

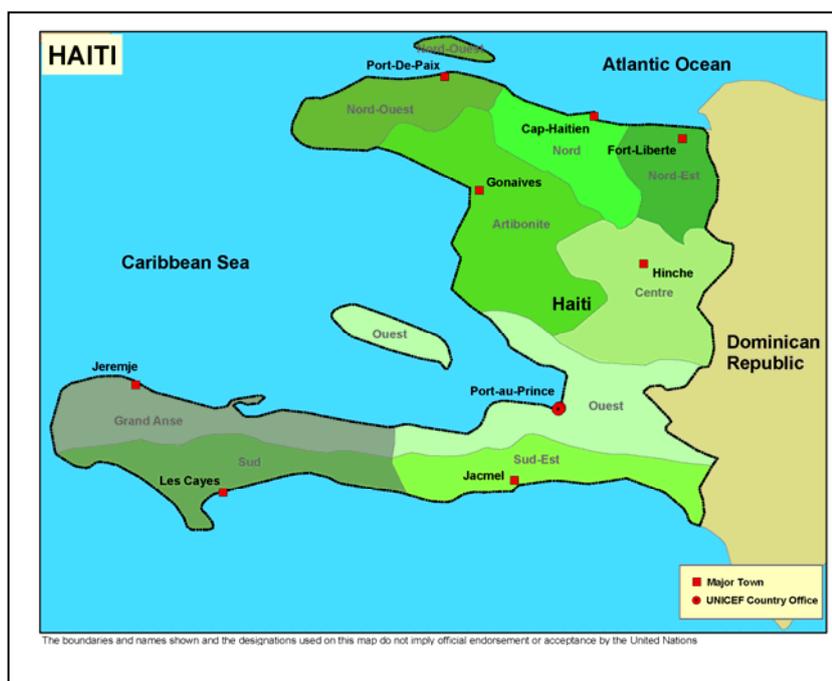
For every child
Health, Education, Equality, Protection
ADVANCE HUMANITY



UNICEF HUMANITARIAN ACTION

HAITI

IN 2008



CORE COUNTRY DATA

Population under 18 (thousands)	4190
U5 mortality rate (2006)	80
Infant mortality rate (2006)	60
Maternal mortality ratio (2000-2006, reported)	630
Primary school enrolment ratio *	67
Primary school enrolment ratio for girls *	57
% U1 fully immunized (DPT3)	53
% population using improved drinking water sources	54
HIV prevalence rate **	2.2
% U5 suffering moderate and severe underweight/ stunting	22/24

Sources: *The State of the World's Children 2008*

* 2003 Census ** EMMUS IV

Haiti is the poorest country in the western hemisphere, with more than 50 per cent of its population surviving on less than a dollar a day and almost 45 per cent under 18 years of age. One child out of twelve dies before the age of five, primarily due to preventable diseases, water-related illnesses, and malnutrition. In 2007, recurrent natural disasters caused hundreds of deaths and thousands to be displaced, and damages to agriculture, houses, health facilities and schools all over the country.

Summary of UNICEF financial needs for 2008

Sector	US\$
Health and nutrition	2,000,000
Water, sanitation and hygiene	1,500,000
Education	1,500,000
Child protection	1,500,000
Emergency preparedness	350,000
Total*	6,850,000

*The total includes a maximum recovery rate of 7 per cent. The actual recovery rate on contributions will be calculated in accordance with UNICEF Executive Board Decision 2006/7 dated 9 June 2006.

1. CRITICAL ISSUES FOR CHILDREN

The situation of women and children in Haiti remains tenuous, largely due to chronic poverty, natural disasters, absence of child protection systems, and a history of violence linked to political instability. While countries in the region are showing gradual improvement, Haiti continues to be characterized by inadequate primary health care, limited access to nutrition services and overburdened water and sanitation systems. Unable to meet the needs of the 45 per cent of the population under 18, one child out of 12 dies before the age of five, primarily due to preventable diseases and malnutrition. With only 30 per cent of the population having access to adequate sanitation, poor hygiene contributes to the persistence of water-related diseases which have been exacerbated during recent emergencies.

