

Haiti

Update on the context and situation of children

Recognized as the 11th country with the most fragile contexts in the world [1], Haiti is in the midst of a complex crisis shaped by a worsening political and socioeconomic situation, rising insecurity and gang violence and a deep foundation of multidimensional poverty, with high vulnerability to natural disasters and climate change further compounding an already dire humanitarian situation and hindering progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Haiti is ranked 163 out of 191 countries on the Human Development Index (2021). In 2022, as the socioeconomic crisis has continued to deteriorate along with runaway inflation and fuel shortages, millions have been left without sufficient food or prospects, the only certainty being that more insecurity lies ahead.

With three-fifths of the population already below the poverty line and anti-government sentiment running high, large-scale protests have erupted periodically, with the most recent in September 2022, which resulted in a full lockdown of the capital and widespread looting. The occupation by gangs of the fuel terminal and port has caused major disruptions in critical services and utilities including water distribution and sanitation, waste management and health care, with the estimated closure of approximately 80% of the health structures in Cité Soleil and Martissant. In September 2022, the premises of United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) were targets of violent lootings, including the UNICEF warehouse in Les Cayes.

With up to 60% of the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince estimated to be under gang control, the surge in gang violence has affected 1.5 million people, 1.1 million of whom are in need of assistance [2]. Internal displacements in the metropolitan area have affected 20,000 people. Reported kidnappings soared to more than 1,200 in 2022, double what was reported in 2021, and rape is reportedly used as a weapon by armed groups. The urban gang violence presents significant operational challenges, as well as safety and security concerns, which are resulting in restrictions along the main routes.

The Haitian number of migrants detained and taken to the border with the Dominican Republic increased significantly, reaching over 154,000 people by December 2022. Many pregnant women and unaccompanied or separated children reportedly arrive at the border without any documentation and are at high risk of violence, abuse and exploitation including trafficking.

Children and women are, as always, the most affected by these trends, as deep vulnerabilities are still preventing many 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%. By the end of 2022, 4.7 million people were food insecure and in need of humanitarian assistance, including 2.2 million children.

After more than three years with no cases of cholera reported in Haiti, on 2 October 2022, the Ministry of Public Health and Population (MSPP) confirmed two positive cases in Port-au-Prince, prompting the national authorities to declare a new outbreak. By year end, the outbreak had reached 20,320 suspected cases, over 1,430 confirmed cases and 377 deaths across all 10 departments. With 33% of confirmed cases occurring in children under 10, the impact of the outbreak on the health and nutritional status of children is raising concerns, particularly in the context of the high food insecurity and malnutrition. In the commune of Cité Soleil, 20% of children aged from 6 to 59 months were estimated to suffer from wasting in April 2022. Access to water and sanitation remains a major

challenge with a third of the population having no access to basic water services and almost two thirds of the population with limited, unimproved or no access to sanitation services and only 22% of household having basic handwashing facilities.

The potential impact of the crisis on the health situation is a cause for concern. Maternal and infant mortality remain unacceptably high, at 529 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births and 59 child deaths per 1,000 live births, and routine vaccination coverage has regressed by 4.2 % points since 2017. An estimated 1 million children and 315,000 pregnant women and adolescent girls require emergency primary health care. The country has been facing the resurgence of cases of diphtheria due to low levels of vaccination, and the regular coverage for Penta 3 (covering Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis (whooping cough) (DTP)) has seen a downward spiral. Efforts on COVID-19 vaccinations persist, although uptake remains limited, with reportedly less than 5% of the population with one dose.

The education system in Haiti has been severely impacted by school closures due to recurring lockdowns caused by civil unrest and gang violence, the August 2021 earthquake, COVID-19 and cholera. Around 4 million children aged 5-19 risk losing learning opportunities due to school closures according to the Ministry of Education. By the end of 2022, only 73% of schools had reopened. More than 1,700 schools in and around areas affected by gang violence in the metropolitan area have been closed under pressure from armed groups, depriving children of their right to education. Approximately 1.6 million children will need emergency education support in 2023, including 250,000 in the Grand Sud that have still not had their schools reconstructed following the 2021 earthquake.

Elimination of violence against children remains a critical concern. Children are witnesses and victims of armed violence which can result in trauma and injury. Adolescents are particularly vulnerable to gang recruitment and are at risk of both being victims of violence and perpetrating violence. As families struggle to make ends meet, children and women are at heightened risk of abuse, exploitation and violence, including gender-based violence (GBV.) Around 85% of children are exposed to violent discipline, while one in four girls and one in five boys are affected by sexual violence.

[1] <https://fragilestatesindex.org/>

[2] UN Flash Appeal, 11 November 2022.

[3] <https://washdata.org/data/downloads#HTI>

Major contributions and drivers of results

Despite severe disruptions due to growing insecurity, UNICEF delivered US\$24.5million-worth of development programmes in 2022 reaching approximately 2.02 million people (including approximately 917,000 children), as well as US\$35.9 million-worth of humanitarian assistance with a focus on maintaining the continuity of essential health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH,) education and child protection services and strengthening disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness in response to the 14 August 2021 earthquake, COVID-19, gang violence and the cholera outbreak.

