Empowerment of Vulnerable Women through Income Generation Activities
The Approach

1 - Building national capacities and policies for sustainable development

Two years after the earthquake, Haiti is rebuilding. 2011 marked the transition from the humanitarian to the recovery phase and Haiti is now looking towards long term growth and sustainable development. UNDP seeks to support this vision by providing increasing support to strengthen national capacities.

Developing sound public policies on growth, employment, housing, social protection and reconstruction are key priorities on the political agenda. The goal is to establish a national context in which people’s capabilities can flourish; in which both men and women, of all ages, can develop their full potential and lead productive, creative lives in accordance with their needs and interests.

The Ministry of Women’s Affairs and Women’s Rights is the Haitian governmental entity mandated to promote gender mainstreaming in all of the Haitian Government’s policies. UNDP is currently supporting the Ministry of Women’s Affairs in the development of public policies to reduce violence against women and promote women’s economic empowerment. UNDP has also developed partnerships with other governmental bodies, such as the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, in order to promote inclusive economic public policies.

In parallel to the support provided to Government counterparts, UNDP is also supporting 8 job creation interventions in the field through partner NGOs to offer immediate livelihoods support. The best practices and lessons learned from these initiatives will be used to feed national policies.

2 - Inclusive growth and inclusive markets

UNDP wants to ensure that the reconstruction process and the corresponding economic opportunities are inclusive, beneficial to all women and men of Haiti and are supportive of MDG commitments. Women and girls must benefit from the increased training, entrepreneurial and employment opportunities of the
reconstruction process which will eventually lead to an increase in income. The holistic approach employed by UNDP means that careful consideration is given to the reality that increased paid work for women can intensify the strain on domestic responsibilities. As such, appropriate measures must be developed to ensure that the well-being of the women and their families is not adversely affected.

In support of the revitalization of the Haitian economy, UNDP applies the *Growing Inclusive markets approach*. The objective is to ensure that business significantly contributes to human development by developing inclusive business models adapted to poor people as potential consumers, as well as including them in the value chain as producers, business owners or employees. To this end, UNDP will identify successful simultaneous pursuits of revenues and social impact by private actors, from social entrepreneurs – women and men- to local small and medium-sized enterprises, large domestic companies and multinational corporations, but also state-owned companies and civil society organizations. These successful inclusive business models will be then used to be replicated, and eventually contribute to the development of public policies.

### 3 - Participation and economic empowerment of women

The reconstruction phase presents continuing opportunities to **re-build social structures and processes** so that they reflect and articulate not only the needs, interests and contributions of women as well as men, but also current best practice on human rights, participation, transparency and protection. This is also an opportunity to transform systems so that they recognize and embody the rights and needs of grass-roots women. UNDP is therefore supporting numerous actions to ensure **women’s expanded participation** at all levels of governmental and non-governmental governance bodies, such as the community platforms in the neighborhoods or the urban planning exercises linked to the reconstruction process. In addition, social cohesion will be supported through concrete gender-based violence prevention measures, such as, for example, the installation of solar lighting systems in isolated areas in the neighborhoods.

**Women’s economic empowerment** is about rights and equitable societies, but it is also a **prerequisite for sustainable development**, inclusive growth and the achievement of all the MDGs. Achieving women’s economic empowerment is not a “quick fix”. It takes sound public policies, a holistic approach and long-term commitment from all development actors, starting at the design phase of the programming. UNDP is focusing its actions on **women-led micro business to medium size enterprises**, particularly within the construction value chain. In parallel, UNDP’s approach is to support the link between the vocational training opportunities offered to young people, especially young women, and the demand of the market.
Partnerships building on female entrepreneurship

1 - The development of a shared strategic analysis and vision

UNDP has a multi-sector approach and seeks to create dynamic networks with the participation of many partners from different backgrounds in order to enrich the knowledge management process. In support to the Ministry of Women’s affairs, UNDP is supporting the creation of a network of interested partners to facilitate exchange on women’s economic empowerment, with a focus on micro, small and medium scale enterprises. The objective is to develop a joint strategic vision for partners, based on the evidence of the field experiences and conclusions of inclusive markets studies.

