



Country Specific Information: Haiti
U.S. Agency for International Development
Bureau for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Office of Food for Peace

Fiscal Year 2012: Title II Request for Applications - Haiti
Title II Development Program

Subject to the availability of funds and commodities, under this Request for Applications (RFA), the Office of Food for Peace (FFP) plans to enter into awards for the following country: Haiti. Applications are submitted at the risk of the applicant, and all preparation and submission costs are at the applicant's expense.

Background: The Office of Food for Peace (FFP) anticipates that funds and commodities will be available for Title II development programming in Haiti in fiscal year (FY) 2012. The anticipated life-of-activity (LOA) funding for this program is approximately \$140 million for up to five years in support of up to four awards, subject to the availability of funds and commodities. Of this amount, it is anticipated that approximately \$35 million will be available in FY 2012. The U.S. Agency for International Development in Haiti (USAID/Haiti) and FFP anticipate that a portion of this \$35 million of FY 2012 funding may be replaced with complementary cash resources (up to \$12 million) from USAID/Haiti, subject to the availability of funds.

This country specific information with one annex supplements a newly released Title II Request for Applications (RFA) with a new submission date for applications for Haiti only. This document contains information on USAID/Haiti food security programming priorities; to eliminate redundancies, other FFP food security programming priorities found in the RFA for Haiti only (such as gender) are not repeated in the country specific information.

Food Security and Nutrition Situation: Haiti's high poverty levels have changed little over the past several years, and the United Nations (U.N.) 2010 Human Development Index (HDI) ranked the country 145 out of 169 countries. This economic and developmental stagnation is due in part to a lack of improvement across many development indicators, including levels of undernourishment, underweight, and stunting among children, gross domestic product (GDP), and overall poverty.¹

¹ For a detailed description of Haiti's Food Security and Nutrition, see the *Haiti Prospective Food Security Assessment*, FANTA-2, 2011

High poverty levels also hinder Haitians' ability to access basic services (e.g., education, healthcare, water, sanitation) and grow or otherwise acquire and adequately utilize the food needed for a productive and healthy life. Domestic agricultural production accounts for about half of the food available in the country and the other half is imported. Purchasing food—which requires cash—is a significant means by which households obtain food, even in rural agricultural areas. Adding to the high prevalence of poverty, prices for imported food stuffs (and some domestically grown food) have increased significantly since 2007, further exacerbating difficult food security outcomes. For the purposes of this country specific information, food availability relates to sufficient quantities of food from household production, other domestic output, commercial imports or food assistance are consistently available and/or within reasonable proximity to households.²

Two main factors drive availability in Haiti: agricultural production and imports. As such, the amount of food in-country is affected by both; therefore, food security is both highly vulnerable to local climate conditions and environmental constraints, as well as to global food and fuel price fluctuations. According to the Spring 2011 Agricultural Season Survey and Market and Food Security Assessment conducted by the Government of Haiti's (GOH) National Food Security Council (*Coordination Nationale de Sécurité Alimentaire* (CNSA)) and the U.N. World Food Program (WFP), total national production for the 2011/2012 season is forecast as follows: 607,200 metric tons (MT) of cereals, 186,300 MT of legumes, 1,465,000 MT of tubers, and 232,000 MT of plantain. This total represents a decrease from last year's production of seven percent for cereals, six percent of tubers, and nine percent of vegetables. However, plantain production is estimated to increase by six percent.³

Based on these estimates for the 2011/2012 harvest season, close to 1,218,000 MT cereal equivalents (CE) is expected to be available from national production. National food requirements, however, are estimated at 2,129,000 MT CE, suggesting that a minimum of 911,000 MT CE will have to be covered by imports. Projected commercial imports are 740,000 MT CE, leaving a deficit gap of 170,000 MT CE.⁴ Food access ensures that adequate resources are available to obtain appropriate foods for a nutritious diet. This depends on total income available to the household, the distribution of income within the household, and the price of food(s).⁵

The extremely mountainous terrain and poor, underdeveloped road infrastructure of Haiti present significant transport and isolation/access challenges. However, Haiti is a small country with an area of 27,750 sq km (10,714 sq mi) including the islands of Tortuga (La Tortue), Gonâve, Les

² FFP Strategic Plan for 2006-2010 (definition taken from USAID Policy Determination No.19, April 1992). It is important to note that other definitions of food availability exclude food assistance in this overall calculation. Technically, if the objective is to determine the amount of food available in a given country, food assistance should be included. However, if the objective is to better understand a country's relative level of food insecurity, it may be better to exclude food assistance from the overall calculation of food availability.

