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Haiti

Humanitarian Situation Report No. 1



Reporting Period: 1 January to 30 June 2021

Situation in Numbers

-  **1,900,000** children in need of humanitarian assistance
-  **4,400,000** people in need (OCHA Dec 2020)
-  **19,000** Internally displaced people (IDPs, OCHA, July 2021)
-  **638,000** estimated children affected by the IDPs crisis (OCHA, July 2021)

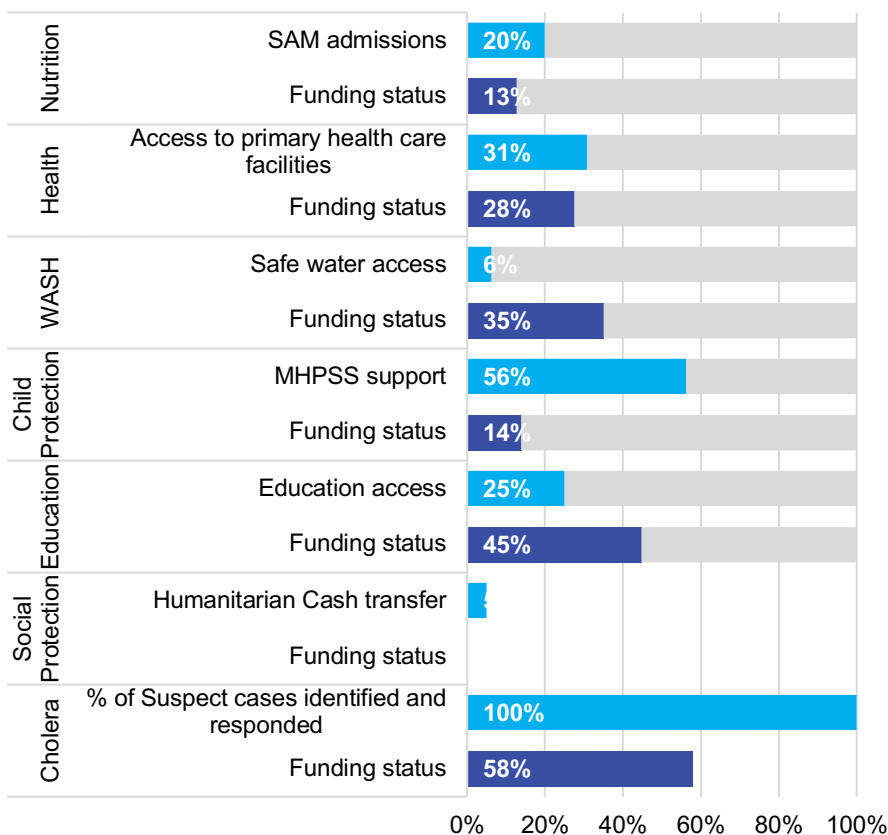
Highlights

Haiti continues facing multiple crises, including growing political instability after the President Moïse assassination on July 7th, growing gang related violence and insecurity with raising number of internally displaced people (IDPs), civil unrest, deteriorating socio-economic conditions, rising food insecurity and malnutrition, the Haitian-Dominican migration dynamic, and high vulnerability to natural hazards, all of which have been further exacerbated by COVID-19. Gang violence and political-electoral uncertainty remain of concern as may result in increased social unrest and insecurity, especially in the capital and its metropolitan area, affecting vulnerable children and their families.

In response, UNICEF Haiti is supporting the continuity of basic services, including water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), education, health, nutrition, child protection and social protection services. UNICEF also continues to facilitate disaster risk reduction, emergency preparedness, and interventions to address violence against children as well as gender-based violence (GBV) and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse.

