Promotion of Resilient Agriculture through Agroforestry in Grand'Anse: Scaling up and professionalizing small-scale initiatives to build back better

Project Document
July 2022

Producer Organization led Project Document

Section 1: Basic Data

a. Project Name	Promotion of Resilient Agriculture through Agroforestry in Grand'Anse- scaling up and professionalizing current small-scale initiatives	
b. Country and Region	Haiti, Latin America	
c. Producer Organization (PO)	Name : Rezo Oganizasyon Pwodiktè/Pwodiktris Agrikòl Grandans (Réseaux des Organisations de Producteurs et Productrices Agricole de la Grand'Anse - ROPAGA)	
	Address : 102, Gébeau (à côté hôtel Vertigo) Jérémie Haïti	
	Registration	Ministry of Social Affairs, renewed August 4, 2021 Tax exempt number 12007005165
	Primary Activities of PO	● Agricultural production specifically fruit, honey, vegetables and staple crops ● Sustainable seed/input supply system (reinforcement of existing groups of artisanal seed producers (GPAS) ● Access to Information (set up a mechanism for sharing agro-information, agri-business and warnings system about animal and plant epidemiological monitoring) ● Family goat restocking ● Improvement of the beekeeping system ● Microfinance, especially the financing of Solidarity mutuals, women's farmer and entrepreneur groups, and mini enterprises ● Promoting rural entrepreneurship by reinforcing alliances with the private sector, financing institutions and business capacity building Institutions ● Marketing and transportation of agricultural products ● Food Safety ● Environmental Protection ● promoting Gender equity ● Capacity building farmer's organization ● Promoting of weather index crop insurance ● Reinforcement of ROPAGA presence in the decision-making spaces of the sectoral tables agriculture, environment, gender, Municipal Agricultural Office (BAC)
	Type of target farmers	Small farmers and those involved in small-scale agro-processing of agricultural products, credit, and Agroforestry. They are members and non-members of ROPAGA.
d. PO Mission Statement	ROPAGA's mission is to: Bring together agricultural producer organizations of Grand'Anse while helping them to	

	strengthen themselves for a sustainable and equitable development of the agricultural sector. Help to promote agricultural products, allowing producers to obtain more yields, and defending the rights and interests of small farmers.
e. PO Focal Person (for this project)	Name: Jean Pierre Luders Télisma Title: General Coordinator Email : luderspierrej@gmail.com; Cc. Ropaga2013@yahoo.fr
f. SE Focal Person	Name: Thomas Deville Title: Head of School Feeding Email: thomas.deville@wfp.org
g. Total GAFSP Grant Funding Requested *(refer to Annex 1 – Project Budget Table)*	USD 3,000,000
h. Estimated project start and end date 04/22 – 04/26	
Preferred Supervising Entity: World Food Programme (WFP)	

j. Has the PO previously received a GAFSP Missing Middle Initiative grant?

☐Yes, please complete *Annex 4*

✓ **No**

Section 2. Project Description

Project Background

Haiti has failed for decades to overturn the label of being the most deprived country in Latin America and the Caribbean and its ranking amongst the poorest countries in the world due to chronic political and social crisis aggravated by recurrent natural disasters. In 2021, the economic figures on Haiti were catastrophic; a World Bank report of 2021 stated Haiti had a GDP per capita of USD 1 815, the lowest in the Latin America and Caribbean region and less than a fifth of the average of countries in the region which is USD 15 092. According to the National Coordination for Food Security (CNSA, 2021), 4.3 million people (44% of the population) across the country experienced acute food insecurity which required urgent assistance in 2021, particularly families in the Grand'Anse Department that faced a 7.2 magnitude earthquake that same year causing about US$1.6 billion in damages and losses. Prior to these events, the Grand'Anse Department, especially in Jérémie and Roseaux where the project will be implemented, farmers have faced several crises. While agriculture is the main economic activity in these regions with crop and cattle being important sources of income, it was hit in 2016 by Matthew, a category 4 hurricane where livestock losses were estimated to be more than 30% and crop losses over 40%. It also experienced later in 2018-2020 several long periods of severe drought. Inflation, low harvest due to below-normal rainfall and restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic have reduced suppressed and incited vulnerable farmers to abandon farming and open a wide window to migration which exposes to abuse and violence.

Furthermore, key constraints prevent agriculture to bring satisfying economic change in the Department, especially in the communes of Jérémie and Roseaux. Small farmers have little access to technology, technical assistance, training, improved seed and organic fertilizers, upgraded irrigation and water systems and innovative practices for crop efficiency and credit. Those key production factors provoke high scale post-harvest losses and lack of storage and processing facilities often endanger the next planting seasons.

The communes are also victim of poor agricultural practices and uncontrolled cutting of trees, especially to produce charcoal. 70 to 85% of Haitian households use charcoal as an energy source for cooking, 35% of the national consumption, that is over 70 million kg of charcoal, comes from the South of Haiti, which includes Grand'Anse (ESMAP, 2007). households using firewood for cooking, bakeries, dry cleaners constitute, to put it mildly, the main pressure on tree cutting in the area which accelerates soil erosion.

The project outlined below will seek to improve food security and resilience of small-scale farmers in Jérémie and Roseaux through a context dominated by political turmoil resulting from government instability, economic stagnation, social disparity and insecurity. Through ROPAGA, this project will tackle poverty at community level to revitalize the agricultural sector.

2.1 Project Development Objective

The overall objective of the project is to increase the food security and resilience to shocks of small-scale farmers of Jérémie and Roseaux in the Grand'Anse Department through the adoption of climate resilient production, promotion of agroforestry, access to markets, and capacity building of farmers' organizations within the PO's structure.

This project aims to improve food security and resilience of small-scale farmers in a sustainable manner in the Grand'Anse Department through: (i) agroforestry and proven agriculture practices, (ii) Access to Markets and Transformation Opportunities (iii) Access to Agricultural Finance and Agriculture-related ventures. The project will hence sustainably improve incomes and food security, therefore the resilience of small producers in Grand'Anse in the face of climatic hazards and recent socio-economic shocks, such as the impact of the raising inflation.

2.2. Description of the project

The project will strengthen the Producer Organization (PO) ROPAGA, a leading organization in the Grand'Anse department, to support farmers in increasing and sustaining their income while protecting the environment, in a post COVID, post-earthquake and climate change context.

Through capacity building at various levels, the project will scale up ROPAGA's current efforts to support 10,000 additional smallholder farmers in two communes (Jérémie and Roseaux) most affected by the August 2021 earthquake. The project will have four main components, addressing critical barriers or inefficiencies in the agriculture sector: The first component will stimulate local, sustainable production through agroforestry and proven agriculture practices. This includes the marketing of productive and drought- and flood-resilient varieties of fruit and tubers; training on agroecology including agroforestry techniques; setting a sustainable seeds system supply by reinforcing 5 existing groups of artisanal seed producers (GPAS) within the ROPAGA network; improving livestock management and beekeeping. The second component of the project will link producers to local private sector entities (agriculture cooperatives, processing mini-plants, supermarkets, hotel, school cafeteria etc.) to improve access to markets and transformation opportunities for their products. The third component will develop a line of credit to strengthen agricultural entrepreneurship, including through promoting weather index crop insurance, combined with the strategy of building alliances with financing and business management institutions, allowing farmers and agricultural enterprises to make productive investments and providing sustainable revenue sources for the PO's future self-sufficiency. The last component will focus on the institutional strengthening of ROPAGA itself.

Project design and lessons learned

The project design was built upon farmer's communities needs and inspired by lessons learned through several projects occurred in the Grand'Anse (Supporting small-holders and mostly women in sustainable production and marketing of tubers, through innovative techniques at all value-chain levels, Haiti, Grand'Anse Region-CTA/AAH, Appui à la Sécurité Alimentaire, au Renforcement Agricole et à l'Amélioration Nutritionnelle dans la Grand'Anse-ASARANGA-AAH-KPGA-CARE). The main lessons learned are the following:

- A technology package for agroforestry is essential to allow farmers to have access to sustainable seeds supply, access to information and the diversification of livelihoods so to improve farmer resilience to natural shocks. Agroforestry is one of the ROPAGA's strengths which contributes to reforestation of areas prone to erosion.
- The development of synergies and complementarities is necessary which explains why the project is built to strengthen prior's projects work that made an impact. ROPAGA will establish contact with other GAFSP funded projects to exchange methodologies and practices and coordinate efforts where possible.
- Community participation has played a key role in the design of the project. Diverse women and men groups were consulted throughout the design processes of the project, particularly with a focus of women's voices from the most marginalized groups to ensure that they have an equal say in all decision-making processes regarding activities in the community. Women were consulted separately from men to ensure that their voices were heard and considered.
- An assessment of the lack of technical assistance packages to CBOs to scale-up their production by adding value to their product and increasing shelf life.

- Promote the creation of community groups/associations among the project beneficiaries can ensure long term sustainability. People can undertake clear roles to engage in the community change process.

Component 1: Improving Food Security and Resilience to Climate Shocks through agroforestry and proven agriculture practices

This first component will address issues of deforestation, food insecurity and vulnerability to climate shocks through agroforestry, sustainable seeds system supply, access to information and diversification of livelihoods.

In particular:

- 120,000 planted trees will be simultaneously economically productive and carbon-capturing, including species such as mango, avocado, pineapple, coconut, cassava, moringa, papaya, citrus, breadfruit, etc. In particular, the project will support the existing nursery of ROPAGA, and distribute 40,000 trees to farmers at no cost and will train them on planting and caring for those trees so economic opportunities can be created for them.
- 1,200 farmers will receive training about improving productivity of annual crops that can be grown as companion plantings in these orchards to provide short-term income while the agroforestry crops are maturing and will receive seeds that are resilient to climate stress. The trainings will discourage the use of chemical fertilizer to enhance healthy food and reduce postharvest losses to increase the nutrition status of farmer's households.
- The project will strengthen the beekeeping initiatives carried out by ROPAGA by improving the production system at the level of the apiaries. Beekeeping sector, which was severely affected by Hurricane Matthew and still practiced in an artisanal way, will be assisted in a process of modernization by strengthening the production capacities of apiaries, training and by introducing beekeeping equipment that complies with standards. This support will promote greater honey production and better hygiene and guarantee greater income for beekeepers.
- The most vulnerable farmers will receive support to for goat farming. Farmers will be encouraged to do controlled-rearing to protect the environment. The actions will be directed mainly towards training, marketing and financial support for the construction of pens and the supply of animals brought locally and vaccinated. Goat farming represents a major economic value for farmers. Participants will receive two goats and will later hand two animals to other members of ROPAGA.
- 800 women will be supported based on the proven model named "Jaden pre-Kay" or "Near Home Garden'' to cultivate their own gardens of vegetable crops to provide them with short-term incomes but also improve their households' nutrition status. Furthermore, women will strengthen their knowledge and ability to implement agroecological approaches such as decreasing soil erosion, improving soil organic matter, and sustainable water management techniques.
- 200 young people will be trained in grafting techniques. To sustain this activity, this component will collaborate with the University of Jérémie for research and farmer training.
- 5 existing groups of artisanal seed producers (GPAS) within the ROPAGA network will be reinforced in their operational capacities. Those 5 GPAS (APASD, GAKAM, KPG, Bare Grangou and Fanm Konba) will receive equipment such as: humidity meter or moisture meter, scale, hygrometer, indoor and outdoor thermometers, storage bags, tarpaulins to facilitate grain sorting and drying, silos (seed grain storage) and local seeds for multiplication operations. Prior to the distribution of equipment, they will be trained

in selection of seeds, multiplication of seeds and plants, production and storage of seeds (vegetables, cereals, cuttings) and business management through this sustainable supply system. Farmers and actors in development programs will have access to better quality seeds during the different agricultural campaigns. This initiative will build on existing actions taken to reinforce GPAS in Roseaux while extending it to the municipality of Jérémie. This approach is in perfect coherence with the strategic priorities of the Departmental Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture.

