

CASE STUDY



**BRIDGING THE HUMANITARIAN-DEVELOPMENT DIVIDE IN HAITI:  
U.S. FOOD FOR PEACE & EMERGENCY FOOD SECURITY PROGRAM**

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Leverage crisis modifiers more frequently in Food for Peace programs to enhance resilience and protect development gains.
- Scale child-sensitive national safety net program to build long-term resilience to food insecurity.
- Invest in development food assistance programming in fragile contexts through Food for Peace.
- Increase U.S. government support for cash transfer programming in humanitarian contexts.

Introduction

In Haiti, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)/Food for Peace-funded development food security activity (DFSAs) Kore Lavi is supporting 18,150 households with monthly food vouchers in five of the 10 departments across the island. The program is being led by CARE and the Government of Haiti, in partnership with World Food Program, Action Against Hunger, World Vision, and SOCOPEs, a Haitian financial service provider. This four-year program is strengthening the Haitian national social safety net and improving the food security and nutritional status of vulnerable populations by enhancing access to locally produced foods.

In addition to the ongoing voucher program, Kore Lavi was reinforced with a “crisis modifier” through the USAID Emergency Food Security Program (EFSP). USAID uses crisis modifiers to quickly inject emergency funds during crises into existing development programs. This intervention ensures implementers respond rapidly to address humanitarian needs, reducing livelihood and other development losses. For three months, nearly 1,100 families received 3,000 Haitian Gourdes (US\$50) per household, per month.

By providing humanitarian relief through the EFSP, the gap between relief and development was bridged and emergency programs were integrated, sequenced, and layered with longer-term development programs through Kore Lavi. Importantly, cash programming proved to be a particularly dynamic tool in responding to the evolving challenges in Haiti.

Photo: A beneficiary receives her cash disbursement as part of the USAID supported EFSP program.  
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One of my neighbors is a beneficiary from that program. Right after he took the first money, his child got sick and if it wasn't for this money, he would not have been able to pay the hospital fees. The cash transfer project absolutely improved the well-being of children."

—*Filias Jacques Henry*  
Deputy Mayor of La  
Gonâve, Haiti

## Context

Last October, Haiti had only just begun rebuilding from a devastating earthquake when Hurricane Matthew tore through the small Caribbean nation, killing more than 800 people<sup>1</sup> and overwhelming entire villages, including many on the island of La Gonâve.

For over 30 years, World Vision has conducted development programs on La Gonâve, an island that has long struggled with poverty, poor infrastructure, and access to basic services such as clean water, electricity, and transportation. When Hurricane Matthew hit, it damaged an estimated 40-50 percent of the island's infrastructure, and swept away natural resources.

Hurricane Matthew destroyed more than 3,200 families' homes, displaced 15,000 people, and ruined fields and drowned livestock, leaving entire communities on the island in need of emergency assistance.<sup>2</sup> To respond to this complex situation, a comprehensive solution was required, combining both humanitarian response efforts alongside of long-term development and resilience programs.

## Challenges and solutions

During project implementation, World Vision encountered the following challenges:

### » FOOD FOR PEACE KORE LAVI DEVELOPMENT FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

**Travel Distance to Exchange Vouchers:** Beneficiaries expressed concern about the time required to walk to exchange their vouchers for fresh food. Average time recorded for the most remote areas are between one to one and half hours.

**Solution:** World Vision and CARE initiated the establishment of new markets within the Anse-a-Galets commune through the support of the local leadership and the communities.

### » EMERGENCY FOOD SECURITY PROGRAM

**Logistics:** Poor road accessibility

**Solution:** Community leaders encouraged beneficiaries to travel to the nearest distribution points. World Vision recommended the local community seek financial resources for road rehabilitation activities so beneficiaries can be served as closely as possible.

1. Haiti death toll rises to 842 after Hurricane Matthew, reports say Sam Jones-Amanda Holpuch: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/oct/06/hurricane-matthew-haiti-rescuers-battle-reach-remote-areas>

2. ibid



A partner staff member from SOCOPEs, a Haitian financial service provider, reviews a single cash disbursement prior to distributing it to an eligible beneficiary. ©2017 World Vision/ photo by Bradley Dawson

“

The program is really helpful for the boys and me. It has allowed me to feed them better with the rice, beans, oil and vegetables that I buy. I have observed an improvement in their physical health and energy. They are gaining some weight.”

