

Haiti

Update on the context and situation of children

Ranked 168th out of 189 countries on the Human Development Index (2018), the Republic of Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere and fourth most vulnerable to climate change according to the Climate Risk Index (2019). In 2020, the country continued to face multiple crises, including growing socio-political instability, deteriorating economic conditions, and rising food insecurity and malnutrition, waterborne disease epidemics, as well as the Haitian-Dominican migration situation, all of which have been further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

On the political front, continued gridlock since 2019 has significantly disrupted government action and development and humanitarian assistance programs. Socio-political tensions have escalated with pressure mounting from opposition parties and civil society for President Moïse to leave office and increasing civil unrest and gang-related insecurity. The economy contracted by another 0.9% in 2019, and the country has experienced rapid currency depreciation.

The direct health impact of COVID-19 has, so far, been moderate with 10,127 confirmed cases and 236 deaths reported as of 31 December 2020 according to the Ministry of Health (MoH). Since cases were first confirmed in late March, the Government of Haiti has taken emergency measures to prevent the outbreak. The surveillance system has been strengthened, and schools were closed for 4 months. The Government of Haiti, through the High level Multisectoral Commission for Management of COVID-19 Pandemic and the MoH has issued a COVID-19 National Response Plan with the support of financial and technical partners.

However, with the lifting of the state of emergency since August 2020, there is serious concern that the caseload could explode in the future because of the re-opening of airports, the lift on curfew hours, and the significant movement of people across the border with the Dominican Republic[1]. National authorities and the humanitarian community are closely monitoring the situation and maintaining risk reduction and preparedness activities, while planning for the COVID-19 vaccine campaign in 2021.

There is serious concern that the negative socio-economic consequences of COVID-19 could set back efforts towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. According to the latest Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP May 2020), nearly 40 per cent of the Haitian population were estimated to be food insecure.

Children and women are, as always, the most affected by these negative trends as deep vulnerabilities are still preventing many children from getting a fair start in life. In urban areas, 82% of children experience at least one deprivation of their basic needs, while in rural areas, the rate reaches 97%.

Health – According to the 2017 Demographic and Health Survey (DHS)[2], maternal and infant mortality remain unacceptably high[3]. An estimated 1 million children and 315,000 pregnant women and adolescent girls require emergency health care (HRP, May 2020). Yet, availability and access to maternal, neonatal and child-care services has significantly decreased as the pandemic took hold in Haiti[4].

WASH – 1 out of 4 people have no access to improved water sources and only 1 in 3 households' have access to adequate hand-washing facilities, while 1 in 4 households are still practicing open defecation (DHS 2017). There is an acute need to prevent outbreaks of waterborne diseases and to better prepare for climate-related emergencies through awareness raising on handwashing, essential emergency WASH and resilience and disaster preparedness with vulnerable communities.

Nutrition - Together with rising levels of food insecurity, the estimated number of children suffering from acute malnutrition has risen from 134,000 in December 2019[5] to a projected 167,000 in 2020 (HRP, May 2020). In the absence of a national budget for nutrition, UNICEF Haiti covers most of the country's needs for therapeutic nutritional products. One out of 4 children suffer from chronic malnutrition and 2 out of 3 children and half of women aged 15-49 suffer from anemia.

Education - In addition to the 60 school days they lost during the country lock downs in the first trimester of the 2019-2020 school year, 4 million children have been missing out on their education because of school closures due to COVID-19. It is estimated that over 70% of school children may have lost a complete school year[6]. Many children especially the poorest, those in rural areas and children living with disabilities, risk falling far behind in their learning.

Child protection - Haiti ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in 1994, however the country has yet to adopt a child protection code[7]. As families struggle to make ends meet, children and women are at heightened risk of abuse, exploitation, and violence, including gender-based violence (GBV). 85% of children are exposed to violent discipline while 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 5 boys are affected by sexual violence[8]. Children, especially adolescents, are vulnerable to gang recruitment, and are at risk of being victims of violence, but also of perpetrating violence. One in 5 children do not live with a parent while 207,000 children are living apart from their families and are engaged in unacceptable forms of domestic work. 95% of children in detention are in pre-trial detention[9]. An estimated 10% of movements along the Haitian/Dominican Republican border are children[10].

[1] According to IOM, an estimated 200,000 border crossings have been reported since mid- March.

[2] Enquête Mortalité, Morbidité et Utilisation des Services 2016-2017 (DHS 2017).

