



DISASTER CASE REPORT

Agency for
International
Development

Washington D.C.
20523

HAITI - Drought

Data:

Date: Late 1976 through 1977 (FY 77)

Location: Northwest, southwest, Ile a Vache, and Ile de la Gonave

No. Dead: Not reported

No. Affected: 450,000

Damage: Crops in the affected areas were severely damaged or destroyed by drought as well as attacked by army worms; widespread malnourishment with associated morbidity and mortality were prevented only by timely relief programs

The Disaster

Haiti had not fully recovered from a severe drought in 1975 when generally inadequate rainfall throughout the country in late 1976 caused failure or significantly reduced yields of crops normally harvested at the end of the year. Particularly hard hit were the northwest and southwest areas of the country as well as the Ile de la Gonave. The effect of the drought on food supplies was compounded when families were forced to consume seed being held for future planting. The widespread sale of animals and tools also indicated the seriousness of the situation. The loss of food supply, the depletion of meager savings, and the lack of alternatives in the worst affected areas pushed more and more people over the brink of extreme poverty into family and community disaster. The effects of the drought were made even worse by a subsequent army worm infestation of new crops.

Action Taken by the Government of Haiti (GOH)

In order to cope with the drought emergency the GOH established a Committee for Assistance to Disaster Stricken Regions (CARD) within the Dept. of Agriculture to coordinate relief efforts. CARD budgeted \$50,000 per month for the inland transportation of food commodities and supplies to the affected areas.

To assist the relief effort, the GOH assigned a Haitian military logistics expert to CARD, agreed to provide space in Regie de Tabac warehouses for the storage of emergency commodities, and waived port and customs charges on incoming food commodities and relief supplies. The Haitian Red Cross was also active in relief efforts.

Assistance Provided by the United States Government (USG)

In January 1977, information from field trips by U.S. A.I.D. personnel, as well as reports from CARE, indicated that additional food would be needed in the northwest, and an expanded FFW program was worked out with CARE and the Haitian-American Community Help Organization (HACHO). By the end of March when early spring rains had not materialized, U.S. A.I.D. and volag reports indicated that the drought situation was going to be more serious than any previous Haitian drought. Accordingly, a meeting was called by the U.S. Ambassador on April 4 and was attended by HACHO, CARE, CRS, CWS, and WPF. It was the consensus of the group that the situation would soon reach emergency proportions, and this conclusion was confirmed in a follow-up meeting among the voluntary agencies. On April 19 the U.S. Ambassador sent a diplomatic note to the GOH suggesting the creation of a disaster relief office. This was subsequently done, and on April 28 the U.S. Ambassador convened a meeting attended by representatives of the volags, UNDP, WFP, and concerned embassies to take note of the formation of the Haitian agency (CARD) and to develop inter-donor coordination in working with it.

On May 25, 1977, the U.S. Ambassador made a formal disaster declaration, which permitted A.I.D.'s Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) to use its funds to meet needs not covered by USG food aid programs and to provide assistance beyond the Ambassador's relief fund.

In addition to substantial food assistance, the USG provided funds for the purchase of hand tools and seed, fertilizer, insecticides, sprayers, transport costs for relief supplies, grants to voluntary agencies, and expert assistance.

Summary of USG Assistance

Supplies and equipment to the GOH:

sorghum seed (250,000 lbs.), corn seed (200,000 lbs.), including transport costs.....	\$216,400
kidney beans (160,000 lbs.), black-eyed peas (50,000 lbs.), and pink-eyed peas (80,000 lbs.).....	\$147,800
transport costs for beans and peas (\$6,432; \$2,457).....	\$8,889
fertilizer (1,500 tons).....	\$179,590
insecticide (Sevin) (22.3 MT).....	\$77,161

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side pump sprayers (2000).....	\$38,666
transport costs for fertilizer, insecticide, sprayers.....	\$100,902
Grants to voluntary agencies:	
Haitian-American Community Help Organization (HACHO) - grant of \$25,687 for purchase and supply of hand tools; actually expended.....	\$18,141
CARE - grant of \$59,250 for support of expanded program, repair of irrigation facilities; actually expended.....	\$31,725
Catholic Relief Services (CRS) - grant of \$13,950 for purchase and supply of hand tools; actually expended.....	\$12,933
CRS - grant of \$6,144 for supervision and inspection of FFW projects; actually expended.....	\$4,730
CRS - grant of \$5,000 for well construction; actually expended.....	\$4,045
Church World Service (CWS) - grant for nutrition centers and logistical support.....	\$37,820
Haitian Red Cross.....	\$12,000
Reimbursement of transport costs:	
Air freight for 37 MT of sorghum seed purchased by CWS for the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and UNICEF.....	\$9,522
Shipping costs for 90 tons of corn and pinto beans contributed by the World Vision Relief Organization.....	\$10,570
Air freight for insecticide sprayers contributed by CWS.....	\$2,076
Other:	
Administrative support for U.S. Embassy FY 1977 (\$6,000); FY 1978 (\$3,000).....	\$9,000
Support for documentation, supervision, etc. by U.S. Embassy of expanded emergency food program.....	\$16,400
Temporary duty assignments of OFDA and FFP officers and an agronomist FY 1977 (\$18,730); FY 1978 (\$4,525).....	\$23,255
Total from International Disaster Assistance Funds.....	\$961,625

