Haiti

HIGHLIGHTS

- On 14 August 2021, a 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck Haiti. This further exacerbated an already challenging humanitarian situation, shaped by persistent political instability, socioeconomic crisis and rising food insecurity and malnutrition, gang-related insecurity and internal displacement, the COVID-19 pandemic, the expulsion of Haitian migrants from several countries in the Americas, and the Haitian-Dominican migration challenges.

- In response, UNICEF Haiti is supporting the Government and humanitarian partners to ensure access to and continuity of basic services, including water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), education, health, nutrition, child protection and social protection services. In addition, UNICEF is facilitating disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness, as well as activities addressing violence against children, including gender-based violence and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse.

- UNICEF is requesting US$97 million to meet the humanitarian needs of Haitian children and their families. This includes residual needs for the earthquake response together with other urgent humanitarian response requirements.

KEY PLANNED TARGETS

- 327,823 children screened for wasting
- 519,902 children and women accessing health care
- 604,915 people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water
- 125,566 children receiving individual learning materials

Figures are provisional and subject to change upon finalization of the inter-agency planning documents.
HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

Humanitarian needs abound and persist after the 7.2 magnitude earthquake that struck south-western Haiti on 14 August 2021. Earthquake impact needs assessments report more than 2,200 deaths, 12,000 people injured, and around 130,000 homes partially damaged or destroyed, leaving hundreds of thousands people homeless and in urgent need of assistance.

With 97 partially damaged or destroyed health systems in the hardest earthquake-hit departments, hospitals and clinics are struggling to keep pace with increased life-saving needs while ensuring continued access to essential health services, including maternal and child health, as a critical response priority. Access to safe WASH services and products and to awareness messages and behavior change approaches remains a significant need. At least 26,200 people remain displaced and sleeping in 68 shelters and makeshift settlements. With 89 water systems suffering extensive damage, these vulnerable populations are particularly exposed to the risk of waterborne diseases, acute respiratory infections and COVID-19.

The earthquake struck with Haiti still reeling from the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse on 7 July 2021 and the escalation of gang violence affecting 1.5 million people and displacing 19,000 people since the end of 2020. Humanitarian access to some of the most affected areas remains a challenge, due to gang-related insecurity and damaged infrastructures.

The increased repatriation of Haitian migrants from across the Latin America and Caribbean region since mid-September 2021 has also been compounding humanitarian needs. More than 10,000 migrants have been returned, among them 2,000 children who are in need of access to basic services, including education, and have been exposed to child protection risks such as family separation, trafficking and gender-based violence (GBV).

The combined impact of natural hazard-related disasters, persistent political and socioeconomic crisis, gang-related insecurity, forced returns and internal displacement as well as COVID-19 is being felt by the most vulnerable. Prior to the earthquake, an estimated 4.4 million people in Haiti were food insecure and an estimated 217,000 children were suffering from moderate or severe wasting and nearly 3 million people required emergency health care, among them 1.2 million children and 400,000 pregnant women and adolescent girls. The earthquake’s impacts and recent returns have exacerbated these vulnerabilities.

Further, over 3 million children have been unable to attend school for months at a time, due to political and security challenges and COVID-19 lockdowns over the past two years. In earthquake-affected areas, preliminary Ministry of Education assessments indicate extensive damage across 925 schools, affecting more than 300,000 children.

SECTOR NEEDS

- 224,891 children moderately or severely malnourished
- 3.9 million people in need of health assistance
- 3.3 million people lack access to safe water
- 712,140 children in need of protection services
- 797,000 children in need of education support

STORY FROM THE FIELD

Men, women and children displaced in Carrefour as they fled the violent clashes between rival gangs raging in Martissant and Fontamara, in the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince since 1 June. Thousands of other displaced people are reported to have sought refuge with host families, or even returned to towns in other departments.

To assist people displaced from Martissant and Fontamara to Carrefour, UNICEF transported by helicopter from the centre of Port-au-Prince 200 hygiene kits composed of soap, water chlorination product, toothbrushes, toothpaste, toilet paper, sanitary napkins and a tap-bucket; 200 jerry cans, 10,000 masks, 250 mattresses and 20 tarpaulins of 20 square meters.

Read more about this story here.

In response to the earthquake, UNICEF has been on the ground with partners to provide tens of thousands of affected people with hygiene kits and medical supplies, among other life-saving assistance.
HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY

UNICEF will work with partners to ensure access to and continuity of essential health, nutrition, WASH, education, and child protection services, while strengthening disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness. Additionally, a strong focus on humanitarian cash transfers will be ensured, both within sectoral response to improve access to basic goods and services such as education, WASH, child protection, health and nutrition, and through the social protection system. Following the immediate response to the earthquake, attention will focus on providing assistance and recovery support to the population in the three affected departments of Sud, Nippes and Grande Anse, while strengthening the response to the internally displaced persons (IDPs) victims of the armed gangs’ activities in the capital city’s metropolitan area, as well as to returning Haitian migrants.

UNICEF will support continued access to essential health care services, including immunization, maternal and child health. In earthquake-affected areas, support will continue for the resumption health care services in damaged or destroyed health centres, as well as strengthening health supply chain management.

