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HAITI

Humanitarian Situation Report No. 1

unicef 
for every child

Highlights

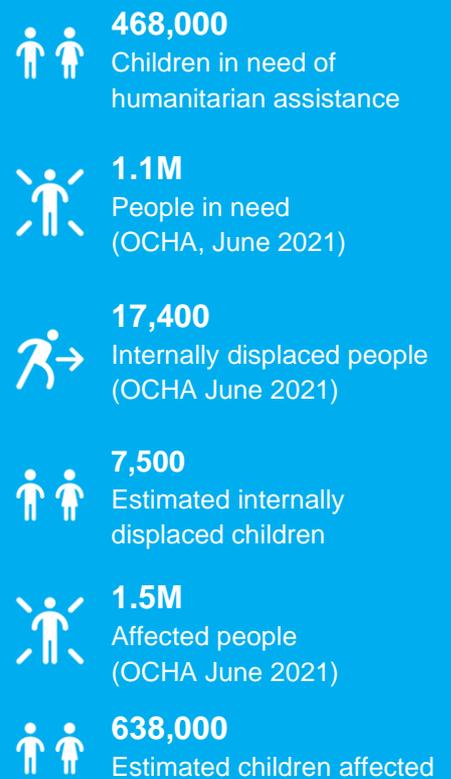
In Port-au-Prince, there are an estimated 95 armed gangs that control large territories (around 1/3 of the capital city). These gangs are increasingly engaged in armed battles for territory control, affecting the lives of **around 1.5M people** (OCHA, June 2021). Since Sept 2020 in Haiti, thousands of families have been forced to flee their homes due to armed violence. The number of children and women victims of armed attacks by criminal gangs increased 62% compared to the previous period (45 to 73). Kidnapping is also abruptly increasing, including children and women: 233 total cases from Jan to Apr 2021 vs 234 in all 2020 (+300%). The impact and role of children in the gangs activities is difficult to assess with precise data, but it is now certain that the widespread and ‘normalization’ of violence, lack of employment opportunities, and lack of access to basic social services, are leading children and youth to join the armed groups.

Since June 1st, the gangs’ activities and clashes have accelerated in the metropolitan area of Port au Prince and an increasing number of families are affected by constant clashes between armed groups, reaching **an estimated 17,400 people** forced to leave their homes to survive (internally displaced people, IDPs) since the beginning of the crises in September 2020. Far from home and without shelter, displaced children live in fear, anxiety and trauma. They lose access to education, health, nutrition and recreation services, become more vulnerable and are more exposed to violence and sexual abuse. Three main sites are currently particularly affected: Martissant / Fontamara (estimated **6,600 IDPs**), Bel-Air / Tabarre-Issa (estimated **3,800 IDPs**) and Bas-Delmas (estimated **7,000 IDPs**); including the IDPs who found refuge in shelters and the ones hosted with relatives or acquaintances. Among those IDPs, around **1,500 people** from Martissant / Fontamara (including around **600 children**), are currently being sheltered in Carrefour Sports Center, with the support of UNICEF. A serious concern exists for potential COVID-19 outbreaks among IDPs, especially in the shelters.

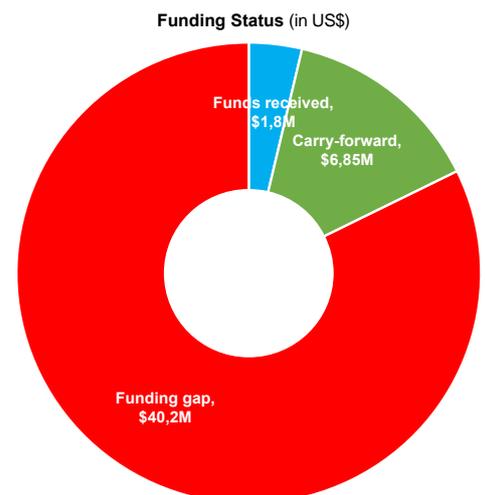
As majority of these affected areas are controlled by gangs currently fighting against each other, **security and humanitarian access conditions are extremely challenging**, making more difficult any humanitarian response activity. Access by road to Martissant/Fontamara and Carrefour from the capital city is presently restricted, further hampering the response.

