

UNDP IN HAITI

Programme overview

UNDP's present strategy in Haiti is based on the CCA drafted in October 2000 (and praised in the Secretary General report to ECOSOC of May 2001 on long-term programme support to Haiti as having been a "participatory process par excellence" involving about 200 people representing the main sectors of Haiti's development partners). It is outlined in the country's second CCF (2002-2006), which focuses on the areas of governance, poverty, and the environment as well as in the UNDAF (2002-06) prepared in June 2001, which strives to "promote sustainable human development by combating poverty and social exclusion, strengthening rule of law and respecting, protecting and realizing human rights". The Country Office has consequently developed four inter-linked and mutually reinforcing sub-programmes: state modernization and local governance; consolidation of the rule of law; poverty reduction; and participatory management of environmental resources.

The UNDP country office is currently adjusting its vision for Haiti in order to ensure optimal synergies with the OAS programme in overlapping areas such as security, justice, human rights governance. In this evolving context, the CO would benefit from a closer link between mutually reinforcing political, developmental and human rights activities in order to ensure the sustainability of its programs, ideally in conjunction with DPA. The arrival of the OAS mission thus provides an opportunity for UNDP and its programmes to play a stronger role within the overall "package".

Following a country office re-profiling in June 2001, UNDP Haiti went through a process of "reengineering", particularly by reorienting its management strategy towards the strengthening its staff capacity, in order to enhance the office technical capacity required for a more substantive and upstream policy dialogue with the government and other counterparts. Four thematic units were established within the programme section focusing on governance, poverty, environment and advocacy/information.

Governance: UNDP Haiti has been involved since 1995 in the rule of law sector and the consolidation of democratic institutions. Following the departure of MICAHA, the last of six UN missions, in February 2001, the UNSC called on UNDP to continue work in the area of rule of law. UNDP formulated and launched a post-MICAHA transition programme for the consolidation of the rule of law and to promote inter-sectoral dialogue and the participation of civil society in the justice reform process. It should be pointed out that the MICAHA had a budget USD 27 million and was staffed with 70 international advisors covering police, justice and human rights and that following the withdrawal of the international community, UNDP also suffered from a dramatic decline in programme resources. Despite these constraints in human and financial resources, UNDP continued to provide support to institutional reform and the strengthening of the justice system, including the national police and prison system. However, following an assessment and resulting withdrawal of bilateral support to the police, UNDP ended its support to the Haitian police in July 2001. UNDP has continued to work with donors through its programme for the consolidation of the rule of law in the areas of justice and prison reform.

Poverty: UNDP continued to play a lead role in participatory formulation of a national anti-poverty employment programme, which has been adopted by the government. UNDP continued to provide support to the National Statistic Institute (IHSI) to finalize the living conditions survey that will serve as a major advocacy tool. In parallel, UNDP also supported the calculation of poverty lines that will contribute to a poverty assessment study to be conducted before the PRSP formulation process resumes. However, given the precarious and often counter-productive political environment, very little progress has been made towards UNDP's overall goal of poverty alleviation.

HIV/AIDS: UNDP is focusing its efforts, in close cooperation with UNAIDS, on the process of preparing and implementing the national strategic plan to combat HIV/AIDS, while ensuring that this process reflects a participatory, cross-sectoral approach. Furthermore, UNDP Haiti is also the promotion of a multi-sectoral response to HIV/AIDS in Haiti, mainly through the implementation of the grant from the Global Fund to Fight Malaria, Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS.

Environment: UNDP continues to provide support to the Ministry of Environment for the monitoring, evaluation and coordination of the national environmental action plan and to encourage inter-sectoral dialogue. UNDP also supports the implementation of the national plan for risk and disaster management, developed in 2000, and facilitates inter-agency coordination.

Advocacy/Information: The setting-up of an advocacy and information unit has contributed to UNDP's advocacy and policy dialogue objectives. Despite the difficult political and socio-economic environment, UNDP continued to promote policy dialogue on strategic issues and brought the SHD agenda into the public debate, in particular through regular media briefings/interviews, the International Day against Poverty and the participatory preparation and launching of the first NHDR for Haiti, focusing on economic governance issues. Several key public relations and information events, with high-level representation, were organized during 2001 and contributed to increased visibility.

Linkages: Significant progress was made in 2001 in the consolidation of cross-thematic linkages through the UNDAF process and the NHDR. Linkages between policy-oriented and down stream activities in the areas of justice reform, decentralization, local governance, micro-finance, and environment were further reinforced. As mentioned, individual projects in the rule of law sector were consolidated into a single Rule of Law programme (the UNDP post-MICAH programme) and further interactions were developed with other UNDP projects, in particular to link thematic issues to the justice reform component of the programme. Linkages were developed between the UNDP State Modernization project and the UNCDF field-based local governance programme. The governance programme, in the framework of the new CCF, further links these two initiatives and is currently under revision. Additional and coordinated UNDP activities were implemented in the Northeast province, designated in the UNDAF as focus area.

Partnerships: The Country Office provided important, pro-active support to the Resident Coordinator system throughout the finalization of the UNDAF formulation process. Beyond the CCA/UNDAF process UNDP played a catalytic role to foster inter-agency collaboration and designed several joint UN initiatives (in particular in the areas of the rule of law, risk/disaster management and social statistics). A new partnership was developed with OHCHR on human rights monitoring. In a context of strained relations between the government and the international community, UNDP has been able to retain its role as a trusted and neutral partner.

Resource Mobilisation: Despite the on-going political crisis and dramatic reduction of donor support the office was able to mobilize support for some of its key programmes. Extensive resource mobilization efforts were made for the post-MICAH rule of law programme, and partnerships were established with Canada, Sweden, Norway and then-ERD, while discussions are on-going with other partners. The EU Humanitarian Office, the US Office for Foreign Disaster Assistance and then-ERD contributed to the risk/disaster management project. The Country Office also continued to promote to the government UNDP/RBLAC experiences/models in management services in support of the efficient implementation of IFI loan-funded public investment programmes. Important partnerships were developed with CSOs, NGOs and professional associations, in particular in the Rule of Law programme and in the framework of the NHDR.