



FFTP FOOD FOR
THE POOR
United in God's Work

FFTP Disaster Response & Resilience

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Overview



Food for the Poor (FFTP) is one of the largest international relief and development organizations in the region, dedicated to helping impoverished communities across 17 countries in the Caribbean and Latin America. Since its founding in 1982, FFTP has provided life-saving aid in areas such as healthcare, education, housing, agriculture, and food security, focusing on empowering communities to become self-sufficient. Through a vast network of donors, partners, and local organizations, FFTP delivers critical assistance to those in need, focusing on sustainable solutions to poverty and long-term development.

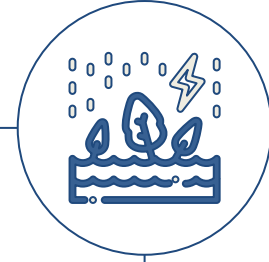
In addition to its core programmes, FFTP has always responded to natural disasters, providing emergency relief to communities in crisis. However, in 2012, FFTP formally established a dedicated disaster response arm, transitioning from a solely aid-based approach to a comprehensive disaster management strategy. This shift allowed the organization to not only provide immediate relief but also to implement long-term solutions that build community resilience.

FFTP's strategy is built on strong partnerships with local and international organizations. These collaborations ensure that affected communities receive timely and comprehensive support throughout all phases of disaster management. By addressing both immediate needs and long-term recovery, FFTP helps communities withstand future disasters more effectively. The organization's comprehensive plan includes monitoring weather forecasts, pre-positioning of relief supplies, and deploying staff as first responders during and after disasters to coordinate aid and support recovery efforts. Through this multifaceted approach, FFTP has strengthened its capacity to respond to and mitigate the effects of disasters, ensuring that communities are not only rebuilt but also better equipped for future challenges.

Impact of Cyclonic Events

Environmental

Cyclones severely damage coastal ecosystems, including coral reefs and mangroves, leading to beach erosion and increased vulnerability to future storms. Flooding contaminates water sources and devastates farmlands, while garbage spills and debris pollute rivers and ponds.

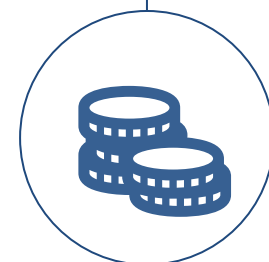


Health

Contaminated water and poor sanitation lead to the spread of diseases. Damaged healthcare facilities and limited access to medical services exacerbate these health challenges, particularly for vulnerable populations like children and the elderly.

Infrastructural

Cyclones often result in the complete destruction of homes, leaving many families homeless. Damage to roads, power lines, water systems, and businesses disrupts daily life and slows recovery. Coastal areas suffer heavy losses in fishing boats, gear sheds, and ports, halting economic activity.

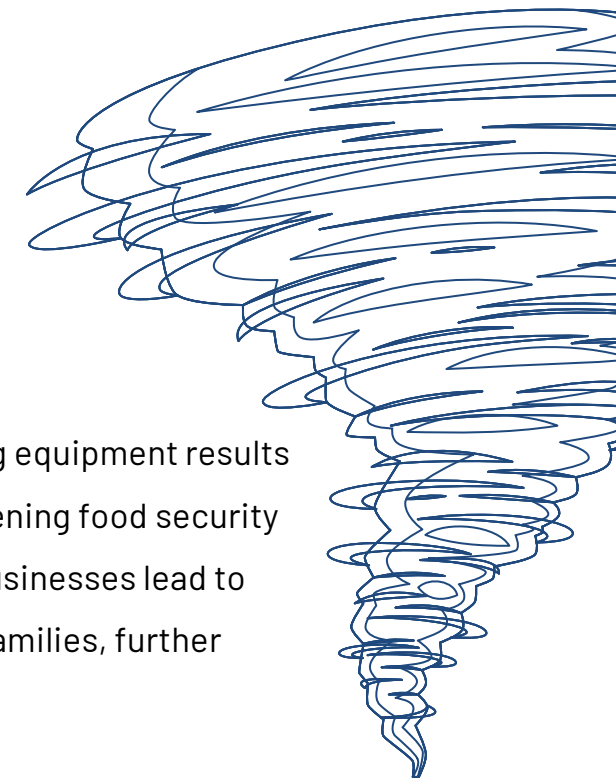


Economic

The destruction of farms and fishing equipment results in a loss of income for many, threatening food security and economic stability. Damaged businesses lead to long-term financial difficulties for families, further delaying community recovery.

Psychological

The loss of homes and livelihoods creates deep emotional stress, as families face uncertainty and displacement. Fear and anxiety are heightened by the ongoing recovery process and the threat of future storms, affecting the mental health of entire communities.





Disaster Preparedness

Risk Reduction & Quick Response:

- Annual review of the Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan
- Assess committee roles, confirm stock levels, and prepare for mobilization
- Preposition key supplies (food, hygiene kits, tarpaulins) in high-risk areas in collaboration with local churches and partners

Internal Preparedness:

- Staff meetings to ensure homes and communities are secured
- Key staff trained and assigned to critical locations for real-time communication and decision-making
- Staff stationed at headquarters to ensure readiness to respond

Monitoring & Early Mobilization:

- Coordination with Meteorological Service of Jamaica and ODPEM for weather tracking and updates
- Real-time weather alerts disseminated to all staff for early mobilization
- Collaboration with FFTP Florida for additional resource mobilization and support

Outcome:

Ensures staff (their homes and communities) are well-prepared and Food for the Poor is properly positioned and readily available before and after disasters



During Disaster & Post-Disaster Recovery

Emergency Response:

- Immediate shift to emergency response mode
- Staff deployed to the field, coordinated via Humanitarian Assistance Committee (HAC) with Ministry of Labour and Social Security
- Real-time communication networks enable rapid distribution of prepositioned supplies (food, hygiene kits, medical items)
- Focus on stabilizing communities and addressing urgent needs in critical hours

Sustainable Recovery:

- Damage assessment and long-term recovery projects aligned with local and national goals
- Support for farmers with seeds, agrochemicals, tools, and livestock housing repairs
- Focus on reestablishing livelihoods to promote economic recovery

Rehoming & Reroofing:

- Assistance with repairing or rebuilding homes to provide safe shelter for families
- Continued distribution of food and care items during the recovery process

Long-Term Resilience:

- Development of sustainable projects to promote long-term resilience
- Focus on rebuilding homes, restoring livelihoods, and supporting infrastructure
- Holistic approach combining immediate relief with sustainable recovery for a stronger, more secure future





Challenges, Lessons Learnt, & Recommendations

Challenges:

- Road damage/blockage and delayed access to communities.
- Telecommunication failures disrupted communication.
- Limited human resources hampered large-scale disaster response.
- Inadequate IT infrastructure slowed assessments and relief efforts.
- Poor PR towards the role of the first responders to the public

Lessons Learned:

- Better collaboration with National Works Agency and relevant agencies for quicker road clearance.
- Better collaboration and coordination of relief effort distribution with the relevant agencies.
- Implement satellite internet stations and use of radios for reliable communication during response.
- Create a Human Resource plan to scale manpower and subject matter experts for large disasters such as those hurricanes that are Category III and above.

Recommendations:

- Preposition relief supplies at strategic locations.
- Strengthen volunteer management and disaster training.
- Use an electronic data management system and enhance geospatial tools for effective response.