- 1 multipolar platform will be jointly developed between ActionAid and ROPAGA to facilitate the dissemination of information both bottom-up and top-down. This platform will use channels adapted to its different users (SMS, WhatsApp, call, email, social media, face-to-face meetings, etc.). It will be a valuable tool for disseminating information on innovative agricultural practices, information on local market prices, agro-climatic information, plot monitoring, business management, credit management, epidemiological monitoring of plants and animals, and climate hazard warnings. It will also be a solid foundation on which the agricultural insurance component will be established. Its direct management will be conducted by ROPAGA in technical coordination with ActionAid.
- Promotion of efforts to strengthen the governance of agricultural sectors and gender. ROPAGA and ActionAid will ensure an active presence in the decision-making spaces established at the level of the sectoral consultation tables on public policies, challenges and synergy between actors. A periodic financial contribution will be made to facilitate consultation meetings.
- Synergies will be set up with Asset Creation Programs led by WFP in the targeted areas, thus promoting better natural resources management and environmental and climate risk reduction.

Component 2: Improving Access to Markets and Transformation Opportunities

The Grand'Anse department is dominated by agroforestry systems which occupy nearly half of the total available space (44.6%)[1]. These modes of occupation are not confined specifically to one area but are scattered all over Grand'Anse. Their importance is a peculiarity of Grand'Anse. As a result, the department of Grand'Anse is suitable for growing fruits and other crops. However, some of the major issues faced by farmers and rural entrepreneurs are the lack of marketing opportunities for their produce and partnership with the private sector and financing institutions. The lack of reliable and affordable transportation and packaging options leaves producers with few options to convert their production into income, or to transform it into shelf-stable products that will not spoil.

ROPAGA and other local organizations have helped producers, especially women entrepreneur groups, to address this issue by supporting the creation of small and average processing units. However, some of them were damaged by Hurricane Matthew and the recent earthquake.

Capitalizing on lessons learned, this project will promote local products value chains through:

- Providing more sustainable solutions by providing technical assistance packages associated with grants to entrepreneurs or Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) to invest in small-scale processing and packaging equipment to process fruits, roots, grains, flour, castor oil, and dried fruits that will add value and increase shelf life.
- Supporting ROPAGA to complete and launch its central processing center and build on its transportation service to facilitate transportation of produce and value-added products from each commune to large markets. The majority of processing efforts will be managed by women.

[1] GARDEL, 2005: Rapport final

- Supporting producers to collect and analyze data on local Grand'Anse market specificities (such as market demand, consumer behavior, prices, packaging, points of sale, market niches, etc.) for food products made to identify the most profitable income-generating activities. The findings along with ActionAid's toolkit on "Gender Sensitive Access to Markets", which helps smallholder producers to understand value chains and market opportunities will be translated (in Creole) into simple/manageable information for producer groups.
- Supporting the creation of brand and marketing strategies for their products. In collaboration with ActionAid, ROPAGA will promote local agricultural products by raising awareness on their nutritive value and participating in trade fairs both at local and national level.
- Training ROPAGA's farmers in improved techniques for processing and preserving their own produce for their own family's consumption, reducing spoilage and increasing food security. A special focus will be put on women and children.
- Developing a consolidated business plan for ROPAGA's multiple rural businesses such as: nurseries, corn into ground corn processing central unit, purchase of agricultural products as part of a project with WFP, fruit processing, and credit mechanism over the next three years to record/document ROPAGA's revenues from those activities and take continuing actions to reinforce as necessary. In addition, ROPAGA will build partnerships with the private sector such as owners of supermarkets, hotels, private schools' cafeterias, government school canteen programs, and other consumers of local products. This consolidated business plan will allow managers of agricultural enterprises to make a better assessment of relevance, efficiency, and profitability.
- Capitalizing/innovating existing community transportation for agriculture products to ensure continuity after the project.
- Supporting ROPAGA's capacities to take part in tenders and procurement processes in order to increase commercialization opportunities.

Component 3: Improving Access to Agricultural Finance and Agriculture-related ventures

There are no appropriate financing products for agriculture in Haiti, including in the Grand'Anse department. ROPAGA has had great success in organizing community-based savings and loan groups through the *Konsèy Nasyonal Finansman Popilè* (KNFP) model of Solidarity mutual (MUSO), with a nearly 100% repayment rate on its current small loans. There is also no insurance product available for agriculture in the Grand'Anse department. This project will scale up these efforts to ensure that communities targeted by the project are able to establish and manage one of these community finance groups. Approximately 2,700 people in 90 groups will be targeted, through:

- Reinforcing finance groups to allow members to make productive investments in sustainable livelihood their productivity and resilience.
- Developing a line of credit to enable ten entrepreneurs or CBOs to invest in food processing and packaging. These loans will have reasonable interest rates and repayment terms. The repayments from these loans will establish a credit fund within ROPAGA that will be used after the project ends to continue to make loans and productive investments in agricultural activities in the department.
- Promoting a parametric micro insurance line with a weather index targeting ROPAGA's small producers, as risk mitigation mechanism, improving resilience of farmers in the context of the decapitalizing effects of climate change. This parallel initiative will be managed and supported by the WFP team, through their own funding. WFP has identified several activities in the project's intervention which could be

used to reinforce the foundations for education and sensitization actions, to introduce an agricultural micro-insurance component for the benefit of farmers. The cost of the premium associated with this micro insurance scheme, as well as implementation actions related thereto will be covered in their entirety by WFP funds, for duration of the Pilot from June 2022 to May 2023 pilot. WFP wishes to expose several farmers involved in agriculture-related activities, mainly farming/production to this parametric insurance. The deployment of this pilot experience, which will be combined with technical advice on agribusiness and risk mitigation mechanisms, is an exceptional opportunity for the targeted farmer to protect their investment, reduce their vulnerability when facing certain risks, and increase their revenues. For this innovative initiative to be a success, the distribution model retained, foresees the implication of all involved, with specific but nonetheless important responsibilities. While ROPAGA and the insurance company are going to play an important role in the implementation and operational processes, AAH will support WFP in the definition of the conditionalities for eligibility to the insurance cover.

The Project will target for the next seasons, agricultural producers in food insecurity situation, who will benefit from coverage through the mechanism of *Insurance through Work* or Insurance through training, by which WFP will pay for the producers' insurance premium. The producer's eligibility will be defined by their participation in the creation of risk reduction assets agreed upon by AAH and the WFP. Some of the proposed conditionalities for the premium payment, will tackle community-based initiatives for risk reduction such as:

- Rehabilitation of watershed
- Cleaning of irrigation canals
- Assist several technical production techniques, reducing moral hazard
- Training of agricultural techniques

As well as production activities:

- Application of agriculture production techniques
- Additional number of farming workdays

Although organized by representatives of the insurance Company, AAH will also have a supporting role towards the WFP and the Insurer in the planning and execution of educational activities designed to integrate meeting/ gathering platforms already in place for farmers. This support will as well be extended in the monitoring process, and assessment of the effects or impacts of this micro-insurance project.

The insurance component also aims at reinforcing ROPAGA's capacities in the medium to long term to independently link with insurer(s) and farmers managing weather index insurance coverage, also contributing to needs assessments in the event of climate related disasters. Climate indexes are to be developed and will be related to certain risks such as Hurricanes, Drought and Flood/ Deficit and Excess Rain, able to secure claims' payment for affected areas and affected farmers. ROPAGA will play a vital role in working with farmers involved, in inciting behavioral changes through education activities (training, sensitization) around insurance coverage.

Given ROPAGA's key role in small farmers' agricultural and commercial activities, their structure will be reinforced both by AAH and the insurance partner to support the implementation process of certain activities linked to the diffusion, and management of the micro insurance product. ROPAGA will serve as a priority channel for communication, realization of education actions, and monitoring actions during the implementation process.

- Supporting the development of annual business plan competitions, providing a seed capital grant to women and youth-owned ventures in the agricultural sector, on the basis of competition among business plans. This competition will target established small businesses as well as start-ups in order to

bring innovations and new technologies in the agriculture and food security sector. The average grant awarded will be approximately $10,000.

- As part of the access to finance strategy, ROPAGA and its affiliated organizations will be supported in designing proposals and submit them to call for proposals launched by donor-funded programs such as IADB, the World Bank, WFP or the UN agencies. Furthermore, technical assistance will be provided to young, and women farmers affiliated with ROPAGA to participate in Business Plan competitions organized at national level such as Digicel Entrepreneurs. Overall, full accompaniments will be provided towards ROPAGA to build alliances with government agricultural credit institutions like BCA, BNDA, FDI, and SOFIHDES for business and management training and the possibility for a bigger investment.

Component 4: Institutional strengthening of ROPAGA as a leading organization in sustainable agriculture development in the Grand'Anse department.

After 15 years of experience characterized by notable success stories, ROPAGA has the potential to become a champion in the Haitian Agriculture Sector. However, to achieve this goal, its capacity has to be revamped, especially to become financially sustainable and management savvy. Thus, in addition to the three main components described above, the project will strengthen ROPAGA management and governance through different trainings including 1) conflict management to help ROPAGA to build self-awareness and develop skills in finding creative solutions to address both external and internal relationship issues; creating friendly work environment for its employees and building trust/confidence in relationship with partners 2) financial management and reporting to strengthen ROPAGA capacity in managing organizational budget, managing donor funding, enhance fundraising and financial practices to better respond to funder requirements including financial accountability 3) Governance and Gender to support ROPAGA in the integration and systematization of gender sensitive programs, development of women leadership at its governance body and also within organizations/groups working with ROPAGA.

