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PADF

## **PADF AND OAS DELIVER 78,000 POUNDS OF FORTIFIED RICE TO HAITI** *Together for Haiti alliance builds on early appeal*

**Washington, DC (May 21, 2008)**—Last week, the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF) coordinated the donation of 78,000 lbs of Fortified Rice and Soy Protein Meal Packages valued at nearly \$100,000. The contribution represents the first response to PADF’s urgent appeal for relief after Haitians’ early April food crisis protests.

The shipment of meal packages came courtesy of Minnesota-based NGO Feed My Starving Children. The transport of this and a set of upcoming relief shipments are facilitated by a \$25,000 contribution from the Organization of American States (OAS). The food will be distributed by Haiti’s Food for the Poor in school cafeterias, maternity and pediatric clinics, senior citizen homes and retirement communities, and other large canteens.

Yesterday, PADF joined Yéle Haiti—the humanitarian organization founded by Grammy-award winning artist and philanthropist Wyclef Jean—and the World Food Programme (WFP) to announce the formation of “Together for Haiti-Kombit pou Ayiti,” an alliance which will provide food, create jobs, and support agricultural production in Haiti. Not only does this partnership tackle the immediate crisis with a series of food donations similar to last week’s shipment—it also strategizes longer-term solutions for the country.

PADF’s Deputy Director Amy Coughenour states, “This partnership generates an alliance with the people of Haiti—by addressing the immediate crisis, and also by creating longer-term solutions. We are challenging all people who care about combating poverty in Haiti to respond—every single contribution to this effort matters.”

Of Together for Haiti-Kombit pou Ayiti’s four initiatives, PADF leads three that create sustainable solutions: immediate employment, micro-enterprise grants, and agricultural support. The job creation component will include small infrastructure rehabilitation and agricultural development. Micro-enterprise grants will support training and start-up funds for low-income Haitians who have entrepreneurial aspirations in family/community-based agro-business. And the provision of seeds will increase small farmers’ agricultural activity during the beginning of planting season and stabilize crop production.

These initiatives will address the country’s unemployment rate, enhance labor market opportunities, boost business growth, and support increased agricultural output. They complement PADF’s ongoing programs in Haiti, which for 27 years have supported agricultural development, infrastructure improvements, natural resource protection, and community-driven development, improving millions of Haitians’ lives.

Michelet Fontaine, PADF’s Caribbean Programs Director and acting PADF-Haiti Country Director remarks, “PADF and the OAS have generated synergies among important contributors to maximize support for Haiti during this devastating crisis—not only by leveraging emergency food donations, but through the development of employment-generation schemes and micro-enterprise programs, with a vision to support the country’s socio-economic development.”

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On April 7<sup>th</sup>, Haitians took to the streets in protest of rising food costs, which have doubled over the last three months. PADF immediately appealed for contributions to help Haitians during this struggle, and Feed My Starving Children responded with the shipment of 270,864 adult servings of meal packages. Far surpassing the nutritional value of plain rice, each meal provides 60 to 80 percent of the daily value of essential vitamins and minerals, and 11 grams of energy-sustaining protein.

OAS Assistant Secretary General Albert R. Ramdin states, “The OAS expresses solidarity with the people of Haiti during this serious crisis. Our long-term goal is to strengthen the country as a whole; and PADF supports Haiti’s socio-economic growth by leveraging partnerships and developing sustainable solutions beyond this emergency.”

As the oldest nonprofit affiliated with the Organization of American States, PADF has more than 45 years of development experience throughout the Americas. Donations to PADF are tax-deductible, routed directly to those affected, and managed transparently and efficiently with local partners. For more information or to make a contribution, please visit [www.padf.org](http://www.padf.org) or [www.togetherforhaiti.org](http://www.togetherforhaiti.org).

**About PADF:**

The Pan American Development Foundation was founded in 1962 as a nonprofit affiliate of the Organization of American States. PADF works with civil society, the private sector, and governments to create opportunities and improve lives for the disadvantaged in Latin America and the Caribbean. A leader in corporate social investment strategies and sustainable partnership models, PADF’s programs provide win-win results for all stakeholders. With a commitment to local capacity and the Inter-American spirit of cooperation, PADF works in 21 countries, annually serving more than 3.5 million people whose potential is limited by poverty, vulnerability, and disasters. PADF builds programs that create jobs, enhance education, build skills, foster community participation, and strengthen resiliency through the power of people, local solutions, and partnerships.

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