In 2007, persistent rains and flooding have plagued the people of Haiti, causing hundreds of deaths and thousands to be displaced. Because of Haiti's high population density and its decaying infrastructure, the country is particularly vulnerable to the effects of natural disasters. Tropical storm Noel, which passed through Haiti in October 2007, caused damage to agriculture and destroyed houses, infrastructure (including water and sanitation systems), health facilities and schools all over the country, creating acute and urgent humanitarian needs for children who represent half of the victims.

Home to some of the poorest and most vulnerable children in the region, Haiti has among the worst indicators in Latin America and the Caribbean. In fact, only 33 per cent of children under one have been completely vaccinated against preventable diseases. HIV prevalence remains among the highest in the region at 2.2 per cent, especially for women who make up the highest share of those infected (2.3 per cent against 2 per cent for men). Of an estimated 17,000 children living with HIV/AIDS, only 300 have access to antiretroviral therapy.

Hundreds of thousands of children remain out of school and child-friendly learning spaces and qualified teachers are in short supply. Approximately 30 per cent of children attending primary school will not make it to third grade and 60 per cent will abandon school before sixth grade. Of 2 million children attending school, more than 50 per cent are overaged. Gender discrimination is an obstacle to Haiti's development; while girls enter school on parity with boys, girls are subject to higher drop-out rates and they represent 60 per cent of the overaged students.

Despite mobilization of humanitarian assistance and improvements in the security situation, Haiti's children continue to be in urgent need of protection. There are an estimated 2,500 street children in the capital and, while the exact number of children associated with armed groups is unknown, it may be around 1,000 in Port-au-Prince. Three children out of ten have no birth certificate, and of the 8 per cent of children aged 5-17 years who are in domesticity, three-quarters are girls.

2. KEY ACTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2007

Health and nutrition. In the health sector, emergency was supported through various partners centring UNICEF's efforts in making sure that quality essential health care is available to all affected population. This included providing partners with health kits and shelter materials and ensuring that health centres were operational and consultations free during the emergency period.

In collaboration with NGO partners and in coordination with government counterparts, UNICEF closely monitored emergencies to ensure that standards were maintained in all services provided. As the responsible agency for the procurement of all vaccines in the country, UNICEF ensures that there are, at all times, enough doses to be able to carry out an emergency measles campaign, if needed.

As cluster focal point for nutrition, UNICEF ensured that there were enough emergency nutrition supplies in the country at all times (Plumpy'nut, F-75, F-100, BP5 etc.). UNICEF also supported the training of partners in the identification and management of acute malnutrition, as well as advised them on the correct procedures to conduct a nutritional survey.

Water, sanitation and hygiene. In the water, sanitation and hygiene sector, some 40,000 children had access to safe water, and are using this water in an appropriate way. UNICEF drilled eight new boreholes, rehabilitated 50 existing boreholes, constructed three water systems (spring catchments) and rehabilitated one water system to provide safe drinking water. In addition, seven communities benefited from sanitation

UNICEF HUMANITARIAN ACTION REPORT 2008

facilities, including the construction of 300 household latrines, 4 communal latrines and 2 institutional school latrines. Promotion of health and hygiene education activities was also carried out in 61 local communities.

Education. Extreme poverty and deep inequalities in access to basic social services, such as primary education and literacy, continue to be the main concern in Haiti. In 2006, humanitarian actions were mainly concentrated in Cité Soleil, which was in urgent need of specific interventions to help decrease the violence and improve access to basic social services. In 2008, targeting the goal of increasing access, particular emphasis will be placed on ensuring that school-aged children, particularly girls living in vulnerable areas of Port-au-Prince, enrol and stay in school.

