

HAITI RECOVERY

Update

10 January 2011

United Nations Development Programme



Approach

A year after the devastating January 2010 earthquake that killed over 200,000 and displaced 1.5 million people, Haiti is taking crucial steps toward recovery, but still faces daunting challenges. As the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere even before the earthquake, Haiti's ongoing humanitarian crisis is equally a development crisis, and demands rebuilding in all sectors.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is supporting the Government of Haiti as it restores infrastructure and services in ways that ensure long-term recovery and reduce the risks presented by future natural disasters.

To address the desperate situations that Haitians continue to endure, UNDP has put job creation at the heart of its recovery efforts—employing those most affected by the earthquake to help repair their livelihoods, as well as rebuild their lives.



Jean Sergot Altidor participated in UNDP's cash-for-work programme in Les Cayes, which resulted in a 160-metre stone and wire reinforcement wall along one side of the riverbank bordering his neighbourhood. He used the money he earned to finish building his house and send all three of his children to school, including his nine-year-old daughter Marie Fabine Altidor.

RESULTS

Crisis Prevention and Recovery

Labour-intensive recovery initiatives

Over the past year, UNDP's cash-for-work and food-for-work programmes (in partnership with the World Food Programme) have employed approximately 240,000 Haitians—40 percent of them women—through 230 temporary projects.

The programmes have helped to clear 1 million cubic metres of debris and restore crucial infrastructure such as streets, water and sanitation.

With most debris yet to be cleared, however, the programmes will expand in the year to come—aiming to demolish thousands of unrepairable houses, and recycle more than half of recovered debris into building materials to expedite recovery.

UNDP employment programmes have also helped local communities to construct and reinforce riverbanks to prevent landslides, mudslides and flooding.

In the southwestern coastal town of Les Cayes, workers constructed 160 metres of riverbank reinforcement in the slum neighbourhood of La Creole, benefitting 1,600 families when Hurricane Tomas hit in November 2010.

"Without this construction, la Creole would be completely flooded by now," wrote members of la Creole's neighbourhood association in a letter to UNDP after Tomas struck.

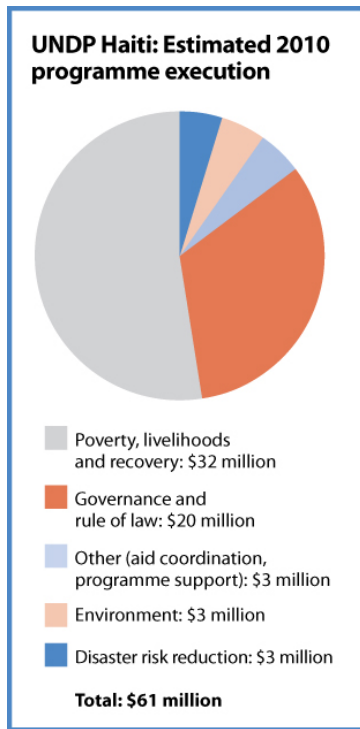
Aid coordination

To improve the coordination of recovery, UNDP has significantly expanded its existing aid management system in support of the newly created Interim Haiti Recovery Commission (www.cirh.ht), co-chaired by Haiti's Prime Minister Jean-Max Bellerive and former-US President Bill Clinton, who serves as the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Haiti.

The Commission is responsible for the review and approval of proposed recovery projects, to ensure their alignment with Haiti's national priorities and the transparency of spending.

The Commission's online submissions system currently includes:

- Information on more than 1,400 humanitarian activities;
- 120 approved and ongoing projects;
- Commitments of aid totaling US\$3.5 billion;
- Approved disbursements of aid amounting to \$1.6 billion.



Disaster Risk Reduction

In order to reduce threats posed by natural disasters as Haiti continues to recover, UNDP has provided operational support and training to Haiti's Department of Civil Protection, which was severely hit by the earthquake.

In preparation for the 2010 cyclone season, UNDP helped Haitian authorities and international actors produce an updated national contingency plan.

When Hurricane

Tomas struck Haiti in November, the Department set up national Emergency Operation Centres in Port-au-Prince and 10 other sites across the country, which UNDP helped to run. These centres kept Haitians informed about emerging risks all over the country, and coordinated immediate damage assessments and aid when necessary.

To help Haiti prepare for future earthquakes and rebuild in a more resilient manner, UNDP led a mission of experts in November that produced a roadmap for seismic risk reduction in the reconstruction process.

UNDP also worked with experts to produce a seismic zoning map of Port-au-Prince based on soil types, so that new buildings can withstand future shocks, and trained some 45 government officials and technicians on how to use the maps for earthquake-resistant structural design.

In addition, more than 300 Haitian journalists recently took part in UNDP-sponsored media trainings to strengthen crisis reporting, which will keep Haitians informed about emerging risks during natural disasters.

UNDP also provided financial and technical support for the Government of Haiti's production of informational broadcasts on cholera prevention, preparedness and response.

Democratic Governance

Elections

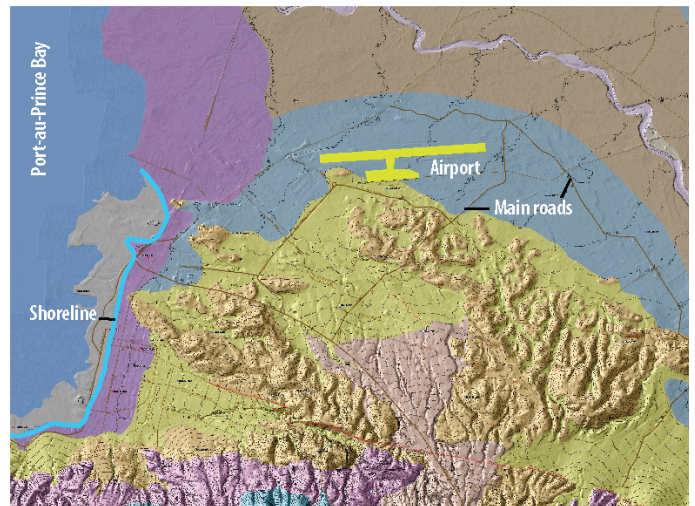
UNDP managed \$20.2 million for the 2010-2011 electoral cycle in Haiti, comprising nearly all international funding, and has distributed a total of 24,000 electoral kits, including polling booths, ballot boxes, ballots, tally sheets and indelible ink. Strengthening Haiti's ability to conduct elections, UNDP has supported the Provisional Electoral Council (CEP) through legal and technical assistance, as well as by paying workers responsible for core electoral operations.

Justice and Security

UNDP is sponsoring ongoing trainings on crime-scene evidence—already attended by 160 public prosecutors, magistrates and police officers—and has begun distributing forensic toolkits.

To assist the Ministry of Justice and Haitian National Police—whose buildings were badly hit by the earthquake—UNDP has also erected seven temporary buildings with 1,200 square metres of office space, and supported training of 16 Ministry of Justice staff in project management to help re-establish the administration of justice.

For more updates please visit: www.undp.org/haiti



Geological seismic map of Port-au-Prince, produced by UNDP as a basis for site classification. Colors indicate type of substrate, which determines the type of soil. Purple terrain (where most of downtown is located) is particularly susceptible to seismic shaking.

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