[3] The infant mortality rate has stagnated at 59 per 1,000 live births.

[4] A reduction of approximately 50% of the number of monthly visits to children under 5 years old has been observed according to the Système d'Information Sanitaire Unique, 2020.

[5] MoH, SMART Nutrition survey, December 2020.

[6] Ministry of Education estimates.

[7] <https://www.icj.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Concluding-Observations-CRC-Haiti-2016-eng.pdf>

[8] <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/violence-haiti.pdf>

[9] Administrative Directorate for Penitentiaries, November 2020.

[10] IOM Flow Monitoring Report No.28, November 2020.

Major contributions and drivers of results

In line with the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2017-2021, UNICEF Haiti's Country Program (CPD) is focused on supporting the Government of Haiti in the areas of health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene, education, and child protection. Despite severe disruptions due to COVID-19 and rising insecurity, UNICEF delivered US\$29.8 million worth of development programmes in 2020, as well as US\$11 million worth of humanitarian assistance in response to COVID-19 and other humanitarian needs.

1. Every Child survives and thrives

In contribution to SDGs 1, 2 and 3 and effect II of the UNDAF 2017-2021, UNICEF Haiti continued working alongside the Ministry of Public Health and Population (MoH), departmental directorates and local implementing partners to provide vulnerable pregnant and breastfeeding women and under five

children with an integrated package of preventive and curative health and nutrition services. With support from UNICEF and the World Bank, the MoH adopted its Strategic Plan of Community Health 2020-2030, a reference framework for the coordination, planning and implementation of community level health interventions.

Despite challenges due to COVID-19 restrictions, and with support from the Government of Japan, GAVI and the World Bank, UNICEF worked to provide immunization services to those hardest to reach in 38 targeted communes of the West and South department. Over 210,000 doses of measles and rubella vaccines were procured, 132,000 children under one year old were vaccinated against measles and the solarization of the cold chain continued with 288 solar refrigerators purchased as part of the Cold Chain Equipment Optimization Platform (CCEOP). Over 260,000 people were sensitized on vaccination and key barrier measures against COVID-19.

In response to COVID-19, and with support from USAID, the German National Committee for UNICEF and UNICEF thematic funds, UNICEF provided emergency logistical support to 15 public referral hospitals, and distributed emergency kits, equipment, drugs and consumables to maintain access to primary health care for approximately 10,000 persons over the initial three months of the crisis. Over 8,600 oxygen cylinders were distributed to maintain lifesaving assistance to hospitalized patients and over 2,800 Community Health Workers were trained and equipped to support surveillance and awareness raising among vulnerable communities.

In line with the National Policy and Strategy for Sovereignty and Food Security and Nutrition, and with support from the Government of Canada, CERF funds and its own resources, UNICEF supported the MoH to prevent and treat over 14,800 children suffering from severe acute malnutrition, and 19,500 children affected by moderate acute malnutrition. Micronutrient supplementation reached over 2,500 children (between 6 and 23 months). Over 270,000 children received Vitamin capsules while 6,800 mothers received advice on infant and young child feeding including in the context of COVID-19.

As a strong advocate of the Kangaroo Mother Care – a proven method of care to improve health outcomes for mothers and their babies and reduce the high neonatal mortality –, UNICEF supported the Hospital of the State University of Haiti which was able to provide comprehensive care to 2,785 new-borns since 2018 (of which 671 in 2020).

UNICEF remained committed to supporting the fight against HIV / AIDS and syphilis in Haiti, in particular the Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT) and HIV in adolescents through the implementation of the ALL-IN strategy in the departments of the South of the country.

2. Every child lives in a safe and clean environment.

In contribution to SDG 6 and effect II of the UNDAF 2017-2021, UNICEF Haiti worked in close collaboration with the National Water and Sanitation Authority (DINEPA) to support the extension of service coverage, and the strengthening of management systems in the areas the most vulnerable to water-borne diseases and with limited access to drinking water.

UNICEF focused on strengthening the resilience of vulnerable children, women and their families in rural and urban areas to water-borne diseases and epidemics (including COVID-19) using improved, equitable and sustainable WASH services and promoting basic hygiene behaviors.