Seventy public schools in Port-au-Prince and four new schools were rehabilitated in order to empower local communities and youth to help upgrade the learning environment and facilitate the incorporation of out-of-school children, especially those excluded due to social conflict and violence. This included rehabilitating water and sanitation facilities (latrine blocks and water points) in all schools, classrooms and playgrounds; providing school furniture (4,000 three-seat school benches, 500 teachers' desks and 500 blackboards); procuring supplies (60,000 kits) for teachers and schoolchildren; and training teachers on school health, hygiene promotion, peace-building and negotiation skills. This intervention increased the capacity of the schools to receive out-of-school children. Some 6,700 out-of-school children are now enrolled in four new schools (three in Cité Soleil and one in Martissant) completely furnished and equipped by UNICEF. In addition, 500 children and adolescents affected and/or infected by HIV/AIDS, monitored by the GHESKIO centres, received education support (textbooks and tuition fees) to encourage these particularly vulnerable children to remain in school. Finally, 32 incarcerated minor girls had access to non-formal education and vocational training.

The right to education encompasses more than access to school. It includes being able to stay in school and the ability to finishing one's studies, the quality of teaching, gender equality, learning efficiency, and learning life skills. The rights-based approach means education for all, without exception. UNICEF prioritizes groups excluded from the educational system because of poverty, violence, gender and other forms of discrimination.

Child protection. Throughout 2007, UNICEF addressed the needs for protection and support of the most vulnerable children by reinforcing actions in metropolitan areas particularly affected by armed violence, such as Cité Soleil. From the very beginning of the year, Cité Soleil and other slums of the capital had become accessible, allowing UNICEF to build upon medium-term interventions targeting vulnerable families and children. Through AVSI (Associazione Volontari per lo Sviluppo), UNICEF continued to provide psychosocial support to at least 5,000 children, promoting back-to-school as well as vocational training and allowing children to rediscover their childhood through sports and other recreational activities.

Through collaboration with GHESKIO and several partners working towards the protection of street children, UNICEF provided medical and psychosocial support to at least 1,500 children living on the street (both girls and boys) as well as voluntary counselling and testing to identify and treat children and youth made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS or other sexually transmitted diseases.

Emergency preparedness. As part of the emergency preparedness process for 2007, UNICEF Haiti prepositioned emergency items in different locations in order to be better prepared to respond to emergencies in a decentralized way covering different regions in the country and to ensure a minimum level of permanent operational capacity. Five international NGOs and one UN agency were identified in different areas to preposition emergency items. For each area, several coordination activities were implemented, including field visits, logistics assessments, and the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with each of the organizations. Clear policies and procedures were agreed upon for the provision and distribution of emergency assistance. In October 2007, following flooding and tropical storm Noel, UNICEF provided emergency supplies (hygiene kits, cooking kits, water containers, blankets etc.) to more than 1,000 families in the affected areas.

3. PLANNED HUMANITARIAN ACTION FOR 2008

Coordination and partnership

UNICEF is an active member of the UN-led coordination structure, under the umbrella of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Memoranda of Understanding with the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and the World Health Organization/Pan American Health Organization (WHO/PAHO) as well as partnerships with the UN Office of Project Services (UNOPS) and the World Food Programme (WFP) are evidence of the efforts of UN agencies to streamline their humanitarian activities in close collaboration with the Government's Civil Protection Department.

Regular programme

The UN system is in the process of finalizing the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) in collaboration with other development partners based on national priorities as reflected in the Poverty Reduction Strategy report which will provide the programmatic framework for the new 2008 Country Programme. Considering recurrent natural disasters and political instability, humanitarian preparedness and response activities are part of each sectoral programme.

