



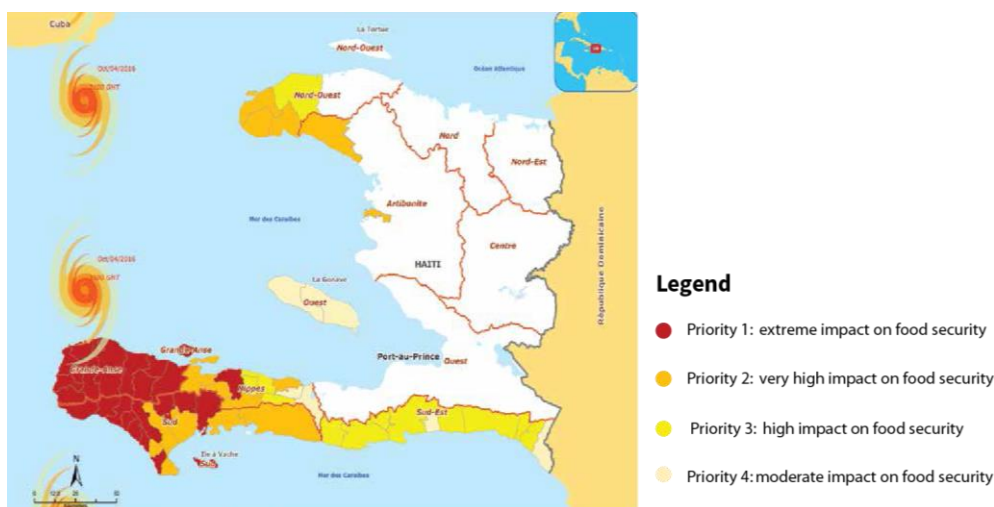
## FAO’s three-month response plan to Hurricane Matthew in Haiti

October 2016

### HIGHLIGHTS

On 3 and 4 October 2016, Category 4 Hurricane Matthew cut a path of destruction across the Republic of Haiti. Its devastating winds and heavy rainfall caused widespread damage in the southwest of the country. The most affected departments are Grande-Anse, Sud, Sud-Est and Nippes. The death toll in the country is rising to at least 546 and cholera is spreading.

A Flash Appeal was launched on 10 October to provide immediate support to 750 000 affected people for the next three months. Within this framework, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) requires USD 9 million to provide immediate crop, livestock and fisheries support to 300 000 hurricane-affected people.



Map 1: Impact of Hurricane Matthew on food security (emergency food security assessment, 2016)

### PRE-HURRICANE CONTEXT

During the last three years, Haiti has been hit by severe climatic disturbances characterized by repeated episodes of drought followed by erratic rainfall. In 2015 and 2016, the impact of the El Niño phenomenon has worsened the already critical food security and nutrition situation. The prolonged drought has led to a reduction of more than 50 percent of crop production for the 2015 main cropping season (spring), resulting in the lowest annual agricultural output in a decade. The sharp drop in output resulted in prices of locally grown food commodities to rise significantly during the first half of the year, with some reaching record levels, increasing the dependency on food imports. As the Haitian currency - the Haitian gourde - has continued to lose value against the United States dollar, prices of imported food have also risen sharply in local markets.

Haiti is one of the poorest and least developed countries in the western hemisphere, with 59 percent of people living in poverty and close to 25 percent in extreme poverty. This situation is exacerbated by the limited or lack of access to electricity, clean water, proper sanitation and healthcare. The humanitarian context is complex due to multiple inter-linked risk factors, namely: political instability and insecurity, persistence of cholera, bi-national mixed migration crisis with the Dominican Republic, remaining caseloads of internally displaced people from the 2010 earthquake (around 60 000 people) and the country’s high vulnerability to natural disasters and climate change. Over the last two decades, the country has been repeatedly affected by severe natural disasters and emergencies, the most recent of which has been the persistent drought with major repercussions on the food security and nutrition in the country.

## EFFECTS AND IMPACT OF THE HURRICANE



**1.4 million people** in need of humanitarian assistance

**100 percent of crops** damaged in hardest-hit areas



Strong winds and excessive rainfall have caused extensive damages and losses and catastrophic impacts to the food security and livelihoods of communities living in affected areas. Early reports indicate 546 deaths, however this figure is expected to rise significantly. Social, productive and commercial infrastructure, including houses, roads and bridges, were damaged; agricultural harvests and assets, and animals were lost; and the fishing sector has been almost completely whipped out.