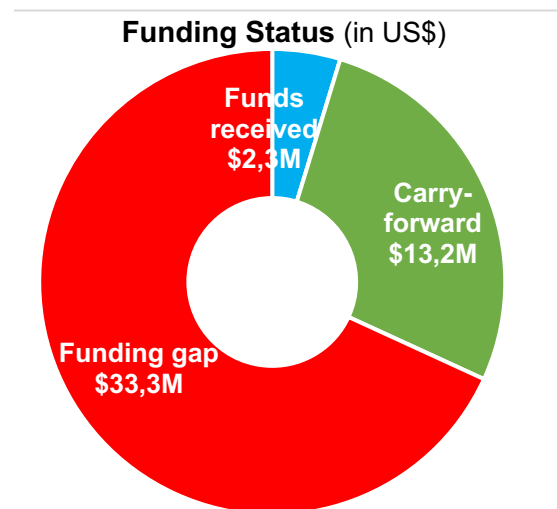
UNICEF is requesting US\$48.9 million to meet the projected humanitarian needs of Haitian children and their families. With the mid-year important funding gap, UNICEF risks not to be able to ensure an appropriate response to the mentioned ongoing crisis.

UNICEF's Response and Funding Status



UNICEF Appeal 2021

US\$ 48,9 million



Funding Overview and Partnerships

UNICEF appeals for USD 48.9 million to meet the humanitarian needs of children in Haiti that have been significantly exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. As of June 2021, UNICEF had received generous contributions from the German Committee for UNICEF and allocations from UNICEF's global humanitarian thematic funds. UNICEF expresses its sincere gratitude to all public and private donors for the contributions received. However, the 2021 Humanitarian Action for Children appeal (HAC)¹ still has a funding gap of 68 per cent. UNICEF Haiti has also received funds from Japan and other donors for the COVID-19 vaccination roll out, covered under the UNICEF global Access to COVID19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) HAC.²

The WASH sector requires significant support, with awareness-raising and community mobilization on handwashing, taking centre stage in the fight against COVID-19. There is also an acute need to prevent outbreaks of waterborne diseases through essential emergency WASH and resilience support for vulnerable communities. With the significant rise in malnutrition rates in 2020, UNICEF also urgently requires funding to provide life-saving care to an estimated 96,000 severely malnourished children.

With the mid-year important funding gap of 68 per cent, UNICEF risks not to be able to ensure an appropriate response to the almost 20,000 IDPs, to ensure emergency education and distance learning programmes for over 500,000 children at risk of dropping out due to school closures; prevent the further degradation of vaccine coverage; provide protection assistance to children exposed to violence, including gender-based violence, exploitation and family separation; and provide cash transfers to help 20,000 vulnerable families make ends meet.

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, and following the assassination of President Moïse, a growing number of families have been 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 estimated at around 19,000 by OCHA) 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 remain of 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

Health, COVID-19 and COVAX

The current situation of gangs' violence and IDPs in the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince has exacerbated the weakened Haitian health care system. Five departments out of ten in the country have difficulty to supply essential medical products due to roadblock at the southern entrance of the capital. Availability and access to maternal, neonatal and child-care services has significantly decreased. Currently, a drop in vaccination coverage is anticipated for the neighborhoods controlled by armed gangs. The immunization coverage before this crisis was: BCG: 83%, RR: 79% (2020). Almost 3 million persons were estimated to require emergency health care, including 1 million children and 315,000 pregnant women (HRP).

Since the detection of two new variants of COVID-19 (Alpha and Gamma) in May 2021 in Haiti, a considerable increase in the number of hospitalized patients and deaths has been observed. As of July 14, 19722 COVID-19 confirmed cases and 519 deaths have been reported according to the daily epidemiological report published by the Ministry of Health (MoH). A total of 55 deaths were registered only in May 2021 in comparison to 53 deaths from September 2020 to April 2021. The hospitalization rate of COVID-19 cases fell from 21% at the 20th epidemiological week to 60% at the 21st epidemiological week in 2021. The main COVID-19 hospitals are overwhelmed and face a shortage of oxygen, and an important part of the population is not respecting the basic COVID-19 prevention measures. According to preliminary data from a Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) study conducted by Haitian State University with UNICEF support, 63 per cent of the population do not want to get vaccinated against COVID-19. The reasons for this vaccine hesitancy are numerous, notably the rumors circulating in social media on the adverse effects of vaccines (especially Aztrazeneca), denial of the disease, lack of confidence in the leaders of the country (government).