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P.L. 480:

Through CARE

2,134 MT soy-fortified bulgur
165 MT non-fat dry milk
500 MT rice and 245 MT vegetable oil.....\$1,126,200

Diversion by CARE of commodities already in country

96 MT corn soy mix
400 MT soy-fortified bulgur
116 MT soy-fortified cornmeal
50 MT vegetable oil
57 MT soy-fortified flour
204 MT wheat-soy blend.....\$256,400

Through CRS

1,629 MT corn; 1,998 MT rice.....\$858,300

Through CWS

336 MT corn-soy mix
684 MT soy-fortified bulgur
210 MT corn
10 MT non-fat dry milk
60 MT vegetable oil
61 MT wheat-soy blend.....\$397,000

Through World Food Program

415 MT cornmeal
71 MT non-fat dry milk.....\$188,429
Total P.L. 480.....\$2,826,329

TOTAL \$3,787,954

Assistance Provided by U.S. Voluntary Agencies *

The three principal U.S. voluntary agencies in Haiti, CARE, Church World Service (CWS), and Catholic Relief Services (CRS), by long-standing agreement operate in different sectors of the country. After consultation they agreed that the most efficient and effective manner of food distribution for the emergency would be to focus on expansion of their regular programs, especially Food for Work (FFW) rather than direct distribution.

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CARE - operated in the northeast region and as far east as the Gros Morne/Bassin Bleu region. Working with the Haitian-American Community Help Organization (HACHO) and the Emergency Program for the Northwest (PUNO), CARE administered FFW programs that included construction of a warehouse, roads, irrigation facilities, and other agricultural improvements. In addition to USG funds CARE contributed from its own sources 500 MT of red beans (\$542,200) and \$20,000 towards emergency administrative costs for a total of \$562,000

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) - operated in the affected areas of the southwest coast in cooperation with the Canadian Development Assistance Agency (CIDA)

Church World Services (CWS) - with the assistance of the Methodist Church and the Church of the Nazarene, CWS provided assistance to the island of La Gonave, and took steps to help the starving population after the destruction of virtually all crops due to drought. While carrying on its regular maternal-child health program on La Gonave, CWS also established and later expanded FFW programs, using food commodities supplied by the USG. In addition CWS supplied 136 MT of beans from its own resources, valued at \$147,600

American National Red Cross - cash contribution to the Haitian Red Cross of \$10,000

World Vision Relief Organization - 41 MT corn seed (\$37,000); 2 MT red beans (\$2,000); 2 MT nonfat dry milk (\$2,888); total assistance valued at \$41,888

Salvation Army - the Salvation Army clinic at Fond des Negres handled an increased patient load related to the drought and resulting food shortage

TOTAL \$613,888

Assistance Provided by the International Community *

International Organizations

UNICEF - 48 MT medicines and vitamins (\$27,000); 37 MT sorghum seeds (\$31,200), all valued at \$58,200

World Food Program - 1,130 MT beans and peas worth \$510,000

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Governments

Canada - contribution to the Haitian Red Cross for the purchase of food (\$495,000); contribution to the GOH (\$562,900); contribution to CWS for purchase of seeds (\$562,900) for a total of \$1,082,900

France - 3,900 MT wheat flour, 2 MT rice, 2 MT bulgur (\$742,300); contribution to CWS for purchase of seeds (\$15,000); cash contribution (\$10,000) totalling \$767,300

Germany - 250 MT beans, vegetable oil, milk

Norway - 20 MT canned fish valued at \$17,500

Switzerland - 22 MT milk valued at \$33,137

Voluntary Agencies

Canada Red Cross - cash contribution of \$7,356

Denmark Red Cross - cash contribution of \$3,968

France Red Cross - contribution in kind for a value of \$11,397

Netherlands Red Cross - cash contribution of \$4,000

OXFAM - cash contribution of \$3,419

Spain Red Cross - cash contribution of \$1,439

Switzerland Red Cross - cash contribution totalling \$3,968

United Kingdom Red Cross - cash contribution of \$3,419

TOTAL \$1,939,803

* Please Note: the figures for total U.S. voluntary agency and international assistance are an approximation. In many cases the cash value of in kind aid is unavailable.