies on the emergency food rations she received from the World Food Programme. “I have lost tomatoes, beans and other crops on my three parcels,”

In a country where most of the rural population relies on agriculture and often cultivates small plots of land, climate shocks can leave entire families struggling to get enough food to eat.

Marie-Laurette Rémy lives in Marigot, a small community in the South East of Haiti. In this community tucked between the sea and the mountain, water and mud came rushing down when Sandy hit at the end of October. Several houses were flooded. Crops and banana trees were washed away or buried under the mud. Here and in many other communities in the country, people like Marie-Laurette are picking up the pieces and trying to figure out how they will feed themselves and their families now that their main source of food and income is gone.

“Evaluations conducted by Haitian authorities in collaboration with WFP demonstrated that emergency food assistance would be necessary,” said Michael Cazeau, who works for WFP in Jacmel and was in charge of the emergency distribution in Marigot the day Marie-Laurette received her ration.

In the first days following the storm, WFP provided emergency food rations to 16,000 Haitians. In November, the agency continues to assist 70,000 of the worst-affected families with food including rice purchased locally from smallholder farmers in and around Les Cayes.

“The food that WFP is giving me today will help me get by for a few weeks and I am grateful for that,” said Tericia Jeudi after receiving her emergency ration of rice, beans, oil and salt from WFP in Marigot.



Her five small plots of land were damaged by hurricane Sandy, although her house was spared. "Water rose to the door, but didn't get in," she added. Her small banana plantation was spared this time but her bananas were destroyed earlier in the summer when Isaac battered the country. On her other plots, she says her peas, peppers and other crops have been damaged.

"What I really want for the future is help to improve irrigation for my land so I can grow more food," Jeudi added, echoing many farmers who had gathered at the community centre to receive their emergency ration. They also wish that infrastructure be built through community projects that would create temporary jobs.

WFP is mobilizing resources to finance such projects that will help people like Tericia Jeudi get better access to food by earning a salary while building infrastructure to increase agricultural production.



Living in the Camps of Port-au-Prince

Three years after the earthquake, there are fewer tents, fewer people at the site of the old military airport in Port-au-Prince. Many have found a roof to put over their heads, but thousands are still living between abandoned old planes and helicopters in what used to be one of Port-au-Prince's biggest camps.

Rousselène Jean is hoping to leave the site that became her home three years ago. With her aunt and her baby, Dawensly, she shares a shack built with found wood planks, a little bit of plywood, metal sheeting and covered with old tarpaulins to shield the place from the rain. Inside, neatly organized are a few pieces of clothing and one narrow bed where the 2 women and the baby sleep huddled together.

It's lunchtime and Rousselène's small charcoal stove is sitting at the entrance of the house. No one is cooking though. There is no food in Rousselène house today. To make a living, she does laundry for people more fortunate than her. Right now, she says, she can't find many customers. Earning enough money to buy food, pay for basic expenses is a daily struggle.

"Without the help I get, it would be hard to have enough to eat," Rousselène says, referring to the nutritional supplements from WFP she has been receiving since she found out she was pregnant.

Her baby was born a few months ago and she breastfeeds him. Little Dawensly is chubby and looks healthy. "He's good," she says. The nurses at the health centre located in the middle of the camp, agree. Rousselène is a regular here. The porridge made of fortified corn soya flour blend, sugar and oil that she eats every day continues to make a big difference.

"I would have never guessed that it would still be like this 3 years after the quake," says Anne-Rose Saint-Preux, one of the people in charge of the health centre managed by FONDEFH, a local health organization supported by WFP, UNICEF and others. "It's always crowded."

This health centre was set up quickly after the earthquake to provide basic health services free of charge to the thousands of displaced people. Three years later, Saint-Preux notices that if the demand is still big, people will come from



further away to get access to free health services. When she thinks about all that's been accomplished since 2010, one of the first things that comes to her mind is that the nutritional status of children, pregnant or breastfeeding mothers has improved. "We focus on prevention and sensitization," she says. "When we see a woman from the beginning of her pregnancy, we do not see her come back with a malnourished child later."

Sylvania Nelson is living proof that sensitization works. She is due to give birth to her second child in a few weeks and has been eating the nutritional supplements provided by WFP since the beginning of her pregnancy. She is also the mother of Erika, a healthy three-year old girl who receives a fortified peanut paste designed specifically to prevent malnutrition.