In addition to those trainings, the project will include an institutional assessment to determine in a transparent and integrated way activities for ROPAGA and its network of producer organizations, to ensure that those involved in the project are well-positioned at the end of the project to be self-financed and sustainable by carrying out their activities autonomously, using revenue generated. Key activities to be financed by this component are a modern farmer monitoring system that will allow ROPAGA to register each farmer's cultivated surface, crops cultivated, yields, quantity sold, and the status of his/her trees. ActionAid will help ROPAGA to develop a three-year strategic plan and a business plan, including the creation of a strategy to become financially self-reliant using revenue generated by ROPAGA's business lines. The goal will be the ability to pay a core permanent personnel of three persons who will support the implementation of the strategic plan beyond the life of the project and youth leadership will gradually be integrated into ROPAGA's structure at different levels based on competencies. The component will also finance study tours and learning exchanges (at the country level or abroad) for ROPAGA and its members so that they can learn from best practices in agriculture, food security, and resilience as well as to establish strategic partnerships.

Finally, the project will support ROPAGA in holding member forums and general assembly in the perspective of renewing its governance body, implement necessary structural changes to respond and better reflect ROPAGA's programmatic and financial situation.

2.3. Target population and the targeting strategy for the project

The project will target 10,000 farmers (primarily smallholder producers, and especially women, and youth)

in the municipalities of Jérémie and Roseaux in the Grand'Anse department, representing around 5% of the total 192,436 inhabitants of this area. At least 40% of the direct beneficiaries will be women and 30% youth.

The majority of the population of these two communes lives primarily on agriculture. According to the results of the general agricultural census, there are more than 16,000 farms each cultivating an average of 1 hectare of useful agricultural area. As indicated above, food security is an issue in the department. As of June 2021, based on the IPC classification, from a scale of 1 (minimal) to 5 (Famine), the food security bracket is 2 (stressed) to 3 (Crisis)[2]. 6% is the overall acute malnutrition rate revealed by the SMART nutritional survey developed in 2020, compared to 4% according to EMMUS VI (2016-2017). Severe acute malnutrition stands at 2.1%, slightly exceeding the emergency threshold of 2% set by the World Health Organization (WHO). Global acute malnutrition, which includes the rates of severe and moderate acute malnutrition, is on the rise in Grand'Anse (5%).

Each component of the project will have a different targeting strategy, with the goal of serving in some way all agricultural producers in the two municipalities by the end of the project. Many of the targeted groups are already members of ROPAGA. The participation of some non-members such as small suppliers of agricultural inputs and owners of food processing facilities are critical to achieve the expected results in a sustainable fashion. ROPAGA aims to target vulnerable populations as its primary beneficiaries, including the very poor, widows, female heads of household, and those who have suffered the most loss from the August 2021 earthquake and tropical storm Grace. It will also leverage its activities by partnering with other organizations operating in the agriculture sector, especially ActionAid and the World Food program, and creating synergies with other projects developed by WFP in the geographical area (Social Protection and School feeding program).

Component 1 will mainly target farmers (members and non-members of ROPAGA) who have access to parcels of land and are interested in planting and tending to agroforestry, climate-resilient and cash crops. They will be selected according to the following criteria: i) they express their interest by signing a request form; ii) they accept to pay a fee for the service proposed by the project; iii) they were affected by Hurricanes Matthew and/or Grace; iv) they were affected by the August Earthquake, v) they have lived in the Grand'Anse department for the last three years.

Component 2 will improve marketing opportunities by reinforcing partnership with the private sector for the agriculture-related ventures and all producers who are or who become members of ROPAGA and participating CBOs (estimated 5,000 producers). More than 70% of the direct beneficiaries will be women.

Component 3 will target community-level organizations to establish savings and loan groups in project zones, serving a targeted 2,700 members. ROPAGA will follow its current processes for setting up these organizations, targeting primarily agri-business women. The loans provided through will also target established farmer cooperatives and entrepreneurs who have already launched businesses to transform agricultural products and are looking to scale up or professionalize their ventures. ActionAid will work closely with ROPAGA to build alliances with financing institutions for credit, micro-insurance and business management capacities. A qualitative method based on participatory technique will be used to assess the perception and needs of the targeted groups of farmers concerning micro-finance. This assessment will help select the targeting for the insurance.

Component 4 will address the institutional strengthening of ROPAGA as a leading organization in sustainable agriculture development in the Grand'Anse department. The beneficiaries of this component will be the core management staff, leaders of VSLA groups, managers of processing units' members of

[2] https://fews.net/central-america-and-caribbean/haiti/food-security-outlook/june-2021

ROPAGA and its six affiliated partner organizations totaling about 35,000 people of whom more than two thirds are women, who will benefit from improved services. Partner organizations will be selected based on their current needs, as well as their seniority as members of ROPAGA. Priority will be given to women's groups in order to empower vulnerable women.

2.4 Major obstacles to smallholder and related small business development in the food and agriculture sectors in the project area

The department of Grand'Anse is one of the poorest regions in Haiti: 79.6% of the inhabitants live below the poverty line.[3] Located in the path of hurricanes and prone to deforestation, the department is exposed to the risks of drought, flooding, landslides, and earthquakes. Disaster preparedness, response capacity, and level of resilience are still too low today, despite the frequent crises. The World Food Program identified 578,000 food insecure people in the affected areas (South, Nippes, and Grand'Anse).[4] To add to this food insecurity, food prices in Grand'Anse are the highest in the country. The socio-political crisis, the blocking of roads, the long distance of the Grand'Anse department from Port-au-Prince, the Covid-19 crisis, and the ensuing runaway inflation have had a great impact on the availability of food, both local and imported. Grand'Anse desperately needs a revival of agriculture-related small businesses and a strengthening of its value chains - linking producers to sellers - in order to build the resilience of vulnerable populations, adapt their agriculture in the face of climate change, and reduce vulnerability to climate shocks.

Major obstacles to smallholders and related small business development in the food and agriculture sectors in the project area are:

(i) **Inadequate access to financing for smallholder agriculture**. Currently, there are no commercially available financial products adapted to agricultural production (interest rates are too high and loan terms are too short for most agricultural pursuits), making it nearly impossible for small farmers to use this supply of financing. A very small number of institutions are involved in the financing of agricultural activities; traditionally, agriculture is considered a high-risk sector. As a result, ROPAGA has been testing alternative community financing options, but they need to be strengthened.

(ii) **Weak resilience in the face of shocks related to climate change, natural disasters, and a changing business environment**. When disasters occur, farmers often lose an entire season of crops, livestock perish, and seeds become scarce. Long periods of drought caused by climate change have become increasingly common. To address this issue ROPAGA has been promoting plant propagation, reforestation, the establishment of orchards, and beekeeping. ROPAGA has already planted around 30 diversified orchards in communal sections combining climate change resilient crops such as cashew and mango trees with pineapple, banana, and yellow yam plantings. In order to scale up these initiatives through the proposed Agroforestry and Resilience Project, the organization would like to introduce more climate change resilient crops in a way that further strengthens farmers' resilience. There is also a strong need to define appropriate strategies to address the volatile business environment in the department. In the last three years, insecurity and roadblocks have paralyzed Grand'Anse farmers' access to Port-au-Prince, which is the biggest market for agricultural products. The increase in inflation during this period from 12.4% to 23% contributed to decreasing ROPAGA and its farmers' income.[5]

(iii) **Inadequate food security and access to markets**. There is a wide variety of nutritious agricultural

[3] ECVMAS étude sur les conditions des ménages après le séisme, 2012

[4] WFP Haiti: Emergency Situation Report #1, 19 August 2021

[5] https://donnees.banquemondiale.org/indicator/FP.CPI.TOTL.ZG?locations=HT

production in the Grand'Anse department that could meet the nutritional needs of the population including breadfruit, corn, yams, bananas, beans, cassava, and all types of fruits (pineapples, oranges, papayas, etc.). However, poor transport conditions between the production area and the markets and a lack of processing facilities result in many perishable products being wasted or sold for low prices. There is also a need to stimulate the demand for local products through branding and marketing communication since many consumers are not aware of the nutritional value of some agricultural products promoted by ROPAGA.

(iv) **Inadequate productivity**. Farmers in the Grand'Anse department have been registering low yields for their crops due to lack of agricultural mechanization, inappropriate tools used for agriculture, inappropriate production techniques, and low-quality seeds used. The farmers expressed the need to receive extension services related to field cultivation techniques, cultivation techniques in arboriculture, advice on livestock, as well as the choice of crops and varieties.[6]

These constraints were present before the Covid-19 pandemic, but have been exacerbated with national shutdowns, the closing of ports, disruptions in the value chains for inputs, and restrictions on domestic and international travel. The Grand'Anse department was among the most affected by this crisis, due to its distance from Port-au-Prince, where the greatest demand for agricultural products is concentrated.

The project, building on WFP's experience and expertise, will scale up ROPAGA's and ActionAid's responses to these top barriers, by (i) facilitating access to technical assistance and access to financial products (credit and micro-insurance) both at the small household-level scale and a business-level scale, (ii) improving access to food transformation opportunities, and (iii) emphasizing the planting of trees that mitigate climate change and natural disaster risks, while at the same time providing sustainable income to improve the standard of living of farmers and ensure food security.

2.5 Linkages between POs and private sector actors

The commercial banking sector's agriculturally focused products in Haiti are still extremely underdeveloped and inaccessible to small farmers and entrepreneurs. Therefore, this project will attempt to fill the gaps left by commercial banks by reinforcing existing small-scale community savings and loan groups based on the Village Saving Loan Associations (VSLA) introduced by CARE in the Grand'Anse department and Konsèy Nasyonal Finansman Popilè (KNFP)'s solidarity group model named MUSO, and by issuing loans specifically for processing equipment to entrepreneurs and CBOs. In time, as producers become more productive and resilient to climate shocks, and processors prove that their businesses are profitable, commercial banks may begin to take more risks and start providing agricultural loans to small producers and agricultural businesses. Additionally, to improve access to finance, the project is planning to organize business plan competitions targeting youth and women businesses in collaboration with the chambers of commerce of the Grand'Anse department, private banks, and private universities as non-financial private sector entities, especially to create opportunities for graduate students to innovate in business.

