HAITI COUNTRY PROGRAMME 2017-2021:
In Haiti, infant mortality is 59 per 1000 live births and maternal deaths are 529 per 100,000 live births. All children have the right to access healthcare services: only 53 per cent of Haitians have access to health facilities, the provision of basic services such as primary healthcare remains challenging.

- UNICEF advocacy focuses on health system strengthening by supporting the development of policy documents, standards, strategies and action plans, on the effective allocation of resources in the health sector based on surveys, improved routine administrative systems, and barriers analysis. UNICEF will also advocate for systematic birth registration at all health centres and access to family planning.
- In 2021, 90 per cent of departments with health data completion rate of over 90 per cent of the institutions in due time.
- In 2021, 30 per cent of health institutions without a stock-out of measles and rubella vaccines during the year in selected communes.
- In 2021, 30 per cent of institutions offering a complete package of essentials and integrated care (EMNOC, IMCI, pediatric care and postnatal care).
- In 2021, 70 per cent of caregivers having knowledge of at least two danger signs of the most frequent under five diseases (fever, diarrhea, pneumonia).

During the period 2017-2021, UNICEF will support the provision of equitable immunization services through the Reach Every District (RED) approach in 70 communes with low coverage. Support will be provided for the delivery of maternal, new-born and child healthcare (MNCH) and the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV particularly at community level. UNICEF will support the strengthening of community health workers (ASCP) with national and international organizations to provide integrated services at all level and supply chain management.

Humanitarian Action for Children – 2018
Two years after Hurricane Matthew, health services improvement is moving towards normalization in a context of both political and security fragility, which could have consequences for the deterioration of already precarious conditions. The health situation in the departments affected by hurricane Matthew is characterized by the almost total departure of NGOs that supported the emergency response in the departments of the South and Grand’Anse most affected, leaving huge gaps in supply needs health services in these still vulnerable regions. UNICEF has supported the immunization of 26,000 children aged 1 to 6 against the diphtheria epidemic in the Southern Department. UNICEF is continuing its support the implementation of routine immunization in 70/140 selected communes. According to MoH/SISNU data (76% completeness), immunization coverage for children under one, for this first semester 2018 in these selected communes: 62.8% were vaccinated against measles and rubella; 69% received the 3rd dose of OPV and 68% received PENTA3.
EDUCATION

HAITI COUNTRY PROGRAMME 2017-2021:

In Haiti, 84% of children attend primary school and 46% at secondary level. The overarching vision of the education program is that, by 2021, girls and boys, especially the most excluded ones in targeted rural areas, acquire the essential learning competencies in a quality and inclusive educational environment. The program will focus on ensuring access and learning during the first cycle of basic education (grades 1 to 4) with learning opportunities adapted to their needs. Since inequities build up from grades 1 to 3, if issues are tackled from the beginning and children are better equipped, this will increase their chances to progress in the system to complete basic compulsory education.

As the Haitian education system continues to suffer from very poor performance and high inequities in access and quality, the program will cater to preschool aged children as well as out-of-school and over-age children and adolescents to ensure enrolment at the right age and appropriate learning opportunities also for those too old to enter the formal system. The new country programme aims at reaching out to 50,000 children in 250 public schools.

Since 2017, UNICEF has been instrumental in supporting the Ministry of Education in coordinating and aligning partners on initiatives promoting early grade reading and writing. “Haiti Wins: read, write and succeed!” programme is a direct UNICEF contribution fostering reading and writing competencies of more than 20,000 children in 106 public schools in three selected Departments and is a key initiative in contributing to Ministry of Education (MOE) efforts towards improvement of children’s learning achievements in the first grade of primary schools. UNICEF supports MOE’s efforts to boost access and already succeeded in improving the capacity of 742 school’s personnel to participate in and contribute to schools’ management. In 2017, 152,000 children (75,484 girls) in grades 1 to 6 in 532 schools throughout the country benefited from school materials distributed by UNICEF, directly contributing to MOE effort to reduce indirect school fees for parents. UNICEF technically and financially contributed to the development of the new 10 years Education Strategic Plan and played an important role in its Steering Committee. Since mid-2018, UNICEF has been elected to ensure the secretariat of the Local Education Coordination Group.

Humanitarian Actions and Results

Since hurricane Matthew hit Haiti in October 2016, around 92,000 children could resume education in a more conductive environment. Thank to UNICEF interventions: school light repairing, distribution of school furniture and materials and psychosocial support. More than 386 schools were supported in four affected departments. UNICEF Contribution accounted for more than 50% of the overall sectorial interventions. In 2018, UNICEF continued to support the MOE in South and Grand’Anse to strengthen emergency preparedness and carrying out DRR activities at school level.
In Haiti, one out of five children under five suffers from stunting with large disparities between socioeconomic levels: 34 per cent stunting for the poorest against 9 per cent stunting for the better off, according to EMMU VI. 55,000 children under 5 years of age suffer from acute malnutrition, 18,000 of which are severe. Causes of malnutrition are multiple and cross sectoral, including food insecurity, poor child feeding and care practices, inadequate access to safe water and sanitation as well as socio-economic inequalities and political instability. Yet very few programs address malnutrition through an integrated and multi-sectoral approach. Haiti is signatory of the SUN (Scaling Up Nutrition) movement since 2012, which calls for collective actions from Government, donors, civil society, private sector and research institutions to ensure that children realize their right to food and nutrition and reach their full potential. UNICEF supports the Ministry of Health in rolling out the SUN roadmap specifically scale up proven high impact nutrition specific interventions with a focus on the 1000-day window of opportunity, the period of rapid growth and development that occurs from conception to the age of two years. Furthermore, UNICEF promotes nutrition sensitive interventions in other sectors i.e. Food Security, Health, WASH, and Social Protection to address the multiple causes of malnutrition and maximize impact in reduction of all forms of malnutrition.

