



## Healthy animals are key to healthy cities

**While emergency disaster responses prioritise and tackle the immediate needs of people, effective risk reduction plans sustainably address a community's medium and long-term resilience and recovery. Such plans involve analysing and mitigating the many damaging effects of disasters that extend far beyond the initial event. For people and regions that rely on animals, this means a 'big picture' approach encompassing both human and animal welfare.**

The world's poorest and most vulnerable people rely heavily on livestock and working animals. And that's not to mention the important role animals have in many societies as companions. That is why people's resistance to and recovery from disasters is closely linked to animal wellbeing. As a result, whole communities can be helped and protected through an integrated disaster response and recovery plan that addresses the needs of both people and animals.

Effective planning and implementation is essential. It protects livelihoods, builds resilience, mitigates climate change, guarantees food security and enables long-term recovery.

## Case study

# Port-au-Prince, Haiti

In January 2010, Haiti was hit by the most powerful earthquake to strike the country for 200 years. We arrived in Port-au-Prince within a few days, swiftly delivering a coordinated and sustainable urban response. We worked closely with Haiti's Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Natural Resources (MARDNR) to meet the needs of the most vulnerable communities and their animals.

### The context

Before the earthquake, Haiti was already ranked 145 of 169 countries in the UN Human Development Index - an assessment of life expectancy, education, and income.

A devastating 3.5 million people were affected by the quake. More than one million farm animals and pets died or were injured and abandoned. And the people of Port-au-Prince desperately needed an action plan to protect the health of their remaining animals and their long-term livelihoods.

Nine months later the situation was further complicated by a cholera outbreak. Although unrelated to the earthquake, this posed aid response challenges and caused great suffering to Haiti's people. By July 2010, nearly 6,000 people had died and 216,000 were infected with cholera.



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### Meeting immediate needs

Although the protection of Haiti's people was the government's priority, MARDNR recognised the need to officially sanction animal-related disaster response activities. These included animal vaccination, disease surveillance, veterinary training and raising public awareness of the risks of cholera.

The magnitude and severity of the disaster demanded the intervention of more than one relief organisation to deliver significant aid. This is why **World Animal Protection** helped create and lead a coalition focused on delivering effective, coordinated solutions for both people and their animals.

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### Integrating animal welfare

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### A safer future for animals and people

**World Animal Protection** met Haiti's needs by providing animal-welfare-focused disaster response and recovery planning that complemented humanitarian activity. By realising the importance of integrating animals into disaster risk measures, the country has supported communities in rebuilding their livelihoods, and protecting their own and their animals' health for the future. Ultimately, our assessments show that animals have been key to reducing people's risk and shortening their road to recovery in these areas.

**World Animal Protection**, the coalition and the Haitian government worked closely together to develop a plan of action. This included creating a mobile veterinary clinic; developing a vaccination programme and rebuilding Haiti's national laboratory:



### Mobile veterinary clinic

This clinic was run by a dedicated team of local vets who provided free veterinary care and vaccinations to more than 50,000 animals in some of the worst affected communities. Recognising that many areas in and around Port-au-Prince were virtually inaccessible, our disaster team devised a tailored response to reach them.



### Vaccination programme and solar storage

Our response plan recognised that vaccinations are rendered useless unless stored and given at the appropriate temperature. To mitigate this, 12 solar cold chain units with 100 smaller portable cooler boxes were created. This allowed climate-controlled storage and the transportation of vaccinations into remote locations across the peri-urban areas of Port-au-Prince. The solar cold chain units were designed to be used all year round, independent of electricity.



### Rebuilding the national laboratory

The national Tamarinier laboratory in Haiti was one of the many buildings hit by the 2010 earthquake. So, in the aftermath of the disaster, the coalition rebuilt it to significantly improve the welfare of animals and humans alike. The laboratory was a particularly important building as it provided diagnostic and analytical services for the assessment and surveillance of infectious and communicable diseases.

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True disaster reduction comes from the awareness and integration of those who are most vulnerable - which includes animals. Through our interventions, we were able to

provide preparedness messaging, ensuring urban resilience and elements of sustainability within the Haitian communities. And ultimately, we have demonstrated the value of

addressing the root causes of livelihood vulnerability and providing productive asset support - both of which cannot afford to be overlooked.



### Vaccination storage and long-term programme

The cold chain units are expected to last five years before needing replacement. They have increased the country's capacity to respond to disease outbreaks. Each unit will support tens of thousands of animals over its lifetime. This sustainable programme ensures animal health protection and aims to protect public health through providing vaccinations for diseases such as anthrax and rabies.

carry out 8,000 diagnostic tests per year for rabies, Newcastle disease, classic swine fever, anthrax, leptospirosis and gumboro. This is expected to prevent the deaths of more than 100,000 poultry, 30,000 swine, 5,000 cattle and 50,000 pets. It will also ensure the protection of more than 500,000 people from infection and zoonotic diseases, with the long-term potential to help many more.

the importance of disaster risk reduction concepts and the inclusion of animals into family preparedness plans.



### Animal census

We developed an animal census in Port-au-Prince which gave the MARDNR useful data for vaccination programmes and other issues relating to public health. This helped to show the government which communities were most at risk. The availability of data, in conjunction with our public awareness programme, helped target those who were most vulnerable and changed attitudes regarding local people's views on preparedness and protecting their animals during disasters.



### Rebuilding the national laboratory

The refurbishment of the national Tamarinier laboratory has tripled its capacity according to MARDNR. It can now



### Preparedness planning

Earthquake preparedness plans included the development of a community public service announcement. This was promoted through TV, radio and the media, and helped to successfully change attitudes towards

As our work in Port-au-Prince and surrounding peri-urban areas demonstrates, it's essential that disaster risk management integrates the welfare of animals and the people that rely on them. This can:

- reduce the effects of future disasters
- protect livelihoods, the economy and social wellbeing
- decrease animal loss and deaths
- increase a community's ability to cope without government or NGO intervention
- involve the most innovative thinking from across different fields of expertise.

Our extensive experience in disaster management illustrates that helping animals helps people. It has shown time and again that the integration of animals into emergency planning and disaster risk reduction measures is fundamental to achieving effective, sustainable results.

This reality is increasingly understood and recognised within the humanitarian and global development communities. In particular, the post-2015 and post-Hyogo movements can provide a space in which together we can examine the need to incorporate the critical role productive assets (livestock, working animals, tools and seeds) play in sustainable development and disaster risk management, and how this can be achieved.

**Our extensive experience in disaster management illustrates that helping animals helps people.**



**World Animal Protection** has 50 years' experience of helping people help animals in disasters. We partner with local and national governments, inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations and communities to deliver expert emergency responses, world-leading risk reduction and preparedness planning. All to find the best possible solutions for animals and people alike. To find out more about our vital work – and discover how we can help you – visit [worldanimalprotection.org/disasters](http://worldanimalprotection.org/disasters)