Moreover, synergies will be developed with other market-oriented initiatives led by WFP, aimed at creating and consolidating OPAs linkages with the financial private sector and institutional procurement programmes. In particular, ROPAGA will be involved in the development of a micro-insurance programme in direct linkage with the insurance private sector, aimed at promoting the scaling of the micro-insurance market at the regional level. Moreover, ROPAGA is involved in the local products procurement system linked to the Home-Grown School feeding Programme led by WFP, within the National School Feeding Strategy promoted by Haiti Government. This programme also intends to strengthen ROPAGA (and its

[6] MARNDR, June 2015. Integrated Census.

associated OPAs) to participate in tenders for the provision of a national school feeding programme, through the articulation of the actors involved in the overall food system and supply chain.

The project has a strong private sector focus, despite bypassing the commercial finance sector. ***Component 2*** will facilitate improved access to markets through activities specifically implemented with the private sector – attracting entrepreneurs who hope to start enterprises that will transform raw produce into higher-value products and establishing links between producers of inputs such as seeds, organic fertilizers, packaging materials, and equipment, and the cooperatives and businesses that will purchase crops from farmers and process them. The project will develop relationships between these processors and local grocery stores, supermarkets in larger cities such as Les Cayes and Port-au-Prince, and other larger cooperatives and companies that serve the export markets. The project is committed to purchasing all supplies and inputs locally, whenever possible, to promote local economic development and support local private sector businesses. The Agriculture Direction of the Department of Grand'Anse was given a facility for processing fruits as part of a past FAO project, but this is yet to be operationalized. This lack of sustainability on the part of government-managed initiatives is one of the main reasons why this project has chosen instead to work with private sector entrepreneurs and CBOs, believing that people whose livelihoods depend on functioning equipment are more likely to make use of and maintain the processing equipment financed by the project. The project's collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Environment will take the form of building on and scaling-up government-implemented activities where there is a logical synergy. The project will also participate in sector activities led by these ministries in order to search for complementarity and synergy.

2.6 Expected results of this project and how they will be measured at output, outcome, and impact levels.[15]

See also the Results Monitoring Matrix in Annex 2, Table C.

The **impact** that this project will measure is the increase of household income for beneficiaries and the profitability of all income-generating activities. This will be measured through baseline and end line evaluation surveys and is estimated to be $500 per beneficiary household and at least 10% per business unit.

Outcomes will be measured through a baseline and end line survey and will include:

1. Increase in food security, as measured through the number of meals consumed per day among beneficiaries. The project is estimated to increase the meal consumption among beneficiaries from one meal per day to two meals per day.
2. Increase in agricultural productivity in terms of yield and cultivated agricultural area
3. The volume of produce transported to markets with project support will increase from 5 tons/year to 20 tons over the life of the project.
4. The volume of produce transformed or preserved with project support will increase from 10 tons to 35 tons over the life of the project.
5. Revenue generated by ROPAGA's delivery of services. This will double, from approximately $2,000/year to $4,000/year.

The **Outputs** that will result from this project will be measured through quarterly project reports and will include:

1. 120,000 trees planted
2. 2,000 farmers trained in agro-ecological techniques

3. 300 households receiving goats and pens
4. 300 households receiving veterinary support for their livestock
5. 5 apiaries at least will be strengthening for greater honey production in the markets
6. 800 women participating in gardening trainings
7. 1 brand will be established for ROPAGA products
8. 600 women will be trained on home food preservation
9. 90 savings/loan groups will be supported
10. 2 700 members of savings/loan groups will be supported
11. 20 entrepreneurs will receive loans for post-harvest processing equipment
12. 20 entrepreneurs will receive grants through the Business Plan Competition
13. 1 farmer tracking system will be developed
14. 2,000 farmers are enrolled in the plot insurance system against climatic shocks
15. 5 existing groups of artisanal seed producers (GPAS) within the ROPAGA network will be reinforced
16. 30 consultation meetings around sectoral tables to strengthen the governance of the agricultural and gender sectors
17. Platforms for access to agricultural information and alerts to farmers on animal and plant epidemiological surveillance will be set up
18. a three-year strategic plan for ROPAGA will be supported
19. 4 alliances with the private sector will be signed by ROPAGA
20. 4 Partnership with financing institutions for credit and/or micro-insurance will be signed by ROPAGA
21. 1 business plan for ROPAGA will be developed

2.7 Evidence that the proposed approach and activities will successfully address the issues identified

This project is a scaling up of the most successful activities that ROPAGA has been implementing since its inception in 2005 with the support of ActionAid in the Grand'Anse department, incorporating lessons learned and building on established relationships and efforts, especially with its organization members and ActionAid. ROPAGA, ActionAid and WFP have experience in all four component areas.

Component 1: Improving Food Security and Resilience to Shocks - ROPAGA hopes to scale up its successful tree sapling production efforts, to increase the number of saplings produced per year and thereby serve more farmers and increase the number of acres of tree cover in the department. To date, more than 500 producers have established orchards on their properties with assistance from ROPAGA, and this project will scale up this effort to reach thousands of landowners improving natural resources management through the application of agroforestry and agro ecological practices while contributing to the reforestation of the Grand'Anse department. The project will also capitalize on the honeybee initiative carried out by ROPAGA, the Ministry of Agriculture, and other smallholder groups, which has positioned ROPAGA as a leader in honeybee promotion both as a sustainable income stream and environmental protection strategy in the Grand'Anse department. Finally, ROPAGA will reinforce 5 existing groups of artisanal seed producers (GPAS) within the ROPAGA network seeds in order to reduce farmers' difficulties in finding improved seeds and to reduce dependence from outside Grand'Anse department in case of a crisis or natural disasters situation.

Component 2: Improving Access to Markets - Lessons learned from past interventions and current interventions of ActionAid and ROPAGA (such as the processing of corn and breadfruit) in food security and value chain reinforcement suggest improving partnership with the private sector (accesso, INAF, Zo reken, tropix, and Universities) and access to markets for farmers by using a broad set of strategies that fill gaps in the value chains. Capitalizing on its experience, it will also provide support for food processing, creating

brands for local products and promoting them.

Component 3: Access to Finance - ROPAGA's success with improving access to agricultural finance through building microfinance, especially among women through solidarity finance groups (VSLA, and MUSO). Since 2009, ROPAGA has managed a revolving credit program of over USD 60,000 (6,000,000 gourdes) which was begun with USD 14,200 (1,000,000 gourdes) from a donor-financed project and has served over 200 people per year, which is a success story rarely achieved in terms of providing access to finance in Haiti. Consequently, this project hopes to strengthen this access to finance business model by leveraging financing from GAFSP to put in place a mechanism that will continue to provide agricultural investment opportunities for years to come. In addition, strategic support will be provided in terms of building alliances to financing institutions for credit and business management like: BCA, BNDA, FDI and SOFIHDES.

Component 4: Institutional Capacity Building - Finally, the project is planning to provide a broad portfolio of capacity building activities aimed at reinforcing ROPAGA's role as a leading farmers organization in the Grand'Anse department. The organization will be empowered so that it can make in-depth improvements to previous activities and continue in a sustainable way the activities initiated by the project.

Section 3. Context for the Project

The food security situation in country is very concerning, as the IPC in February 2022 projected over 46 percent of the population food insecure (4.5 million people in IPC 3 and above) for June 2022. The economic situation, with high commodity prices, and the security situation are the main drivers of the downward trends. These projections were made before the drastic deterioration in the security context, which has seen 200 kidnappings in May alone and the main arteries in and out of the city blocked by gangs.

The projections were also made before the global impact of the Ukraine crisis, which has dramatically worsened the rapid inflations. Haiti records the highest inflation after Venezuela among countries where WFP has a presence. The year-on-year inflation rate has jumped from 17.2% (March 2021) to 25.9% (March 2022). Increasing commodity prices and a lack of employment opportunities are having a negative impact on the purchasing power of poor households. This is in addition to the minimum food basket cost, which has increased by 52% since last year, due to a variety of factors including depreciation of national currency against the dollar, increase in fuel prices, impact of the earthquake and the impact of raising cereal prices at the international level.

3.1 *State of the agriculture and food system in the project area, including any current and future pressures on the sector (e.g., climate risks).*

The agricultural sector is one of the engines of the Haitian economy, representing more than one fifth of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and employing a majority of rural residents.[7] However, the national food supply is characterized by its inadequacy in the face of demand:

- The agricultural sector provides only about 45% of the country's food consumption products, with the rest being imported.[8]
- It is characterized by a lack of productivity in the sectors due, among other things, to the degradation of ecosystems, the lack of adaptation to climate change, preparation to natural disasters and transformational investment[9,] farmers' limited access to information, capital,

[7] BRH, avril 2020. https://www.brh.ht/wp-content/uploads/pibsecteur.pdf

[8] http://www.fao.org/haiti/fao-en-haiti/le-pays-en-un-coup-doeil/en. 30 juin 2020

[9] [1] PNUD. Bilan commun de pays

markets[10], modern technology and practices.

- Agriculture is the main economic activity in the Grand'Anse department, with approximately 72% of its 452,878 inhabitants working in this sector. The economy is based on the cultivation of yams, beans, corn, cassava, peanuts, and the promising sectors of sea fishing and castor oil. Coffee and vegetable crops are grown in high-altitude areas but on a small scale. In 2016, six years after the devastating earthquake, Hurricane Matthew caused immense damage in the agriculture sector in Grand'Anse, worsened by the 2021 Earthquake, and the tropical storm that followed only a few days later (destruction of plantations, agriculture infrastructure, irrigation systems, processing facilities…).

Additionally, women often have no access to land or credit to develop their activities or invest in new equipment. Women in Haiti face additional barriers in the labor market where they are less likely to be employed and earn significantly less than men. In Grand'Anse, they only own 20% of the registered farms. Women and girls continue to be affected by severe inequality[11]. Women are very affected by the scarcity of staple foods because this complicates their role as suppliers of their households.[12]

In the department of Grand'Anse, farmer groups were affected. Their activities were paralyzed at the beginning of the pandemic because market activities were slow. The ROPAGA and its affiliated organizations could not meet as usual. They had to meet in a small group of less than 15 persons. However, after the first semester following the introduction of the pandemic, the demand for some local products (ginger, citrus, etc.) increased. The COVID response was coordinated by the local authorities under the leadership of the Representative of the Ministry of Health. Social distance measures imposed by the Central Government were promoted. To support its entrepreneurs affected by COVID-19, ROPAGA did not take interest on loans granted to them. It also extended payback periods, facilitating the activities of the members. This relieved the struggling members and allowed them to continue producing.