Health and nutrition (US\$ 2,000,000)

UNICEF's assistance will include the following key activities:

- Address the basic health needs of 20,000 affected people through the prepositioning and distribution of emergency kits;
- Treat 1,500 severely malnourished children;
- Treat 10,000 moderately malnourished children;
- Give nutritional support to 10,000 pregnant and lactating women;
- Distribute 50,000 insecticide-treated mosquito nets to people living in flood-affected areas;
- Vaccinate, if necessary, 50,000 under-five children in affected areas.

Water, sanitation and hygiene (US\$ 1,500,000)

Up to 200,000 persons, focusing particularly on children and women, will be reached through the following key activities:

- Drill 60 new boreholes and rehabilitate 100 existing boreholes to provide safe drinking water to some 100,000 people;
- Rehabilitate/construct five water systems;
- Construct 1,000 household latrines and 10 institutional latrines;
- Promote hygiene and environmental education in 200 communities, involving children, young people, parent associations, teachers, community leaders;
- Train 200 local water committees to assure adequate operation and maintenance of the water and sanitation facilities;
- Provide the local water committees with simple equipment for water treatment, water quality control and sanitation materials;
- Equip masons with the necessary tools and latrine moulds to be able to continue building latrines after the project leaves the community;
- Provide technical assistance to local authorities and community-based organizations.

Education (US\$ 1,500,000)

Up to 40,000 vulnerable children attending public schools and 700 teachers will benefit from the following key activities:

- Supply basic scholastic materials including school bags, notebooks and pencils, for 40,000 primary schoolchildren;
- Train 700 primary schoolteachers, with particular attention to HIV/AIDS and peace education;
- Rehabilitate schools and build latrines in all public schools in the selected localities;
- In case of major emergency, set up 50 temporary school structures and provide supplies to 15,000 students.

Child protection (US\$ 1,500,000)

Following improvement in security conditions, UNICEF will extend protection and psychosocial support to almost 5,000 children and youth affected by armed violence, including those associated with arms groups in the most affected slums of Port au Prince, such as Cité Soleil and Martissant, to 1,500 street children and to more than 5,000 children infected or affected by HIV/AIDS. Vulnerable children, including children victims of natural disasters, such as floods, will benefit from support and protection through the following key activities:

- Provide medical care and psychosocial support to at least 1,500 street children, including HIV/AIDS prevention, testing, treatment, counselling and peer education;
- Provide medical, psychological and legal support to victims of sexual violence;
- Promote HIV/AIDS prevention and reinforce community-based support to families made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS as well as provide medical and psychosocial support to orphans and children affected or infected by HIV/AIDS in at least three departments;
- Support and strengthen the reintegration of vulnerable children (affected by armed violence, street children, sexual violence or natural disasters survivors, orphans and other vulnerable children) through schooling, life skills, sport and recreational activities, the promotion of active participation in their own recovery;
- Train teachers, social workers, and as well as health staff on response and psychosocial support to violence/abuse in emergencies;
- Extend social activities for children in peace-building, including information, education and sensitization sessions on child rights, conflict resolution, self-esteem and prevention of HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases, targeting the rights of girls and promoting their participation in society;
- Support the identification, documentation, tracing, care and reunification of separated children.

Emergency preparedness (US\$ 350,000)

Given the continued threat of natural disasters and volatile political landscape, UNICEF needs to be prepared to respond at all times, with short notice, through a thorough and dynamic plan of action. This plan emphasizes the need to strengthen our partners in the management of emergencies from a human rights-based approach, always keeping children and women as the priority categories. The main areas of intervention for 2008 will be:

- Train governmental and non-governmental partners in emergency preparedness and response, with particular attention to adequate response in floods and to displaced populations (the most common emergencies in Haiti);
- Purchase and preposition emergency stock, including the peripheral warehouses that are managed by our partners;
- Train emergency partners in warehouse management, distribution evaluation, and reporting;
- Hire a dedicated emergency officer for one year;
- Build the capacity of the Departmental Committees for Risk and Disaster Management in order to improve the national network and ensure an equitable, fast, and comprehensive management in all regions of the country.