UNICEF will support prevention and treatment of child wasting with screening and providing essential nutritional supplies, along with supporting good infant and young children feeding (IYCF) practices. UNICEF will work to improve coordination as the co-lead of the sector. A key focus will be put on strengthening end-user monitoring of supplies, information management, and supporting a SMART survey to obtain updated data on malnutrition for effective programming.

WASH interventions will focus on access to sufficient safe drinking water for vulnerable communities, while providing emergency sanitation solutions and awareness raising and behaviour change strategies around hygiene to prevent the risks and spread of waterborne and infectious diseases. The earthquake response will focus on rehabilitating damaged WASH facilities and promoting hygiene and raising awareness in health centres and schools.

UNICEF will promote a safe return to school through the provision of school supplies and access to distance learning programmes. Earthquake-affected areas will require sustained support for the establishment of temporary learning spaces and the rehabilitation of schools to provide a protective environment for school children. UNICEF will support protection of children exposed to violence, including gender-based violence, exploitation and family separation. Specialized services and community-based structures will receive support to identify vulnerable children and provide adequate care, referrals and psychosocial support.

UNICEF will continue supporting sectoral and national humanitarian coordination for disaster preparedness and response, as lead/co-lead of the WASH, education and nutrition sectors and the child protection sub-sector. Pre-positioned supplies stocks will be maintained to respond to future humanitarian crises.

Gender equality, accountability to affected populations (AAP) and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) will be mainstreamed throughout the response.

Progress against the latest programme targets is available in the humanitarian situation reports: https://www.unicef.org/appeals/haiti/situation-reports

2022 PROGRAMME TARGETS

Nutrition
- 38,512 children aged 6 to 59 months with severe acute malnutrition admitted for treatment
- 327,823 children aged 6 to 59 months screened for wasting
- 62,730 primary caregivers of children aged 0 to 23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling

Health
- 519,902 children and women accessing primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities
- 110,035 children under one vaccinated against measles
- 3,000 healthcare facility staff and community health workers provided with PPE

Water, sanitation and hygiene
- 604,915 people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking and domestic needs
- 230,000 people use safe and appropriate sanitation facilities
- 604,915 people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items)

Child protection, GBVie and PSEA
- 57,900 children and parents/caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support
- 40,000 women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions
- 3,650 unaccompanied and separated children provided with alternative care or reunified
- 484,938 people who have access to a safe and accessible channel to report sexual exploitation and abuse by aid workers

Education
- 267,000 children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning
- 125,566 children receiving individual learning materials
- 3,000 households reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers
- 800 classrooms rehabilitated or reconstructed including temporary learning centers

Social protection
- 15,000 households reached with UNICEF funded multi-purpose humanitarian cash transfers

Cross-sectoral (HCT, C4D, RCCE and AAP)
- 100,000 people reached through messaging on prevention and access to services
- 20,000 people with access to established accountability mechanisms

This appeal is aligned with the revised Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action, which are based on global standards and norms for humanitarian action. Targets based on preliminary figures of HNO/HFP 2022 (not officially approved yet) and therefore provisional, subject to change upon finalization of the inter-agency planning documents.
FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2022

Following the humanitarian deterioration in Haiti after the earthquake, UNICEF continues to deliver life-saving assistance to the most vulnerable children and their families. For 2022, after detailed post-earthquake sectoral needs assessments and subsequent humanitarian response planning conducted in coordination with Government and NGO partners, UNICEF is requesting US$97 million. This will enable UNICEF to continue being on the ground delivering life-saving assistance and respond to the residual needs of the most vulnerable earthquake-affected population in line with the United Nations Flash Appeal, as well as to support the increasing number of IDPs who are victims of armed gangs’ violence in the capital city, the returned migrants and other vulnerable groups affected by continued crises, COVID-19 and recurring natural disasters.

Despite the decrease in funding requirements in the WASH and education sectors, due to more accurate data obtained through additional sectoral needs assessments and a significant portion of the immediate earthquake response in these sectors taking place in 2021, funding is still urgently required. These funds are crucial to UNICEF in order to prevent further degradation of health services, including the severely low routine vaccinations, essential emergency WASH and resilience interventions, life-saving care for children suffering from severe wasting, including promoting breastfeeding, as well as allowing marginalized children to safely resume learning. UNICEF will accelerate emergency education and distance learning programmes, preventing thousands of children from dropping out of school. Child protection services will be scaled up for children exposed to violence, including GBV, exploitation and family separation, including through cash-based interventions allowing vulnerable families to meet their basic needs.

Without sufficient and timely funding, UNICEF will be unable to support life-saving assistance and recovery for Haiti’s children in need and their families, especially those affected by the recent earthquake and IDPs. With the earthquake severely deepening the humanitarian crisis in Haiti, UNICEF calls upon the donor community to adequately fund and expand flexible humanitarian and nexus financing in order to sustain and elevate Haiti’s continued and post-earthquake response efforts.

