



HAITI

Reducing Disaster Risk

Disaster Context

Haiti is frequently troubled by floods, hurricanes, and earthquakes. Its geographic location, political and institutional unrest, and an overall high level of vulnerability put Haiti at particular risk of small- and large-scale natural disasters. Since 1999, several prevention activities have been developed, such as a participatory programme on local risk management, risk mapping, and a thematic approach in health and agriculture.

Project Titles

Reducing Disaster Risk in Haiti (HAI/98/006, HAI/99/005 and HAI/01/003)

Sectors

- Coordination of the UN system disaster management team
- Capacity-building in disaster preparedness and prevention
- Community-based risk management

Funding

UNDP provided funds for the following projects from TRAC 1.1.3 funds, HAI/98/006: \$50,000; HAI/99/005: \$162,000; HAI/01/003: \$200,000. The project also received 270,000 euros from the Disaster Preparedness for the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office and \$80,000 from the US Office for Foreign Disaster Assistance for local risk-management activities.

Partners

- UN agencies
- Bilateral agencies

Programme Activities

Since Hurricane George in 1998, UNDP and its partners have supported the Haitian Government's

efforts to achieve three main objectives:

- Elaboration of a National Plan on Risk and Disaster Management
- Institutional National System on Risk and Disaster Management
- Support to the implementation of a "pilot" Emergency Operations Centre (EOC)

The following three factors have made positive contributions to the reinforcement of national capacities in Haiti:

- Institutional strengthening on disaster preparedness, such as EOC training and the establishment of regional institutions, particularly in reinforcement of leadership in the Civil Protection Office
- Strong institutional coordination among greater than 40 organisations and institutions
- Participation among the private sector, civil society, donors, and the government in preparing the National Plan on Risk and Disaster Management

In this context, several important achievements have been made in strengthening institutions at the central and local levels during the last four years. Since 1999, nearly 100 local participatory committees have been created and trained in high-risk, low-income areas outside the capital, Port-au-Prince. These committees, which include local authorities and civil-society and private-sector organisations, reflect the importance of this issue for the majority of the urban and rural Haitian population. Furthermore, national and international NGOs (such as OXFAM and World Vision) are working with local authorities in to promote the goals of the National Plan throughout the country.