³ *Enquête de la Campagne de Printemps 2011 et Analyse des Marchés et de la Sécurité Alimentaire*, CNSA, September, 2011, <http://www.cnsahaiti.org/home/Dernieres-nouvelles/enquete-de-la-campagne-de-printemps-2011.html> (Accessed on January 13, 2012)

⁴ Ibid

⁵ FFP Strategic Plan 2006-2010

Cayemites, and La Vache. Comparatively, the area occupied by Haiti is slightly smaller than the state of Maryland and for this reason, despite the relative isolation of mountainous communities, the majority of household food access challenges across the country are more linked to sociopolitical and economic factors—in particular income poverty—than to physical location. CNSA’s 2007 Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment indicated households in rural areas sourced about 68 percent of their food through purchases, and that food purchases accounted for a minimum of 60 percent of total household expenditure. CNSA’s 2011 survey and assessment further identifies households whose food expenditures represent more than 66 percent of their total expenditure as food insecure and considers that up to 45 percent of households are food insecure.⁶ Food utilization and consumption mean proper biological use of food, requiring a diet providing sufficient energy and essential nutrients, potable water and adequate sanitation, as well as knowledge within the household of food storage and processing techniques, basic principles of nutrition and proper childcare and illness management.⁷

In Haiti, factors that affect the households’ abilities to effectively utilize food are multi-faceted and include poor dietary intake, health and nutritional status, poor water and sanitation practices, poor quality of care (i.e., both maternal care practices and availability of and access to basic medical services), and widespread poverty. The high burden of micronutrient malnutrition is also of concern. The infant mortality rate is estimated at between 54.0 and 62.4 infants per 1,000 live births and the under-five mortality rate at between 72 and 87 children per 1,000 live births, is the highest in the Latin America and Caribbean Region.

The 2011-2012 Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) will provide updated data. However, following a reanalysis of the results from 2005-2006, Haiti’s national stunting levels (tied to chronic malnutrition) were estimated at 29 percent, most particularly in children under three years of age. In some departments of the country, these levels were even higher, including the Central Plateau where stunting was 37 percent and the Southeast with 35 percent stunting. Most specifically, trends indicate that malnutrition begins to increase during the first few months of life and intensifies throughout the first two years, peaking at about two years of age.

By contrast, the prevalence of wasting (tied to acute malnutrition) is significantly lower than in many other countries that are developmentally on par with Haiti. The 2008-2009 nutrition survey conducted by *Action Contre la Faim* (ACF or Action Against Hunger, in English) and the Ministry of Health (MSPP) identified some departments that had a higher prevalence of global acute malnutrition (GAM) than the national average of 4.5 percent in 2009, such as the Southeast with 5 percent, Grande Anse with 5.7 percent, Central Plateau with 4.7 percent, and Northwest with 6.2 percent.⁸

Policy Environment: The Title II development program will continue to be the U.S. Government’s (USG) principal tool to target the more food insecure population in Haiti.

⁶ *Enquête de la Campagne de Printemps 2011 et Analyse des Marchés et de la Sécurité Alimentaire*, CNSA, September, 2011, <http://www.cnsahaiti.org/home/Dernieres-nouvelles/enquete-de-la-campagne-de-printemps-2011.html> (Accessed on January 13, 2012)

⁷ FFP Strategic Plan 2006-2010

⁸ Nutritional Survey, 2009, ACF and MSPP

Applicants should articulate how proposed activities complement and link with other USG food security and nutrition investments, including USAID's Feed the Future (FtF), Health and Nutrition programs, programs targeting HIV/AIDS-affected households, water and sanitation and hygiene (WASH) interventions, and, when appropriate, USDA's McGovern Dole, in addition to GOH national, regional, and departmental level development priorities.

Applicants should also highlight when proposed activities complement the aims, activities and investments of other development actors, including WFP, other U.N agencies, other multilateral or bilateral donors, other nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), civil society, the private sector, and communities. It will be especially critical for applicants to describe how local NGOs will participate in program implementation and to illustrate the means through which the program will contribute to and encourage an enabling environment for promoting gender equity. Applicants should also indicate how the program will work with and through department government systems to build on the capacity of local government to address the root causes of food insecurity and to build household and community resilience.

