

Building Food Security Series
WORLD VISION HAITI
USAID FOOD FOR PEACE MULTI-YEAR ACTIVITY PROGRAM

Sak Plen REP:

A Community-Based
Maternal Child, Health, &
Nutrition with Agriculture
Interventions Approach



Building Food Security Through Food for Peace

The World Vision Haiti Sak Plen (Full Sack) Resiliency Enhancement Program (REP) enables program participants to effectively address the multi-sectoral causes of food insecurity in rural Haiti. The goal of Sak Plen REP is to reduce food insecurity and increase resiliency of vulnerable rural households by targeting its most vulnerable members, including women, children, and youth in the upper Central Plateau and La Gonâve Regions.

By 2012, Sak Plen REP, using a community-based resiliency enhancement approach, will reduce food insecurity in more than 100,000 households in Haiti. Sak Plen REP addresses both the underlying chronic causes as well as the acute symptoms of food insecurity in Haiti through two Strategic Objectives (SO).

This strategy is accomplishing the following goals:

- Enhance safety nets to promote preventive child nutrition and health practices, promote dietary intake through training and education to build intergenerational knowledge, and provide support to active nutritional surveillance.
- Promote more diverse and sustainable agricultural livelihoods.
- Build community capacity to manage development and respond to shocks by assisting communities to conduct risk and vulnerability assessments and develop action plans.

Maternal and Child Health

Improved health and nutritional status among vulnerable groups, namely children under five and pregnant and lactating women, is both an essential component and a priority outcome of Sak Plen REP. Strategic Objective One (SO1) aims to improve the nutritional and health status of targeted vulnerable groups. Its intermediate results and activities set the foundation for achieving food security in households and communities. Key activities under SO1 prevent and treat malnutrition in children under five, with a special emphasis on prevention among those 0 - 24 months. Through community-based distribution and health education, Sak Plen REP provides direct food rations to enrolled children, women, and people living with HIV/AIDS. Activities under SO1 increase access to Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition (MCHN) services at the community level and promote family planning, childcare, and preventive health practices through Behavior Change Communication (BCC). Adoption of target behaviors coupled with increased food intake and dietary diversity improve utilization of food, and thus, the health status of vulnerable groups, as proper nutrition helps to improve the body's strength and ability to resist infections.

The Model for the Preventive Approach: A Technical Leadership Best Practice

The earlier and longer food supplementation is provided before a child reaches two years of age, the greater the benefits...not only on growth in early life, but also on long-term physical, cognitive, and reproductive performance. Thus, investing in the first two years of life provides benefits far beyond childhood and is an essential element of development strategies and human capital formation interventions. This model is a technical leadership best practice validated through the IFPRI, Cornell, FANTA, and World Vision Haiti Title II DAP study.



Agriculture

Strategic Objective Two (SO2) addresses the need for improved productive and profitable livelihoods, and utilizes a three-pronged approach for this Sak Plen REP Agriculture and Economic Development Component. The first prong - the Household Food Production and Asset Diversification (H-PAD) Sub-Component, or IR 2.1 - addresses the immediate food needs of highly vulnerable households and augments their productive asset base. The second prong - Haitian Mar-

“Sak Vid Pa Kanpe”: An Empty Sack Cannot Stand Up

This Creole proverb metaphorically describes the reality of food insecurity in rural Haiti. Food insecure households are like ruptured, half-full sacks that have been damaged, mistreated, and trampled. To prevent their contents from being pulled down further, Haitian households need to be filled, strengthened, and stood upright again. Several full sacks together stand strong much like communities composed of food secure households. Collectively, they can enhance each other's resiliency to withstand future shocks. “Sak plen”, or a ‘full sack’, is the aim of World Vision Haiti Sak Plen REP.



Haiti at a Glance

- Haiti is part of the West Indies and occupies the western third of the island of Hispaniola, which it shares with the Dominican Republic.
- Two-thirds of Haiti is mountainous, and valleys, plateaus, and small plains mark the remaining third.
- The unique flora and fauna of the country are attributable to the varying climates produced from the mountainous topography and fluctuating elevations.
- Soil erosion and deforestation have created major challenges for sufficient agricultural production.
- Haiti is about the size of the state of Maryland with a population of 8,706,497 and a growth rate of about 2.5%.
- Port-au-Prince is Haiti's capital and largest city, where approximately 1.1 million people reside.
- Creole and French are Haiti's two official languages. While 95% of Haiti's residents are black, 5% are primarily white and mulatto.
- Haiti is generally very hot and humid with a dry season from June to November. Fog and drizzle characterize the months of November through January, and the wet season occurs between February and May due to rain brought by the northeast trade winds.



