

HAITI RECOVERY

Update

19 February 2010

United Nations Development Programme



UN

DP

HAITI Earthquake Update: UNDP's Early Recovery

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) continues to address the impact of the earthquake in Haiti. We are focused on providing time-critical assistance and supporting recovery initiatives by affected communities to rebuild lives, livelihoods and rehabilitate essential social infrastructure. UNDP is seeking US\$103.9 million under the recently-launched revised UN Humanitarian Appeal for \$1.4 billion.

The primary focus is livelihoods support and preparation for the hurricane season. Activities include:

- Technical support to Government and Municipal Recovery Coordinators;
- Livelihoods restoration through cash-for-work in Port-au-Prince and other affected communities;
- Organization of labour-intensive emergency public works in support of humanitarian operations;
- Support to early recovery strategic planning and coordination;
- Solid waste collection systems in affected urban areas;
- Preparation for the hurricane season by establishing early warning systems;
- Watershed management to reduce risk of flooding;
- Provision of micro-grants to those most affected by the earthquake; and
- Protection for displaced Haitians in the border area with the Dominican Republic.

Programmes already under implementation

■ The **cash-for-work programme** is at the heart of UNDP's efforts in Haiti. The project is putting thousands of Haitians to work, enabling them to earn an income as they help their country recover from the devastating earthquake that struck on 12 January 2010.

Each worker is paid 180 gourdes, or about \$4.50 at current rates of exchange, for six hour's labour. This is slightly more than

Haiti's minimum wage, which is important so as not to distort the local labour market and draw jobs away from the private sector that is critically important in ensuring long-term recovery.

Currently about 35,000 people—40 percent of whom are women—are enrolled in this effort, with many more being indirect beneficiaries. We expect to reach over 52,000 Haitians, in the coming weeks, as conditions and funds allow.

The work includes removing building rubble from the streets, crushing and sorting of reusable material and disposal of debris and restoring essential public facilities to lay the foundations for mid-term recovery and development. We are also clearing sites for safe re-settlement, repairing surface water drainage and improving road access to and through affected areas.

The benefits are clear:

- It puts cash into the pockets of Haitians, so they can purchase goods and services of their choosing, thereby having a positive impact on the local economy whilst directly benefiting families;
- Instead of a hand-out, the cash-for-work programme offers a hand up;
- Opens up areas of the city to access by emergency vehicles, and public and private transportation;



Pierre Wadner and Beaugene Eligene pound material that will be used to create fuel briquettes. The cash-for-work programme provides critical employment for hundreds of Haitians. Photo: Adam Rogers/UNDP

- Removes garbage and refuse that are a hazard to human health; and
- The fuel bricks provide an alternative fuel source and reduce reliance on wood harvesting, thereby promoting soil conservation and reduced erosion.

Currently, the cash-for-work programme is being implemented by UNDP, together with neighbourhood committees, DINEPA (*Direction Nationale de l'eau Potable et de l'assainissement*), DPC (*Direction de la Protection Civile*) and municipalities, so that the programme is for Haitians and according to their needs and priorities, with ownership of the national institutions. In a further boost to the local economy, UNDP purchased tools and equipment through local merchants. The programme is very flexible and can be implemented in localities outside of Port-au-Prince.

■ **Coordination:** UNDP has been leading the in-country early recovery cluster since 22 January 2010. Cash-for-work activities and other early recovery efforts are coordinated at this level. Agreement has been reached to divide the affected neighbourhoods covered by the Government (DINEPA, municipality), non-governmental organizations and UNDP (under the direct implementation modality). UNDP is currently coordinating with Unicef and the World Food Programme to further expand the cash-for-work programme.

■ **Funds for cash-for-work:** Through the revised UN Humanitarian Appeal, UNDP is requesting \$80.2 million—of the \$103.9 million—for the cash-for-work programme. To date, \$27.3 million has been confirmed from a wide variety of donors; the funding gap stands at \$52.9 million. Significant donor support is urgently needed to expand the cash-for-work programme and reach the largest number of affected Haitians.

Strengthening the Government's capacities

A critical area of focus for UNDP is the strengthening of the Government's capacities to address the crisis, which has been further weakened by the earthquake, and also the planning capacity of key ministries that would allow the Government of Haiti to plan and implement the reconstruction of the country. UNDP aims to support the Government on disaster management and to ensure that the recently-launched Post-Disaster Needs Assessment—a multi-stakeholder exercise—is nationally owned. Experts on disaster management were sent to work with the Department of Civil Protection.

Confirmed Contributions to UNDP Haiti Recovery Efforts

Theme	Funders	Total Amount US\$ To date*
UNDP's cash-for-work programme	Australia, Burkina Faso, Chad, China, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Norway, Spain, Benfica Foundation, Korean-American Association, Korean Broadcast Company, UN Central Emergency Response Fund, UN Emergency Relief Response Fund for Haiti, UN Peacebuilding Fund, UNDP	27,320,000
Other UNDP recovery projects: micro-grants, environmental impact mitigation, hurricane preparation, support for displaced Haitians in the Dominican Republic		7,921,500

Source: UNDP * 19 February 2010, numbers subject to change

For more updates please visit:

www.undp.org/haiti

For more information:

United Nations Development Programme
Office of Communications
One United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017

