



EC/FAO Food Security Programme - Phase II
'Food Security Information for Action'

Programme Workplan for the Republic of Haiti

Donor:	European Commission
Implementing Agency:	FAO
Proposed Funding:	\$ 395,960 (without direct operating costs) \$ 423,677 (with direct operating costs) \$ (Exchange rate US\$ / EURO = 1.34) = 316,177
Duration:	3 years
Starting date:	1 April 2005

Phase II builds upon the work carried out under Phase I, taking into account the current situation in Haiti and on-going activities supported by partner organisations, in particular EC. Technical inputs and guidance will continue to be provided to strengthen national capacity to produce information on food insecurity and vulnerability for better action. In Phase II, the focus will be on the use of information products for improved policy and programme formulation and timely and effective interventions.

The Programme will support the following interventions, which have been selected in collaboration with the National Food Security Coordination Unit and the EC Country Delegation:

- *Strengthening of national capacity to issue information products at central and decentralized levels that respond to target users' needs*
- *Support to prepare Food Security Progress Reports and Flash Info to consolidate the results obtained under Phase I and help improve these products on a continuous basis*
- *Development of a decentralized network of information for the collection and analysis of information at department level, through training of decentralized focal points in key technical areas and support to local platforms*
- *Updating of the National Food Security Plan to provide a framework for the formulation and implementation of food security interventions at national and sub-national levels*
- *Participatory review of the mandate and functions of the National Coordination of Food Security to better respond to current priorities*
- *Development and management of a comprehensive integrated database which will cover MDG-related sectors in Haiti, in particular MDGs related to food insecurity and poverty*

November 2005

I. Background

Haiti is one of the seven countries selected under the EC/FAO Food Security Programme, Phase II, in the Group II Category, i.e. Countries under Protracted Crises. The country received previous support from the Programme under Phase I (Project GCP/INT/741/EC), with technical assistance being provided by the Secretariat of the Inter Agency Working Group on FIVIMS (located in FAO)¹.

Phase II builds upon the work carried out under Phase I. Technical inputs and guidance will continue to be provided under the umbrella of the FIVIMS Initiative to strengthen national capacity to produce better information on food insecurity and vulnerability for better action. In Phase II, the focus will be on the use of information products for improved policy and programme formulation and timely and effective interventions.

The activities selected have been identified together with the National Food Security Coordination Unit (Coordination Nationale de Sécurité Alimentaire - CNSA)², the EC Country Delegation and the FAO Representation during a mission in February 2005³. They will bring added value to the work achieved during Phase I, taking into account the current situation in Haiti and on-going activities supported by partner organisations, in particular EC.

2. Problems to be addressed

Haiti is the least developed country of the Western Hemisphere. Poverty and food insecurity concern about half the population (48%), three quarters of whom live in rural areas. About 70% of the population live on less than 1 USD a day (UNDP). Main causes include chronic political instability, violence and insecurity, low level of investments in infrastructure and social services, high income inequalities and over-exploitation of the environment, accelerated by high population density. Haiti is also very vulnerable to natural disasters, as illustrated by the dramatic events of 2004 when two flood disasters killed more than 2,000 people and Hurricane Ivan and Tropical Storm Jeanne destroyed the livelihoods of tens of thousands of people. Rates of malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies are high, especially among vulnerable groups.

A number of national institutions and development agencies provide assistance in reducing poverty and food insecurity. The main constraints they face are:

- (i) **Weakness of the institution responsible for coordinating food security activities and monitoring food security**, i.e. CNSA. CNSA is active and highly appreciated by all stakeholders but its capacity to play its role in coordinating numerous stakeholders, and in the production and dissemination of information which is the main way of supporting coordination and harmonisation, is undermined by its limited human and financial resources, the

¹ FIVIMS is an interagency initiative which promotes good practices in building information and mapping systems on food insecurity and vulnerability. The acronym stands for Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information and Mapping Systems.

² CNSA is the institution officially designated as focal point for the FIVIMS Initiative. CNSA is part of the Ministry of Agriculture (Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Ressources Naturelles et du Développement Rural - MARNDR). It is composed of:

- (i) An interministerial committee (Comité Interministériel de Sécurité Alimentaire – CISA) with membership including the five ministers most directly concerned with food security: Agriculture (chair), Health, Planning, Finance and Commerce;
- (ii) A Bureau Technique d'Appui which serves as Secretariat to the CISA.