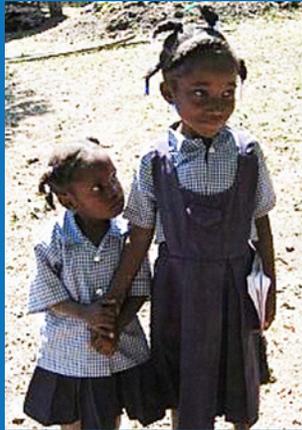
ket Based Livelihoods (H-MBL) Sub-Component, or IR 2.2 - fosters longer-term economic growth by linking producer groups and growers associations to market opportunities. The third and final prong - the Natural Resource Management (NRM) Sub-Component, or IR 2.3 - enables participating communities to restore and protect targeted micro-watersheds as well as mitigate and respond to cyclical shocks and natural disasters.

Partnerships

Partnerships allow Sak Plen REP to capitalize upon the knowledge, experience, and appreciation of the local context as well as the relationships with participants and other stakeholders that these community-based organizations have already acquired. Hôpital Albert Schweitzer (HAS), Management and Resources for Community Health (MARCH), and Save the Children are three partners vital to the success of Sak Plen REP.

Hôpital Albert Schweitzer

HAS is a rural health facility serving the impoverished in Central Haiti that partners with organizations such as World Vision and other private individuals in order to provide medical care and community health and development programs in Haiti's Artibonite Valley region. HAS focuses on supporting Sak Plen REP MCHN interventions including utilizing Mothers' Clubs in the Artibonite Valley region.



Management and Resources for Community Health

MARCH is a non-profit organization serving those who live in villages surrounding Mirebalais, a town in Haiti's rural Central Plateau. Dr. Antoine Augustin, a Haitian physician, runs the organization. MARCH focuses on supporting Sak Plen REP MCHN interventions including utilizing Mothers' Clubs in the lower Central Plateau region.

Save the Children

Save the Children is an organization that works to create lasting change for children in the United States and throughout the world, primarily through child sponsorship. Save the Children works in more than 110 countries. Save the Children focuses on supporting components of Sak Plen REP MCHN interventions including utilizing BCC in the Communes of Dessalines and Maissade.

What Do We Do?

World Vision United States (WVUS) Grant Acquisition and Management (GAM) Global Food Resources is a full-service technical assistance provider that assesses, designs, supports, and evaluates short- and long-term food aid development and relief activities. We foster vibrant community-based activities that develop local capacity to address food insecurity and build resilience against future shocks. GAM Global Food Resources addresses the most pressing problems related to food insecurity, primarily through:

- Preventive Mother and Child Health and Nutrition (MCHN) Interventions
- HIV/ AIDS, Food and Nutrition Interventions
- Agricultural Production and Marketing Interventions
- Early Warning Interventions

Where Do We Work?

WVUS GAM Global Food Resources manages USAID Food for Peace Title II, USDA Food for Progress, and USDA Food for Education food aid grants in the following countries: Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, Lesotho, Malawi, Mongolia, Mozambique, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Acknowledgements

World Vision appreciates the extensive support and cooperation of all who participated and assisted in the publication Building Food Security Through Food for Peace. We would like to thank Angela Croquette, Danielle Pillsbury, and Michelle Aurelio for their content input, editing skills, and graphic design leadership. Most importantly, we thank Wesley Charles, Dr. Lionel Isaac and Dr. Lesly Michaud of World Vision Haiti who work directly with the beneficiaries and are committed to building intergenerational knowledge and local capacity in responding to mother and child health and nutrition needs, and reducing malnutrition in the targeted Title II households, communities and catchment areas. Finally, we are especially grateful to the United States Agency for International Development for recognizing the need to ensure food aid is available to contribute to addressing undernutrition issues and food security needs in the most vulnerable geographical areas within Haiti.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Colette Powers".

Colette Powers
Director, WVUS GAM Global Food Resources

To learn more about World Vision's work, please visit us at www.worldvision.org

To learn more about World Vision U.S. Food Aid Programs, please visit us at www.wvfoodresourcesworkshop.com

© 2008 World Vision, Inc.



This document was made possible through the Institutional Capacity Building grant of World Vision U.S. The opinions expressed herein are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID. ICB Grant #AFP-A-00-03-00026-00.