Working with NGO partners, UNICEF Haiti supported extended service coverage, and strengthened management systems in the most vulnerable areas with a focus on the South, Grande Anse, Nippes, Centre, Artibonite and South-East departments. A key focus was placed on supporting coordination and planning mechanisms at national, departmental, and communal level, as well as strengthening

capacity of government actors, NGOs, communities and schools on hygiene promotion, sanitation, and emergency preparedness and response.

The cholera prevention project supported by Canada between 2014 and 2020 in the departments of Centre and Artibonite came to an end. 105,000 new people in rural areas now have access to an improved source of water and 103,000 persons have access to basic sanitation in localities certified Open Defecation Free (ODF). Over 27,000 students gained access to an improved water source, and gender-separated toilets.

With support from DiFID and the World Bank, UNICEF has been promoting and advocating for the Community-Led Total Sanitation through its Accelerating Sanitation and Water for All (ASWA) programme. 205 localities were triggered in 2020 with over 6,200 latrines under construction.

In response to COVID-19, UNICEF was heavily involved in risk communication and community engagement efforts, surveillance, as well as points of entry and infection prevention and control (IPC). 6.5 million people have been sensitized on COVID-19 risks and prevention measures and over 10,000 handwashing stations have been installed. In addition, water, sanitation and waste management infrastructures were upgraded in 23 health care facilities and temporary WASH infrastructures have been installed in key points of entry at the border with the Dominican Republic[1]. IPC items were also distributed in prisons and orphanages. Interventions are still ongoing in more than 250 schools.

3. Every child is protected from violence and exploitation

In contribution to SDGs 5, and 16 and to Outcome 5 of the UNDAF 2017-2021, UNICEF remained committed to supporting the implementation of the 2016 recommendations from the Committee on the Convention on the Rights of the Child[2]. UNICEF supported the Government to prevent family separation, promote family reunification and family-based care, including the national foster care system, with a focus on children traveling to/from the Dominican Republic[3], children in detention [4], child domestic workers and children in institutions[5], as well as addressing violence against children through prevention and strengthening access to services amidst COVID-19.

In commemoration of World Children's Day, UNICEF mobilized young people to speak publicly of the benefits of a Child Protection Code for Haiti. UNICEF maintained its advocacy for the release of children from detention as well as on the right to birth registration for all children.

With financial support from Canada, the European Union, Germany, the Peacebuilding Fund and USAID, and working closely with the Institute of Social Welfare and Research (IBESR), as well as the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor (MAST) and Ministry of Justice and Public Security (MJSP), UNICEF supported civil society actors and national authorities to deliver critical child protection services. The national foster care system expanded further from 120 to 150 foster families, increasing the opportunities for family-based care for children without parental care.

In response to COVID-19, over 2,800 vulnerable families benefited from cash transfers together with training aimed at increasing their financial autonomy to prevent family separation and access essential services. *Over 194,000 individuals were reached by child protection actors with COVID-19 prevention messaging and child rights and protection messages.*

UNICEF provided emergency protection assistance to 1,075 unaccompanied children and children at risk of and/or experiencing violence including gender-based violence. *This assistance extended to Haitian child migrants travelling to/from the Dominican Republic. In collaboration with IBESR, MoH and a local civil society partner, a temporary quarantine center was established for 111 child migrants awaiting family tracing and reunification at the most frequented border of Ouanaminthe. With support from the Peacebuilding Fund, UNICEF supported the Children's Courts in Port au Prince, Cap*

4. Every child learns

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In line with SDG 4, and effect II of the UNDAF 2017-2021, UNICEF worked to support the Ministry of Education (MoE) and other partners to ensure access and learning for children from preschool to early grades 1 to 4 as well as providing overaged and out-of-school children with learning opportunities adapted to their needs.

In 2020, our work remained focused on strengthening school readiness, access and retention. With support from USAID, over 5,600 children (2,680 girls) received kits and textbooks to facilitate their enrollment in first grade. Around 2,500 preschool children received educational materials and over 1,100 adolescents were enrolled in basic non-formal education and vocational training.

Working under the Haiti Wins programme supported by USAID since 2016, UNICEF Haiti continued to promote a quality learning environment in the early grades of primary school. Over 20,200 children (48% girls) across 106 public schools were assisted on their reading, writing and communication practices. Established with technical support from UNICEF, an early warning system to control absenteeism helped identify at-risk children and prevent drop-out. UNICEF worked to strengthen national capacities for supervision of schools and personnel. Following the 2019 study on school failure, support to the strengthening of the formative evaluation system in classrooms continued.