Although more detailed evaluations and assessments still have to be finalized by the Government of the Republic of Haiti with the support of FAO and other partners, the situation is of concern. The passage of Hurricane Matthew is the most devastating disaster in Haiti since the 2010 earthquake and the strongest hurricane since Georges in 1997.

Preliminary reports undertaken by humanitarian agencies indicate that 2.1 million people are affected by the impact of the Hurricane and 1.4 million people are in need of immediate humanitarian assistance. According to the emergency food security assessment, 806 000 people are in need of urgent food assistance (priority areas are the departments of Grande Anse, Nippes and Sud), while over 1.9 million people are at risk of food insecurity.

With at least 78 percent of the affected population relying on agriculture for their livelihoods, the effects of Hurricane Matthew are having a direct impact on the lack of income from crop, livestock and fishery value chains, as well as income-generating opportunities for vulnerable people. More specifically, the Hurricane has affected the agriculture-, livestock- and fishery-based livelihoods of 600 000 people (120 000 households).

Local production has been strongly impacted and almost completely destroyed in the most affected departments, which are also the second most productive after the Artibonite and Centre departments. Subsequently, food prices are expected to further increase in the next three months. Moreover, given precarious water and sanitation conditions, an upsurge of cholera cases has been reported.

Where the hurricane hit, 100 percent of staple crop harvests were lost (bean, cassava, maize, rice, sugar cane, sweet potatoes and yam) and trees (avocado, banana, cacao, coffee, mango, plantain, etc.) were eradicated. Agricultural plots are flooded or full of debris as a result of hurricane winds, and most of the irrigation canals are not operational as they have been either destroyed or filled with sand and debris.

The three departments in Haiti most impacted by the Hurricane – Grand Anse, Nippes and Sud – represent close to 19 percent of the country's 736 200 ha of usable agricultural land (FAO, 2015). However, close to 30 percent of usable agricultural land was impacted by excessive levels of rainfall.

Livestock production has also been considerably affected as animal stock (caprine, ovine, porcine and poultry) were decimated. Significant livestock deaths were recorded and those still alive are suffering from the lack of feed and pastures. Fishers living in the coast impacted by the hurricane have lost all their equipment and tools, including boats.

Production, stock and processing infrastructure (mills, milk processing units and silos) were severely damaged and in most cases, will not be operational without external rehabilitation interventions.

## FAO'S THREE-MONTH RESPONSE



FAO requires  
USD 9 million



To assist  
60 000 affected families (300 000 people)

In order to respond to the most immediate needs of disaster-affected populations, FAO in Haiti will undertake emergency rapid response interventions to ensure the distribution of time-critical inputs to restore and protect the livelihoods and food security of affected populations. FAO will implement a flexible and multidimensional operational strategy to address immediate needs in order to facilitate rapid increases in food availability and access, and protect the overall food production capacity in the country.

FAO's three-month response strategy seeks to address the needs of various livelihood groups affected by the crisis, such as livestock owners, farmers and fishers, through a series of strategic multisector and multiphase interventions, in coordination with the Government and other stakeholders. FAO seeks to assist 300 000 people (60 000 households) in need of immediate livelihood support, selecting the most vulnerable communities, mainly severely food-insecure people who depend on agricultural activities (agriculture, livestock and fishery) for their livelihoods, and people living in the rural areas of the most affected departments – Grand Anse, Nippes and Sud.

Efforts will be made to ensure that farmers, including women, benefit from the interventions, reaching a minimum of 60–70 percent female and child beneficiaries.

During the three months, FAO will focus on the recovery of livelihoods through the rapid reactivation of production activities. Interventions will include: (i) the distribution of seeds and tools for the implementation of the winter staple crops season (Figure 1) and short-cycle horticultural crops; (ii) livestock protection through medical and feed assistance; and (iii) rehabilitation of the fishery sector through the provision of fishing equipment to fishers who lost their livelihoods.

Within the framework of the Food Security Cluster, FAO will work in partnership with other actors providing food assistance to the most at-risk populations and ensuring that they can implement agricultural activities considering that nutritional basic needs are met at least for the first three months of the intervention.

Joint programming will be implemented, when necessary, enabling FAO to provide timely support to the most affected populations. Local procurement will be prioritized<sup>1</sup> and partnerships with government institutions and local associations will be pursued.