2 - Joint partners initiatives: Championship for Young female entrepreneurs

The Championship for young female entrepreneurs will be launched on March 8, 2012 in 15 neighborhoods (in 5 departments) around the theme “connecting girls, inspiring futures”. The objective is to promote and stimulate the emergence of young female entrepreneurs at the community level and sensitize the public on the great unused potentials of the 1 000 000 Haitian girls between the age of 18 to 35.

This championship creates also an excellent opportunity to launch a joint initiative linking all partners at a very operational level: the Ministry of Women’s Affairs, the Secretary of State of Youth, Chambers of Commerce, UN agencies, NGO partners, community platforms.
Partners projects in the field

FEMMES EN DEMOCRATIE (FED)
This foundation was created in 2000 with the mission of empowering Haitian women to fulfill their true potential in the domains of economic and entrepreneurial opportunity, political participation, and legal/human rights. FED organizes workshops on entrepreneurship and agricultural production and promotes traditional crafts made by women by organizing an annual handicraft fair. FED has supported more than 37500 women, all of them micro and small business owners and members of associations and/or productive cooperatives.

The FED project, “Promotion of economic opportunities for young women in Canapé Vert”, consists in providing with training and support to 200 women. The training component, based on the demand, consists of three sections: personal development, professional training (cosmetology, crafts, bakery and food preparation) and business management techniques. After the training these women will either reinforce and existing micro enterprise or start a new one with the support of a small grant.

SOFONIAS
Founded in 1979 in Guatemala in a context of post-earthquake reconstruction, Sofonias has coordinated actions of physical reconstruction, built schools and community housing, supported micro enterprises in post-catastrophe situations in Nicaragua, Ecuador, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Jamaica, El Salvador and Sumatra. Sofonias arrived in Haiti after the January 2010 earthquake. They work in partnership with the Haitian organization APPEL (Association des Parents et des Professeurs d’ Ecole de Liancourt).

Through the project, “Manufacturing and commercialization of construction materials by youth and women”, Sofonias will provide training to young women to produce and commercialize construction materials in order to build affordable houses.
JP/HRO
NGO founded by American actor Sean Penn following the 12 January 2010 earthquake. JP/HRO main efforts include providing emergency medical and primary care services, delivering medical equipment and medicine, rubble removal facilitating community regeneration, management of Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps, distributing food and water purification systems, improving communication systems, and developing housing and education facilities. Furthermore, JP/HRO has started a livelihoods program to help those people who have an artistic potential and the capacity to transform it into a business project.

The project “Hands Together Cooperative” is the continuity of the program started in October 2010 with the Petionville Club and Maxo camps craft cooperative. The project consists in establishing a workshop of 48 artisans from the Nerette and Morne Hercule neighborhoods to produce and exhibit the crafts and training them in marketing, thus allowing them to better commercialize their products. At the end of the project the 48 artisans will be able to ask Fonkoze for a credit increase and eventually relocate and leave the camps. This first group of 48 artisans will transfer the knowledge acquired during their training to a new group of 25 up to 40 artisans.

INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMITEE (IRC)
Founded in 1933 at the request of Albert Einstein, the IRC offers lifesaving care and life-changing assistance to conflict and crisis affected populations. The IRC has been working in Haiti since the January 2010
earthquake, providing holistic programming in the areas of children and youth protection, women’s protection and empowerment, protection, economic recovery and development and environmental health. Since July 2010, the IRC has worked to address the specific protection needs of women and children in earthquake-affected Port-au-Prince.

ICR’s project consists in a partnership with Zanmi Timoun, a Haitian NGO founded in 2001 which is a leader in child protection work, particularly on the issue of children living in domestic servitude. 100 vulnerable youth (at least 70% girls) from the communes of Delmas, Tabarre and Port-au-Prince (neighborhoods of Saint-Martin, Delmas 3, Solino, Village Solidarites and Cite Soleil), will be equipped with the skills necessary to establish their own enterprises or to access more meaningful employment opportunities. Ultimately, the IRC aims to increase the economic self sufficiency and self confidence of the youth through tailored business and life skills training, market knowledge, mentoring and access to financial services and start-up support. The IRC will enable Zanmi Timoun to provide these support services directly to youth in order to ensure sustainability of project interventions.

