



**U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

HAITI – Complex Emergency

Fact Sheet #10, Fiscal Year (FY) 2004

June 22, 2004

Note: The last fact sheet was dated March 31, 2004.

BACKGROUND

- Haiti's 200-year history has been marked by political instability and weak institutional capacity, resulting in a severely debilitated economy and an impoverished population. The current complex emergency is rooted in the circumstances surrounding the re-election of former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in 2000. Following a military coup that ousted elected President Aristide in 1991, the international community intervened militarily to restore Aristide to power in 1994. In May 2000, Aristide's party, Lavalas Family, claimed an overall victory in disputed legislative and municipal elections. In November 2000, the opposition boycotted the presidential election that Aristide won unopposed with low voter turnout.
- The electoral controversy paralyzed the Aristide administration, and Aristide lost popular support due to the inability of the government to attract investment to the country, create jobs, or reduce poverty. As a result, growing lawlessness, instability, and politically motivated violence began to overwhelm the country in 2002.
- In late 2003, anti-government demonstrations in Port-au-Prince, Gonaïves, Petit-Goâve, and other towns began to increase in size, frequency, and violence. The most recent surge in conflict began on February 5, 2004, when insurgents seized control of Gonaïves, Haiti's fourth-largest city. Armed groups opposed to former President Aristide expanded control throughout parts of the Central, North, Artibonite, Northeast, and South departments of the country. The ensuing violence and conflict have had significant socio-political and humanitarian consequences, resulting in the deaths of at least 150 people, massive destruction of property and infrastructure, dramatic increases in prices, and the prolonged interruption of public services, including water, trash collection, and electricity, due largely to the lack of access to fuel.
- On February 29, 2004, Jean-Bertrand Aristide resigned from the presidency. In accordance with the Haitian constitution, Supreme Court Chief Justice Boniface Alexandre was sworn in as President of the Interim Government of Haiti (IGOH). On the same day, the U.N. Security Council authorized the immediate deployment of a Multinational Interim Force (MIF), composed of troops from the United States, France, Chile, and Canada, to restore order and provide security in Haiti. On March 9, Haiti's seven-person advisory council selected Gérard Latortue, a former United Nations (U.N.) official and foreign minister, as Haiti's new Prime Minister.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

- Structural and institutional weaknesses in Haiti, closely linked to the country's historical, socio-economic, and agricultural development, have had long-term effects on several aspects of Haiti's development, such as food security, water and sanitation, health, and nutrition. For many years, Haiti has been the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, and is currently the only state labeled a Least Developed Country in the Western Hemisphere. The country was ranked 150th out of 173 countries in the 2003 U.N. Development Program (UNDP) Human Development Report.
- The situation in Haiti has stabilized since the civil crisis in February and March 2004 and humanitarian operations have transitioned from emergency operations to rehabilitation and development. However, insecurity, lack of access to food and health care, and poor water and sanitation remain chronic issues.
- The U.S. Government (USG) is Haiti's largest bilateral donor. In FY 2004, the USG plans to provide \$160 million in assistance in the areas of job creation, institutional development, humanitarian assistance, health, democracy and governance, education, and police/justice. These funds include \$35 million for budget support to the IGOH and \$22 million to reform Haiti's national police force and provide security for senior Haitian officials.

CURRENT SITUATION

Security/Political

- On May 4, the Haitian Provisional Electoral Council was sworn in to oversee general elections. The council is composed of eight delegates from religious, business, and social sectors, although a ninth seat reserved for Aristide's Lavalas party remains unfilled. The party has refused to name a member to the council unless Prime Minister Latortue signs an agreement to protect Lavalas members. Latortue has indicated that legislative elections are scheduled for September 2005 and presidential elections are planned two months later.
- On May 18, former police officers and a leader of the armed opposition, Guy Philippe, launched a new political party, Front de la Reconstruction Nationale (FRN), in Gonaïves.