³ Details provided in Mission report of F. Trine, February 2005.

fact that the structure has never been formalised and the difficulty for the institution to be truly multi-sectorial, since the Inter-ministerial Committee which heads the unit (CISA - see footnote) is *de facto* dominated by the Minister of Agriculture which chairs the committee.

- (ii) **Insufficient coordination of a high number of institutions and partners involved in food security** leading to less than optimal implementation of activities; this problem became even more acute with the involvement of humanitarian agencies, following the political crisis and natural disasters in 2004.
- (iii) **Lack of a regular flow of reliable information from decentralised level to national decision-makers.** Information is currently collected on an ad hoc basis through national surveys and sub-national data collection exercises carried out by external partners.
- (iv) **No priority given by Government to food security**, and therefore information to improve it, due to recurrent political instability and limited awareness of the importance of reducing food insecurity for the development of the country.

3. Previous and On-going Assistance

A number of partners are active in food security interventions and information, in particular the EC. Since the end of the 1980s, the EC has spent about 50 million Euros on food security in order to strengthen the capacity of national institutions (MoA, CNSA and School Canteens Programme) and support civil society organisations. The EC is currently providing support to CNSA for the establishment of a Food Security Observatoire. Some of the activities proposed will add value to specific areas covered by the Observatoire, in particular for training CNSA decentralized focal points in some key technical areas and develop their capacity to support local platforms. The implementation will be carried out in partnership with CNSA, which is setting up the Observatoire, and in close collaboration with the EC Delegation ensuring that there is no duplication.

USAID is also active in implementing food security interventions and monitoring their impact through a network of American NGOs (CARE, SCF, World Vision). CARE is running an Early Warning System in the North West of the country. The main UN System agencies are also involved in food security related activities (WFP/VAM, UNDP, UNICEF, OCHA).

Assistance provided under the Phase I of the Programme focused on strengthening CNSA capacity in analysing and publishing information^{4,5}. This activity was identified as a priority at

⁴ Assistance was also provided to:

- Develop a national early warning system to improve the monitoring of food security at sub-national level: analysis of CARE experience in the North West of the country to draw lessons useful to progressively develop an information system covering the whole country.
- Officialise CNSA: resources have been allocated to define the best institutional and legal framework. Important progress have been made but the process was interrupted by the change of government.

More information is available in the document: “Résultats obtenus par le Projet GCP/INT/741/EC in Haiti”.

⁵ Publications include: one Food Security Progress Report; 8 Quarterly Reports, produced with direct financial support from EC, and 6 Flash Info.

the beginning of Phase I because CNSA lacked visibility. This jeopardized its existence and support from partners, including the EC which has always been a key sponsor of the institution. The support provided to develop publications produced good results, providing target user groups with information useful for improving interventions and strengthening CNSA's capacity to play better its role in providing information and coordination. This contributed to increasing its audience and attracting resources. These results need however to be consolidated.

4. Objectives of the Programme in Haiti

The main objective of the Programme under Phase II is to strengthen achievements, increasing the impact of the information provided on decision-making through:

- better identification and response to decision-making needs to guide interventions and policy making;
- updated food security policy framework for the formulation and implementation of food security interventions, in harmonisation with the PRSP which will be prepared next year;
- improved quality of data and information by supporting the development of a decentralised information system;
- review of CNSA mandate and functions to better respond to current expectations;
- development and management of the CNSA database for sharing and dissemination of data and information among all national and partner agencies.

5. Expected Outcomes

The following outcomes are expected at the end of the Programme:

- Enhanced capacity of national staff at central and decentralised levels to produce effective information products and communicate with decision-makers;
- Increased visibility of CNSA with a positive impact on its capacity to mobilise resources from partner agencies and fulfil its mandate regarding coordination and provision of information;
- Policy reference framework for food security available to all stakeholders to guide planning and implementation of activities in a coordinated way;
- Common set of data and information available to all national and partner institutions.

6. Results, Activities and Inputs

Some of the activities selected are in direct line with the activities carried out during Phase I, others are new and will add value to on-going activities.

Activities in direct continuity with first phase, for consolidation of the results which have been obtained during Phase I.

1. **Support to prepare two Food Security Progress Reports and improve these products on a continuous basis:** The publication will be produced every two years. Two reports will be prepared during the period covered by the Programme.