Post-earthquake USG development programming focuses on three geographically defined 'growth corridors' described in the Post-earthquake USG Haiti Strategy of January 2011.⁹ Given that the criteria leading to the selection of the most food insecure zones are different from those that led to the identification of the growth poles, as described in the strategy, significant geographic overlapping of USG development corridors with regions targeted for Title II program is not expected.

Geographic Priorities and Programmatic Coordination: The Title II development program targets resources for food security programming in the most food insecure regions, with full consideration for opportunities for synergies and partnerships. FFP will prioritize Title II development program resources in the Artibonite and Northwest departments. Programming of Title II development resources in any other geographic area identified as having high levels of food insecurity in FANTA-2's *Haiti Prospective Food Security Assessment* may be considered if justified appropriately.¹⁰

Among other factors that have been linked to food insecurity are: i) size of the household (those comprising eight or more members are more food insecure), ii) number of meals per day, iii) percentage of overall household expenditure on food (N.B., those that are more food insecure spend more than 66 percent of their income on food), and iv) type of employment (e.g., those who live primarily from fishing, charcoal production, remittances, agriculture, and daily/seasonal work are more food insecure).¹¹ Applicants should indicate how areas where food assistance offers a comparative advantage as a program approach, relative to other program approaches that are being selected, as well as how households meeting the above description will be targeted. Overlaps with other food-assisted programs must be avoided.

⁹ <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/156448.pdf>

¹⁰ Glaeser, Laura M; Horjus, Peter; Strother, Shannon. 2011. *Haiti Prospective Food Security Assessment*. Washington, DC: FANTA-2 Bridge/FHI 360

¹¹ Ibid

The goal is for Title II resources to target the most vulnerable households and communities in the most food insecure departments as identified by CNSA's food security survey and other food security analyses. Any deviation from these geographical areas is justifiable if the target population or sector is not geographically confined, i.e., food assistance to institutions such as orphanages, sanatoriums, and homes for the elderly and destitute.

Applicants must also substantiate with evidence that the proposed target areas have been selected based on comparative need, defined on the basis of comparative food security and nutritional status of households and communities, including data on stunting, wasting, and underweight, historical food crises, disaster vulnerability and poverty. Applicants must also identify how and with whom strategic partnerships will be developed and nurtured.

Program Length: FFP anticipates that the FY 2012-2017 cycle will represent the final multi-year development Title II cycle in Haiti. Applicants are expected to indicate how, over the five years of the program, activities will be either phased over to communities, local NGOs or government counterparts for continued implementation or ended. Typically, a local NGO is organized under the laws of the country; has its principal place of business in the country; is majority owned by individuals who are citizens or lawful permanent residents of the country or be managed by a governing body, the majority of whom are citizens or lawful permanent residents of the country; and is not controlled by a foreign entity or by an individual or individuals who are not citizens or permanent residents of the country. Design of the program should take this into consideration from the onset and should include a dedicated plan with annual benchmarks for reaching the desired level of self-sufficiency and/or handover to communities, local NGOs or government counterparts. In all of these considerations, applicants should include a description of how programs will include a gradual reduction of Title II food and/or a gradual substitution of Title II commodities with local commodities over the five-year program cycle in anticipation of the phase out and end of the program.

As stated, FFP is considering up to four five-year awards for the upcoming multi-year development program in Haiti. However, a mid-term evaluation, conducted in year three of the program, will support FFP's determination of sufficient progress to warrant continuation during the final two years.

USAID/Haiti and FFP Programming Priorities: The Title II development program's focus shall be *to reduce food insecurity, prevent malnutrition, and increase resilience in vulnerable rural households in Haiti*. USAID/Haiti and FFP priority objectives and recommended activities for the Title II development programs in Haiti are summarized below.

Attempts to sustainably reduce food insecurity in Haiti must be undertaken simultaneously with an integrated package of activities designed to address the determinants of widespread undernutrition as well as aimed to boost the productivity and resilience of all members of the household. Three broadly-defined priority components have been identified to reach the objective identified above: a) improving nutrition and preventing malnutrition among children under two, b) strengthening livelihoods, and c) increasing resilience. This three-pronged approach is intended to yield improvements in food security status by simultaneously addressing

two of its underlying causes—food access and utilization—as well as addressing risk and vulnerability with integrated activities reaching targeted communities and households.