To improve the state of the agriculture sector, some actors have provided support. For example, the European Commission financed an emergency assistance project in food security, education and shelter for vulnerable people affected by Hurricane Matthew in Grand'Anse implemented by CARE and funded by ECHO. The project aims more particularly to complement the actions related to food security and livelihoods of the aforementioned project. Also, the action will allow synergy with the Urbayiti project implemented by CARE and whose goal is to help increase the resilience of the city of Jérémie and its inhabitants. FAO is implementing a project to combat desertification. Good practices concerning agroecology and farmers' groups on seed management will be taken up in particular by this action. The Swiss Cooperation is supporting several value chains through the PAGAI project. ActionAid is implementing the project "ASARANGA : Appui à la Sécurité Alimentaire, au Renforcement Agricole et à l'Amélioration Nutritionnelle dans la Grand'Anse" in the communes of Roseaux et Jérémie. The objective of the project is to contribute to increasing the food and nutritional security of vulnerable groups affected by the passage of Hurricane Matthew in the municipalities of Jérémie and Roseaux.

3.2 The proposed project will address medium- to long-term COVID-19 response and recovery of the agriculture and food sectors in a changing climate and support the principle of 'building back better[16]

Despite a relatively low number of Covid-19 cases and deaths in Grand'Anse, as compared to Port-au-Prince or other countries, producers in Grand'Anse have felt the effects of the global pandemic through disruptions

[10] USAID, January 2020. Fact sheet

[11] ActionAid, 2020

[12] https://www.ceci.ca/en/projects/climate-adaptation-and-economic-development-of-haitis-agricultural-sectors-aveti

to the value chains that they work in. Agriculture production ground to a halt at the beginning of the pandemic due to social distance measures imposed by the government and the fear among the farmers that they would not be able to access markets for anything that was produced. Consequently, there was a sharp decrease in production, and therefore a loss of an entire year's potential income. Those who did produce and harvest in 2020 did face commercialization problems, and many had to sell at greatly reduced prices, sometimes even at a loss.

The pandemic highlighted the risks associated with producing crops that have limited shelf life, as a disruption in transportation or exports, or a national shut-down right at harvest time can mean the spoilage of an entire year's crop. Therefore, ROPAGA is helping its members and communities build back better by helping focus on ways to transform perishable products into shelf-stable products that can be stored and transported more easily, adding flexibility to a sector that is traditionally very seasonally driven with a small window for marketing. If producers in the area have access to facilities to process their crops into shelf-stable products, future shutdowns due to natural disasters, political unrest or health crises will have less of an impact on the livelihoods and food security of these producers and their families. Encouraging savings at a household level through small-scale finance programs will help households save, enabling them to bounce back from unexpected shocks.

3.3 *Linkages between the proposed project activities and the strategic priorities that are relevant for the involved PO(s)*

This project brings together all of ROPAGA's strategic priorities and builds on the activities that have been most successful over the past 15 years, growing out of three "roots" that underpin all of ROPAGA's activities: Sustainable Development, Democratic Participation, and Participative Local and Regional Development. ROPAGA's approach of working through local community-based organizations ensures that all its activities are decentralized and involve participation of the beneficiaries from the beginning to the end. The organization is dedicated to the empowerment of women and requires a minimum level of participation of women in all its activities, implementing many activities specifically with and for women. Finally, ROPAGA's devotion to the idea of sustainability and self-sufficiency guides the management of the revolving credit facility that will continue to operate after the project ends, generating revenue for ROPAGA to continue to serve its members and make additional investments in productive endeavors.

To improve the state of the agriculture sector, some actors have provided support. For example, the European Commission financed an emergency assistance project in food security, education and shelter for vulnerable people affected by Hurricane Matthew in Grand'Anse implemented by CARE and funded by ECHO. The project aims more particularly to complement the actions related to food security and livelihoods of the aforementioned project. Also, the action will allow synergy with the UrbAyiti project implemented by CARE and whose goal is to help increase the resilience of the city of Jérémie and its inhabitants. FAO is implementing a project to combat desertification. Good practices concerning agroecology and farmers' groups on seed management will be taken up in particular by this action. The Swiss Cooperation is supporting several value chains through the PAGAI project. ActionAid is implementing the project "ASARANGA : Appui à la Sécurité Alimentaire, au Renforcement Agricole et à l'Amélioration Nutritionnelle dans la Grand'Anse" in the communes of Roseaux et Jérémie. The objective of the project is to contribute to increasing the food and nutritional security of vulnerable groups affected by the passage of Hurricane Matthew in the municipalities of Jérémie and Roseaux.

ROPAGA also collects membership dues that will enable the organization to continue to function even in the absence of donor support.

ActionAid Haiti which is supporting ROPAGA in the design and implementation of the project is committed

to promote an approach which prioritizes the protection and promotion of human rights generally, women's rights more specifically, and the environment - a feminist, just green transition:

- Feminist: in addressing the glaring power imbalances of gender and other forms of discrimination such as class, race, and sexual orientation.
- Just: in ensuring that no one is left behind.
- Green: in providing a path to a sustainable balance of our current needs with those of future generations and other forms of life around us.

The project is consistent with WFP Country Strategic Plan and its operational strategy development. It is linked to several activities developed in the targeted areas:

- Home Grown School Feeding and Small Holder Farmers Programme (HGSF): ROPAGA is the Farmer Organization providing locally produced food for Grand'Anse schools involved in WFP programme, covering 15,000 schoolchildren. As a part of the programme, ROPAGA capacity reinforcement in order to ensure the proper provision of local food products to schools, is key; this capacity strengthening is developed by WFP and other cooperating partners.
- Micro-Insurance initiative: within climate crisis response action and resilience building strategy, WFP is developing a micro-insurance initiative aimed at providing smallholder farmers with finance risk management tools. The programme will be piloted in Grand'Anse and South department, and one of the programmes within which it will be rolled out is HGSF, having ROPAGA has the aggregator organization leading the contract with the insurance company
- Food Assistance for Assets: Potential synergies between GAFSP project and Food Assistance for Assets initiatives in the region, as also with Social Protection projects led by WFP in the region will contribute to reach corporate goals in terms of reduction of poverty, food insecurity and inequality, with the target area.
- The programme contributes to the relief plan part of the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA).

The project is aligned with the government's agriculture strategy both at national and local level.

In 2020, faced with the spread of the Covid-19 virus, the government took numerous measures to contain the spread of the virus in order to mitigate the risks that compromise the country's security and sustainable development objectives. With the support of international partners, the Ministry of Planning and External Cooperation (MPCE) and the Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF) have undertaken socio-economic impact studies of Covid-19.[13] At the same time, the MPCE and the MEF produced a note on the post-Covid-19 economic recovery plan, the PREPOC 2020-2022, which serves as a framework for the 2020-2021 budget. PREPOC has five priority pillars: i) Economic diversification and acceleration of growth focused on agriculture, industry, tourism, and digitalization; ii) Development of basic infrastructure and energy services; iii) Support for SMEs and job creation; iv) Development of human capital and social inclusion; v) Building resilience to natural shocks.

The proposed project activities align with national priorities (the country's agriculture and food security strategies, national COVID-19 Response Plan), and all the PREPOC pillars as per below:

i) Economic diversification and acceleration of growth focused on agriculture, industry, tourism, and digitalization. The current project will promote diversification of farmer sources of income through support

[13] UNDP June 2021. INDEPENDENT COUNTRY PROGRAMME EVALUATION: HAITI

to market-driven value chains. The marketing of existing products will be improved through access to market support as well as the introduction of new marketable products.

ii) Development of basic infrastructure and energy services. The project will improve transport of agricultural products as well as their transformation.

iii) Support for SMEs and job creation. The project will encourage existing SME and new ventures associated with agriculture value chains.

iv) Development of human capital and social inclusion: Financial inclusion will be encouraged through community finance (VSLA and MUSO). Human capital managing farmer organizations will be developed to take the lead of the agriculture sector in the Grand'Anse department.

v) Building resilience to natural shocks. The project will promote Agroforestry and seed conservation as strategies to improve farmer resilience to natural shocks.

In line with the national strategy, at departmental level, the Ministry of Agriculture has identified the following priorities, all of which will be addressed by the project: (i) Support to farmers for access to inputs by developing the capacity of producers / groups to generate inputs, improved seeds, seedlings; (ii) Promoting access to credit through solidarity mutuals, and improved capacity to seek more financing; (iii) Strengthening producers' technical production capacity (iv) Improving food security and nutrition; (v) Addressing climate change by different means; and (vi) Empowering women and Youth.

Section 4. Cross-cutting Themes

4.1 How the project will address the identified thematic focus area(s)

Gender and empowerment of women and girls – see section 4.3 below.

Climate resilience – ROPAGA and ActionAid understand well that any agriculture project that is planned in the Grand'Anse department must take climate shocks into account and must prioritize building resilience to these shocks in all activities. To mitigate the impacts of climate change, smallholder farmers will need to adapt their agricultural practices. Agroecology systems, including agroforestry practices, help smallholder farmers to adapt to climate change. Agroecology is a system of agriculture based on native conditions of soil, water, local seeds, and local expertise of smallholder farmers. It aims to identify the major risks and challenges local communities face and aims to implement site-specific adaptation strategies to increase the resilience of smallholder production systems, including through women's leadership. Agroecology has multiple additional benefits: an improved hydrological cycle; improved soil fertility; rehabilitated degraded lands; increased incomes; increased biodiversity; and increased mitigation and adaptation to climate change by acting as a carbon sink, reducing CO2 emissions by between 48 and 60%, and by reducing the use of nitrogen fertilizers. To this end, the project will prioritize the propagation and planting of other agroforestry trees will help prevent soil erosion, capture carbon, and provide some stability of a guaranteed harvest that is much less weather-dependent and less susceptible to flooding or drought than annual crops. The transformation of produce into shelf-stable products provides significant flexibility in transportation and marketing of agricultural products, so that a natural disaster or political uprising that prevents transportation of crops will be less likely to result in the loss of an entire crop's income.

Micro-insurance initiative development will also protect people from climate risk, and allow for further, greener initiatives. The premium coverage will be conditional to activities and practices linked to the good natural resources management.

Improved nutritional outcomes – Nutritional outcomes for children are directly related to household poverty levels and are significantly affected by unexpected crises such as natural disasters. The best way to ensure proper nutrition for children is to increase household income and make that income less vulnerable to shocks. This project will build household resilience through planting of high value tree crops, developing transformation and marketing opportunities for those crops and helping families participate in savings and credit groups to help them weather any shocks that may come. A family that can weather the shock of a storm or other crisis will be more able to ensure that its children receive adequate food. In addition to generally building resilience and raising household incomes, this project will also help families learn how to safely and effectively preserve the produce that they grow, so that the nutrients in those crops are available to children year-round rather than only seasonally. Based on successful past experiences, the project will also promote women-led home gardens as a strategy to increase the consumption of high nutritive value foods for 800 households. This will be coupled with awareness raising and training for women in collaboration with the Ministry of Health. The project will also seek for synergy and complementarity with WFP projects to improve the nutrition status of households.