Erika doesn't know that her mamba – peanut butter in Creole- helps her grow up healthy, but she knows the white and orange box is hers. As soon as her mother gets out of the health centre, Erika digs up her box of mamba from the bag filled with WFP products and keeps it close to her chest, like a prize.

"Prevention helps a lot," adds Anne-Rose Saint-Preux from FONDEFH.

"I wish my life would go back to what it was before the earthquake," says Ketelise Hérard, a young mother who is 24 years old. She too lives at Aviation since the very beginning of the camp. Her house, located at Wharf Jérémie, a part of Cité Soleil, was destroyed by the quake. Since then, she has been trying to rebuild her life here. Without a job, single and alone to take care of her little Wedson, she resigned herself to work as a street merchant.

Before, she says, she was working as a cleaning lady and earning about 50 dollars per month, but she can't find this type of work anymore.

Ketelise says that getting enough food is a challenge she doesn't overcome every day.

"I go see my aunt to ask for money," she says to describe how she gets by when she can't make it on her own. It's her last resort option, but she concedes she visits her aunt often.

The camp health clinic has become a lifesaver. She's been coming assiduously since the beginning of her pregnancy and has been getting WFP's nutritional supplements. "I can see that my baby is growing up healthy," she says. For now, this is what matters most.



Fighting Malnutrition in Rural Areas

Petit Goâve is located by the sea, a little less than 70 km west of Port-au-Prince. The region was hit by the 12 January 2010 earthquake and people are still struggling to recover. Outside of town, on a dirt road that crawls up the hill, is a health centre managed by Makaya-lib, a local organization supported by the World Food Programme.

Every day, the small open air waiting room is filled with women and their young children. They all know by now that coming here gives them access to free basic health services and nutritional products to help their little ones grow up healthy. Asséphié Jean is sitting on a chair, just outside the nurse's office. With her little Ismael sitting on her lap, it's hard to notice that she is pregnant.

"Eight months," she says with a big smile. She has been followed at the clinic since the beginning of her pregnancy and everyday, she eats a portion of Super Cereal, a blend of fortified corn and soy flour that she mixes with oil and sugar and which, once cooked, looks and tastes like porridge. Ismael is also a regular at the health centre and receives specialized nutritional food to prevent malnutrition. "It's a relief," she says of the services she gets here. "The supplements help my babies grow up and stay healthy."

To make a living, Asséphié used to sell used clothes, but not anymore. Ismael was sick a few months ago and she had to purchase medicine. An unplanned expense that forced her to use the money she had set aside to keep her business going. Now, she says she hopes to save enough to restart it. Despite the lack of resources, she keeps smiling. Her son is healthy again and her pregnancy is going well.

In the waiting room, the other women are listening. Asséphié's concerns, her troubles are very similar to theirs. Marjorie Laguerre, who is here with her 14 month old Naifca, explains that it's often difficult to have enough money to buy food to cook good meals for her family. The other mothers nod. "We share food with neighbours and family members," they all say together.

"It's solidarity," explains Marjorie Laguerre. That morning, they will go back home not only with specialized nutritional products, but also with the guarantee of being well-equipped to fight malnutrition.



Ecole Rosalie Javouhey

At the Rosalie Javouhey School in Port-au-Prince, a few days after the earthquake, the students started to come back.

“They were looking for comfort,” remembers Sister Marie-Bernadette, the school principal. “But they were also looking for food.”

The school had not collapsed, but the building was so damaged that just getting close to it was dangerous. Classes had not resumed, but it didn’t matter. WFP provided food, and every day, Sister Marie-Bernadette cooked meals for her students.

Several schools did the same and revived the school meals programme weeks before classes resumed.

Institution mixte Jeunesse Réunion

When the bell rings, it’s like a traffic jam.” This is how Joseph Jean Silence describes the daily rush to the school cafeteria. Silence is the principal at Institution Mixte Jeunesse Réunion, a school located in La Saline, a section of the slum of Cité Soleil.