Inputs:

- (i) international and national expertise to support CNSA in the definition of contents and the writing of a draft document, in collaboration with main stakeholders;

- (ii) financial resources to:
 - organise two workshops (2 day duration each) for the second report (a start up meeting to discuss the outline of the document with stakeholders and a meeting to present and discuss the results with them – the workshops for the first report will be directly covered by EC under the Observatoire Project);
 - extract and analyse data from the Demographic Census and produce and publish maps;
 - edit, format and publish the second report (covered by EC funds for the first report).

2. Support for the preparation and publication of a Flash Info every month and continuous improvement:

Inputs:

- (i) national expertise to coordinate the preparation of the publication and implement activities for strengthening the decentralised network of information (see next activity);
- (ii) financial resources for the publication of the Flash.

3. Strengthening of national capacity to produce relevant information products at central and decentralized levels for target users' groups, through:

- (i) Organisation of a user/producer workshop to analyse information requirements and information products which are currently available and make recommendations to improve them
- (ii) Organisation of a technical workshop involving staff from national institutions to discuss the implementation of the recommendations, compare their own products with products developed in other countries, improve current practices and communication with decision-makers. This workshop will use distance learning tools which are being developed under the Programme.

Inputs:

- (i) Financial resources to organise a one day user-producer workshop;
- (ii) Technical and financial resources to organise a one week technical workshop. Technical assistance will be provided by Programme Staff. One FAO staff from the unit responsible for developing distance learning tools will attend the workshops and provide support.

Note: A regular review of the publications will be carried out during each mission by the Food Security Analyst (three missions planned during Phase II), together with CNSA and the main stakeholders to continuously try to improve the quality and relevance of the information provided in the publications, making them useful to on-going interventions.

- 4. Development of a decentralised network of information:** the main constraint for providing information useful for decision-making is the lack of reliable information from sub-national level (departments). Direct support is already being provided by the EC to develop regional platforms in which key local stakeholders will be represented, with support from the fourteen CNSA focal points (called Chargés de Liaison) who are based in the decentralised offices of the Ministry of Agriculture. These Chargés de liaison will supply CNSA with updated information. Additional resources are needed to

train them in a number of technical areas and develop their capacity to support local platforms.

Inputs:

- (i) technical assistance and resources to train decentralised focal points in priority areas directly useful to their work (rapid assessment of agricultural production, information management, writing of report, strengthening participation, etc.); five training sessions of five days are planned for the 14 focal points (one every six months);
- (ii) financial resources to provide basic equipment to the decentralised focal points.

New Interventions:

5. **Updating of the National Food Security Plan** (Plan National de Sécurité Alimentaire – PNSA): This represents a high priority for CNSA and EC. An updated Plan will provide a framework for the formulation and implementation of food security interventions at national and sub-national levels. Care will be taken to ensure that the framework proposed in the new PNSA is integrated into PRSP (expected to be prepared at the end of 2005-beginning 2006).

Inputs: Assistance will consist of provision of national and international expertise to organise meetings and workshops at central and decentralised levels and draft the document, with the guidance of a working group where national institutions and partner organisations will be represented.

6. **Review of CNSA mandate and functions:** This is considered a top priority by CNSA as circumstances have changed since the institution was established in 1996 and changes are needed to better respond to (evolving) needs. CNSA expects this review to contribute to strengthening its multi-sectoriality and clarifying its priorities in relation to available resources. The process will be participative, involving all stakeholders.

Inputs: Assistance will consist of provision of international and national expertise for drafting a document in a participatory way, with extensive involvement of national and in-country international partners and civil society.

7. **Development and Management of Database:** CNSA is looking for a user-friendly software to develop and manage its database at central and decentralised levels and for sharing information with stakeholders. DevInfo appears to be an appropriate software. The provision of very limited support will contribute to the development of a comprehensive integrated database covering MDG-related sectors in Haiti, in particular MDGs related to food insecurity and poverty. The government, with support from UNICEF and UNDP, plans to operationalize DevInfo across all ministries. UNICEF and UNDP will train CNSA in using DevInfo.

Inputs – Assistance will consist of provision of national expertise to identify best options available to CNSA, organise and populate the database.

Phase I experience shows that the level of and timing of output delivery largely depends on the implementing capacity of the country, the activities being jointly implemented with the national focal point institution, but also on external events. The main threat in Haiti comes from insecurity which is very high and is expected to increase in the coming months with the elections scheduled at the beginning of next year. The project's progress and delivery will be closely monitored and the work plan will be regularly updated to take into account those expected delays and problems encountered during the project operation.