HUMANITARIAN ACTION FOR CHILDREN – 2018
In 2018, UNICEF continues to support nutrition intervention, particularly in the most marginalized areas for the most vulnerable children affected by Hurricane Mathew in Grand-Anse and South in close collaboration with MoH. Since January 2018, UNICEF has pre-positioned essential nutrition supplies including RUTF (1,400 cartons) and ensured appropriate treatment for 862 children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and 1,192 with (MAM). Furthermore, 31,075 children were screened. 3,818 children have received micronutrient powder through UNICEF partners and 5,822 pregnant and lactating women benefited from infant and young child counselling services and capsule of micronutrient.
HAITI COUNTRY PROGRAMME 2017-2021:
In Haiti 74% of households have access to an improved water source, of which 95% in urban areas and 60% in rural areas. 25.3% of the population practices open defecation, 35.8% in rural areas and 9.3% in urban areas.

UNICEF will ensure that the National Water and Sanitation Authority (DINEPA) and implementing partners develop child-sensitive WASH strategies, operational plans and monitoring tools; and assist in increasing WASH coverage and strengthening sustainable management systems in 15 cholera-persistent communes with low access to services, in synergy with the health, nutrition and education components UNICEF, together with partners, will implement a comprehensive behavioral change strategy encompassing social mobilization and community participation and engagement, which will also contribute to end open defecation and to elimination of cholera. This initiative will be carried out in parallel with the development of water and sanitation infrastructure.

The programme will support capacity-building for the Government and various stakeholders. UNICEF will advocate for an increased budget allocation to the sector and the continuation of the reform process as well as the development of public-private partnerships.

Humanitarian Action for Children – 2018
By the end of 2017, over 280,000 individuals, including 118,000 children, had access to safe water provided through UNICEF and its implementing partners in the areas most affected by hurricane Matthew.

Since January 2017, UNICEF’s partners have reached an additional 66,000 individuals with safe water, almost 23,000 with adequate sanitation and sensitized around 29,000 people.

UNICEF is supporting DINEPA and the WASH partners in defining adapted exit strategies for each location which is currently supplied by 25 emergency water systems; these strategies aim at restoring safe and viable water access for the affected population, with specific attention to building resilience, based on cross-sectoral interventions and restored essential services access by the end of the year.

In collaboration with the national water authority, (DINEPA/OREPA), 35 communes have been identified, to benefit from a UNICEF drought impact mitigation project funded by USAID. The project takes into account both the impact of the hurricane and the level of exposure to drought and will benefit over 90,000 individuals, including almost 38,000 children.
Since 2013, UNICEF supports Haiti Government’s cholera elimination, including the medium-term plan to achieve an annual incidence of less than 0.1% (less than 12,000 cases) by the end of 2018. This plan is divided in 3 parts: coordination and surveillance, access to health care, and cutting the transmission within the communities.

Thanks to the intensification of the implementation of these 3 components, this goal is most likely to be reached, as “only” 3,437 suspected cases have been declared by the ministry of health as of October 27, 2018 (MoH’s bulletin); a decline of 70% compared to the same period in 2017. This good result shows a continuity from 2017: the first year since cholera introduction in 2010, to have seen a control of the epidemic throughout the year (13,681 suspected cases and an annual incidence of 0.13%), bringing the country close to the goal of 0.1% set for the end of 2018, one year ahead of schedule.

In 2017, children under 18 counted for about 38% of suspected cholera cases in the 3 most impacted departments (Ouest, Centre, Artibonite), and 18% of suspected cases concerned children under 5. Cholera and acute diarrheal diseases continue to be a heavy burden for Haitian families and children, either because they are sick themselves or because they are directly impacted when their parents are hospitalized or lose their lives.

**HUMANITARIAN ACTION FOR CHILDREN – 2018**

Since the beginning of 2017, for the first time since the launch of alert-response strategy in 2013, the number of response teams has been maintained to a minimum of 70, including MoH teams. However, this rapid response capacity has been close to a premature end. Despite the lesson learned from 2017 on the importance of financing predictability for this strategy, in 2018 short terms contracts had to be signed with NGOs – first until June, then September, due to lack of funding predictability.

Experiences gained since the launch of the strategy allowed NGO partners to get better trained, more motivated and to better supervised teams. It also allowed the launching of new community engagement teams, which implement complementary hygiene promotion activities and community mobilization, to accelerate outbreaks control.

Currently, suspected cases of cholera remain circumscribed in known persistence areas already considered high-priority in the National Cholera Elimination Plan. Departments of Centre, Artibonite and Ouest remain the most affected.

Such results encourage UNICEF to further support Haiti in its fight for the complete elimination of cholera, towards a healthier living conditions for children and their families. But a continued mechanism of surveillance, coordination and response, is needed as the risk of a re-emergence of cholera still exists. 2018 is until now the confirmation of a significant drop of the disease in Haiti, but the country remains fragile and localized outbreaks still occurred regularly. The alert-response system is contributing to significantly decrease the cholera incidence and must be maintained and adapted until people exposure to the disease is reduced through longer-term solutions at community level.