The school’s two stories empty quickly. The children make a few steps in a narrow alley, cross the street and line up under a tarpaulin, in front of several big pots filled with rice and bean sauce, a staple of Haitian cooking. When he describes his neighbourhood, a place where he lives and has been in charge of this school since 1996, the conversation quickly veers towards his concerns, in fact everybody’s concerns: security and poverty. “There are a lot of social and economic problems,” he explains. “Parents live a day-to-day existence.” He describes precarious living conditions where food will reach the table only if parents have managed to earn or borrow something that day.



"I come to school because I know I will have something to eat," says Pascal Papou, a five-year old with a spark in his eyes and a big smile. He lives close to the school with his family and if he says that he eats good meals at home too, he concedes, "it doesn't happen every day."

When Silence started working at the school in 1996, no one was cooking for the kids. A problem he felt he had to solve because he was as convinced then as he is now that providing a daily meal in a school like his is essential. In his classrooms, he now sees healthier children who learn better and come to school everyday.

His team of cooks arrives at the school early every morning to ensure that the meal cooked with food provided by the World Food Programme is ready to be served at 10:30 am. Why so early? He figured if his students don't eat breakfast at home, they won't have to wait until noon to get food in their stomachs.

Jackendy François likes mathematics and says he wants to become a doctor. At ten years old, he is the oldest child in his family. His six-year old sister also attends classes at Jeunesse Réunionie but his youngest sister is too young to go to school.

"At home, if money runs out, meals are affected," he said. His mother works as a street merchant. "I sometimes bring a part of my school meal back home to share with my little sister," he explains.

The 2010 earthquake badly affected this neighbourhood next to the Port-au-Prince port and many had found refuge in the tented camps spontaneously created after the earth shook. "People are coming back, they are building new houses," says Joseph Jean Silence.

His school is private, like most in Haiti's education system. Since last year, Jeunesse Réunionie receives grants from the Government of Haiti to cover the tuition of the first grade students. This year, the grant was extended to kids enrolled in second grade as well.

"This is a great improvement," says the principal. Now, more children get an education, and a meal.



Purchasing Food in Haiti to Stimulate the Agricultural Sector

A group of Haitian dairy farmers is now supplying Port-au-Prince schools with fresh milk, thanks to a pilot project launched by WFP. The scheme helps farmers gain a foothold in their local market while providing kids who eat WFP school meals with a precious source of vitamins and minerals.

Jean-Claude Bélizaire is the kind of man WFP sees as central to its support for local production. He's a dairy farmer with ten cows and a smallholding on the outskirts of the Haitian capital, Port-au-Prince.

It is because of producers like him that WFP has been able to introduce a pilot scheme, adding milk to the school meals programme it runs as part of the Government's Programme Nationale de Cantines Scolaire.

In addition to the milk from his own herd of 10 cows, Jean-Claude collects the milk from neighbouring farms and brings it in plastic containers to the local dairy at Bon Repos. This is one of the dairies that belong to Haiti's Lèt Agogo (in Creole: Milk Aplenty) co-operative of small producers. Farmers receive 75 gourdes (around US \$2.00) per gallon. "This is a great way for small producers like me to do business," says Jean-Claude who gets paid extra for being a collector. "It's been a very hard year but at least dairy farmers around here have a secure market for their milk."

Since 2010, WFP purchased 3,334,000 milk bottles from Let Agogo. This has meant that, on top of the daily hot meal they receive under the national school meals programme, some 17,700 children from 48 schools have also been getting two bottles of milk per week.

"It's a system that works well," says Clergé René of the Bon Repos dairy. "Each herd yields only a few gallons per day but, with 150 dairy farmers selling to us, we can produce anywhere between 60 – 120 gallons per day. And we also produce yoghurt."

Milk is an important staple of the Haitian diet but many Haitians have no choice but to buy expensive imported varieties – or go without. With an estimated half a million cows in Haiti, there is huge scope for increased domestic production and it is farmers like Jean-Claude Bélizaire who are showing the way.



From Paddy Fields to Schools

Torbeck is located in the South of Haiti, about 4 hours away from the capital. Here, in the valley, you might be led to think that everybody is growing rice. This is not far from the truth. Fields are everywhere and rice is one of the main crops grown by local farmers.

Ylmo Louinesse is one of them. He has been toiling in rice paddies since he was a child. At 39, he rents about one hectare of land and the parcel is his family's main source of income. One of the problems he's had over the years is that no matter how hard he worked on his land, he could never produce a lot.