**BRAC**

ONG founded in 1972 in Bangladesh with a presence in 10 countries in Africa and Asia and in Haiti. BRAC’s mission is to empower people and communities in situations of poverty, illiteracy, disease and social injustice developing support services in the areas of human rights and social empowerment, education and health, economic empowerment and enterprise development, livelihood training, environmental sustainability and disaster preparedness. BRAC arrived to Haiti 6 years ago and provides Fonkoze with technical assistance within the framework of the program “Chemen lavi miyo », an adaptation of a BRAC special program that reaches 10% of the poorest population who don’t have access to financial services and other aid programs. The objective of BRAC’s project “**Economic capacity development of vulnerable women victims of the earthquake in suburban areas of Port-au-Prince (Clercine)”**
is to establish income generating activities for 150 vulnerable women from Clercine by developing economic activities related to the clothing making and chicken breed. The project activities will consist of training the 150 women, providing them with the necessary inputs and equipment via donations and assisting them over a period of 6 months.

**SECOEURS ISLAMIQUE FRANCE (SIF)**

ONG founded in 1992 based in France that has the mission of assisting and protecting victims of natural catastrophes, armed conflicts and economic crisis. SIF is member of the Islamic Relief Worldwide group and is present in more than 30 countries all over the world deploying programs of emergency, post-emergency and development. SIF’s office in Haiti opened in January 2010 focusing its actions in the camps for displaced people.

SIF’s projet, “Livelihoods protection and improvement in the urban area of Port-au-Prince”, will consist of training 200 people (80% women) in food preparation according to food hygiene standards and in finances management so they can increase their productivity, as well as training them in the use of solar stoves and ovens, and providing them with a set of cooking material. The project will focus on 4 neighbourhoods: Champs de Mars, Carrefour feuilles, Lalue et Turgeau.

**GOAL**

Irish ONG that arrived to Haiti in January 2010 in response to the earthquake. GOAL activities include water, food and sanitation distributions, as well as the provision of emergency healthcare, and emergency and transitional shelters. Additionally, GOAL responded to the emergency cholera outbreaks by providing additional water and sanitation facilities, hygiene promotion and cholera case referral for 50,000 earthquake-affected beneficiaries in 20 temporary settlements in Port-au-Prince.

GOAL’s project, “Women's economic empowerment and social support through capacity building of a local women’s association in Villa Rosa”, consists in a partnership with a local women organisation: COFAD (Collectif des Femmes pour le Développement de Villa Rosa). This partnership aims, on one hand, to reinforce 200 women capacities through workshops on business planning development and microcredit programs, and on the other hand, to recruit 25 women from Villa Rosa area and provide them with vocational training for a period of 6 months. After the training, they will have a profession that will allow them to access the labor market. They will be encouraged to develop their business plan and to apply for a microcredit loan to set up their own enterprise. The best business plan will benefit of a donation of US$500.
Fondation Kole Zepol (FONKOZE)

Fonkoze is “Haiti’s Alternative Bank for the Organized Poor.” It was founded in 1995 by catholic Haitian priest Joseph Philipe and is the largest microfinance institution in Haiti, serving more than 56,000 women borrowers, most of whom live and work in the countryside of Haiti. Fonkoze is a family of three institutions working together towards helping Haiti’s poor remove themselves from poverty and create a democratic economy in Haiti. These institutions are: Fonkoze the Foundation, Fonkoze Financial Services and Fonkoze USA.

Fonkoze’s project, “Project to support micro enterprises run by women”, consists of integrating 30 additional women to the program to support to small and medium enterprises «Zafen». These women, who must already have a micro enterprise and be from the metropolitan area, will get business training. They will be recruited through a network of women organizations such as COFAVIV, SOFA, KAY FANM and FED. The program consists of training these women on credit management with the objective of enlarge their enterprises and giving a maximum of $3000 to the female entrepreneurs.
Empowering women through the rehabilitation of neighborhoods