

Livelihoods, Cash-for-Work and Area-Based Recovery

Workers are collecting garbage and rubble out of the irrigation canals as part of the cash-for-work programme in order to prevent further disasters when the rainy season starts in April.



Photo: UNDP Haiti

Building upon the rapid response to the earthquake disaster

The UNDP-led Cash-for-Work programme started on 20 January 2010, eight days after the earthquake. It was introduced as an emergency measure to provide short-term employment opportunities and to inject money into the local economy in areas affected by the earthquake. These included the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area, Leogane, Petit Guave, Grand Guave, Martissant and Jacmel. As of 26 March, a total of 75,916 workers have been offered short-term employment, 40 percent of whom are women. Work includes removal and disposal of building debris and garbage from the streets, both in the formal and spontaneously displaced settlements. In order to prevent flooding, workers are also cleaning drainage systems and canals used as water evacuation routes during the rainy season. This has become a priority as the rainy and hurricane seasons approach. Currently, each unskilled worker is paid about US\$100.00 for 24 work days in a month. Working six-hour shifts, workers are hired in cycles of 12-24 days per month to give an optimal number of people access to employment. The programme has led to increased stability and food security during a period of high vulnerability.



Furthermore, preliminary findings of the Post Disaster Needs Assessment indicate that Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)–the foundations of economic and employment opportunities in Haiti–were extensively affected by the earthquake leading *inter alia* to price instability and the loss of entire companies, infrastructure and inventories. This has led to heavy losses of assets, livelihoods and employment in all of the departments directly affected by the earthquake. This highlights the pressing need for direct support to MSMEs and for coherent area-based strategies, which will lead to the economic recovery of the affected areas. The exodus of thousands of inhabitants from Port-au-Prince and the regional centres to the countryside means that there is a need for the generation of new employment and livelihood opportunities in the more rural departments. This means that providing support for the revival and reactivation of the rural sector and promoting the emergence of new MSMEs has become a priority.

UNDP's Approach

Over the next three years, UNDP will aim to build upon the success of the cash-for-work programme through the promotion of area-based recovery and livelihoods restoration in those localities affected either directly or indirectly by the earthquake. The objective is to support both the development of sustainable livelihoods and at the same time, the economic recovery of affected areas. It is anticipated that this will help ensure a smooth transition from humanitarian activities to recovery and development interventions. UNDP will collaborate with the Government of Haiti and other UN partners including the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the International Labour Organization on implementing different aspects of these programmes components.

Programme Components

Cash-for-Work programme

At the end of March 2010, the initial number of job opportunities created was over 75,916 and increasing. A further 300,000 temporary jobs are expected to be created during the remainder of 2010, subject to funding. During the second half of 2010, the number of jobs created is anticipated to progressively decrease, as the situation stabilizes and becomes more conducive for economic activity. The focus therefore

will progressively move towards the creation of more sustainable employment opportunities over the medium term.

UNDP currently works with its key partners: *la Direction Nationale de l'eau potable et de l'assainissement* (DINEPA), the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture, local authorities, local and international non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations on implementing the cash-for-work programme. UNDP, along with its key partners, is currently working and planning for cash-for-work initiatives in the following areas:

- cyclone season preparation activities;
- clearance and disposal of small debris;
- priority municipal works (water and sanitation);
- environment;
- education;
- rehabilitation of agricultural infrastructure including irrigation canals, access and feeder roads; and
- transitional shelters and market centres.

In collaboration with the World Food Programme, UNDP is implementing a joint cash/food-for-work programme in various provinces, initially targeting displaced people and their host communities. In addition, UNDP and UNICEF are collaborating to address employment opportunities in the education sector, thus providing cash for teachers to resume their functions.

Decentralized Recovery Programme

This programme is designed to serve as an important catalyst for building local capacities through training and demonstrations, while launching a series of activities designed to bring noticeable and sustainable improvement to essential services and facilities, through multiple public works projects in the earthquake affected areas. In each location, activities will be identified through a dialogue on sectoral and thematic priorities with departments of local government and civil society. Findings will be published in documents to form an annual Area Recovery Agenda (ARA), the size and complexity based on available donor funding. ARAs will become a strategic document, offering a series of

multi-sectoral project interventions that will lead to improvement in the quality of life for the populations affected by the earthquake. In this regard, linkages with the cash-for-work programme approach will be made. Projects identified in the ARA will include the rehabilitation or construction of public amenities, including, schools, health facilities, water and sanitation systems, market places, roads and bridges, drainage canals, irrigation systems and recreation facilities.

Small grants for micro and small enterprises

The programme of support to micro and small enterprises aims at providing small grants for asset replacement coupled with management and skills training to assist up to 20,000 small businesses of Haitian entrepreneurs. Provision of grants will happen in stages and based on solid business plans. This will contribute to building the foundations for immediate economic recovery and future resilience in Haiti, creating longer term job opportunities. In particular, it will focus on the construction and services sectors. At a later stage, promoting an enabling environment for long-term employment creation, including support to private sector recovery and development of private-public sector partnerships, will be pursued. UNDP, in partnership with UNCDF, will work with the relevant government departments, civil society and community-based organizations, the Haitian Economic Forum and other private sector actors.

Budget

The overall budget for the livelihoods, cash-for-work and Area-Based Recovery components of UNDP's programme for the 2010–2012 period is \$149.2 million. Of this, \$80.2 million is to be allocated to the cash-for-work programme (included in the Flash Appeal); \$45 million to the Decentralized Recovery Programme and \$24 million to the programme of support for small enterprises (of which \$10 million was included in the Flash Appeal).