About half of what is eaten by Haitians is imported. The government would like to change that and increasing food production is a priority.

In 2009, a group of Taiwanese agronomists arrived in the region with a specific mandate given to them by the Haitian authorities. Could they help farmers produce more rice? "Nearly 70 percent of the rice consumed in the country is imported", said Shui-Sung Hsiang, the head of the Taiwanese technical assistance in Haiti. "The rice growing areas could produce 70 percent of the rice consumed by Haitians, so they would only need to import 30 per cent. We believe there is great potential here to achieve this goal."

When they arrived though, production yield was low, very low. On average, farmers managed to grow about a ton to a ton and a half of rice per hectare. The Taiwanese believe that the region has the potential of producing at least 6 times more rice.

"Before, we used to plant a lot of rice but the yield was minimal", says Jacques Jonas Charles, a rice farmer and the head of one of the local associations. "Now, because of the Taiwanese technical assistance, we are better farmers. We take better care of our fields, have a better yield and our families benefit."



The results speak for themselves. In less than three years, farmers have tripled their production. Producing more rice is not the answer to all problems though. Storage is an issue and crops need to be sold quickly because farmers have nowhere to keep them. Marketing is also a challenge because there is no organized distribution infrastructure. "Sometimes we bring our rice to the market and we can't find buyers because everyone is trying to sell its harvest at the same time", says Thélécène St-Félix, a rice producer.

This is why the Taiwanese cooperation approached the World Food Programme. They knew the agency was working at increasing the amount of food purchased locally and offered rice at a competitive price. "When you have an organization like the World Food Programme participating in the development, that helps farmers understand that they should continue growing their crops. They know that their product is going to get sold, they will get paid easily and that motivates them to work more," said Pierre Jeune, the head of operations for the Taiwanese Cooperation in Torbeck.

School Feeding Program Supplied with Locally Grown Food

During the summer of 2011, WFP purchased 500 tons of rice from Ylmo, Thélécène and their neighbours. The Government of Canada provided the funds with the condition that the rice be purchased from small-scale farmers and used in the school meals program. Brazil and France have also provided important financing to purchase cereals produced locally. At the end of 2012, a total of 8,340 mt of cereals had been bought in Haiti and the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) had joined the initiative as a donor.



Women at Work in Carrefour

In Carrefour, a busy suburban town located just West of Port-au-Prince, a women's association is getting neighbourhoods ready for rebuilding.

The 2010 earthquake left the town shattered. A year and a half later, scars of the earthquake were still everywhere. "When we started working here, roads were nearly impassable because of the rubble," said Magdala Jean-Pierre. She's the head of Mouvmman Famn Aktif Kafou, or MOFKA, a women's association in Carrefour. "Our work is to encourage social integration. We take care of women and children who are victims of violence, she said. We also provide training because you can't help women become fully active citizens if they can't read or write".

Immediately after the earthquake, she knew exactly what needed to be done to help the women in her community get back on their feet. For the past ten months, she has been managing a massive rubble removal project financed by WFP and supported by local authorities.

"We want to clean up Carrefour so that families can go back home and start rebuilding their lives," she said then. Her project was one of several in the area affected by the earthquake, but MOFKA's was special. Here, four out of five people handling the shovels and pushing wheelbarrows were women.

It was also special because people who worked here lived here as well. In some cases, workers have cleared rubble from their own houses.

"It's the first job I've had since the earthquake" said another woman who worked on the project in 2011 and used to work as a seamstress. The earthquake destroyed her house, along with her sewing equipment. In less than a minute, she became homeless and unemployed. With this job, she bought food for her family and hoped to save enough to start sewing again.

More than a thousand people have worked 6 days a week in over 40 areas of their town. Their efforts have paid off. On the sites that have been cleared, new houses have started rising.



Protecting Agriculture and Rehabilitating Agricultural Land

Cerca Carvajal is a small town on the Plateau Central close to the border with the Dominican Republic. Summer 2012 here has been dry, very dry.

“We’ve had no rain between the end of May and the beginning of August,” explains Doanuis Simon, who, just like almost everybody else here, makes a living as a farmer. Summer harvests were disappointing and people here now hope that the fall-winter season will bring good quantities of peas and other crops.

