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# WFP's Work in Enabling Social Protection in Haiti

Highlights of the World Food Programme's Contributions to Social Protection in a New Normal

March 2021

## A New Social Protection and Promotion Policy to Guide Assistance Programmes in Haiti

In June of 2020, the National Social Protection and Promotion Policy (NSPPP) was officially adopted by the Government of Haiti after three years of technical support from WFP.

WFP's technical assistance leading up to the NSPPP grew out of initial technical support to the government's vulnerability database and to the implementation of social protection initiatives that began in 2013. The Information System of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour (SIMAST) that evolved from this early work currently holds vulnerability data on 20 per cent of the Haitian population (430,000 households).

In 2017, the Haitian Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour (MAST) convened a Drafting Sub-Commission with the key objective of realizing the NSPPP. WFP, with its established support for the Government's safety net activities, agreed to assist the Drafting Sub-Commission. Under this sub-commission, WFP played the role of technical lead in drafting the NSPPP, and assisted in putting in place the national governance structure for social protection in the country. WFP also acted as the secretariat in key committees on targeting and cash transfer working groups, and continued to support the transition of the beneficiary database to a national social registry.

In addition to facilitating the policy development process, WFP was active in creating a coalition of stakeholders to be involved in capacity-building and in advocacy for the NSPPP. This drew in expertise of the IMF, the EU, the USAID, the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), WHO/PAHO, ILO, UNICEF, the World Bank, and UN Women.

During COVID-19, these advocacy efforts resulted in several funding initiatives (from the IADB and the World Bank) for emergency cash transfers and the strengthening of SIMAST including its geographical expansion (from 20 to 25 per cent of the Haitian population). WFP has been identified as the main partner for implementation.

A national social assistance programme, the Adaptive Social Protection for Increased Resilience (ASPIRE), which will receive \$75 million in funding from the World Bank, was made possible by the development of the NSPPP and will be implemented from 2021 to 2027.

WFP is positioned to support MAST to design and operationalize the ASPIRE safety net while building the capacity of the Government to gradually implement the programme independently.



## BUILDING SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEMS IN FRAGILE CONTEXTS



The success of WFP's intervention in Haiti built on a few significant factors:

1. WFP was present and engaged when other social protection actors were absent. Specifically, Kore Lavi, a USAID food insecurity program (2013-2019) implemented by a consortium of three organization (WFP, CARE, Action Against Hunger) was the entry point for WFP to invest in the development and roll-out of safety nets while further strengthening and developing technical and analytical capacity at the national level.
2. The Country Office put in place a high-profile team of national and international staff who had experience across social protection, capacity strengthening, economics, and policy development, positioning them as a key resource for government.
3. Strong collaboration was established with donors and government partners, including creation of the social protection stakeholder coordination group, early on in the policy development process.

Under the current country strategy, WFP will continue to emphasize upstream policy and the strengthening of capacities at the operational and system levels.

Over the coming years the country office will continue supporting the national vulnerability database to complete its coverage countrywide and improve its functional capacity, and will assist in building local government capacity to institutionalize social protection and promotion as a stepping stone to rolling out the NSPPP nationally.

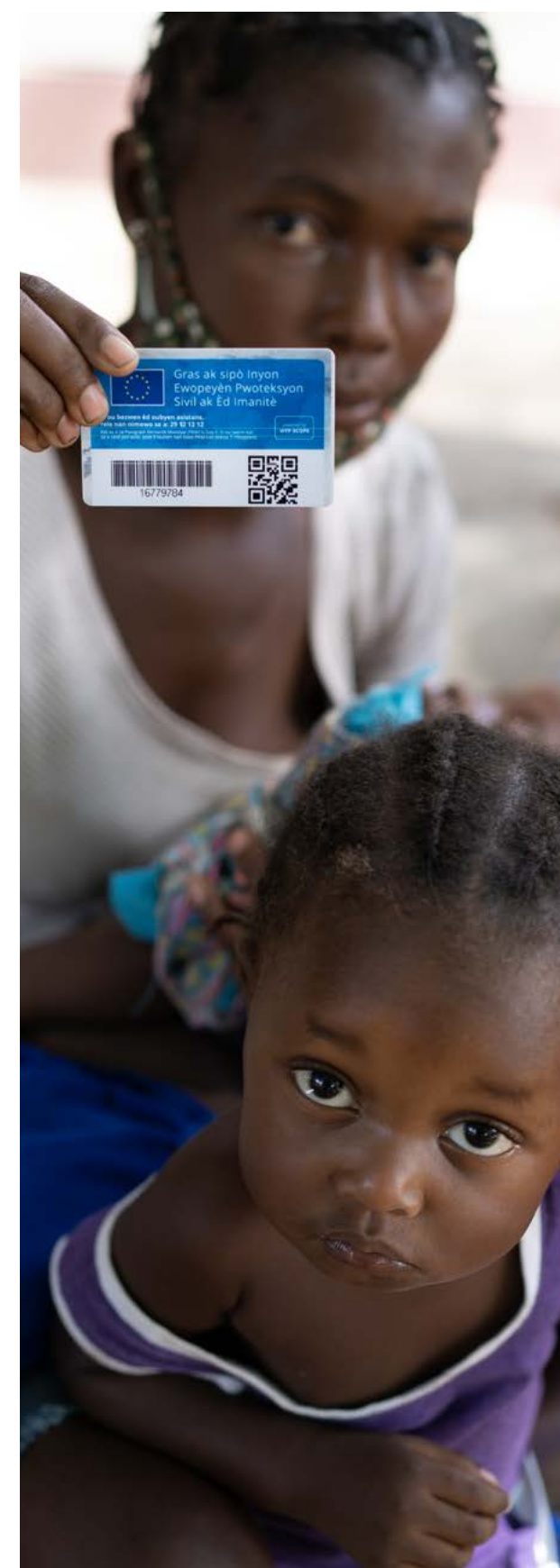


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To know more about WFP's work in enabling social protection around the globe check the full publication and infographic:

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