On the institutional front, following the adoption of the non-formal education policy in 2018, for the first time non-formal education became a priority in the new Education Sector plan. A three-year strategic plan has been drafted and will be validated by the MoE, together with a new competencies' framework and a curriculum. The MoE was also supported to complete parental education modules, a first step towards to the development of a comprehensive national parenting programme.

In its capacity as secretary of the Education Sector Group (GSE) alongside the European Union, which chaired it, and now as Chair, UNICEF supported the coordination mechanisms between partners to ensure their alignment with government priorities. UNICEF was selected as Grant Agent by the MoE to manage the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) accelerated funds.

In response to school closures caused by COVID-19 and civil unrest, UNICEF Haiti supported the MoE to set up catch-up classes for 52,000 children to fill-in the learning gaps linked school closures. UNICEF supported back to school efforts for more than 15,000 children and provided sanitation and hygiene for more than 100,000 when schools reopened.

5. Every child has an equitable chance in life

Social inclusion

UNICEF remains committed to promoting social protection initiatives in Haiti. Thanks to support from UNICEF, WFP and other UN Agencies, the Haitian Government adopted a child-sensitive and equity-focused National Social Protection and Promotion Policy (NPSPP) in June 2020. The fiscal space is too restricted to drive structural changes towards the 2030 Agenda to remain on track on the ODD roadmap. Increased revenues are needed to finance critical sectors including education, health and social protection where the country is still far below the recommended benchmarks and achieve greater spending efficiency. A costing exercise including a fiscal space study for social protection is underway with support from the UN Economic

To better understand the impact of child deprivation in Haiti, UNICEF supported the Institut Haitien de l'Enfance to undertake a multidimensional child poverty study. This analysis will provide a basis to guide policy dialogue and programmes targeting the specific needs of children. To inform the Haitian Government's COVID-19 recovery plan, UNICEF is completing a rapid assessment and modelling of the impact of the COVID-19 on children. A formative evaluation of our cash transfer-based initiatives has been initiated to analyze the impact on beneficiaries, and design multi-sectoral solutions that can adapt to the wide variety of shocks and crisis that the country faces.

CROSS CUTTING PRIORITIES

Humanitarian action

Despite severe disruptions due to COVID-19 and growing insecurity, UNICEF has been engaged since day one in supporting the Government's emergency preparedness and response efforts. **Our supply chain and contingency stocks were mobilized to cover key institutions (hospitals, children's homes, prisons) and communities, distributing emergency supplies and equipment to those most in need. In support of the MoH COVID-19 response plan, some 30 UNICEF staff oversaw over 40 implementing partners providing supervision, technical support and field monitoring, as well as strengthening community-based accountability and Prevention against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA). Key areas of focus included COVID-19 prevention and response, through mass communication campaigns, community mobilization and awareness raising around preventive measures such as handwashing, and community level surveillance and response in coordination with PAHO/WHO. To mitigate the negative impacts of COVID-19 on basic social services, UNICEF supported the continuation of life-saving vaccinations, health care, nutrition, education and child protection services.**

Humanitarian needs remained high in all UNICEF-led sectors, with approximately 40% of the population and 1.9 million children in need of support. As sector co-lead on humanitarian WASH, education, child protection and nutrition, UNICEF maintained its support to the Directorate General of Civil Protection (DGPC) and other line ministries in strengthening emergency preparedness and response, as well as to strengthen the humanitarian/development nexus. Contingency agreements are maintained with six partners NGOs and stocks of key supplies are pre-positioned in several key locations to cover at least 50,000 people for a first rapid response to any upcoming emergency.

The cholera epidemic is now seen to be coming to an end, with no cases confirmed since February 2019. However, with support from Japan and the Cholera Multi-Partner Trust Fund, UNICEF remains focused on supporting the MoH for the country to reach complete elimination of cholera by 2022 and transfer surveillance, alert-response and prevention capacities for cholera and other diarrheal diseases, to the Haitian Government.

Gender equality

Building on its Gender Strategy, UNICEF's work integrates gender in each of its programmes. All COVID-19 field partners received GBV prevention and referral training. U-Report was also widely used to gain a better understanding of young people's perspectives on gender.[6] With support from the European Union, and working together with UN Women, UNFPA and UNDP, UNICEF took part in the launching and start-up of the EU Spotlight Initiative aimed at ending family violence against women and girls in Haiti. UNICEF focused its efforts on promoting positive social norms and help seeking behaviors.