When you look around, it’s easy to forget that this is the Caribbeans. There’s the heat and the sun of course, but the mountains surrounding Cerca Carvajal have little in common with those of neighbouring islands, or even those on the other side of the border. It’s easy to spot the outline of the last few trees still standing on the hills in the distance. There are so few, one wonders whether it would be possible to count them.

Deforestation has brought with its load of challenges. In this hilly area, heavy rain is a threat for farmers.

“It’s lavalas,” says Bernato Joseph, using the creole word for flood. He knows what he’s talking about. He farms on a small parcel at the foot of a hill. “Rainwater rushes down the steep mountainside and destroys all the crops in its path.”

In 2010, the World Food Programme has financed a project submitted by the Organization for the development of Cerca Carvajal and local authorities. Val Vaudry, one of the founding members of the association, wanted to rehabilitate agricultural parcels, improve the productivity of existing ones and protect the hillside.

For two months, over a thousand people worked on the construction of terraces of the mountainside and built straw ramps in the valley.

“Look at my peas now,” says Bernato Joseph while showing plants taller than himself. “Before they would never grow higher than this,” he added showing with his hand a height not taller than his knees. The straw ramps built in 2010 act as a miniature dam that keeps rainwater and allows him to keep his garden moist for several days.

“Before our work, rainwater kept going down and my garden was dry,” he concludes. The result is remarkable. Bernato’s garden is lush and green.



Right next to the area where workers built infrastructure to retain rainwater, there are few or no crops at all. There is no point planting seeds if we know they will be wasted, say farmers.

On the hill above Bernato's garden, the terraces can be seen from far away. The hectare of land where the project took place is striped with dry walls built with white stones. It's also a lot greener.

"Agricultural production has increased," says a former worker. "The soil stays on the hill when it rains. The crops also stay put."

Farmers have noticed other benefits: the land fared much better than parcels with no infrastructure during the drought, and when the region was hit with the storms Isaac and Sandy.

"We would like to continue building dry walls on the hills," says another former worker. "This work was very useful," add others. In this rural area with high levels of food insecurity, the project generated revenues for hundreds of families and half of the workers were women. What they want is to keep rehabilitating their deforested hills. They see the long-term results and would like a larger number of farmers to benefit. The farmers are also hoping for the return of temporary work schemes.

"The income helped us a lot," they all say. They also have many other development projects.

"I wish we could construct ponds to create a fish farm," says Val Vaudry. A project among many that the people of Cerca Carvajal hope to achieve to improve their quality of life.



WFP as a Catalyst for Sustainable Solutions

On her first trip to Haiti as the Executive Director of the World Food Programme, Ertharin Cousin, confirmed WFP's commitment to support Haiti in finding sustainable solutions to hunger and malnutrition.

During the three-day visit, Cousin met with President Michel Martelly, Prime Minister, Laurent Lamothe and several members of Government. They resolved to work together to expand sustainable programmes, linking school feeding and education with reinforced local production.

"I had a chance to meet children who receive a hot meal at school each day, including milk that WFP buys from a local dairy. Working with the local community, we act as a catalyst to create market opportunities for Haiti's smallholder farmers while ensuring poor children receive both nutritious food and an education," said Cousin.

"... When it comes to food assistance, our priorities are clear: among them school feeding, local purchases and institutional capacity development. The agreement signed today has for objective the development of the National School Meals Programme (PNCS), to ensure this institution is able to fully assume its responsibilities so that the international community's engagement slowly becomes unnecessary... Many other partners have united under the leadership of the PNCS and even though I cannot name them all, I would like to salute the presence of the World Bank, Brazil, Canada, USAID, UNASUR, Spain, and Switzerland and to also note that several national and international NGOs support the implementation of the programme. I thank them because without their daily commitment to work side by side with the Government, the progress accomplished in the past months would not have been possible. I invite all of you to keep this collaboration going to allow a sustainable empowerment and development of the PNCS..."

*Excerpt from the speech of the Prime Minister of Haiti
on the occasion of the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding
between the Government of the Republic of Haiti
and the World Food Programme on school feeding in Haiti.*

13 December 2012, Port-au-Prince

For additional information, please write to: wfp.haiti@wfp.org

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