Map: Areas affected by gang activities (Source: OCHA).

¹ UNICEF, 'Humanitarian Action for Children – Haiti 2021', December 2020, <<https://www.unicef.org/appeals/haiti>>.

² UNICEF, 'Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) HAC 2021', December 2020, <<https://www.unicef.org/appeals/access-covid-19-tools-accelerator-act>>.

In response to the IDPs crisis, UNICEF is supporting an integrated package of health care in the main shelters in the metropolitan area of Port au Prince. UNICEF has also reinforced the main health facilities in the catchment area of the displaced shelters, providing health medical kits and reinforcing the reference system to maintain access to primary health care. An assessment of the public health facilities in these violent urban areas of Port-au-Prince has been launched by UNICEF, in order to plan ad-hoc support actions. The final results are expected to be available on August 31, 2021.

UNICEF continues the implementation of the Reach Every District strategy thanks to GAVI and the Government of Japan contributions, to strengthen service delivery in low-coverage vaccination communes. In the first quarter of 2021, 72,754 children under one year of age received the third dose of Penta, 62,317 received the Measles vaccination and 66,116 received one dose of IPV. However, the dropout rate (14.78%) remains high, nearly 15 out of 100 children who started vaccination (Penta 1) did not complete it (Penta 3).

Relevant support has been provided for the COVID-19 vaccines roll-out, including the conduct of a KAP Study on COVID-19 vaccine perception and acceptance by the Haitian population, the reinforcement of the cold chain, and the development of communication tools for the introduction of COVID-19 vaccine. Five main COVID-19 care hospital have received medical kits and equipment from UNICEF. Three electric generators have been donated by UNICEF allowing to run oxygen plants by the MoH. Some 2,028 oxygen cylinders have been distributed to maintain lifesaving assistance to hospitalized patients during the acute emergency phase of June 2021. UNICEF has also supported the National Ambulance Center with a donation of medical materials and office supplies for the medicalized transport of COVID-19 patients and the reinforcement of the reference system for primary health care.

Nutrition

The nutrition sector is facing a significant funding shortfall to cover the supply need for 33,630 cartons in the second semester, medicine and monitoring activities amidst growing food insecurity (an estimated of 4.4 million Haitians, nearly 40 percent of the population), and an estimated 217,000 children suffering from severe and moderate acute malnutrition predominantly in the metropolitan area of Port Au Prince. This situation is being worsened with the gangs' activities and clashes in the Metropolitan area of Port au Prince that forced families to leave their homes to survive. UNICEF has received flexible thematic funds and CERF funding to cover partially the supply's gap (Ready to Use Therapeutic Food) and provide essential nutrition services in the IDPs camps. In response to this crisis, UNICEF established partnerships with two local NGOs and has provided technical and financial support to the health offices to ensure preventive activities notably Infant Young Child Feeding practices in Emergency (IYCF-E), screening, referral of severe cases with complication and treatment of moderate and severe case without complication using the integrated clinic mobile team. At national level, from January to June 2021, with UNICEF support a total of 15,839 under five children suffering from acute malnutrition were admitted, amongst them 7,653 suffered from severe acute malnutrition (3,827 girls and 3,826 boys) and 8,186 from moderate acute malnutrition (4,093 girls and 4,093 boys).

Child Protection

UNICEF is currently intervening in the context of community violence in urban areas of Port au Prince in seven strategic neighborhoods, with local and state partners: Bel-Air, Village de Dieu, Carrefour, Bourdon, Cite Soleil, Bas de Delmas, Canaan. It has been assessed that in those areas, in addition to the psychological distress which affects children well-being at all levels, risks of family separation, child labor, street children, domestic violence, GBV is likely to increase along with adolescents and girls use of drugs and prostitution as a means of survival in these very precarious sites and neighborhoods.

