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Informing the Shock-Responsive Targeting of Vulnerable Households in Haiti

Country

Haiti

Caribbean Regional Resilience Building Facility Component

Adaptation Facility for Leveraging Investments in Resilience in the Caribbean

Amount Approved

€250,000 / \$296,700

Duration

03/2021 – 02/2024

Context and Objectives

Haiti is grappling with unprecedented political, socio-economic, and humanitarian turmoil. As the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere, Haiti has endured high levels of food insecurity, exacerbated by extreme weather events, recent droughts, and prolonged political instability. These events have led to the closure of businesses and public institutions, disrupting the supply chain of essential goods, notably food aid.

Targeting households caught in the throes of this situation is a key step in the delivery of social protection benefits, allowing cash transfer providers to accurately identify vulnerable households in need of assistance and efficiently prioritize the distribution of assistance.

The objective of this project was to build the evidence base on targeting options to identify and assist vulnerable households, including through the Haitian Deprivation and Vulnerability Index, with an emphasis on rural post-disaster contexts and urban settings not included in the social registry.

Main Activities

- Assessing the targeting accuracy of the Haitian Deprivation and Vulnerability Index.
- Targeting and prioritizing rural cash transfer beneficiaries in disaster response contexts in the Grande Anse department.
- Compiling relevant sources of information to develop a vulnerability indicator for urban areas in the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area.

Results

A household survey instrument was designed to improve the Haitian Deprivation and Vulnerability Index and the framework for the shock response mechanism for the department of Grande Anse. Furthermore, an analytical report providing evidence on the impact of the August 2021 earthquake on households living in the Grand'Anse department based on the shock module introduced in the social registry survey has been finalized and published. In addition, a manual was finalized that established procedures and an operational framework for shock-response through social assistance cash-transfers. The Shock Response Manual was complemented by a note on financing options and a note on options and strategies for institutional and regulatory anchoring of shock-response protocols. Thanks in part to the work performed under this project, shock response protocols are in place as part of the Klere Chimen safety net.¹

¹ Klere Chimen is an unconditional cash transfer program that provides monthly cash transfers to 22,400 most vulnerable households in Grand'Anse, a rural department that is highly exposed to natural disasters and poverty.

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The activities and outputs involved have helped inform the drafting process of the government's emergency response protocols as part of the flagship social safety net program financed by the World Bank. As a result, the government of Haiti now has standard operations procedures and tools for outreach, intake, registration, assessment of needs of vulnerable populations and payments of cash transfers in case of disasters. The result is notable capacity building as the government now has experience with the evidence and methods required for potential expansion of the new World Bank safety net in other urban areas and future potential emergency response in Port-au-Prince.

Partnerships and Coordination

The project was implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor, Ministry of Interior and Local Authorities. The World Bank coordinated its efforts with the EU Delegation in Haiti.