



FAO Emergency response in Urban and Periurban areas

Experiences in HAITI

**Port-au-Prince and Jérémie
(project OSRO/HAI/703/CAN)**

Javier Escobedo
FAO Regional Emergency Coordinator - LAC



Background

Lack of opportunities in rural area, and no land and natural resources tenure

Very little investement in agriculture

Growing urban population with, 70% living in township



Project rationale



- High demand for vegetables and fresh food during the rainy season
- Insufficient production in Haiti, imports from Dominican Rep.
- A project was designed with the following objectives:
 - increase food availability
 - help poor urban households diversify their income

Activities



- Support to vegetable growing



A “hanging garden” in a township of Port au Prince



School children growing vegetables on the roof top of their school

- 1600 families started vegetable production
- Children of 5 schools and 1 orphanage were sensitized to vegetable growing



- Support to poultry production

1 200 families established a unit for poultry production



The two-weeks production of an urban household



- Training and technical support



*A training in a school
of Port au Prince*

Difficulties



- Security problems in some areas:
Cité Soleil, Demonstrations in April 2008
- Lack of space and need to be «creative»
- Introducing the concept of «self-help» when people are used to receiving.
- Sustainability of the activities?
Lack of funding facilities to buy inputs (seeds, poultry)

Perspectives



- An intervention that targets the most vulnerable
- This is only a pilot to build on the work achieved and there is much more to do.

How do we learn and replicate with partners and ensure viability of the support?



Thank you

www.fao.org/emergencies
relief-operations@fao.org