Despite the challenges in accessing those areas and funds constraints, through CERF funding, UNICEF and its partners ensured psychosocial support reaching 12,687 children, reunification of 241 separated children along with basic protection services and referrals to all vulnerable children in the sites, in coordination with IBESR (Institut du Bien-Être Social et de la Recherche) and BPM (Brigade de Protection des Mineurs), and spotlight partners.

UNICEF, through a community-based approach, continues to focus on the most vulnerable children and aim, if funds will be available, to strengthen intervention such as mapping of existing services, family reunification, consolidation of referral system, IBESR Call center, GBV support, alternative care, psychosocial support and cash assistance to family and children.

Education

The continuing insecurity is putting already vulnerable children/youth in a difficult situation, especially in the Metropolitan area of Port Au Prince. Due to the urban insecurity, growing gangs' activities and clashes, the situation is exacerbated: estimated 5,645 children/youth (3-18 year-old) are internally displaced (out of which, 2,878 are girls). The increase in fuel prices also had negative impact on the already poor families and teachers (e.g. affecting transportation to schools). UNICEF responded to such situation through different financing sources such as CERF, GPE and thematic financing, allowing the provision of non-formal education/accelerated education addressing 360 displaced children in Bel Air, distribution of 125,000 school kits (125,000 children and 3,000 teachers) in Ouest, Grand-Anse, South-East, Central, North and Artibonite.

UNICEF is the co-lead of the 'Emergency Education working group' and this was instrumental in organizing data collection in several urban areas affected by the crisis (Bel-Air and Vallee de Bourdon), in collaboration with partners including the Ministry of Education (MoE), Mayor's office and the Civil Protection office.

Access in certain areas of Port au Prince remains difficult due to insecurity and violence (e.g. Bel-Air, Carrefour, Canaan), while the gap in funding is another major challenge. COVID-19 cases among the MoE officials also impacted the Education service delivery.

WASH

UNICEF worked with partners to strengthen disaster preparedness and disaster risk reduction in seven at-risk municipalities: Gonaives, Carrefour, Petit Goâve, Les Irois, Chardonnières, Les Anglais and Tiburon, including the development of contingency plans and the upgrading of four temporary shelters in the communes of Gonaives, Carrefour, Les Irois and Les Anglais, and the rehabilitation of one contingency warehouse in the commune of Anse à Veau. Additionally, five simulation exercises were conducted with the participation of local and departmental representatives of the General Directorate of the Civil Protection (DGPC) and the National Directorate for Water and Sanitation (DINEPA). Moreover, the capacities of the seven municipalities supported for the development their contingency plans and hosting 1,118,000 vulnerable people were improved to face emergency situations and emergency WASH supplies were prepositioned to cover the urgent needs of approximately 50,000 people.

UNICEF continued to provide technical support to the National Water and Sanitation Authority (DINEPA) Emergency Response Department (DRU), to reinforce the provision of WASH services to public institutions and IDPs, and to strengthen WASH in emergency coordination nationwide. More than 1,500 IDPs and inmates have been served with desludging and potable water and 6 WASH in emergency sector coordination meetings (cluster meetings) were held since January 2021. As part of the response to the displacements of populations due to urban violence in Port au Prince, in close collaboration with the DRU and partnering NGOs, UNICEF supported the distribution of hygiene kits, and enabled access to safe drinking water and water for other use to 3,594 people, and to latrines, with regular emptying systems in place for 2,030 people.

UNICEF Haiti and its partners provided over 26,000 persons with safe drinking water, including 23,535 people with sustainable solutions (rehabilitation and/or construction of water infrastructures) to ensure sustainable access in line with emergency and development nexus.

