



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

### Programme Workplan for the Republic of Haiti

<b>Donor:</b>	European Commission
<b>Implementing Agency:</b>	FAO
<b>Proposed Funding:</b>	EURO 295, 493 \$ 395,960 (Exchange rate US\$ / EURO = 1.34)
<b>Duration:</b>	3 years
<b>Starting date:</b>	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 decision-making. 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 to be supported by the Programme were revised with in-country partners, including the National Food Security Coordination Unit (CNSA) and EC Country Delegation, during a mission in June 2006, to take into account the Proposal submitted by CNSA to the EC for Phase II of the National Food Security Observatoire (NFSO). Programme activities have been reformulated to be complementary to the NFSO Proposal. They are however clearly distinct to avoid any risk of duplication or confusion between the two sources of funding. The revised workplan focuses on the following interventions:*

- **Support in preparing and publishing Food Security Progress Reports** - These reports provide an in-depth analysis of food security in the country, current trends and recommendations to decision-makers for food security policies and interventions.
- **Support for the preparation and publication of a Flash Info every month and a Quarterly Report every three months** - These publications aim at monitoring the food security situation and foresee short-term trends.
- **Strengthening national capacity to produce relevant information products at central and decentralized levels for decision-making**, through the organization of a five-day training workshop and an assessment of user information needs.
- **Development of a decentralized network of information for the collection and analysis of information at department level.**

November 2005 - Updated in July 2006

## 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 FAO-FIVIMS Programme<sup>1</sup>.

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 quality information on food insecurity and vulnerability that effectively and efficiently support decision-making. 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)<sup>2</sup>, the EC Country Delegation and the FAO Representation during a mission in February 2005<sup>3</sup>. 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.

Programme activities were revised with in-country partners, including CNSA and the EC Country Delegations, during a mission in June 2006, to take into account the Proposal submitted by CNSA to the EC for Phase II of the National Food Security Observatoire (NFSO)<sup>4</sup>. The interventions supported by the EC/FAO Programme have been reformulated to be complementary to the NFSO Proposal. They are however clearly distinct to those proposed under NFSO to avoid any risk of duplication or confusion between the two sources of funding, a main concern of the EC Delegation.

## 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.

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<sup>1</sup> FIVIMS is an 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> Details provided in Mission report of F. Trine, February 2005.

<sup>4</sup> Details provided in Mission report of F. Trine, June 2006.

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 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) **Low 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 National 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<sup>5,6</sup>. This activity was identified as a priority at

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<sup>5</sup> 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.

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 objective of the Programme under Phase II is to support evidence-based decisions which contribute to greater food security. They build on Phase I achievements, to:

- Provide better quality information to support the formulation, targeting, implementation and monitoring of evidence-based policies and programmes;
- Strengthen the collection and analysis of information in the departments to ensure the availability of timely and reliable information at central and department levels, by supporting the development of a decentralised information system based on local platforms.

## 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 more relevant, credible and accessible food security information products (FSIPs) 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;
- Strengthened capacity of local platforms to provide good quality information in a timely way to feed local and national decision-making processes.

## 6. Results, Activities and Inputs

The activities supported by the Programme during Phase II will consolidate the results which have been obtained during Phase I.

1. **Support to prepare and publish Food Security Progress Reports:** CNSA plans to prepare food security progress reports every two years. Two reports are expected to be prepared during the period covered by the Programme.

### Inputs:

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- 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”.

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

- (i) international and national expertise to support CNSA in the definition of contents and the writing of draft documents, in collaboration with main stakeholders;
- (ii) financial resources to:
  - organise two workshops for each report (2 days duration each): a start up workshop to discuss the outline of the document with stakeholders and a workshop to present and discuss the results;
  - edit, format and publish the reports.

**2. Support for the preparation and publication of a Flash Info every month and a Quarterly Report every three months:**

**Inputs:**

- (i) International and national expertise to coordinate the preparation of the publication;
- (ii) financial resources for the publication of the Flash Info and Quarterly Reports.

**3. Strengthening of national capacity to produce relevant information products at central and decentralized levels for decision-making, through:**

- (i) Organisation of a training workshop involving staff from national institutions working at central and decentralized levels to analyze existing information products and identify priorities to be addressed for improving them. Some sessions will make use of the lessons of the distance learning programme which are being developed under the EC/FAO Programme.
- (ii) Analysis of priority information needs of decision-makers at central and department levels with concrete and realistic recommendations to improve the content and format of FSIPs, taking into account available human and financial resources.

**Inputs:**

- (i) Technical and financial resources to organise a one week training workshop.
- (ii) International and national expertise to analyse decision-makers' needs.

Note: A regular review of the publications will be carried out during each mission by Programme staff (three missions planned during Phase II), together with CNSA and the main stakeholders to continuously improve the quality and relevance of the publications, making them more 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). Support will be provided under the Programme to develop the capacity of the fourteen CNSA focal points to assist regional platforms (where key local stakeholders are represented) in providing good quality information.

**Inputs:**

- (i) technical assistance and resources to increase the capacity of decentralised focal points in priority areas directly useful to their work (rapid assessment of agricultural production, information management, writing of report, strengthening participation, etc.); on-the-job and

- formal training will be provided during workshops and meetings in Port-au-Prince;
- (ii) financial resources to provide basic equipment to the decentralised focal points.

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 threats in Haiti come from insecurity and political instability which are very high. 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.