—Dachena

A widow and beneficiary in the EFSP program

**Vendors:** Vendors experienced challenges in the completion of sales records (mainly invoices), which delayed the payment process as documents had to be returned for correction or adjustment.

**Solution:** Two training sessions and coaching were organized with all vendors of the program to increase capacity in drafting sales invoices. The trainings supported the development of new innovative systems that streamlined verification of transactions and corresponding payments.

## Impact

### Food for Peace Kore Lavi Development Food Assistance Program

Kore Lavi continues to prioritize the strengthening of Haiti's national safety net system to respond to the needs of vulnerable communities. From the beginning stages of designing the program to its implementation, collaboration with Haitian government officials has remained central in all activities, advancing local ownership over time among all Haitian stakeholders and beneficiaries. Importantly, upon the conclusion of the program, Haitian institutions' capacity to effectively lead and manage safety net programming will be improved so the program gains can be successfully continued.

The program seeks to enhance access to local and nutritious foods for these families while also improving maternal and child nutritional status. Through a system of paper and electronic vouchers, eligible beneficiaries buy locally produced grains and vegetables, which supports local farmers and ensures long-term market development. In total, the program aims to reach over 300,000 households with enhanced nutrition knowledge and practices, nutritious food assistance, and food vouchers to buy mostly locally-produced foods.

### Emergency Food Security Program

The Emergency Food Security Program addressed immediate, life-saving food needs of the most vulnerable households in La Gonave, ensuring 5,400 vulnerable households have improved access to food through cash programming. After the program, 99.76 percent of target households reported enhanced food security<sup>3</sup> when compared to baseline data.

## Recommendations

As the U.S. government and its partners continue to support and implement humanitarian and development food assistance programming, World Vision proposes the following recommendations:

- Leverage crisis modifiers more frequently in Food for Peace programs to enhance resilience and protect development gains
  - \* USAID has pioneered the use of crisis modifiers to quickly inject

3. World Vision Haiti EFSP AID-FFP-G-16-00032\_Final Results Report submitted 17APR24.pdf

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Following Hurricane Matthew, we worked with World Vision in determining beneficiaries and ensuring we were supporting the most vulnerable and impacted.”

—*Pierre Ricot Odney*  
 Ministry of Social Affairs  
 and Work (MAST), from  
 the Government of Haiti

emergency funds during crises into existing development programs, allowing partners to respond rapidly to humanitarian needs, reducing livelihood and other development losses.

- \* Crisis modifiers are agile and respond quickly to changing needs. Emergency food aid is used to reach vulnerable beneficiaries, and in the case of Haiti, they are implemented alongside development activities.
- Support child-sensitive national social safety net programs to build long-term resilience to food insecurity.
  - \* Marginalized families are regularly unidentified and unreached by health, education and social protection services. Through humanitarian cash transfers, they can be reached by national social protection programs.
- Invest in development food assistance programming in fragile contexts through Food for Peace.
  - \* Much of the humanitarian need today has been driven by civil wars, political instability, and unresolved political disputes. By intervening in fragile states before they become failed states, future food insecurity crises can be averted.
  - \* Implement innovative and flexible approaches to addressing widespread extreme poverty and vulnerability, including through the adoption of multi-year, flexible funding.
- Increase U.S. government support for cash transfer programming in humanitarian contexts.
  - \* Humanitarian cash transfers are not adequately invested in, accounting for approximately 7 percent of humanitarian spending, and resulting in unnecessary inefficiencies.<sup>4</sup>

In consultation with donors, World Vision believes implementers should have discretion over the type(s) of modalities used in its food aid programming (based on local context and market analysis), including increased use of cash and voucher programming.

## KEY CONTACTS

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## Conclusion

Through the support of USAID, World Vision is fostering greater food security and improved livelihoods in Haiti by bridging the divide between humanitarian and development programming. By using cash-based and voucher programming in both multi-year resilience programming through Food for Peace, and a crisis modifier through the Emergency Food Security Program, thousands of Haitian families are more resilient to future droughts and natural disasters. Additionally, both programs are helping to strengthen local markets, and improving the country's social safety net.

4. Resilience at USAID. (2015, June). Retrieved October 25, 2017, from [http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf\\_docs/PBAAEI78.pdf](http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PBAAEI78.pdf)