UNICEF continued to invest in increasing access to birth registration particularly through improving women's participation. Preliminary findings from a Knowledge Attitudes and Practices (KAP) study on birth registration revealed that women experience discrimination when registering their children. To overcome this UNICEF, the Haitian Government and implementing partners are increasing awareness raising on the relevant legislation, procedures, and women's right to access birth registration for their children.

UNICEF has been at the forefront of the PSEA agenda, with a dedicated PSEA Specialist and a comprehensive in-country action plan. UNICEF implementing partners are obligated to develop a code of conduct and report all cases of abuse or exploitation. Partners received technical coaching and support on safe and accessible reporting channels, and support was given for the provision of assistance to children of survivors.

[1] Ouanaminthe, Belladeres and Malpasse

[2] [https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G16/035/15/PDF/G1603515.pdf?](https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G16/035/15/PDF/G1603515.pdf?OpenElement)

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[3] 1,070 children received assistance through UNICEF.

[4] 407,000 child domestic workers according to the 2014 FAFO study.

[5] 25,813 according to EDOS 2018.

[6] <https://haiti.ureport.in/opinion/4602/>

UN Collaboration and Other Partnerships

Shared value partnerships with governments, UN collaboration mechanisms, CSOs and other stakeholders are central to our ability to keep supporting the realization of children's rights. UNICEF Haiti warmly thanks all the partners who provided support in 2020 to reach the most vulnerable children in Haiti.

In 2020, funds received amounted to US \$ 41 million. The top donors of UNICEF Haiti are Canada, the United States, the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), the World Bank, Japan, and the European Union. In addition, implementation partnerships have been signed with 62 Civil Society Organizations and 6 government entities, namely the Ministry of Public Health and Population (MSPP), the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor (MAST) and the Institute for Social Welfare and Research (IBESR), the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training (MENFP), as well as the National Directorate of Drinking Water and Sanitation of the Ministry of Environment (DINEPA / MDE), Civil Protection General Directorate .

UNICEF Haiti maintains a strong partnership with the Government of Haiti to better address children's critical needs and protect their rights. UNICEF works closely with the Ministry of Public Health and Population (MSPP), DINEPA, the Ministry of Education at the central and departmental level to ensure a multisectoral support in health, nutrition, WASH, education, child protection. As a key UN partner in these sectors, UNICEF provided financial and technical assistance to strengthen national efforts in these key areas.

In addition to national authorities, support was provided to NGO partners to implement key interventions on the ground. Awareness raising and sensitization on COVID-19 is a case in point: based on the communication strategy developed by the MoH, UNICEF conceived, produced and distributed communication tools (video, audio spots, leaflets, posters, etc) to over 40 partners. CSOs were also mobilized. IDEJEN and Sakala helped engage 600 youths in the fight against COVID-19 and inform 305,000 people in 7 departments including Cite Soleil. UNICEF Haiti mobilized scouts, young influencers and famous singers BIC and Jean Jean Roosevelt around COVID-19 prevention, and 27,000 adolescents and youths registered to U-report in a year.

In support to the UN Reform, UNICEF Haiti is engaged in a number of joint UN initiatives including the UNICEF/ILO project to prevent and respond to child domestic work in three departments Grand Anse, West and South (Global Affairs Canada); Southern Maternal Health Project (UNICEF, UNFPA with Canadian funds); Border monitoring and protection of child migrants (UNICEF Haiti and DR and IOM Haiti and DR with EU funds); Peacebuilding Funds for Rule of Law (UNDP, UNICEF and UN Women); and the Spotlight Initiative with support from the EU (Resident Coordinator Office (RCO), UN Women, UNFPA, UNDP and UNICEF). These contributed towards program results achieved in 2020 and to the UN system-wide humanitarian response for COVID-19.

Lessons Learned and Innovations

Strengthen emergency preparedness, disaster risk reduction and the humanitarian - development nexus

Given the growing socio-political instability and the country's high vulnerability to disasters, strengthening emergency preparedness and disaster risk reduction (DRR) emphasizing the humanitarian - development nexus, including through the maintenance of contingency stocks and strengthening of sector coordination, remain key priorities. There is an acute need to prevent outbreaks of waterborne diseases and to better prepare for climate-related emergencies through awareness raising on handwashing, and concrete disaster preparedness actions with vulnerable communities. National

authorities and the humanitarian community are closely monitoring the situation and maintaining DRR and preparedness activities, while planning for the COVID-19 vaccine campaign in 2021. A key lessons learned from the cholera and more recently from COVID-19, was the role of prevention and response to outbreaks through a strong engagement of the WASH sector.