Synergies will be built with multi-year Social Protection Programme led by WFP in Grand'Anse with Social Affairs and Health Ministries, including a specific component on malnutrition prevention, comprehensive of unconditional food assistance (in cash), malnutrition screening, sensitization, and training in nutrition good practices (as also financial inclusion, and risk reduction). The project targets vulnerable households, with a priority attributed to pregnant women and children under 5 years of age. AAH is involved in the development of the formative research for Social Behaviour Change in nutrition practices development, in the area including GAFSP projects communes.

Moreover, synergies will be developed with WFP interventions in nutrition and school feeding, in the targeted areas, contributing to decrease malnutrition rates

4.2 How the participation and role of women smallholder producers will be increased in POs and smallholder producer groups as a result of the proposed project

In 2020, WFP conducted a gender in value chain analysis to understand key roles and responsibilities, causes of social inequalities and exclusion across its agricultural value chain, specifically under the home-grown school feeding programme and to identify key opportunities for women to equitably participate and benefit in advancing their inclusive and sustainable development. Whilst the study was conducted in Nippes and Artibonite departments, the key findings, and recommendations are applicable to the context of the Grand'Anse department. Results indicated that women and men producers have limited access to agricultural and entrepreneurship training, however, women faced additional challenges due to training not being developed and/or adapted to their specific needs. Further, women noted challenges to secure credit loans due to their lack of ownership of assets and without a guarantee, which made it difficult for them to invest or purchase quality seeds and/or agricultural tools or expand their businesses. The study noted that the women's involvement in productive value chain activities contributed to their attained economic empowerment, as well as reduced gender inequalities at the household and community level. As such, women had a new profound status at the household level, thereby increasing their involvement in decision-making processes, their access and control over resources and contributed to improved gender dynamics, decreasing tensions with the husband/spouse and reducing their risks and exposures to gender-based violence.

The various project activities will indeed contribute to ensuring smallholder women producers' equitable participation and benefit, given that gender dynamics at the household and community level has been taken into consideration throughout the design and will continue to be taken into consideration across the

implementation and monitoring phases. Women have been specifically targeted as the primary beneficiaries of some of the activities including the cultivation of garden and vegetable crops, as well as in providing seed capital grant and access to credits, which will enable them to expand their agricultural outputs and businesses.

Further to this, to increase the participation and role of women smallholder producers, the project will support the development of a strategy based on the following:

- Minimum quotas can be put in place to ensure their equitable participation during the trainings and the workshops that are organized under the project activities. Further to this, women of diverse groups will be consulted regarding the timing and locality of the activities to ensure that their domestic and unpaid roles are taken into consideration.
- Diverse women and men will be consulted throughout the design, implementation and monitoring processes of the project, particularly with a focus of women's voices from the most marginalized groups to ensure that they have an equal say in all decision-making processes regarding activities in the community. Women will be consulted separately from men to ensure that their voices are heard and considered.
- Awareness raising activities amongst men and women of diverse groups, will be rolled out at the community level to challenge traditional socio-cultural gender norms and structures in relation to women's access and control over resources, the importance of women's participation in economic activities and the redistribution of unpaid and domestic workload.
- Women-owned businesses and women-managed CBOs will be given first consideration in the evaluation of business plan proposals for grant funding and post-harvest processing loans, coupled with the support that they require (training, credit etc.).
- Women will be represented in leadership roles such as within the project management team, in the project governance, as well as at the community level as field staffs and within community committees and will remain active in all fieldwork and community engagement activities.
- As part of the proposed project, ROPAGA will collect, analyze and report sex-disaggregated data for all relevant project indicators and if a gender bias is observed, will figure out how to implement the project in a more gender-transformative way so more women can benefit.
- The project will give particular recognition to women's achievement as a way to encourage them to keep participating in agriculture activities.

These measures will contribute to increasing the participation and role of women smallholder producers. Other measures will be identified during project implementation and taken to promote women participation.

Section 5. Project Implementation, Sustainability and Budget

5.1 *Risks to achieving the proposed project's objectives and potential negative externalities or spillovers that could result from the proposed project activities and targeting*

The project has identified nine risks and three potential negative externalities:

Risks	Negative Externalities

• Climate and Natural Disaster Risks • Theft and Violent Crime Risks • Political Risks • Social Risks • Lack of private sector motivation • Health Risks • Monetary Risks • Lack of local staff capacity in Grand'Anse • Fraud and Corruption Risks • Completion/Results Risks	• Environmental Externalities • Social Externalities • Gender Externalities

A detailed assessment, including descriptions and mitigations of all of these risks can be found under Annex 3, Tables F and G

5.2 Specific design measures that will be incorporated to increase the likelihood of sustainability of the project activities and outcomes

Sustainability is the greatest challenge for development projects, especially in a country like Haiti that is extremely resource-poor and susceptible to frequent natural disasters. Taking lessons from ROPAGA's past fifteen years of experience in the sector, from ActionAid's 24 years in Haiti and nearly 50 years globally, as well as learning from other agriculture and reforestation projects implemented in Haiti over the past half-century, this project incorporates the following sustainability measures:

- The activities defined are relevant to the current situation, aligned with government priorities and they will be carried out in such a way that they are sustainable, by emphasizing community participation and ownership.
- The species of trees are selected so that people are incentivized to protect and care for because they are potentially income-producing such as breadfruits, pineapple, cassava, mango, citrus, cacao, etc.
- The project includes training on tree cultivation and orchard management techniques to ensure a high survival rate of planted trees.
- Establishing a sustainable improved seed production and marketing system supply by reinforcing 5 existing GPAS within ROPAGA
- Establishment of a revolving loan facility is included under this project to issue future loans and pay for its management through loan repayments.
- Building alliances with private sector and financing institution for credit
- The project works through and develops the capacities of existing and already-functioning community organizations, to ensure a continued presence in each community after the end of the project.
- The project will be evaluating loan applications and organizing business plan competition applicants with an eye toward ensuring that they are considering sustainability questions such as maintenance of the equipment and post-project operating costs.
- The project will prioritize the provision of equity investment to small agri-businesses that have high growth and scale potential.
- Partners will ensure that financial autonomy is developed for ROPAGA by diversifying income streams to be able to continue the activities after the project ends.
- The project aims to reinforce ROPAGA's organizational capacity to allow the PO to operate more profitably and help farmers increase their income in a more sustainable way.
- Proposed activities will yield results that remain in the affected communities (processing facilities,

pluri-annual fruit trees cultivated in diversified orchards, improved transportation, appropriate financing instruments, link to the markets, etc.).

ROPAGA has experience in all the proposed project activities, and in the implementation of sustainable approaches, but will scale them up with the support of ActionAid.

5.3 Parties involved or consulted in the development of the Project

This project document was developed with the involvement of a wide range of actors in the agriculture sector of Grand'Anse, including:

- ROPAGA leadership
- ROPAGA members
- Women's organizations that work with ROPAGA
- The Division of the Ministry of Agriculture in Grand'Anse (DDA-GA)
- The Division of the Ministry of Environment in Grand'Anse (DDE-GA)
- Representative of UNDP in Grand'Anse
- Leadership of ActionAid – Haiti
- Haitian Agriculture Consultants
- Civil society leaders in the Grand'Anse department
- Private sector groups in the Grand'Anse department including input vendors and food processors
- WFP CO-Haiti and HQ teams

Both ActionAid and ROPAGA are already working actively in Grand'Anse, implementing projects that have informed this proposal and will serve as the foundation for the proposed project. In addition to the knowledge gained through regular project monitoring, community reviews, testimonies of current beneficiaries and good working relationships with the stakeholders listed above, a field visit organized by ActionAid drilled down into the specific plans for this project with ROPAGA. The field visit was carried out in the Grand'Anse department from August 20 to August 22, 2021 and involved representatives of the consulting firm InterConsultants (IC), ROPAGA, and ActionAid. Jean Pierre Luders Télisma, general coordinator of ROPAGA, coordinated the meetings with ROPAGA and farmers' groups, and visits to agriculture facilities established by ROPAGA's partners and other potential partners. These consultations helped bring together learning from past projects, national and local priorities, and new ideas into a cohesive project design and laid the groundwork for continuing to engage with these stakeholders during project implementation. In all cases, the stakeholders who were consulted are eager to be involved in implementation, either through exchange of information, or coordination with ongoing activities.

5.4 PO's structure, including membership, and services offered by the PO.

ROPAGA has become one of the most prestigious networks of peasant organizations in the Grand'Anse department since its formation on November 19, 2005. For its first year of operations, it received technical and organizational support from the Rural Research and Support Group-GRAMIR, a Haitian NGO that had previously worked separately with many different partner organizations. In 2005, ROPAGA was created by bringing together 64 grassroots organizations spread over 2 municipalities (Jérémie, Roseaux). In its early days, ROPAGA managed programs together with GRAMIR so that it gradually acquired institutional capacity to lead local development in the Grand'Anse department. At the end of 2006, ROPAGA collaborated with GRAMIR and ROPANIP Network of Producers' Organizations of Nippes through a local development program that the three institutions co-managed for 4 years (2007-2010). Gradually, ROPAGA gained its independence and today it operates independently with the support of several partners including ActionAid. The organization has 72 grassroots organizations spread across the municipalities of Jérémie,

Roseaux, Marfranc. ROPAGA has 4,611 active individual members, including 2,142 women (46%).

The organization is managed by a seven-member Executive Committee that comprises one regional coordinator, a general secretary, a treasurer, a training manager, an organization manager, a communication manager, and a company manager. The organization has a technical arm with ten paid employees, composed of one accounting secretary, two agriculture technicians, two technical advisers, and five field agents. For its financial management, it has its own administrative and financial procedures manual. Its accounting is done through Quickbooks software which is used to prepare reports. External audits are done on a yearly basis for each program. Internal control is performed through a hierarchy of authority that involves the general coordinator, the executive staff, and the General Assembly / Congress organized every year. The organization performs inventory of its goods regularly.

