



Quarterly Narrative Report (Q1)

South Haiti Capacity Building for Disaster Risk Management

Agreement #: AID-OFDA-G-15-00156

CRS/Haiti

Sites / Locations: South

July 01st - September 30th 2015

Submission Date: November 5, 2015

Contact in Haiti:

Contact at Headquarters:

I. Project Highlights and Achievements

As described in the framework of this project, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is targeting the South Department with support to the Departmental Committees for Disaster Risk Management (CDGRD) as per Strategic Objective 1 (SO1): **Communities have increased access to NFIs through direct cash distribution**, as per Strategic Objective 2 (SO2): **A most cost effective modality of NFI provision to at risk beneficiaries is determined by CRS**,

Key Outputs

During this reporting period, CRS focused on the following activities as submitted with the proposal:

- Conduct a baseline report to include a Pre-Crisis Market Mapping and Analysis (PCMMA)
- Conduct a workshop with the CTDs and NFI vendors
- Provide logistical and human resources support to the CDGRD in the South Department by updating the departmental contingency plan to respond to emergency events as needed.
- Identify a financial institution very qualified and experienced in the management of beneficiaries in emergencies.

Analysis of Progress

The following provides a narrative summary of the activities undertaken this quarter:

A. Recruitment

During this reporting period, CRS allocated a Disaster Risk Reduction Program Coordinator; an Emergency Program Manager; a Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) Project Officer; an Administrative Assistant; and a finance team under the coordination of the Head of Programs; who are all available to support the project. In addition, CRS used the support of two consultants: a technical advisor with specialization in food security and markets, and an experienced International Development Fellow in the management of the OFDA activities in collaboration with all project staff.

In order to carry out the activities in the affected areas, CRS has identified a financial institution with extensive management capacity related to money transfers to beneficiaries in areas affected by an adverse event.

For the relevant follow up, all project staff continued to work closely with the local authorities, the CDGRD members of Les Cayes and Grand'Anse who are involved in provisional shelter management in order to strengthen civil protection structures at the departmental level.

B. Baseline Study

During this reporting period, CRS conducted a baseline study which focused on the communes of Jeremie in the Grand'Anse Department and Cayes in the South Department. For Cayes and Jeremie, data was collected only within the towns, as preliminary studies conducted by CRS showed that vendors of the articles in standard NFI kits were concentrated mainly in the urban areas. The focus in these communes is justified due to demonstrated increases in vulnerability to natural disasters, which is directly correlated to poverty in these poorest departments (Grand'Anse, Sud-Est and Nord-Ouest) of Haiti, where 78 to 82% of the affected population is poor.

This baseline study consisted of a Pre-Crisis Market Mapping and Analysis (PCMMA) which was performed in preparation for future anticipated disasters. The analysis will help determine if these markets are viable and resilient to disasters and market distortions. It will provide a better understanding of market systems and determine whether stakeholders are situated and able to respond to market conditions appropriately.

C. Financial institution for cash transfer to beneficiaries

During the reporting period, CRS conducted a study to examine the financial cash transfer market in Haiti and identify a credible institution with both the capacity to liquidate the funds necessary in the target communities and the integrity to inspire confidence in beneficiaries following a catastrophe. The CRS team conducted several meetings with two institutions which had previously been successful in cash transfers: UNIBank and FONKOZE. After a comparative analysis of the two offers, CRS determined that FONKOZE was more in line with the methodology anticipated in the program and more responsive to the needs of the program. A contract was prepared and signed between the two parties which obligates FONKOZE to make cash payments to identified beneficiaries in target departments within two days of an emergency. The contract fixes the fees for this service throughout the project period and specifies that FONKOZE will use their existing cash reserve with reimbursement from CRS within 5 days to ensure there is no delay in cash payments at the moment of need.

Collaboration/Coordination

During this reporting period, CRS collaborated with the CTDs in the South and Grand'Anse with the objective of implementing this pilot project for pre-positioned cash transfers for NFI Needs that would be able to address the main problems and difficulties related to the respect and protection of IDPs in temporary shelters. The CTDs have welcomed the proposal even if they believe the number of beneficiaries is not high enough to respond to needs in a major event. However, they promise to work together to learn from these experiences with the anticipation that this type of program could serve as a model for humanitarian relief in the future.

Opportunity

The project provides an important opportunity to test the effectiveness and reliability of such a methodology and will draw upon lessons learned through a relevant strategic approach to disasters that often occur in Haiti. It is also worth noting that the development of this project within temporary shelters may improve conditions for the displaced who lack basic needs.

Challenges

During this reporting period, there are no challenges related to the implementation of project activities. However, it should be noted that no significant emergencies have occurred to date.

Key activities for the upcoming quarter

Over the course of the next quarter, in collaboration with the OFDA field office and the relevant CTDs, CRS will monitor weather conditions and ensure project staff mobilization in case of needed interventions. The official hurricane season ends next quarter at the end of November, but in the interim the risk remains high. The following activities will be implemented as appropriate:

- As needed per an emergency event, implement the Cash Transfer for NFIs project to assist IDPs while strengthening the CDGRDs and other stakeholder representatives.

- Schedule two trainings on cash mechanisms, minimum standards and protection for CDGRDs and stakeholders.
- Contact FONKOZE to ensure the preservation and understanding of commitments according to the contract that was signed by both parties.
- Explore conducting PCMMAs in other departments with OFDA guidance.