Haiti

Humanitarian Response Plan 2017–2018

FAO requires USD 22 million to assist 461,000 people.

Haiti remains affected by a convergence of humanitarian crises exacerbated by the impact of Hurricane Matthew (2016) and to a lesser extent Hurricanes Irma and Maria (2017), which have severely disrupted food production, impacting overall food security.

Objectives

FAO is working with partners in the Food Security Cluster to:

- Strengthen affected people’s resilience through timely life-saving assistance, protection, improved access to basic services and immediate livelihood restoration.
- Ensure access to food for the most affected populations.
- Improve the nutritional status of malnourished children under five and pregnant and lactating women in the community-based programmes.
- Increase food security through improved livelihoods and agricultural production.

Activities

**Restore agricultural production**

- vegetable seeds
- training
- tools
- nutrition education
- climate-resilient crop varieties
- community-based nurseries for fruit trees
- seed multiplication
- cash-for-work
- agroforestry systems
- agricultural infrastructure and processing facilities
- rehabilitation of irrigation canals
- rural roads and markets
- restore watersheds
- seedling production
- tree planting
- staple and cash crop production
- good agricultural and environmental practices for integrated production

**Recover livestock and fish production**

- fishing material
- livestock restocking
- fodder production
- installation of henhouses
- training
- reconstruction of destroyed boats
- cash for work

**Strengthen Food Security Sector coordination**

- food security assessments
- data analysis and monitoring
- sector contingency plans
- develop early recovery approach

Agriculture and livestock in Haiti – particularly the dairy sector – are a major source of income for poor rural communities. As many Haitians have seen their livelihoods disappear given the country’s high exposure and vulnerability to multiple hazards, repopulation of a part of the animals lost in the Hurricane, especially poultry and goats, is essential in order to improve food security.
Situation analysis

1.3 million people severely food insecure

2.8 million people at risk from flooding

USD 24 million is the estimated damage to the fishery sector due to Hurricane Matthew

2.7 million animals (cattle, goats, horses, pigs, poultry and sheep) lost due to Hurricane Matthew

16 000 ha of irrigated areas and 4 000 km of rural roads damaged by Hurricane Matthew

Impact on food security

After nearly three years of consecutive drought in Haiti further exacerbated by the El Niño phenomenon (2015), seven out of ten departments were severely devastated by the passage of Category 4 Hurricane Matthew (October 2016) – the most devastating disaster in Haiti since the 2010 earthquake and the strongest hurricane since Felix (2007). The catastrophic impact of its strong winds and excessive rainfall to the food security and livelihoods of affected communities is still felt.

Productive and commercial infrastructures were severely damaged, and agricultural, livestock and fishery losses reached almost 100 percent in the most impacted areas. Agricultural plots are flooded or full of debris as a result of the winds, and most of the irrigation canals are not operational as they were either destroyed or filled with sand.

Despite the slight improvement to food security following actions in response to Hurricane Matthew, the situation remains precarious due to a serious deficit in the domestic production of essential food supplies, and the residual effects of the Hurricane compounded by those of Hurricanes Irma and Maria in the northern part of the country.

The livestock that managed to survive are suffering from the lack of feed and pastures as well as poor health conditions. Most irrigation infrastructures, and production, stocking and processing facilities are still damaged. Fishers affected by the hurricanes still require lost equipment, including boat engines and fishing nets.