

WFP Haiti

Situation Report
April 2020

Highlights

- WFP emergency food and cash distributions restarted the 2nd of April, after being suspended the 19th March due to COVID-19 restrictions on gatherings. Distributions are ongoing in 6 departments (Nippes, Grand-Anse, Ouest, Artibonite, Nord and Centre).
- At the request of local authorities, WFP distributed one-month food rations to 11,000 people in Ennery and 22,500 people in Saint-Michel de l'Attalaye, Artibonite, in anticipation of quarantine measures. Food rations help vulnerable families stay safe at home and facilitate the respect of confinement.



WFP and Caritas staff on a WFP emergency food distribution in Nippes, April 2020.



Beneficiaries of WFP emergency cash assistance lining up at a safe distance to receive their entitlements in Grande Riviere du Nord, April 2020.

USD 62m

Funding required for emergency food and cash assistance to the most vulnerable Haitians as well as common logistics services to the entire humanitarian community, over the next six months.

In Numbers

200,000

WFP continues to scale up rapidly. Emergency food and cash assistance reached over 200,000 people in the first four months of 2020, nearly as much as in the entire year of 2019 (230,000).

10,000

WFP's helicopter transported 10 tons of cargo in April, mainly medical supplies and hospital equipment. It is its highest monthly cargo load since it was deployed, in November 2019.

950

WFP is distributing 950 mt of food as take-home rations to schoolchildren and their families to help mitigate the impact of COVID-19 school closure, on the nutrition and health of children and adolescents.

COVID-19 Situation Update

As of April 30, 76 cases of coronavirus are officially reported, with 7 deaths attributed to the virus.

On April 20, the Government extended the nationwide state of emergency for one month, with its associated restrictions on movements and gatherings. The Prime Minister also declared a state of food emergency in the country.

WFP distribution procedures were adjusted and agreed with the Haitian authorities with appropriate health and safety measures to protect communities, partners and WFP staff. Distribution sites are set up and organized in close coordination with the Ministry of Health and the Departmental Directorates for Civil Protection (DPC).

COVID-19 Operational scale-up

In October 2019, with the significant deterioration of food insecurity in the country, WFP set out a plan to scale-up emergency operations to reach 700,000 of the most vulnerable Haitians with food assistance.

WFP estimates that the COVID-19 crisis will further aggravate food insecurity for the poorest families, notably as a result of disrupted economic activities, inflation of food prices, and a reduction in diaspora remittances.

As a result, WFP is preparing to further scale-up its emergency operations to reach 1.3 million people over the next twelve months.

1.3 million

Beneficiaries targeted over the next 12 months

Common logistics services

WFP provides logistics common services to the entire humanitarian community, including air services through the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) and maritime transport services.

The UNHAS helicopter can transport up to 22 passengers or 4 tons of cargo. To limit health risks, each passenger is now given two seats, and masks and sanitizers are available on board.

WFP's logistics assets and expertise are also made available to the Government to support the national health response.



WFP's ship and barge, the Kyona and Mo Betta, deliver containers of food and oil in Dame-Marie, Grand-Anse, in March 2020.



The pilot and captain of the WFP UNHAS helicopter, preparing for a flight in Port-au-Prince, April 2020.

School feeding

WFP's school feeding programmes support around 300,000 children each year in Haiti by giving them a hot meal every day at school. As the government decided to close all schools due to COVID-19, WFP is distributing 950 tons of food as take-home rations to the families of schoolchildren. The rations will help mitigate the impact of COVID-19 school closures on the nutrition and health of children and adolescents.



A young girl is eating a WFP-supported hot meal in a school near Gonaives, March 2020.

Social protection and technical cooperation

WFP assisted the Government in drafting a new National Social Protection and Promotion Policy, a major and necessary step towards reducing poverty, diminishing inequality and empowering Haitian women and men. Delayed by the COVID-19 crisis, the forthcoming adoption of the Policy by the Council of Ministers will be a first step in establishing a legal and regulatory framework for sustainable social protection in Haiti.

Social protection is considered one of the most critical tools to address the COVID-19 crisis and other shocks in vulnerable countries of the region.

A drafting committee on social protection was just reactivated by WFP at the request of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour to coordinate social protection initiatives in response to COVID-19.

Food assistance for Assets

Asset rehabilitation work is ongoing, in compliance with regulations related to COVID-19 in 3 departments. Activities are focused on the rehabilitation of agricultural roads, watershed management, and modernization of salt basins.

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