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COMMUNITY DRIVEN DEVELOPMENT

OVERVIEW

In 2021, Haiti was ranked the third in the world for being most vulnerable to climate risks.¹ Recurrent and more severe natural disasters continue to challenge Haitians' resilience. Extreme weather events, heat, pounding rainstorms, and extended drought exacerbate Haiti's vulnerability. Sea-level rise, bringing saltwater into groundwater systems, plagues coastal communities, promoting migration away from seafaring livelihoods to dwindling land space for agriculture. The hydrology of climate change is presenting profound challenges to water security, food security, health, and livelihoods. In FY 2022, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) supported the Community Driven Development (CDD) project to respond to the water needs of farming communities in northeast Haiti that were struggling with 10 consecutive years of drought. CDD, implemented by the Organization of the American States (OAS) through its local partner, the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF), began building the capacity of smallholder farming communities, their local authorities, and academia together to predict, prepare for, and adapt to the recurrent droughts caused by climate change. CDD supported the State University of Haiti-Limonade to establish the Center for Water Resilience to engage academia and the public in dialogue on issues related to water security. In partnership with Auburn University (Alabama), the project provides support to students in the Agricultural Engineering Department of the university to analyze annual climate data and work with farming communities, disseminating usable information and adaptive approaches to water use and management. CDD helps water-users to adapt and mitigate climate risks by:

¹ https://www.germanwatch.org/sites/default/files/Global%20Climate%20Risk%20Index%202021_2.pdf

- Strengthening natural systems and promoting nature-based solutions to maintain ecosystem goods and services, such as soil conservation by replanting, and upstream reforestation;
- Constructing green infrastructure such as infiltration ponds, sand dams, and vegetative buffer strips to improve water quality and increase water storage capacity;
- Changing water tenure schemes to improve the equity or efficiency of water supply to different users;
- Deploying water conservation (drip-irrigation and appropriate water user fees) and use-restrictions to address water-related risks and improve resilience using early warning systems, climate information services, and other methods;
- Promoting cooperation to reduce anticipated conflict over water;
- Strengthening enforcement of regulations, policies (permit systems, water quality regulations, water abstraction and user fees), practices, and innovations that improve water use efficiency, conservation, and reuse.

CDD collaborates with academia, community-based organizations, the smallholder farmer association, the Ministry of Environment's Institute for Water Resource Management, the Ministry of Agriculture, and commercial water users such as Agrilog and Industrias San Miguel that provides stipends to university students to act as water security extension workers to disseminate adaptive water management approaches. The Activity works with these and other stakeholders to establish a water cooperative for long term management and maintenance of water systems and services.

OBJECTIVES

Water Resilience: To improve water resource management in North-East Haiti through better governance of the sector; and to increase resilience of stakeholders and food security in the region. The project has four objectives to:

1. Establish a Water Resilience Unit at the State University of Limonade to strengthen water governance structures in Haiti's Northeast Resilience Focus Zone (RFZ) and help Haitians mitigate food insecurity.
2. Capture annual climate (meteorological) information for analysis and dissemination and use adaptive approaches for improved water resource management among households, farmers, and other water users.
3. Strengthen the capacity of water authorities, academia, water management/user associations, Haiti's Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Committee, farming communities/associations, and Civil Society Organizations(CSOs) to increase water security and climate risk management.
4. Build the capacity of households and systems to be more resilient to droughts and other climate events.

KEY EXPECTED RESULTS

- 46,605 people gain access to basic drinking water services and basic sanitation.
- 59,188 people receive improved service quality from an existing basic drinking or safely managed water service and improved sanitation service quality from an existing "limited" or "basic" service.
- 81 institutions strengthened to manage water resources or improve water supply and sanitation services.
- 65 percent of target organizations with improved performance.
- 24 institutions (schools, hospital, and public markets) equipped with drinking water and sanitation infrastructures.
- 48,852 people benefit from adoption and implementation of measures to improve water resources management.
- 1,035 hectares using practices/technologies that improve climate risk reduction and/or natural resource management.

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