1) Within selected target areas, all children under two years of age and pregnant and lactating women and their households in areas with high levels of stunting should be considered for prioritization for mother and child health and nutrition (MCHN) activities aimed at improving food utilization in order to prevent the long-term negative effects of chronic child malnutrition.

The 2012 RFA provides standard language on Title II activities in support of the first 1,000 days approach¹²; programming that should be the focus of these MCHN activities. To highlight and complement that language, any Haiti MCHN programming should include, illustratively:

- Improving hygiene practices and enhancing access to clean water and improved sanitation. Comprehensive WASH interventions are essential and central to sustainable reduction of childhood stunting in Haiti even more so given the recent introduction of cholera and the abject water and sanitation conditions in the country;
- Improving prevention and treatment of childhood illnesses;
- Improving access to and quality of health services, including family planning and nutrition services, in coordination with Ministry of Health partners;
- Conducting direct distribution of Title II fortified blended foods to pregnant and lactating women and children 6-23 months to prevent and treat malnutrition;
- Engaging in the promotion and processing of locally produced commodities to improve nutrition, including their fortification when appropriate and feasible.

2) Within these same selected areas (targeting the same communities and households as those identified for MCHN activities) increasing local availability and access to nutritious food by diversifying agricultural productivity and income should contribute to household food and nutrition security as well. Agricultural interventions should strengthen small-scale agricultural production to improve livelihoods. Activities under this component could include:

- Increasing household diet diversity and diet quality through food production such as bio-intensive home gardens or “jaden lakou”;
- Strengthening the integration of small livestock and poultry production and ownership in targeted households to increase dietary diversity and the consumption and sale of animal food sources;
- Supporting the development of food processing of locally produced commodities and fortification of locally produced agricultural commodities;

¹² Previously referred to as Preventing Malnutrition in Children Under Two Approach (PM2A)

- Assisting farming households to enhance agricultural production of food crops for household consumption through improved farming techniques, reduction of post-harvest losses, and natural resource management;
- Promoting increased household production of micronutrient-dense plants for household consumption to increase dietary diversity and the distribution of improved seeds for plants with high micronutrient value;
- Increasing income-generating opportunities for household members to support diversifying livelihood assets;
- Increasing market analysis of information and orientation for targeted households to improve market access to ensure sufficient demand exists to sustainably support the production of any livestock or agricultural-related products.

3) Given USAID/Haiti and FFP's choice to invest multi-year resources in areas that are highly vulnerable to natural disasters, significant forethought regarding emergency response is required. Indeed, recurrent climatic shocks, including droughts, floods, and hurricanes, every few years virtually ensure that such a response will be required within the program's lifecycle. To address this, applicants must include a response strategy for dealing with predictable shocks relevant to the proposed target area(s) and populations. This strategy should include activities that contribute to building local and state level early warning and response capacity. As part of the proposed program, the strategy should be integrated in the other two components and provide support by increasing resilience, reducing vulnerability to shocks, and preserving development gains made in intervening (non-shock) years. Under this component applicants could consider the following illustrative activities:

- Contributing to national early warning information as a partner to the CNSA and other GOH entities;
- Strengthening community and municipal capacity and linkages and supporting community and municipal efforts to design rigorous and locally-appropriate disaster prevention, risk reduction, and preparedness plans;
- Monitoring and analyzing critical key indicators to enable identification of timely changes of the food security status of targeted zones and identifying and defining trigger indicators¹³ that will indicate when it is necessary to respond to elevated food insecurity in a timely manner;
- Integrating timely emergency Title II food assistance when appropriate and when required in targeted zones in order to prevent losses in development gains;

¹³ Food For Peace Information Bulletin (FFPIB # 10-01) on trigger indicators <http://www.usaid.gov/our-work/humanitarian-assistance/ffp/ffpib-trigger-indicator.pdf>

- Providing training and support to vulnerable communities in disaster and emergency preparedness to enhance resiliency and risk management;
- Promoting integrated disaster mitigation activities such as the production of certain crops as „insurance crops’ in case of drought or hurricanes;
- Piloting the use of Title II food resources as insurance in case of harvest loss. This optional activity is further explained in Annex I, Food Based Crop Insurance and Community Food Reserves.¹⁴

Interventions under the improving resilience component should also benefit the same communities and households targeted by the nutrition, health, and livelihoods interventions detailed above. Applicants will need to show close inter-sectoral linkages and specify how activities designed to address each of these sector priorities will be integrated for maximum impact.

