

are now more available through participating MFIs to over 600,000 clients who represent 3.5 million family members.

**Heifer International**  
*Best Practice Award for Livestock Production, Producer Associations & Cooperatives and Value Chain Development*

Through the **Integrated Dairy Development Project in Albania**, Heifer International



has empowered 630 families in rural areas to increase their food and income by transforming subsistence farms into a sustainable resource while increasing cooperation between farmers. The donation of heifers, combined with effective technical assistance and training on community development, dairy food chain, milk quality, hygiene, and marketing and business plans provided an added value to individual farmers. The establishment of farmer associations and their active role in community life has provided direct assistance to families and increased access and visibility in the market, encouraging greater

cooperation and partnerships with different stakeholders.

**Winrock International**  
*Innovation Award for Natural Resources Management and Productivity*

Multiple-use water services (MUS) is a consumer-oriented approach to water service delivery that takes people's multiple domestic and



**WINROCK**  
INTERNATIONAL

productive water needs as the starting point to plan, finance and manage integrated water services. In the Zinder region of Niger, Winrock International's innovative **Water for Health and Wealth** MUS project, funded by USAID and Coca-Cola, is helping poor households gain access to water for drinking, food production and income generation using locally manufactured pumps. By taking an integrated approach to water services, Winrock is helping households reduce water-related diseases and turn limited gardens into a year-round source of income with benefits to both health and livelihoods.

# Considering Animal Welfare

## Implementing an animal and attitudinal survey in Port-au-Prince.

By **Melanie Gall**, Assistant Professor, Geography and Anthropology Disaster Science and Management Program, Louisiana State University; **Warren Eller**, Associate Professor, Department of Public Administration, University of North Carolina Pembroke; **Dick Green**, Emergency Relief Manager for Disasters, International Fund for Animal Welfare; and **William J. Fielding**, Director of Planning, College of The Bahamas, New Providence

**RECOGNIZING THAT THERE** would be a significant impact on animals after Haiti's earthquake, the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) and the World Society for Protection of Animals (WSPA) formed the Animal Relief Coalition of Haiti (ARCH) to bring aid to people and animals. Working with the Ministry of Agricul-

ture, Natural Resources, and Rural Development (MARNDR), ARCH and its 21 member agencies created a \$1.04 million fund for addressing animal issues. The relief plan identified five objectives:

- Provide a mobile veterinary clinic;
- Develop a cold chain for vaccines;



- Conduct public and educational outreach on animal welfare, disease prevention and disaster preparedness;
- Support reconstruction of the National Laboratory (which primarily deals with the identification of zoonotic diseases); and
- Survey animal population in Port-au-Prince.

Before any long-term animal welfare planning could begin, an accurate estimate of the animal population was necessary. This article outlines the process of

conducting an animal-related survey in post-earthquake Port-au-Prince.

### Developing the survey

The survey focused on three areas: (1) estimating the numbers of cats and dogs in Port-au-Prince, pre- and post-earthquake; (2) obtaining basic information about the care of pets in Port-au-Prince; and (3) the awareness of zoonotic diseases such as rabies. Lessons learned from similar studies conducted elsewhere in the Caribbean assisted the design team

in developing the survey. The questions were translated into Creole and then back-translated into English to ensure validity. The research team, a Haitian focus group and MARNDR staff assessed the Creole version to ensure its appropriateness for Haitian respondents. They also tested the reliability of the questions reliability through the focus group and through a pilot study of 200 surveys.

### Methodology

Generally speaking, Caribbean people are wary of strangers knocking on their doors and are often a reluctance to divulge information. Surveying people for their opinions is also less common in this region than elsewhere, so establishing trust between interviewee and interviewer is essential. To increase respondents' trust, local Haitians were trained as primary interviewers. The training consisted of a day and a half long workshop covering surveyor safety, data management, GPS navigation and safety matters such as emergency egress, teamwork and aspects of non-verbal communication. The data management segment reviewed the underlying dimensions of each question and how the responses translated into quantifiable data. The GPS training taught surveyors to navigate the grid system to ensure representative sampling. To augment the lectures and discussions, the research team used demonstrations and role-playing exercises.

MARNDR recruited 18 surveyors, who were then put into four teams based on their experience and skill sets. Each team designated a team leader responsible for overall team conduct and safety. A security guard, a safety officer and a project manager accompanied the survey teams in the field. For the first three

days following the training, the research team also joined the surveyors to assess efficacy and efficiency of survey protocols. This provided the opportunity to refine the data collection process in supplemental training conducted during end-of-day safety reviews and daily morning briefings. The survey process had three phases: pilot study (July); initial survey (September) to collect 1,500 surveys; and final survey (November) to collect remaining surveys (approximately 2,500). Phase II (September) collected 1,264 surveys, covering approximately 17 square kilometers (55 percent) of downtown Port-au-Prince.

### Data collection

In the absence of resources to include every household as in a census, we needed a sampling plan: a structured approach to estimate the number of animals before and after the earthquake based on data from a subset of the population. Given the lack of household demographic data by which the population could have been stratified, the team collected data using a spatially stratified sampling method. To avoid convenience sampling and to increase accuracy, we partitioned the downtown area into grids of 200 by 200 meters. A total of 554 grids formed the basis of the survey. We aimed to visit each grid and randomly sample participants. The number of surveys to be collected within each grid was pre-determined based on the pre-earthquake population density as well as the presence of IDP camps. We drew on a number of data sources including the 2003 Haitian census, remotely sense imagery from the US National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (via the Haiti Earthquake Data Portal) and data from the Camp Coordination and Camp Man-



agement (CCCCM) Cluster in Haiti that it posted online through its Google group.

### Lessons learned

Conducting a survey even under normal situations requires a good deal of preparation. But conducting a survey in Haiti following the earthquake also presented a number of unique challenges and generated valuable lessons:

- As the survey was routed through the various groups for approval, additional questions were added. While this ensured buy-in and support across all stakeholders, the length of the survey (24 questions) was ultimately too long, taking approximately 15 minutes to complete;
- Expedited training presents challenges that are further compounded by language differences. Having translators well-trained on the intent and goals of the study was essential;
- Conducting a survey using GIS (geographic information systems) methodology and technology ensures even coverage of the study area and avoids clustering, but it also requires significant logistical effort, planning and training;

◀ *Animal Relief Coalition for Haiti (ARCH) team members verify their GPS coordinates while conducting surveys in downtown Port-au-Prince 8 months after the earthquake.*

- Map reading skills and the ability to use a GPS handheld device were critical to the success of this sampling method;
- An additional day of training would have improved efficacy and efficiency;
- Having focus groups in-country and conducting a pilot study improved reliability and validity;
- Surveyors had extensive animal training, which gave them a better understanding of the intent of the survey;
- Providing opportunities for team building before and during the survey process improved morale, safety and productivity;
- Following the training, a relatively "easy" zone was selected for the first surveying, which allowed for adjustments to be made and increased surveyor confidence;
- Having researchers in the field for the first three days allowed for immediate feedback and adjustments to the surveying process;
- Willingness of the entire team to adjust plans at theoretical and practical levels improved efficiency and efficacy;
- Reconnoitering survey areas to identify high risk zones prior to team deployment was critical to a safe and successful survey; and
- Conducting debriefs immediately after day's work and briefings prior to beginning a new day was effective in identifying and highlighting critical areas.