Elections are held every four years and there has been regular rotation of managers during the lifespan of the organization. The last election occurred on December 29, 2018. To ensure financial sustainability, ROPAGA has several business lines: i) Solidarity funds: Currently the organization provides credit to 40 VSLAs and MUSOs. Each MUSO has 25 members on average and the VSLA has 30 members; it also provides credit to agricultural traders through solidarity groups of 10 people; ii) nurseries to produce and sell seedlings of trees. ROPAGA has the largest nursery in the department, after the germplasm center managed by the Ministry of environment. The nursery has the capacity of 40,000 seedlings (fruit and forest trees). It is a benchmark in the department for seedlings. One of ROPAGA's strengths is in reforestation, especially through fruit production; iii) transport services from farms to markets. That facilitates the marketing of agricultural products; iv) Agricultural transformation. ROPAGA processes and sells processed products: breadfruit, cocoa, ginger, banana, guava, grapefruit, orange, apricot, corn, etc; v) Fruit growing, including grafting, layering, and cuttings services. These services are open to everyone, but members find the services at lower prices.

Each of its 72 groups pay a membership fee of 2,500 Haitian gourdes for registration and an annual fee of 10 Haitian gourdes per individual member. Revenue from membership fees and services totaled approximately $5500 in 2020. This revenue is used to cover the most critical costs, namely human resources. ROPAGA has its own office in Jérémie. According to its last financial statements, its assets are estimated to be $200,000 for the last fiscal year. These assets are composed mainly of a farm with the tree nursery, the office, and land for crop production; five motorcycles, and a truck for transportation.

5.5 Project implementation arrangements

ROPAGA, as the Lead PO, will be responsible for managing and implementing the project according to the proposed strategy. As local organization and lead of the project, ROPAGA is in charge of making direct interface with local authorities, public institutions including the Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture. ROPAGA will liaise with communities and overall lead project activities and reporting.

ActionAid, as an implementing partner, will implement components and activities that align strategically with its expertise and play a coordination role supporting ROPAGA in operationalizing the project, managing funds and reporting. ActionAid will play a vital role in monitoring fulfilling accountabilities to communities and stakeholders involved in the project collaboratively with ROPAGA for both accountability and learning purposes. ActionAid will also work on ensuring that all SHEA/safeguarding measures apply throughout the cycle of the project.

The World Food Program (WFP) as the Supervising body will oversee the overall management of the project providing technical and administrative support. It will provide guidance for operationalizing, monitoring & evaluation, and reporting. It will be responsible for funding management according to its procedures. In line with its existing strategy of working with ActionAid and local partners, the WFP will work with both

AAH and ROPAGA on the technical aspects of the project, however funding will be channeled directly through ActionAid to ROPAGA because the WFP does not have direct previous collaboration with ROPAGA and because ROPAGA has not managed projects of this size due to funding limitations. Working closely with ROPAGA managing the funding, ActionAid will identify areas to support/strengthen ROPAGA administratively.

More information is provided in the budget table in Annex 1.

5.6 Financial and implementation arrangements between the SE and the PO

Funds will be transferred to the PO (ROPAGA) through an implementing partner (IP) (AAH) who will be contracted by WFP through a Field Level Agreement (FLA) where funds/costs will be stipulated. This scheme will ensure reduction of operational risk and leverage empowerment and sustainability of local actors, thanks to a close follow-up and accompaniment of the PO by AAH. The funds will be broken down as per the different Capacity Strengthening and Implementation Costs to be incurred by the partner, and a purchase order (PODA) will be created in favor of the implementing partner for their Capacity Strengthening and implementation costs. Disbursement of funds and internal controls to be applied will be in line with WFP Rules and Regulations. The SE shall make payments to the PO in the currency specified in the approved budget. Payments to the IP will be contingent upon receipt and approval of financial and progress reports as laid out in the FLA. The advance shall not exceed the projected operational costs of the PO for the forthcoming three months, provided that in no case shall the advance exceed USD 100,000. The SE shall pay an advance within thirty (30) calendar days of receipt of the request. Further, approval of advance requests by the SE will be subject to submission of activity concept notes and detailed budgets that meet the due diligence criteria within the WFP Rules and Regulations. Disbursements for subsequent activities will be dependent on the submission of the statement of expenditures, accompanying receipts and deliverables for any previous payments. At the close of the project the PO shall refund to the SE any advance payment unspent or not spent in accordance with the Agreement to allow for refund to the Trustee. Financial reports will be shared by WFP to the donor as per donor requirements.

WFP will supervise the IP with technical support from the country and field office. The IP will attend weekly coordination meetings, share weekly, monthly and quarterly reports as per templates for tracking both qualitative and quantitative project indicators. Additionally, project sites and activities will be monitored through WFP field monitors and site visits from program staff.

Audits: The PO may be subject to an internal or external audit by auditors of WFP or by other authorized and qualified agents of WFP for any issue in connection with the Project. Such audit shall be conducted in accordance with the auditing procedures of WFP as provided in the Financial Regulations, Rules and Directives. The PO shall provide WFP unimpeded access to all documentation relating to activities implemented under this Agreement for inspection and audit purposes. Further, the PO shall ensure that all records are retained for a period of five (5) years following the termination of this Agreement.

Programme Implementation: Project implementation shall be done in line with the GAFSP implementation guidelines with the SE responsible for providing overall oversight support to the PO being an executing entity. Further, the SE will also be responsible for the project assurance which will include: oversight on project activity completion in line with approved activity plan and oversight on project reporting; leveraging synergies among other interventions in the targeted areas. The PO, supported by AAH, will be accountable to the SE for managing the project which includes M&E of the project interventions, achievement of project outcomes and effective utilization of project resources. Project implementation in WFP in its capacity as SE will utilize both its central bureau in the country and the sub-offices in Sud and Grand'Anse departments to provide complementary oversight support.

Annex 1 – Project Budget Tables

Provide comprehensive budget information for the proposed project. All figures should be in US$ and rounded to the nearest '000.

Table A: Summary of Overall Project Funding

Funding Source	Amount	Has this funding been secured? (Yes/No)?
GAFSP grant amount requested	$ 3,000,000	n/a
PO co-financing[17]	$ 700	In-kind contribution from ROPAGA per month for Office use.
Other Funding Sources *(SE, ODA, international NGOs, etc.)*		
- [Specify source]		
- [specify source]		
- [specify source]		
Add rows as needed		
Total Project Funding	$ 3,000,000	

Table B: Detailed Project Budget

Note: Both WFP and Pos have been included in the table as WFP is the global fund management ROPAGA/AAH, moreover than WFP, are in charge of the procurement of resources

Outputs/Activities	Total (US$)
1.Outcome: Improving Food Security and Resilience to Climate Shocks and Natural Disasters	
Activity 1.1: Propagation and Planting of Agroforestry Trees	401,192.00
Activity 1.2: Livestock improvement	177,213.63
Activity 1.3: Cultivating Women's Gardens	347,043.38
2. Outcome : Improving access to markets for agricultural products	
Activity 2.1: Establishing farm-to-market transportation routes	319,981.42
Activity 2.2: Branding and Marketing Suppot	109,230.61
Activity 2.3: Developing small-scall transformation capacities	154,207.92
3. Outcome: Improving Access to Agricultural Finance	
Activity 3.1: Expansion of MUSO/AVEC groups	19,876.88
Activity 3.2: Credit Fund for Post-Harvest Processing	293,484.16
Activity 3.3: Business Plan Competition	461,570.54
4. Outcome: Institutional Capacity Building	
Activity 4.1: Development of self-reliance strategy	202,090.53
Activity 4.2: Investment in capital improvement	149,825.73
Activity 4.3: Organizational capacity building for ROPAGA	181,184.60
Sub-Total	2,816,901.41
Indirect Cost	183,098.59
Total Funding	3,000,000

ROPAGA will provide in-kind contributions through its own office which is estimated at 700 USD per month.

Annex 2 – Proposal full Log Frame

Table C. M&E Framework

Indicators[18]	Unit of measurement	Baseline[19]	End-of-project target	Data sources (Data collection instruments)
Project level indicators				
Increases in Household Income	USD/year	0	$500	Baseline and End line Evaluation surveys Triangulated with other statistics
GASFP Tiers 2 indicator #1 : Number of people receiving direct benefits	Number (Male and Female)	0	2,700	Project quarterly report
GASFP Tiers 2 indicator #4 Number of producer-based organizations supported (number)	Group	0	5	Baseline and End line Evaluation surveys
Component level indicators[20]				
Component 1: Improving Food Security and Resilience to Climate Shocks and Natural Disasters				
Outcome Indicator 1.1: Food consumption score	Meals/day	1	2,000	Baseline and End line Evaluation surveys
Outcome Indicator 1.2: FIES	Meals/day	0	2,000	Evaluation survey – biannual
GAFSP Tier 2 #13 Indicator 1.3: Number of farmers receiving inputs or service on climate resilient or sustainable agriculture practices	Number (Male and Female)	0	1,200	Baseline and End line Evaluation surveys
GAFSP Tier 2#14 Indicator 1.4: Agricultural/land area where climate-smart agriculture practices are implemented	Number (Male and Female)	0	2,000	Baseline and End line Evaluation surveys
Output Indicator 1.5: Number of trees planted	Trees	0	120,000	Project quarterly report
Output Indicator 1.6: Number of farmers trained in agro-ecological techniques	Number (Male and Female)	0	2,000	Project quarterly report

Output Indicator 1.7: Number of households receiving livestock	Number (Male and Female)	0	300	Project quarterly report
Output Indicator 1.8: Number of households receiving veterinary support	Number	0	300	Project quarterly report
Output Indicator 1.9: Number of people receiving bee-keeping training and supplies	Number (Male and Female)	0	300	Project quarterly report
Output Indicator 1.10: Number of women participating in gardening trainings	Number	0	800	Project quarterly report
Output Indicator 1.11: Number of existing GPAS reinforced	group	5	5	Project quarterly report
Output Indicator 1.12: Number of communication platform created	system	0	1	Project quarterly report
Component 2: Improving access to markets for agricultural products				
GAFSP Tier 2 #15 Indicator 2.1: Agribusiness GPAS adopting climate resilient or sustainable agriculture interventions in their operations	Group	0	5	Baseline and End line Evaluation surveys
Output Indicator 2.2: Volume of produce transported to markets with project support	Tons	5	20	Project quarterly report
Output Indicator 2.3: Volume of produce transformed/preserved with project support	Tons	10	35	Project quarterly report
Output Indicator 2.4: Brand established	Brand	0	1	Project quarterly report
Output Indicator 2.8: Number of women trained on home food preservation	Number	0	600	Project quarterly report
Output Indicator 2.9: Number of alliances with private sector established	MOU	0	4	Project quarterly report