The current situation of gangs’ violence and IDPs in the capital city’s metropolitan area is feared to go towards a further deterioration as, with the planned elections later in the year and the limited presence and capacity of government institutions, the armed gangs activities and violent clashes are expected to cause increasing forced displacements of population. UNICEF is getting ready to scale-up its humanitarian response.

Situation in Numbers



UNICEF Haiti HAC Appeal 2021 US\$ 48.9 million



Funding Overview and Partnerships

To meet the immediate humanitarian response needs of the affected population, UNICEF has allocated some USD 200,000 from regular resources and global humanitarian thematic funds, to carry out Health, WASH and Child Protection response activities and to procure urgent humanitarian assistance supplies. Considering the limited funding raised against Haiti HAC appeal (less than 4%), for the current crisis UNICEF appeals for USD 6.8 million to ensure a multi-sectoral humanitarian response to the internally displaced population victim of violence in Haiti, in support of government and partners, along with the reinforcement of basic social services to women and children affected.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Due to the increasing activities and clashes among armed gangs in the metropolitan area of the capital city Port au Prince, a growing number of families are affected and forced to leave their homes to survive, with thousands of children in fear and without access to basic social services such as education, health and recreation, and becoming more vulnerable to violence. Many of the internally displaced people (IDPs) found temporary shelter in public spaces (sports centers, schools or churches) and several other thousands are hosted at relatives or acquaintances' homes. Security and humanitarian access remains a concern as majority of the affected areas are controlled by the gangs, hampering access to provide humanitarian response. The COVID-19 worsening situation in the country during the last weeks, with the number of cases rapidly growing and public hospitals reaching their fullest attendance capacity, represents an additional concern for the risk of outbreaks among IDPs.



Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Coordination

UNICEF has been present in the ground since the Day One from the sudden increase of violence in Martissant / Fontamara, contributing to the response coordination for the IDPs, in support to the City Hall and the Civil Protection of Carrefour, particularly for the persons who found shelter in the local Sports Center (some 1,500 according to the last counting). After having supported the organization of the shelter and the first response activities, UNICEF is currently conducting more detailed sectoral assessments, to identify the specific needs of the IDPs and to plan a more comprehensive response, in support of the local authorities and in coordination with other partners present on the ground. In other locations with presence of IDPs, UNICEF is playing an active role in support of the local authorities and the other partners, for the coordination of the response activities for the displaced families. In order to plan a more complete response, a special effort is being made, with OCHA and the other agencies, to assess the number and the needs of IDP who are not in the shelters and found refuge at relatives or acquaintances' homes, as well as the needs of the host families. A U-Report poll has been launched for this purpose and a more detailed survey is being planned with the help of local NGOs and community-based organization (CBOs).

In terms of protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA): hundreds of posters will be displayed across intervention sites, with SEA Prevention messages and communication channels to report SEA cases (phone numbers and emails) ; all UNICEF and partners teams are trained on PSEA, both as part of their mandatory training but also before deployment to work in Haiti; UNICEF is coordinating with other agencies on the ground to ensure referral of potential survivors to service providers in a timely manner.

WASH

WASH interventions have been set up in different locations hosting IDPs, including in Bel-Air (Parc Celtique shelter with around 1,200 IDPs) and in the temporary shelter at Carrefour Sports Center hosting some 1,500 IDPs from Martissant and Fontamara.

Needs – General needs include: drinking water, handwashing stations, hygiene kits, water treatment products and emergency sanitation and shower facilities, as well as hygiene promotion activities to prevent the spread of waterborne diseases and COVID-19. The shelter of Carrefour Sports Center is connected to the public water network, which is not potable, while the number of mobile toilets already installed is insufficient and their emptying is challenging due to access constraints. In Bas Delmas 7,000 IDPs are being located by local authorities and NGOs present in the area, in different temporary shelters (Village de la BNC, college Armée du Salut, École Communautaire KAY MIRTHA/KOMIKED and Delmas 4 Sport Center) and all WASH related needs are yet to be covered.

