

World Vision, Inc.

Emergency Seeds and Harvest Protection Program Central Plateau Final Report USAID #521-G-00-03-00015-00 October 16, 2003



World Vision Haiti
John Wesley Charles, National Director
World Vision International Haiti
9, Impasse Hardy, Juvénat
Pétion-Ville, Haiti
Tel. 509-260-0966 / 0968 / 0969
Fax. 509-260-0971
[Wesley_Charles@wvi.org]

Executive Summary

- 42 Metric Tons of quality seeds of local varieties of maize, sorghum, pigeon peas, peanut and beans were distributed to 2000 beneficiaries in the Communes of Cerca la Source and Thomassique
- Farmers (60-70 %) who planted early during the season have had a good peanut harvest (a cash value crop) and most of them had time to replant peanut in August. The other crops look promising on the field. Pilot seed banks are being established with community participation to collect paid back seeds

Project Outline

The regional drought of 2001 to 2002 in the Central Plateau (Center Department of the Republic of Haiti), captured by satellite imagery (NDVI, January 2003), caused a regional food crisis, documented by World Vision in a series of Rapid Food Security Assessments (RFSA) starting in August 2002. Farmers lost 80% and 70% of their harvests, respectively during the first and second growing seasons of 2002. In addition to low rainfall, poor seed quality is another factor that contributed to worsen the situation. The World Vision response to the crisis is holistic, designed to a) provide support to the poorest families until the next harvest, curbing malnutrition levels and a regional food crisis, b) provide viable and quality seeds of most commonly grown crop varieties and c) stimulate local activity and the economy, through road rehabilitation.

The project objectives were to:

- Provide nutritional support to 6,000 vulnerable farmers and their families to ensure full use of seeds and protect next harvest, over four months in six communes of Central Plateau namely Cerca la Source, Thomassique, Cerca Cavajal, Hinche, Thomonde and Boucan Care
- Improve agricultural production capacity of targeted households (6,000 farmers) for the next season
- Improve access to markets for people in targeted communities

Preliminary Results

Identification of Beneficiaries

Two thousands beneficiaries were identified in Thomassique and Cerca la Source by trained commodities monitors in April 2003. Beneficiary criteria included poor, impoverished households, not currently participating in the DAP, MCH Title II food, in addition with limited previous WV assistance. It was found that of the beneficiaries chosen, roughly 60% identified have received humanitarian assistance from World Vision in the past.



Emergency Seed Workshop and Beneficiary Identification

A series of meetings were held with local officials from the end of April to early May, including Mayors, Casescs and Asecs, in promotion of the project.

Distribution of Seeds

On March 19 2003, the first seed contract was signed and from April 24 to May 3, 42 tons of quality seeds of improved varieties of maize (Comayagua), peanut (Valencia), pigeon pea (local, non-photoperiodic variety), sorghum (M 50009) and bean (Violet) were transported to the Central Plateau. On May 5th, seed distribution started in the Central Plateau, with 2,000 families in Thomassique and Cerca la Source.

The rainy season started late April early May this year.



Emergency Seed Distribution

Preliminary observations indicated a very good germination rate, good standings and promising harvest for all the five crop species distributed. Farmers who planted early already harvested their peanuts and most of them had time to replant this crop. In addition, all five-crop species proved adaptive and socially accepted in the region. In August, beneficiary farmers started harvesting maize, beans and peanuts. Peanut harvest was successful but maize and bean harvests were poor due to a dry spell during the flowering stage of these crops. The other crops, sorghum and pigeon peas look very promising and will be harvested during November-January.



Farmer Beneficiary with Maize and Peanut Crop

Budget Expenditures

The \$50,000 was expended as follows: \$40,323, together with \$648 from other sources, was used to buy a total of 42 tons of 5 improved varieties of seed on March 19th, 2003. \$9,977 was allocated to WVUS Indirect Costs.

<u>Explanation (Type of Seeds bought)</u>	<u>Price</u>
10 Tons of Maize	\$6,669
10 Tons of Peanut	\$14,339
10 Tons of Pigeon Pea	\$9,959
6 Tons of Sorghum	\$4,002
6 Tons of Bean	\$6,002
Total Seed Costs	<u>\$40,971</u>
Total Direct Costs	\$40,323
Total Indirect Costs	<u>\$9,677</u>
Total Expenses	<u><u>\$50,000</u></u>

Conclusion

The emergency seed program was a success, with agricultural monitors reporting an 80-100% germination rate of the seeds planted, and the seeds were socially accepted and adaptive to the region. In addition, most beneficiaries are in a position to 'reimburse' the amount of seeds they received towards area seed banks, one in each of the six Communes. In addition, seed banks are part of a pilot program involving community participation. The effort represents the first systematic effort to replace area seeds.

END OF REPORT