Component 3: Improving Access to Agricultural Finance				
Output Indicator 3.1 Number of savings/loan groups supported by project	Number	40	130	Project quarterly report
Output Indicator 3.2: Number of members of savings/loan groups supported by project	Number (Male and Female)	1,200	3,900	Project quarterly report
Output Indicator 3.3: Number of entrepreneurs receiving loans for post-harvest processing equipment	Number (Male and Female)	0	20	Project quarterly report
Output Indicator 3.4: Number of entrepreneurs receiving grants through Business Plan Competition	Number (Male and Female)	0	20	Project quarterly report
Output Indicator 3.5: Number of partnerships with financing institution for credit and business management established	MOU	0	4	Project quarterly report
GAFSP Tier 2 Indicator # 5 : Person supported by project in rural areas accessing financial services	Number (Male and Female)	0	2,720	Project quarterly report
Component 4: Institutional Capacity Building				
GAFSP Tier 2 Indicator # 10 : Persons receiving capacity development support	Number (Male and Female)	0	22	Project quarterly report
Outcome Indicator Revenue generated by ROPAGA's services	Dollars/year	$2,190	$4,000	Project quarterly report
Output Indicator 13: Farmer tracking system developed and functional	System	0	1	Project quarterly report
Number of business plan realized	Plan	0	1	Project quarterly report

Number of strategic plans developed	Plan	0	1	Project quarterly report
Number of youths integrated in the management system	person	0	5	Project quarterly report

[18] If any cross-cutting themes were selected in Section 3.1, this table must include some indicators that correspond to the selected theme(s).
[19] If this is unknown, write TBD (to be determined).
[20] Please identify indicators that can clearly represent the causal links in the results chain that bridge the gap between the current status and the objectives (desired high-level indicator). Ideally, under each component there is at least one outcome indicator and correspondent output indicator(s)

Annex 3 - Risks and Negative Externalities

F. Describe important potential risks to *achieving the project's development objective(s)* based on the scale, complexity, duration, and magnitude of proposed project activities and operations. Provide an assessment of the likelihood (probability) and risk rating (severity, impact) of the risks, and proposed mitigation measures.

Table D: Project Risk Assessment

Risk	Likelihood (L, M, H)	Risk rating (L, M, H)	Risk description	Proposed mitigation measures
Institutional capacity for implementation[22]: Risk that there is insufficient capacity to implement the project	L	M	Low capacity could result in delays in implementation or confusion.	Recruitment of skilled staff, revision of the salary package if requested to hire someone from out of the area, Training of staff, Support of experienced ROPAGA/ActionAid staff.
Climate and Natural Disaster Risk	M	H	The department is threatened on a recurring basis, causing agriculture loss, soil erosion, destruction of basic infrastructure and scarcity of seeds. Long periods of drought also result in loss of harvest. A natural disaster could disrupt project activities, destroy newly planted areas, or refocus people's attention on disaster relief efforts instead of project activities.	Regular internal training on risk management and disaster preparedness, Regular link with the early warning system (municipal agricultural offices and CNSA technical secretariat (National Coordination of Food Security), Link with other stakeholders working on risk reduction in the area (disaster risk reduction activities, review of emergency plans with municipalities and civil protection actors), Participation in local and national humanitarian coordination if a disaster occurs. Introduction of the right insurance cover, capable of contributing to small farmers' resilience and their recovery post disaster.
Theft and Violent Crime Risk	M	M	Insecurity and violent crime have increased in the department over the past several years and are now spreading to rural areas. This could disrupt project operations if project equipment is stolen or vandalized, or if field workers feel unsafe traveling to different project areas.	Regular internal trainings on risk management, Daily monitoring of security issues and travel ban, if necessary, Presence of team members in the field to improve risk mitigation in case of troubles (more reactivity, better local context knowledge), Activities adjournment and/or reorganization, if necessary, Attention paid to securing valuable equipment and assets.
Political Risk	M	M	During the first two years of	Regular internal training on risk

			the project, there will be elections in the country. Often, these elections are characterized by political passion and lack of tolerance. Frequently, some political groups set up roadblocks, freezing economic activities. Even national level disruptions and unrest in Port-au-Prince can paralyze agriculture activities in the Grand'Anse department.	management, Daily monitoring of security issues and travel ban, if necessary, Presence of Haitian team members in the field to improve risk mitigation in case of troubles (more reactivity, better local context knowledge), Activities adjournment and/or reorganization if necessary.
Social Risk	L	L	Conflicting agendas with other organizations already involved in the new extension municipalities, or a lack of knowledge about the new areas could lead to a community's resistance to change or other social obstacles. Gang violence has gained ground, reaching remote areas, which could strain operations.	Development of an extension strategy that includes establishing partnerships with other organizations already present as an entry strategy, with state representations at local level. Obtain feedback from the actors in the municipalities before intervening. Connection with clusters and sectoral tables in Grand'Anse. Presence of the team members in the field to improve beneficiaries' inclusion, participation and acceptance, information meetings. Previous successful projects in the area, with enthusiasm from participants and willingness to build on the previous projects. Experience and expertise of ActionAid in social project engineering. Radio and media opportunities across the region will raise awareness of the project across the local communities and wider country. Alternative routes (air transport) to avoid delay, constant security checks with focal point securities and collaboration with community members and local authorities.
Health Risks	M	M	The Covid-19 pandemic has been unpredictable in its scope and effects in Haiti and the Grand'Anse department. It is impossible to know whether the pandemic is nearing its end or just beginning, or whether additional outbreaks of this or other viruses will cause additional shutdowns and disruptions. Weakening of traditional food systems due to decreased resilience	The project will follow all guidance from public health authorities to ensure that it is following appropriate health and safety measures in all activities. Ample flexibility has been built into the project to allow for shifts in schedules and adaptation to social-distancing requirements. Hand-washing stations will be available at all events and events will be held outdoors. On project management: Close monitoring with donors to reorganize project activities and maybe budget line reallocation if requested. Possible remote delivery of training modules. Delay or

			caused by COVID-19 could lead to further food insecurity and malnutrition, Deterioration of livelihoods, or Endangering livelihoods through unsustainable survival strategies, which could all have negative impacts on the communities' ability to fully participate in project activities.	extension of the contract, depending on the on-going severity of the pandemic On food security: Reinforcement of seed multipliers to guarantee the local availability of seeds, Link with other projects or stakeholders working on reducing the risk of food insecurity in the area (contingency stock, review of contingency plans with municipalities and civil protection actors), Presence of ActionAid at the regional sectoral table on food security, monitoring of food insecurity and malnutrition indicators in collaboration with the actors concerned (CNSA, WFP, NGOs).
Monetary Risks			Agricultural prices could fluctuate due to national or international context, resulting in potential unavailability of products, delay in the procurement of seeds and materials, or reductions in the quantity planned. High inflation and depreciation of the local currency could lead to low motivation from field staff regarding the collapse of their purchasing power, and amounts budgeted in USD may not be able to respond to the quantity of items or services required by the project.	Close monitoring of prices and exchange rate fluctuations will be done by the staff, in connection with CNSA (National Coordination of Food Security) and DDA-GA (Regional Direction of Agriculture in Grand'Anse), dialogue with partners and donors to adapt the budget or activities.
Fraud and Corruption Risks	L	M	Errors, fraud, or irregularities in financial accounting would result in eroded trust with communities, partners and donors, and reduction of available funds for the project	Compliance with ROPAGA and ActionAid's financial management and monitoring manuals, policies and frameworks. Compliance with ActionAid Haiti internal control procedures. Zero tolerance policy to corruption and implementation of ActionAid's whistleblowing policy, including taking any necessary actions. Internal audits. Review of organizational audit findings and recommendations, implementation of any action points. Regular reviews of electronic transfer control systems and conduct regular financial reconciliations.
Lack of private sector motivation	M	M	Low purchasing power of customers, permanent socio-economic problems, closing of the markets for the school feeding program the	Expand and diversify market research as much as possible and raise awareness among the population to consume local products. make prices competitive on the market

			volumes ordered are significantly low. in this case the private sector may not have a great incentive to build partnerships for the commercialization of ROPAGA products	
Completion/Results Risk	L	M	As a result of combinations of the above risk factors and other unforeseen complications in an extremely volatile and unpredictable setting, the implementation of the extension strategy may be delayed, making it impossible to scale out to all target areas during such a short project.	Extension to be done gradually, and flexibility will be built into the project with many potential activities able to occur simultaneously and independently of one another, so that delays in one area or problems in one sector do not derail the entire project.

For Likelihood: L (low probability), M (moderate probability), or H (high probability).
For Risk rating: L (low risk or impact), M (moderate risk or impact), or H (high risk or impact).

[21] Indicative list of risks to assess: the technical complexity of the project; the extent to which project design is informed by analytical work; adequacy of number of components and subcomponents; past experience in designing and implementing similar operations; whether the design incorporates or relies on untested or unfamiliar technologies and processes; the extent to which project benefits dependent on external factors beyond the scope of the project.
[22] Indicative list of risks to assess: the complexity of the institutional arrangements (at central and local levels) such as number of implementing entities involved; geographical spread of project intervention areas and remoteness of these areas; experience of proposed implementing agency with similar scaled projects with international organizations

Table E: Evaluation of Negative Externalities

Potential Negative Externalities	Likelihood (L, M, H)	Risk rating (L,M,H)	Description of potential negative externalities	Proposed mitigation measures
Environmental[23]	L	L	Potential increases in emissions from project-related travel, transportation of produce and machinery. Introduction of non-sustainable packaging in product transformation activities.	Combine project-related travel with other required field visits to reduce the number of trips and the consumption of fuel. Encourage entrepreneurs to invest in low-emissions equipment by awarding extra points to grant and loan applications that use sustainable energy sources. Explore options for recyclable or otherwise more sustainable packaging for transformation activities.
Social[24]	M	M	Selection of some communities and exclusion of others could result in some ill will between beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries, or beneficiaries being the target of theft or harassment	The project will ensure that selection criteria of beneficiaries is clear and transparent and that people have a way to file complaints against the project if bias is suspected.
Gender	L	M	Empowerment of women and increased income for women can sometimes result in increased risks relating to gender-based violence such as domestic violence, as men may feel disempowered	The project will include considerable public outreach about the benefits to all households when women are economically active and independently generating income. The project will ensure consultation of both the men and women of the targeted households, in alignment with the do no harm principle The project will set up a mechanism to connect women with domestic abuse resources. AAI SHEA and Safeguarding Policy will be used as a review tool.

For Likelihood: L (low probability), M (moderate probability), or H (high probability).

For Risk rating: L (low risk or impact), M (moderate risk or impact), or H (high risk or impact).

Annex 5 - Project Preparation Team

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