### Sectoral Funding Requirements (US$)

- **Nutrition**: 13,017,240
- **Health**: 9,595,240
- **Water, sanitation and hygiene**: 19,552,699
- **Child protection, GBVIE and PSEA**: 20,550,240
- **Education**: 23,705,240
- **Cross-sectoral (HC, C4D/RCCE, Operations, Communications, M&E/Reporting, AAP)**: 4,215,723
- **Social protection**: 6,325,240
- **Total**: 96,961,622

*This includes costs from other sectors/interventions: Social protection (6.5%), Cross-sectoral (HC, C4D/RCCE, Operations, Communications, M&E/Reporting, AAP) (4.3%).

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UNICEF's public health and socioeconomic COVID-19 response, including programme targets and funding requirements, is integrated into the standalone country, multi-country and regional Humanitarian Action for Children appeals. All interventions related to accelerating equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments and vaccines (CoVAX) under the Access to COVID-19 Tools Booster (ACT-B) global appeal.

Among others, these include migrants returned from the US-Mexico border, Chile, Brazil, Cuba, and the Dominican Republic.

The people in need (PIN) figures are based on the latest updated Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) 2021 figures, pending finalization of the HNO/HRP 2022. As per HRP 2021, prior to the earthquake (EQ), the PIN figures for 4.5 million people was derived from the Humanitarian Needs Assessment as per the ‘Haiti Humanitarian Needs Overview Humanitarian Response Plan 2021’, (Haiti HNO/HRP), UNICEF. Following the EQ, the August 2021 Flash Appeal estimated approximately 650,000 people – 40 per cent of the 1.6 million living in the affected departments – need emergency humanitarian assistance. The Flash Appeal covers the period from August 2021 to February 2022.

Based on the preliminary figures of the EQ, 45 per cent of children are at risk of falling behind on their learning and dropping out of school altogether, with estimates of 500,000 potential dropouts.

Complications, with potentially deadly consequences without available access to emergency obstetric care (14 August Haiti earthquake Flash Appeal, 2021).

To be reached figures have reduced following initial response to earthquake and emergency needs. The new figures include 1) 94,000 children and women requiring obstetric care (HCT); 2) 30,400 school children affected in the EQ; and 3) 47,800 people in need of psychological support. As of 8 of July 2021, reports more than 126,000 cumulative COVID-19 cases and more than 649 deaths. However, limited testing and treatment capacities is likely leading to under-reporting. As of 25 September 2021, 67,203 vaccine doses have been administered in Haiti, meaning only 0.5 per cent of the population is partially immunized.

2021 based on more detailed and accurate data obtained through sectoral needs assessments conducted with Government (DINEPA) and partners in September-October 2021 (using the M-water platform).

The target for Child-Maternal Health sub-sector has been agreed within the Health sector coordination (led by PAHO/WHO) in the frame of the HNO/HRP process (based on preliminary figures of HRP 2022). The calculation is based on the sector needs of children and pregnant/feeding women, corresponding to 40 per cent of the total Health sector (HC) needs.

5. In addition to the information collected by UNICEF, there is an ongoing process of Civilian Collaboration in which it is being conducted. It should be noted as well that the HAC 2022 is targeting the residual needs of the EQ response, after the first response has been carried out during the first months after the EQ. UNICEF is committed to needs-based targeting, which means covering the unmet needs of children, and will serve as the provider of last resort where it has cluster coordination responsibilities. To be reached figures have reduced following initial response to earthquake and emergency needs. The new figures include 1) 94,000 children and women requiring obstetric care (HCT); 2) 30,400 school children affected in the EQ; and 3) 47,800 people in need of psychological support. As of 8 of July 2021, reports more than 126,000 cumulative COVID-19 cases and more than 649 deaths. However, limited testing and treatment capacities is likely leading to under-reporting. As of 25 September 2021, 67,203 vaccine doses have been administered in Haiti, meaning only 0.5 per cent of the population is partially immunized.

The estimation is done based on Social Protection sector analysis, considering additional humanitarian cash transfers (HCT) out of Education, CP and WASH cash transfers already planned.

During the partial reduction of the budget requirements compared to the revised HAC 2021 (after August EQ) particularly for some sectors (WASH, Education), due to more detailed and accurate needs assessments and analysis conducted by the sectoral coordination groups co-led by UNICEF in support of Government partners. Humanitarian needs have been re-assessed with additional and more detailed data and information collected in the field, while a more precise/detailed multi-sectoral response planning has been elaborated. The HAC 2022 is targeting the residual needs of the affected-area, after the first response has been carried out during the first months after the EQ. UNICEF is committed to needs-based targeting, which means covering the unmet needs of children, and will serve as the provider of last resort where it has cluster coordination responsibilities.

The partial reduction of the budget requirements compared to the revised HAC 2021 (after August EQ) is due to more accurate needs assessments and analysis conducted by the sectoral coordination groups co-led by UNICEF in support of Government partners. Humanitarian needs have been reassessed with additional and more detailed data and information collected in the field, and a more detailed response planning has been carried out. It should be noted as well that the HAC 2022 is targeting the residual needs of the affected area, after the first response has been carried out during the first months after the EQ.

All sector needs have been reviewed and updated on the ongoing HNO/HRP 2022 process, although the new figures are not yet officially disclosed (preliminary figures available).

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