



WFP & Social Protection Haiti case study



The government of Haiti, with support from WFP and partners, is setting up safety nets for the most vulnerable households in the country and for pregnant and lactating women. WFP's support includes government capacity strengthening on the targeting and management of the safety nets.

Background

As the only low-income country in the Americas, the Republic of Haiti continues to face significant humanitarian, political and development challenges, with three-fifths of Haitians living below the national poverty line.

These problems are exacerbated by [frequent natural disasters](#), as Haiti is one of the countries worst affected globally by extreme weather events. The country's capacity to respond to these crises through national systems has historically been low, since the country's social protection systems were fragile, fragmented, underfunded and limited in coverage.

Interventions

With funding from USAID and in partnership with CARE, World Vision and Action Against Hunger, WFP has been working with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor (MAST) to develop Haiti's social protection system, through the four-year programme Kore Lavi.

The programme started in September 2013, with the objective of [strengthening government capacity](#) to identify and support vulnerable people through a national social safety net. A food voucher safety net is being established as part of the programme, alongside targeted health and nutrition support. Kore Lavi programmes will be transitioned to full Government ownership by October 2019.

All work towards these objectives is being done [with shock-responsiveness in mind](#), given the frequency of natural disasters. WFP's key contributions have been to support the Government in:

- Setting up and implementing a [vulnerability targeting system](#), enabling the Government to assess household need levels and target assistance to the most in need, in normal times and during a shock.
- Creating within MAST a [national information system](#) with a vulnerability database that registers a vast amount of household data. This will facilitate targeting of families with the most important or urgent needs, in normal times and in the event of an emergency.
- Supporting the National Coordination for Food Security to [assess food security](#) and conducting rapid assessments in emergencies.
- Strengthening MAST's [technical capacity](#), through seconding WFP staff to MAST and providing on-the-job training and planning support at national and decentralized levels.
- Promoting [civil society engagement](#), through establishing reference desks to collect beneficiary feedback, increase visibility and ensure a field presence.

Results

Targeting system and vulnerability database

WFP and partners supported the development of the Haiti Deprivation and Vulnerability Index, an algorithm used by Kore Lavi as a proxy measure of household poverty. After extensive household surveys conducted jointly with the CNSA, the database now covers over 700,000 people and is Government-managed and accessible to all humanitarian partners. WFP is using its experience in database design to refine Kore Lavi programmes' shock-responsive targeting and information management components.

Emergency response food security assessments

Working jointly with the CNSA, WFP completed five national food security reports, as well as two emergency food security assessments and a market analysis. These were essential to formulating the food security response after Hurricane Matthew, which included the vertical expansion of the Kore Lavi food voucher scheme and health and nutrition programme.

Technical capacity-strengthening

Six national MAST staff were trained on the targeting system and database management. The number of civil servants working on Kore Lavi doubled from 2015 to 2017, and MAST is now taking charge of the voucher programme. During the Hurricane Matthew response, WFP assisted MAST to lead the Cash Working Group coordination and cash transfer operation field monitoring.

Civil society engagement

Reference desks for community engagement have now been set up in all 16 targeted communes. A national hotline is fully operational, and was used to collect beneficiary feedback after the 2015-16 drought and Hurricane Matthew. The hotline will be transferred to MAST in late 2017.

Partnerships

Kore Lavi is implemented with funding from USAID and in partnership with the Government of Haiti, CARE, World Vision and Action against Hunger. WFP's main Government partners have been the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour (MAST) and the National Coordination for Food Security (CNSA).

Lessons Learned

To institutionalize Kore Lavi within MAST, relationships with the highest levels in Government are needed. Giving a formal mandate to Government personnel working on Kore Lavi (e.g. through formal assignment letters) is also important for their engagement.

It is beneficial to involve the Ministry of Economy and Finance when drafting an MoU with the lead partner ministry (i.e. MAST). This can help ensure that financial obligations are properly planned and subsequently fulfilled.

Progress in capacity-building corresponded directly to the amount of time Kore Lavi Consortium staff spent with MAST staff.

The multiplier effects of social protection are a strong selling point and should be emphasized when seeking to rally inter-ministry collaboration.

Formal institutionalization assessments have proven to be a reliable way to measure progress and identify capacity gaps, and are commonly cited by MAST to discuss needed improvements.

Next Steps

Plans are in place for a progressive handover Kore Lavi management to MAST from October 2018. Key steps for WFP to support this handover include:

- further building MAST capabilities in data collection and management, and improving the MAST's technological infrastructure;
- increasing MAST capacity at departmental level, and strengthening central-local level links;
- enhancing shock-responsiveness, through integrating emergency response mechanisms into Kore Lavi operating procedures.

Further Information

WFP (2017). [*Strengthening National Social Protection Systems: WFP Institutional and Policy Support to the Government of Haiti*](#). Panama: WFP

WFP (2017). [*Strengthening Emergency Preparedness and Resilience in Haiti. Standard Project Report 2016*](#). Rome: WFP



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