With the CERF funds, UNICEF partnered with ACF and Solidarités International to upgrade WASH infrastructures in 11 schools and five healthcare facilities in addition to the provision of hygiene and maintenance kits, training and awareness raising, benefiting to 3,956 students and 131 teachers.

Cholera prevention activities continue through our COVID-19 response partners. Two studies are underway with Quisqueya University (ecological and anthropic determinism of cholera in Haiti) and with ANSES.

HIV/AIDS, Adolescent Development and Participation (ADAP), GBV

UNICEF has developed partnerships with three civil society organizations with focus on HIV prevention, Gender Based Violence, and the psychosocial needs of adolescents, young people, pregnant / breastfeeding women in camps for displaced people in Bas-Delmas, Tabarre Issa, Martissant, Carrefour and the Bourdon Valley. UNICEF has reinforced knowledge of 100 adolescent peer leaders on the prevention of STIs / HIV, sexual violence, GBV and building self-esteem. The activities planned by this active network of young leaders, will reach more than 15,000 adolescents / young people during the response period. UNICEF is supporting MoH West Directorate of Health (DSO) and strengthened (with donation of medical products, medicines, logistic support) health facilities in the catchment area of IDPs, to carry out HIV / syphilis screening tests for the benefit of pregnant women and young people at-risk, and on the tracking of displaced people living with HIV. A pre-positioning of response products to gender-based sexual violence are also being studied. In addition, UNICEF is ensuring the continuity of the joint COVID-19 and HIV awareness activities implemented by the departmental health directorates of Nippes, South East, South and Grand'Anse.

UNICEF has made available communication tools (image album, flyer, leaflet, binder with reference documents for decision-makers, authorities, community leaders, members of the press, etc.) to support the prevention of different forms of violence and injustice that women suffer, especially during emergency situations, and to inform about the different support channels available for women/girls who are survivors of violence, in terms of psychosocial, medical and economic support and access to justice. Additionally, training modules targeting adolescent girls and boys have also been made available, for the promotion of social norms that protect women and girls against gender-based violence (GBV). Finally, 20 journalists (15 women and 5 men) have been trained on gender-based violence, in collaboration with UNFPA and UNDP (led by UNICEF).

Communications for Development (C4D), Accountability to Affected Population, Localization

In close coordination with OCHA, UNICEF worked on a questionnaire to map local community organizations involved in humanitarian action. This should enable UNICEF to develop a capacity-building programme for community organizations to be engaged in the response to the urban violence and IDP crises. Additionally, UNICEF is supporting the MoH in the development and implementation of the communication strategy around the introduction of COVID-19 vaccines. In this regard, UNICEF has provided support to the MoH for the implementation of a 'risk perception study',

the development of a specific communication strategy and the production of ad-hoc communication materials. Support was also provided for the implementation and monitoring of field activities. Finally, UNICEF works closely with partners (local NGOs) in the field, particularly through training for NGOs' managers on 'essential family practices' (including key concepts of Health, Nutrition, WASH, Child Protection, among others) and interpersonal communication. As a result of these trainings, awareness-raising campaigns have been organized for the benefit of the most vulnerable affected population affected by the ongoing urban gangs' violence and IDP crisis.

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

UNICEF Haiti is leading the WASH, nutrition, and education in emergency sectors, as well as the child protection in emergency sub-sector, and co-leading Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) engagement and compliance along the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH). Additionally, UNICEF is actively participating to all humanitarian inter-sector and inter-agency coordination platforms led by OCHA in coordination with the Civil Protection (DGPC) and other Haitian Government institutions involved.