FAO will rely on the involvement of local national implementing partners – both Non-governmental Organizations and institutional partners – that are present and actively working in identified departments. The selection of implementing partners will be carried out according to FAO procedures, which are aimed at guaranteeing transparency and fairness<sup>2</sup>.

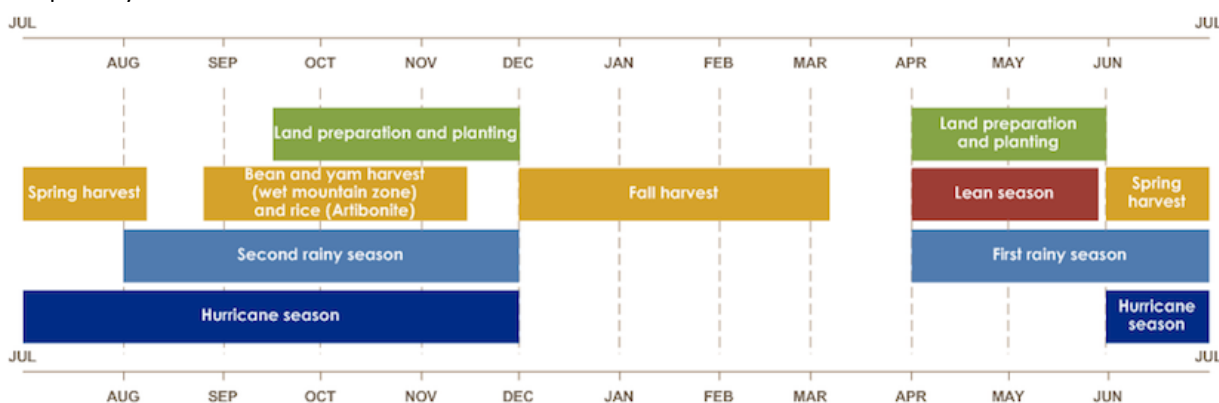





Figure 1: Agricultural calendar in Haiti (Famine Early Warning System Network, 2013)

<sup>1</sup> As armed groups are attacking humanitarian convoys that are delivering humanitarian packages, FAO, when possible, will procure inputs locally and work in close collaboration with the Government, the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti and national police forces.

<sup>2</sup> Selection criteria will include past experience of the partner in the agriculture sector and the length of presence and activity in the area of intervention.

## LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

<p><b>Impact:</b> Contribute to protecting vulnerable populations affected by Hurricane Matthew from food insecurity.</p> <p><b>Outcome:</b> The livelihoods and food security of 60 000 rural households affected by Hurricane Matthew in the departments of Grande Anse, Nippes and Sud are restored, enhanced and diversified.</p>		
		
<p><b>Output 1:</b> Rapid emergency livelihood and food security support is provided to the most vulnerable households through agricultural activities.</p>	<p><b>Output 2:</b> Rapid emergency livelihood and food security support is provided to the most vulnerable households through livestock protection.</p>	<p><b>Output 3:</b> Rapid emergency livelihood and food security support is provided to the most vulnerable households through restoration of fisheries and aquaculture activities.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cleaning and rehabilitation of agricultural plots and irrigation canals damaged by the Hurricane.</li> <li>• agricultural input distributions (staple crop seeds such as beans, cassava, maize, rice, , sweet potatoes and yam; short-cycle horticultural crop seeds; and tools) and provision of technical assistance.</li> <li>• Distribution of inputs for fruit (avocado, banana, cocoa, coffee and mango) and forest tree seedling production.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restocking of small livestock (goats, pigs, poultry and sheep) for vulnerable households (inputs and technical support)</li> <li>• Establishment of veterinary support teams and provision of veterinary kits.</li> <li>• Provision of emergency fodder for livestock.</li> <li>• Support to farmers for the establishment of fodder crops (inputs and technical support).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• distribution (fishing equipment) and provision of technical support).</li> <li>• Provision of construction material for the rehabilitation of community infrastructure for fish processing and selling.</li> </ul>

## ESTIMATED BUDGET

BUDGET ITEM	COST (USD)
PERSONNEL (staff, consultants, technical support and travel)	1 580 000
SUPPLIES AND INPUTS (to be distributed)	4 741 818
CONTRACT (with implementing partners)	1 240 000
OPERATIONAL DIRECT COST (communication, logistic, security, office)	620 000
INDERECT COSTS (not more than 10 %)	818 182
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9 000 000</b>