Response - UNICEF has been securing the drinking water delivery to the IDPs from Bel-Air during several weeks. Additionally, UNICEF sent to Carrefour City Hall a total of 700 local hygiene kits (one for each family) and 20 WASH/Dignity kits (5 for each households), 700 jerry cans, 200 boxes of masks (each box contains 50 masks) and 500 boxes of water purification tablets (each box contains 50 tablets). Part of these inputs are being distributed in the Sports Center shelter, along with the other Non-Food Items (see below), in coordination with the City Hall authorities and the Civil Protection of Carrefour; the remaining has been stored at Carrefour City Hall (to be used in case of increased number of IDPs). UNICEF partner ADRA has installed 20 mobile toilets with light in the shelter and the national Government Water and Sanitation Directorate (DINEPA) ensures their emptying by truck, with support of Solidarités International (also with UNICEF support). With UNICEF support, Solidarités International is installing showers and is strengthening the awareness raising and hygiene promotion activities to improve the use of the facilities. Two handwashing points have been installed by the Haitian Red Cross (HRC), with an urgent need for more. The NGO Solidarités International has installed three 2000 liters bladders which are supplied with safe drinking water by the DINEPA through a private company on continuous basis, with UNICEF support, serving all the IDPs sheltered in the Sports Center.

NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFI)

Needs – In all temporary shelters where the IDPs are located, the main needs are: mattresses; blankets; clothing; tarpaulins; kitchen kits; solar lamps, etc.

Response – In Carrefour Sports center (IDPs from Martissant and Fontamara) UNICEF has supported the Town Hall and the Civil Protection with the distribution of 212 mattresses and 70 tarpaulins (in addition to the hygiene kits). An additional 450 mattresses and 500 blankets (also from UNICEF) are being sent by the Civil Protection from the capital city. Additional hygiene kits (50), blankets (300), mattresses (300) and clothes (300 kits) have been distributed to the displaced of Tabarre Issa.

PROTECTION, EDUCATION, C4D

Needs – In all shelters hosting IDPs, there is a need for psychosocial assistance for the displaced children and vulnerable people; organization of child-friendly spaces for recreation activities; awareness raising for behavior change on different themes (the so-called 'essential family practices' including hygiene, health, protection, etc.). In education, need of an immediate education response plan (through cash, catch-up classes, inclusion in host neighborhood schools, back to school program, etc.) for tens of thousands of children in affected areas.

Response – In the temporary shelter of Martissant / Fontamara, UNICEF has sent 1 ECD kit and 2 recreation kits to be used by partners for the children group's recreation activities and a number of tarpaulins for the establishment of 'child friendly spaces' and the implementation of educational and recreational activities. Psychosocial activities are underway with the local partner REFCAD for children and the most vulnerable people, including recreation activities, discussion groups and referrals of cases. Broader awareness raising / C4D activities are being planned for the coming days and weeks, based on the more detailed sector assessments that will be carried out to identify more specific needs of the IDPs.

Psychosocial support activities have been carried out for the displaced children of Tabarre Issa as well as sensitization activities and psychosocial support for IDP children of Bel-Air. UNICEF also supported the Social Wellbeing Institute (IBESR) in the process of relocation and/or reunification of children from Bel-Air Reception Center. For the most recent location of Bas Delmas, protection, education and C4D activities will be planned based on the needs that are being evaluated with the local partner OCCEDH.

In Bel Air, catch-up classes is provided to 120 adolescents and youths of 12-19 years old, and 240 children of 12 years old or younger benefit from alternative education with the local partner IDEJEN.

HEALTH, NUTRITION

Needs – All the locations with presence of IDPs are in urgent need of reinforcement of the basic health care services, including through the establishment of mobile clinics and acute malnutrition treatment point, with priority for the displaced children, the pregnant women and the other most vulnerable groups. Malnutrition screening and referencing of children under 5 years is required. Education of mothers on infant and young child feeding, hygiene and COVID-19 prevention measures, supplementary feeding for children aged 6-23 months are also needed, along with COVID-19 testing for the IDPs. Catchment health facilities should be strengthened to provide quality care to the referral cases from IDPs camp for infant and maternal health including possible suspected and confirmed COVID-19 cases.