Human Interest Stories and External Media

Temoignages des déplacés de Martissant: <https://www.unicef.org/haiti/recits/t%C3%A9moignages-des-d%C3%A9plac%C3%A9s-de-martissant>

Une maladie inconnue a coûté la vie à 16 enfants à Fond-Rouge: <https://www.unicef.org/haiti/recits/une-maladie-inconnue-cout%C3%A9-la-vie-%C3%A0-16-enfants-%C3%A0-fond-rouge>

Next SitRep: January 2022

UNICEF Haiti: <https://www.unicef.org/haiti>

UNICEF Haiti Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal: <https://www.unicef.org/appeals/haiti>

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Summary of Programme Results

Sector		Total needs	UNICEF and IPs Response			Cluster/Sector Response*	
			2021 target	Total results	% of progress	2021 target	Total results
Indicator Disaggregation							
Nutrition							
SAM Admissions	Girls		38,498	3,827	20%	19,249	3,827
	Boys			3,826		19,249	3,826
	Total			7,653		38,498	7,653
MAM Admissions	Girls		57,519	4,093	14%	28,760	6,037
	Boys			4,093		28,759	6,037
	Total			8,186		57,519	19,727
Health							
Access to primary health care in UNICEF supported facilities	Girls		203,500	23,702	31%		
	Boys			23,631			
	Women			15,179			
	Total			62,512			
Measles vaccination	Girls		35,000	3,788	22%		
	Boys			4,023			
	Total			7,811			
Prenatal visits	Women		37,000	10,215	28%		
Healthcare facilities trained with IPC and provided with PPE	Total		3,000	758	25%		
WASH							
Safe water access	Total		376,051	23,535	6%		
Handwashing behaviour change programmes reach	Total		273,775	7,681	3%		
Adequate sanitation facilities	Total		150,432	7,681	5%		
Disaster preparedness activities reach	Total		690,400	1,118,000	162%		
Child Protection							
Mental Health & Psychosocial Support	Girls		28,500	5,552	56%		
	Boys			7,135			
	Women			2,200			
	Men			1,120			
	Total			16,007			
Access to safe channels to report SEA	Girls		717,570	19,079	13%		
	Boys			6,766			
	Women			51,128			
	Men			19,390			
	Total			96,363			
Safely reunified UASCs	Girls		1,450	31	17%		
	Boys			210			

	Total			241			
Access to gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions	Girls		20,000	3,000	43%		
	Boys			2,000			
	Women			2,500			
	Men			1,000			
	Total			8,500			
Education							
Education access	Girls		500,000	63,933	25%	500,000	125,360
	Boys			61,427			
	Total			125,360			
Learning material access	Girls		500,000	63,750	25%	500,000	125,000
	Boys			61,250			
	Total			125,000			
Social Protection							
Household reached with humanitarian Cash transfer	Women		20,000	1,000	5%		
Cholera							
Suspect cases identified and responded**			95%	95%	100%		

*No cluster/sector data available for Health, WASH, Child Protection, Social Protection and Cholera

** Calculation = number of cases responded / number of suspected cases registered. Suspected cholera cases are cases of diarrhea registered in health facilities on which cholera samples and tests have been performed.

Annex B

Funding Status*

Sector	Requirements	Funds available			Funding gap	
		Humanitarian resources received in 2021	Humanitarian Resources available from 2020 (Carry-over)	Other resources available from 2020 (Carry-over)	US\$	%
Health	4,900,000.00	482,769.97	282,377.85	585,256.00	3,549,596.18	72%
Nutrition	5,200,000.00	300,000.00	357,609.65		4,542,390.35	87%
WASH	12,000,000.00	1,384,827.72	2,828,879.33		7,786,292.95	65%
Education	15,000,000.00	6,148.22	734,555.27	5,960,187.00	8,299,109.51	55%
Child Protection	2,377,000.00	133,062.59	196,595.90		2,047,341.51	86%
Social Protection	4,920,000.00				4,920,000.00	100%
Cholera	4,000,000.00		2,320,171.00		1,679,829.00	42%
Cluster coordination	500,000.00				500,000.00	100%
Total	48,897,000.00	2,306,808.50	6,720,189.00	6,545,443.00	33,324,559.50	68%