Additional Key Considerations

Food for Education (FFE): Distribution of food to targeted schools may be considered as long as the food distribution component contributes to improving the quality of education in preschools and primary schools in Haiti. Priority consideration will be provided for schools that are part of USAID’s education program to receive Title II commodities. In this regard, food assistance could be provided as leverage to increase a package of quality interventions and support an improved educational outcome objective.

The design of an FFE component would also need to be coordinated with and support the National School Feeding Program (*Programme Nationale de Cantines Scolaires (PNCS)*). Any Title II focus in this sector would require contributing to the GOH and multi-donor long-term vision for school feeding in Haiti that was established in May 2010: “*to have a nationally-funded and sourced universal school feeding program by 2030.*” By 2030, it is envisaged that the PNCS will have the capacity to coordinate and plan overall school feeding efforts and take the lead in the implementation of the national program. Per national policies and priorities, the program is to have education, safety net and agriculture-related objectives including reaching the greatest number of school children in the country, increasing the capacity of the government to manage and implement the program independently over a period of time; and increasing the amount of local agricultural production purchased for the program.

For consideration, applicants proposing a FFE component will need to consider these national policies and objectives while including the following:

- An objective and indicators that focus on education outcomes and on improving the quality of education, given the specific Haitian context;

¹⁴ Applicants should note that FFP is interested in considering proposed pilot approaches to the use of food as insurance. Applicants who do not propose this activity will not be penalized during the evaluation.

- A description of how the program will use food aid as leverage to improve standardization of education, increase licensing, and registration of non-public schools; and
- Support to local food providers and/or processors, by involving the procurement of locally produced foods, as an approach to phasing over/out.

Social Safety nets: Food support to institutions that target the destitute, street children, orphans and other vulnerable children will be considered if the provision of food is, as in schools, a leverage to promote and ensure quality improvements and registration with the appropriate government counterpart ministry. Applications should be designed to go beyond direct food support to the institution to also integrate activities that involve the community and target the highly vulnerable households that typically resort to extreme coping strategies, such as turning a child over to the care of an institution. Food assistance to institutions must incorporate capacity building with the Ministry of Social Affairs and address the overall program requirements of phase over/out as described previously.

Strategic partnerships and innovative programming: FY 2012 Title II development program applicants are encouraged to include key strategic alliances and partnerships to enhance the impact of their programs. Institutional or private sector partnerships that can enhance local food processing and the delivery of much needed micronutrient supplements are particularly encouraged. Partnerships with civil society and/or universities, which can support and improve the efficacy of programming, are also strongly encouraged. Further, FFP and USAID/Haiti encourage applications that seek to combat food insecurity by pioneering food-assisted interventions and linking approaches that integrate nutrition, Title II food aid, the use of local commodities, fortification, and livelihood enhancing activities to increase resiliency of targeted households.

Additional Guidance

- Applicants should not plan for monetization of food aid commodities in FY 2012. However, monetization beyond FY 2012 may be feasible and applicants should plan accordingly. As such, applicants proposing monetization are expected to develop a monetization plan as described in the RFA.
- The anticipated LOA is \$140 million, subject to the availability of funds and commodities. Title II funding for development programming in Haiti will be reduced incrementally over the five-year program. It is anticipated that up to \$12 million of USAID/Haiti cash resources may be available in the first year to complement Title II resources, for a total of approximately \$35 million in FY 2012. Estimated out-year levels will be approximately \$32 million in FY 2013, \$28 million in FY 2014, \$25 million in FY 2015, and \$20 million in FY 2016.

- If applicants use the FFP sample budget templates, then applicants should use the monetization proceeds budget column for complementary cash resources in FY 2012, and for any “required cash resources” in the out years. (Note that these “required cash resources” may come from either available complementary cash resources and/or monetization proceeds.)

In addition to the Title II RFA, FFP encourages applicants to consult the following reference materials to inform proposal design:

- CNSA 2011 Food Security Assessment
(<http://www.cnsahaiti.org/>)
- Haiti Prospective Food Security Assessment
(http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/ffp/fy12.haiti.pfa.pdf)
- Haiti Bellmon Estimation Studies for Title II (BEST) report available at
(http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/ffp/besthaitireportdec.pdf)