- On June 1, Brazilian troops, the vanguard of the U.N. Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), assumed peacekeeping duties in Haiti. More than 1,200 Brazilian troops are expected to lead the MINUSTAH troops. The formal transfer of operational responsibility from the MIF to MINUSTAH is scheduled for June 25. At full strength, MINUSTAH will comprise 6,700 troops and 1,622 civilian police from 30 countries, although less than half of those countries have confirmed participation in MINUSTAH. The U.N. force is expected to remain in the country for a six-month mission that includes security patrols, disarmament, and humanitarian work. The MIF troops are scheduled to depart by the end of June.
- On June 9, the Organization of American States (OAS) approved a resolution allowing for an investigation into the departure of former President Aristide, who alleges that his departure was not voluntary. The organization also called for elections in Haiti as soon as possible. Since March 26, the 15 member-state Caribbean Community (CARICOM) indicated that it neither recognizes nor rejects the IGOH. Aristide currently resides in South Africa.
- On June 18, more than 5,000 supporters of Aristide marched through the capital city of Port-au-Prince, calling for the ex-President's return, and accusing the USG of forcing Aristide's departure.
- Although incidences of violent conflict have decreased in Haiti, the level of insecurity remains high. The U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) reported in early May that the rising crime rate has restricted humanitarian aid distribution. Kidnappings have increased, and robberies and extortion are common. Haiti's police force has approximately 2,500 officers, many of whom lack weapons, while an estimated 25,000 Haitians own small arms and other weapons. The Haitian Justice Minister stated in May that the country needs 20,000 police officers to maintain security.

Food

- According to a May 13 UN OCHA report, prices of commodities remain high. The price of a 50 kg bag of rice rose from USD \$25 in early February 2004 to USD \$40 in May 2004. According to local press reports, the price increase is partly due to armed gangs stealing grain stocks following the upheaval in February.
- A CARE study released on June 8 indicated that there has been a sharp decline in food production in the Northwest Department due to drought. According to the study, approximately 68 percent of households in the department rely on agriculture alone or in combination with other incomes. The CARE study also indicated that only 18 percent of households reported a harvest from the previous season, 82 percent of households reported a loss of livestock, and 85 percent of households were obliged to buy food over the previous two months because they had depleted food stocks.

Displaced populations

- A May 13 UN OCHA report stated that, according to the U.S. Coast Guard, approximately 3,000 Haitians have been found at sea and returned home during 2004. In 2003, 1,490 Haitians found at sea were returned home. Since late February 2004, more than 400 Haitians have reportedly relocated to Jamaica. This figure represents the largest number of Haitians relocating to Jamaica since thousands of Haitians fled there during the 1991-1994 military regime.

Flood emergency

- Several days of heavy rains in late May caused rivers to overflow in areas near the southern border between the Dominican Republic and Haiti. The flooding devastated entire communities, caused massive loss of life, displaced tens of thousands of people on both sides of the border, and resulted in sizeable crop and livestock losses. According to a June 5 UN OCHA report, the flooding in Haiti killed 1,059 people, injured 153 people, affected 6,226 families, destroyed 1,698 houses, and damaged 1,687 houses. Approximately 1,600 people are missing and presumed dead. To date, USAID assistance in response to the flooding is \$1,428,700.*

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

- From February 9 to 11, the USAID/OFDA Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) Senior Regional Advisor and a USAID/OFDA/LAC Regional Advisor traveled to Port-au-Prince to assist USAID/Haiti and partner organizations with contingency planning for humanitarian assistance. On February 18, U.S. Ambassador to Haiti James B. Foley issued a disaster declaration due to the ongoing complex emergency in Haiti. On February 24, USAID/OFDA deployed a three-person team to Port-au-Prince, including a Senior Regional Advisor as Team Leader, a Health Officer, and an Information Officer. On March 7, a Military Liaison Officer (MLO) joined the team in Port-au-Prince. The team departed the country on April 1, with the exception of the MLO, who remained in Haiti until April 15.
- In response to the complex emergency in Haiti, USAID/OFDA has provided emergency humanitarian assistance in the form of grants and in-kind contributions to U.N. agencies, international organizations (IOs), and NGOs, totaling

* For more information on the flooding, please refer to USAID/OFDA Dominican Republic and Haiti Floods fact sheets, located on the USAID web site at http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/.

more than \$4.3 million to date in FY 2004. USAID/OFDA funding supported the purchase and distribution of medical supplies, emergency medical and immunization activities, emergency cash grants to local institutions caring for vulnerable populations, emergency relief kits and cash-for-work initiatives, electricity generation, and emergency air transport. USAID/OFDA-funded Air Serv International planes were used to conduct assessments and deliver relief supplies throughout the country from March 3 to April 15. Various USAID partners, including U.N. agencies, CARE, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), World Vision International (WVI), Save the Children Fund-U.S. (SCF-U.S.), and the OAS, accompanied the USAID/OFDA team and USAID/Haiti staff for delivery of commodities and assessment trips. USAID/OFDA also funded the transport and distribution of 24 medical kits, 3 surgical kits, and 6,000 hygiene kits. The medical kits were distributed to Médecins Sans Frontières, CRS, WVI, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the PAHO-supported PROMESS program, and Management Sciences for Health. USAID/OFDA donated the surgical kits to PROMESS and consigned the hygiene kits to UNICEF.

- USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) has provided 990 metric tons (MT) of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance, valued at \$828,700, to the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) Emergency Operation (EMOP) in Haiti. The WFP EMOP targets vulnerable populations affected by political and civil unrest. It has also been used as a response mechanism for the recent flooding. Therefore, the USAID/FFP contribution is used both to assist flood victims (an estimated 31,000 beneficiaries) and to help replenish EMOP stocks (the EMOP targets 140,000 beneficiaries).
- USAID/Haiti's P.L. 480 Title II Development Assistance Programs (DAP) are implemented in seven of Haiti's nine departments through SCF-U.S., CRS, WVI, and CARE. Approximately 12,500 MT of food assistance are scheduled to be distributed to 360,000 direct beneficiaries throughout FY 2004, while approximately 640,000 Haitians benefit from the Food Insecurity Program through credit, agricultural, education, and health activities.*
- The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) has provided a total of \$920,000 in response to the Haiti complex emergency to date in FY 2004. State/PRM provided \$20,000 to the U.S. Embassy in Port-au-Prince for assistance to returned Haitian migrants. In addition, State/PRM contributed \$900,000 to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for activities in Haiti, which include strengthening medical/surgical capabilities at hospitals in Port-au-Prince and Gonaïves, and improving security at hospitals and medical facilities countrywide.
- The total amount of USG funding to date for humanitarian assistance in response to the Haiti complex emergency is nearly \$6.1 million.

* USAID/Haiti's P.L. 480 Title II Development Assistance Program is supported by development funding, rather than emergency funding, and is therefore not including in the table on the following page.

U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO HAITI

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA Assistance¹			
Air Serv International	Emergency air transport for USAID/OFDA, NGOs, IOs, and U.N. agencies, assessment trips and delivery of relief commodities	Countrywide	\$340,918
CRS	Emergency cash grants	Port-au-Prince and the southern peninsula	\$412,287
Food for the Poor	Cash-for-work program	Cité Soleil	\$500,000
PAHO	Medical equipment and emergency health activities	Countrywide	\$400,000
UNICEF	Expanded Program for Immunization	Countrywide	\$300,000
USAID/Haiti	24 emergency medical and three surgical kits, including transport	Port-au-Prince and other affected areas	\$295,346
USAID/Haiti	6,000 hygiene kits consigned to UNICEF, including transport	Countrywide	\$54,806
USAID/Haiti	Fuel for emergency electricity generation	Port-au-Prince	\$1,000,000
World Concern	Food security and livelihood recovery	South and Northwest departments	\$502,879
WVI	Emergency relief kits and cash-for-work initiatives	North, Central Plateau, South, West, and Northwest departments, and Île de la Gonâve	\$500,026
Total USAID/OFDA.....			\$4,306,262
USAID/FFP Assistance²			
WFP	990 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$828,700
Total USAID/FFP.....			\$828,700
Total USAID.....			\$5,134,962
State/PRM Assistance			
U.S. Embassy/Port-au-Prince	Assistance to Haitian migrants	Countrywide	\$20,000
ICRC	Emergency health operations	Countrywide	\$900,000
Total State/PRM.....			\$920,000
TOTAL USG Humanitarian Assistance to Haiti in FY 2004 (to date)			\$6,054,962

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents committed and/or obligated amount as of **June 22, 2004**.

² USAID/FFP funding is for the WFP EMOP established to address civil unrest in Haiti. USAID/FFP's contribution will be used both to replenish EMOP stocks (for 140,000 beneficiaries) for the civil unrest and to help flood victims (an estimated 31,000 beneficiaries).

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for their response efforts in Haiti can be found in the "How Can I Help" section of www.usaid.gov/haiti. USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, warehouse space, etc.); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.

More information on making donations and volunteering services can be found at:

- USAID: www.usaid.gov → “Our Work” → “Humanitarian Assistance” → “Disaster Assistance” → “How Can I Help”
- The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or (703) 276-1914
- InterAction: www.interaction.org → “Guide to Appropriate Giving”
- Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID web site at http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/.