In line with the recommendations of the 2019 Climate Landscape Analysis for Children (CLAC) study, climate change adaptation activities are being strengthened in all programmes. UNICEF is also exploring climate change adaptation partnerships opportunities with other UN agencies including UNEP and FAO. An evaluation of UNICEF's work initiatives on cash transfers is ongoing to further guide programming on cash and vouchers.

Supply

Given Haiti's high vulnerability to disasters, strengthening the supply chain to procure lifesaving emergency items remains a key strength and a priority for UNICEF to meet regular requests from Government and partners. While local markets are weak and dependent on imported goods, UNICEF remains committed to engaging with suppliers to meet the current and future needs of children. In response to COVID-19, UNICEF successfully established a responsive supply chain to meet emerging needs such as critical hygiene and prevention items, including soap and buckets for hands washing, drinking water dispensers, disinfectant, and personal protection equipment. UNICEF has a 2,000 square meters warehouse which provides efficient and effective support. Over 900 potential suppliers have been identified for critical goods, and long terms arrangements have been put in place for both products and services to facilitate day to day operations.

Responding to Violence against women and children

Given the prevalence of various forms of violence in Haiti, UNICEF will invest further in favor of the elimination of violence against children including through improving parental education and addressing family violence. The launch of the EU Spotlight Initiative in 2020 allowed UNICEF to work on these issues. U-Report was an essential tool particularly during COVID-19 when the possibility of in person information gathering was limited. A U-Report survey highlighted the prevalence of domestic violence[1] and the need to strengthen parental education to reduce violent discipline[2].

To improve reporting of incidents and assistance to children in need, UNICEF supported IBESR to reactivate their free hotline which will work alongside the helpline of the Brigade for the Protection of Minors of the Haitian National Police. The existence of helplines helped ensure community access to information and assistance throughout periods of service interruptions. Making use of available technology (U-Report and helplines) helped ensure a continuation of services amidst the pandemic.

In 2021, UNICEF will maintain its advocacy efforts for the adoption of the child protection code in-line with the 2016 recommendation from the Committee on the Rights of the Child to reinforce the protective environment for children.

Reflect further on Youth

Working under the Generation Unlimited (GenU) initiative which brings together the United Nations, governments and the private sector, UNICEF Haiti has been strengthening its outreach towards adolescents and young people.

In 2020, UNICEF partnered with NGOs like Sakala and IDEJEN to engage youths in the fight against COVID-19. 600 youths were trained on how to communicate on barrier gestures and they informed 300,000 people on handwashing, mask wearing and physical distancing, and distributed 12,000 masks

and face covers in the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince and on its outskirts with difficult access such as Cite Soleil.

To better understand, young people's opinions on issue affecting their lives, 23 U-Report surveys[3] were conducted in 2020. To strengthen youth participation and community awareness UNICEF established a partnership with the National Association of Scouts of Haiti (NASH), the largest youth organization in Haiti comprising of 50,000 members, which reached out to over 11,500 individuals through community mobilizing activities promoting the use of U-Report and violence prevention.

30 adolescents and youths trained by UNICEF partner ENPAK informed 30,000 people on children's rights thanks to a dozen videos produced and an itinerary exhibition of child paintings organized in schools. To mark world children's day on 20 November 2020, 200 adolescents and youths advocated for the adoption of the code of child protection in front the First Lady, The Minister of Social Affairs and UNICEF Deputy Representative.

More than 500 young mentors, peer educators and monitors contributed to either training children, adolescents and adults or conducted awareness sessions (door to door, public places, boombox), processed posters posting, hand washing points installation, monitoring and demonstrations in key public places.

The validation of the first national alternative education policy opened the way to an improved educational offer for half a million Haitian children outside the school system. A key area of focus will be to strengthen vocational training and non-formal education to improve the employability of young people. There is also a need to strengthen the involvement of the private sector (chamber of commerce) in the training and professional reintegration of adolescents.

[1] 49% of respondents believe violence against children takes place in the home, 22% at school and 29% in both the home and the school.

[2] 64% of respondents believe parental education is the best approach for reducing violent discipline.

[3] <https://haiti.ureport.in/opinions/>