Overall UNICEF humanitarian work reached at least 968,000 people (including 483,000 children). To respond effectively, in 2022 UNICEF requested a total of US\$104.3 million to ensure life-saving humanitarian support for women and children in Haiti, which remained 60% unfunded by year end. A Corporate Emergency Procedure with Level 2 Emergency was declared in October 2022, triggering

organization-wide support to scale up the response in line with the UNICEF Core Commitments for Children.

In response to cholera, UNICEF worked closely with Ministry of Health and the national directorate of water and sanitation (DINEPA) under the National Cholera Task Force to strengthen coordination, epidemiology and community-based surveillance, case management, WASH infection prevention and control (IPC); vaccination, and social and behavioural change, and it partnered with over 20 NGOs and community-based organizations to deploy rapid response teams under the case-area targeted intervention (CATI) approach. UNICEF delivered critical supplies to 231,000 people and 19 cholera treatment centres in the metropolitan area.

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 and institutions: Ministry of National Education and Professional Training (MENFP), the Institute of Social Welfare and Research (IBESR), Ministry of Public Health and Population (MSPP), National Directorate for Water, and Sanitation (DINEPA). Contingency agreements were maintained with NGOs, and stocks of key supplies were pre-positioned to cover at least 50,000 people.

Every child survives and thrives

With support from the governments of Canada, GAVI, Germany, Japan, United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), World Bank, and Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), UNICEF worked alongside the MSPP and departmental health authorities to strengthen access to primary health care with a focus on maternal, neonatal and child health and nutrition, immunization and HIV care to people affected by gang violence, the 14 August 2021 earthquake and the cholera outbreak.

Overall, 479,000 children and women received care in health structures supported by UNICEF, over 49,000 pregnant women received antenatal care (ANC) and 125,000 people received emergency healthcare through health centres and mobile clinics. UNICEF supplied over 55 health facilities with medical kits and equipment and supported the deployment of 145 health-care providers and 227 community health workers (CHWs) in public health facilities. During the country lockdown and ensuing fuel crisis in September 2022, UNICEF provided fuel and oxygen to hospitals for the care of new-borns, as well as a generator and incinerators for the proper management of biomedical waste in 60 hospitals.

Significant operational challenges hampered routine immunization, which coincided with a drop in service coverage and an increase in the number of zero-dose children. However, UNICEF procured over 660,000 doses of measles and rubella vaccines and 400,000 doses of PCV13, 400,000 doses of OPV, 400,000 doses of diphtheria vaccine together with associated devices. This facilitated the vaccination of 169,127 children under 1 against measles. In addition, a UNICEF supported vaccination campaign against diphtheria reached over 395,603 children aged 1 to 6. UNICEF facilitated the conversion of 96% of the cold chain to solar power to guarantee the availability of quality vaccines. The solarization of the vaccine cold chain allows the country to save more than half a million US dollars in gas procurement and has allowed the preservation of vaccines that would otherwise have been damaged by fuel shortages.

Building on its experience responding to the previous cholera epidemic in 2010, UNICEF worked closely with the MSPP and PAHO/WHO to support community-based surveillance and strengthen cholera treatment centres with IPC equipment. UNICEF supported the introduction of the COVID-19 vaccine in Haiti under the COVAX facility and provided logistical and financial support to the vaccination campaign and care management system with over 240,000 people fully vaccinated. As of 31 December 2022, 401,769 1st dose, 113,167 2nd dose and 240,667 fully vaccinated.

In line with the National Policy and Strategy for Sovereignty and Food Security and Nutrition, and with support from the governments of Canada, the European Union France, Sweden, CERF and its own resources, UNICEF maintained and ensured an uninterrupted pipeline of ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF) and other nutrition supplies across the country and supported MSPP to prevent wasting and identify and treat over 11,000 children suffering from severe wasting despite significant movement restrictions due to insecurity and gang violence. Over 558,000 children received at least two doses of vitamin A, and over 62,300 mothers received iron and folic acid supplementation. With UNICEF technical support, MoH finalized and adopted the Haitian national code on breastmilk substitutes.

UNICEF remained committed to supporting the fight against HIV/AIDS and syphilis in Haiti, in particular to prevent mother-to-child transmission and HIV in adolescents, with over 1.2 million women screened for HIV, which revealed an increase of positive cases from 71% in 2021 to 83% in 2022.

Every child learns and acquires skills for the future

UNICEF remained a privileged partner to the Ministry of National Education and Professional Training (MENFP), supporting direct service delivery: construction of schools, distribution of school kits, cash transfer to vulnerable families and teachers, provision of psychosocial support and integrating disaster risk reduction into school curriculums.