Response – In Carrefour’s Sports Center shelter, a mobile clinic is operational since June 10, for basic nutrition and health care services, with support from UNICEF local partner REFCAD. UNICEF has ensured its support with a medical kit and nutrition inputs. A PMA (Advanced Medical Post) is provided on a daily basis by the Haitian Red Cross for first aid (dressings, stabilization, rehydration, etc.). Reference structures are being identified by the Town Hall with UNICEF support, several hospitals and health centres have been identified, both for health care and COVID-19 medical care, in the area and surroundings cities; the capacity of these structures is being evaluated by UNICEF, to envisage a possible support (health emergency supplies and WASH). UNICEF has provided obstetric kits to the main public maternity hospital in the catchment area for the care of new-borns and pregnant women.

Shelter management committees have been set up in coordination with the local authorities, for maintenance and hygiene of the premises. Discussions are underway with WFP to support feeding of children of 6-23 months. There is an urgent need to reinforce a minimum of 20 health facilities located in those violent neighborhoods including catchment health facilities near the IDPs sites, along with community services, to ensure the provision of an essential package of care to vulnerable children and women, and to guarantee that the referral patients from IDPs shelters received quality care of infant and maternal health, including management of possible suspected and confirmed COVID-19 cases.

CASH / VOUCHERS

For the IDPs in Carrefour’s Sports Center shelter, the local authorities intend to support the IDPs in returning to their homes (when possible) or to install temporarily with their relatives or acquaintances in the area. To do this, authorities aim at granting an amount of HTG 5,000 (USD 50 approx.) per person, in order to support their relocation, while the Mayor made a plea in this sense to the members of the humanitarian country team level (HCT) visiting the site. UNCT/HCT is currently discussing on the possibility of supporting this request, through UN agencies and donors. Conditional Cash Transfer to children of Bel Air and Tabarre Issa is planned with the local partner AVSI: the agreement is being signed.

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

At the government level, coordination is ensured by the Civil Protection (DGPC) with the support of the concerned City Halls of the different areas. OCHA is ensuring the coordination at the humanitarian country team level (HCT) with the different UN agencies, as well as with the national authorities and the NGOs at the field level. UNICEF is actively participating in the coordination platforms, both at the national level and at the decentralized level in the field, supporting OCHA, the other UN agencies and the NGO partners engaged in the response. Sectoral coordination platforms of the sectors lead/co-led by UNICEF in support of government institutions (WASH, Child Protection, Education, Health and Nutrition) are also active to ensure the most effective sectoral response, while OCHA is leading the inter-sectoral coordination to ensure synergies and the highest impact.

Security

One of the main challenges is humanitarian access and security, as the majority of the mentioned areas are controlled by the gangs currently fighting against each other for territory control. Access by road from Port-au-Prince to Martissant/Fontamara and Carrefour (part of the capital city’s metropolitan area) is presently impossible, making the humanitarian response even more challenging. In Martissant, there are "windows" of a few hours where vehicles manage to pass, but it remains very volatile and insecure; however, some transporters have managed to pass, with a Police escort from Carrefour police station. One of the solutions currently in use is the UNHAS helicopter that can bring personnel and supply items, but the capacity is very limited. Other solutions (i.e. access through sea transport) are also being explored.

Human Interest Stories and External Media

[Displaced people testimonies \(in French\)](#)

[Press release - Haiti: about 8,500 women and children displaced by 'urban guerrilla' in two weeks](#)

Aljazeera: [Haiti: Thousands displaced as gang violence, insecurity escalate.](#)

AP: [Report: Gang violence displaces thousands in Haiti’s capital](#)

The Guardian: [Thousands of women and children flee Haiti gang violence, Unicef says](#)

Washington Post: [Report: Gang violence displaces thousands in Haiti’s capital](#)

ABC News: [Report: Gang violence displaces thousands in Haiti’s capital](#)

Next SitRep: 29/06/2021

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