UNICEF continued to respond to relief efforts in the Grand Sud affected by the August 2021 earthquake. This included providing school kits to more than 100,000 children and completing the construction of 36 schools (216 classrooms), with two remaining schools in difficult areas to be completed. Additionally, school furniture was ordered for 20 schools, and psychosocial support activities were conducted in 34 schools across the country.

In response to gang violence, UNICEF worked with MENFP to reopen two schools in Martissant, provided school kits to 469 (271 boys, 198 girls) children in various schools and organized summer camps. Support was provided for the reintegration of children from internally displaced person camps into their school programme and 72 teenagers received basic education and vocational training.

As co-lead of the education in emergencies (EiE) group, UNICEF conducted a comprehensive assessment to evaluate the impact of gang violence in the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince, which found that 24% of schools were deeply affected. In response, UNICEF supported back-to-school efforts for more than 15,000 children and provided sanitation and hygiene facilities for more than 100,000 when schools reopened. Equipment was provided for 25 non-formal education centres, and three schools were rehabilitated in Cite é Soleil.

With support from the World Bank and the European Union, Global Partnership for Education (GPE), CERF and thematic financing, UNICEF provided technical and financial assistance to MENFP to strengthen the non-formal education policy framework, including the finalization of the first comprehensive non-formal education curriculum, and provided non-formal education and vocational training to 3,700 out of school adolescents. To strengthen the preschool subsector, UNICEF led technical consultations with the central preschool director of MENFP and convened key partners to constitute a technical working group to develop and roll out a five-year action plan aimed at strengthening preschools. Appropriate resources will need to be mobilized to support this effort in 2023 and beyond.

Every child has access to water, sanitation and hygiene

With support from Interamerican Development Bank, World Bank, Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID)) USAID, the Swiss Cooperation and UNICEF, European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) the European Union and CERF, UNICEF worked in close collaboration with DINEPA to support the extension of service coverage, strengthen management systems to better respond to waterborne diseases and epidemics (including COVID-19 and cholera) and promote long-lasting sanitation and hygiene behaviour.

As Secretary of the WASH sector donors' group, UNICEF worked with DINEPA on the sector's first annual review, which gaged progress towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal 6. With support from the World Bank and sector donors, DINEPA developed a costed 2022-2032 strategic plan and intends to establish a WASH basket fund to promote sustainable and predictable funding as well as equity of access, accountability, efficacy, and efficiency. Financial and technical support was provided to DINEPA to develop a WASH cholera response plan and to strengthen the national and subnational coordination mechanisms.

With financial and technical support from UNICEF, DINEPA completed a capacity-building needs assessment and is preparing for the development of the capacity building plan. UNICEF also supported the launch of data collection for an urban WASH programme in collaboration with DINEPA and other key stakeholders. UNICEF supported the ONEPA (national observatory for water and sanitation) to maintain a national data collection and management capacity through the national information system for the water and sanitation sector (SIEPA) and the Emergency Response Department (DRU) of DINEPA.

UNICEF continued to promote and advocate for community approaches to total sanitation through its Accelerating Sanitation and Water for All 2 programme. Over 37,000 people gained access to basic sanitation through the self-construction of household latrines in 70 newly verified open defecation free (ODF) localities in rural areas of the Artibonite, Centre and West departments. Another 203 new localities were triggered in 2022 to adopt safe sanitation and hygiene practices through the mobilization of over 61,000 people around building their own latrines and handwashing points.

Emergency WASH work focused on responding to the earthquake, gang violence and involuntary repatriations. UNICEF provided emergency safe water to over 646,000 people including 187,000 affected by urban violence and as part of the cholera response, mainly in Cité Soleil and Hugo Chavez Square. Basic sanitation was provided to over 41,000 people and 105,000 people received hygiene supplies. During the September 2022 crisis, UNICEF provided 12,000 gallons of fuel to run water supply systems in the metropolitan area and sourced critical WASH and cholera supplies. In the earthquake-affected area, the rehabilitation of 16 damaged water supply systems was completed to serve over 95,000 people and water points and separate latrines and hand hygiene stations were built or rehabilitated in 44 schools and 19 healthcare- facilities.

Disaster preparedness was strengthened in 7 (seven) municipalities (Gonaives, Carrefour, Petit Goave, Les Irois, Chardonnières, Les Anglais and Tiburon) through contingency planning and upgrading of WASH infrastructure and awareness-raising, enabling 300,000 people living in vulnerable areas of these municipalities to improve their capacity to face emergency situations.

Every child is protected from violence and exploitation

With support from CERF, Canada, Germany, France, Sweden, the EU, the Peacebuilding Fund and working closely with IBESR, - the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor (MAST) and the Ministry of Justice and Public Security (MJSP) and NGO partners, UNICEF provided psychosocial support to vulnerable children, ensured access to protection services to victims of sexual violence, and strengthened community child protection networks. UNICEF worked for the promotion of family reunification and family-based care with a focus on unaccompanied and repatriated migrants children

and children victims of violence including gang violence

In response to gang violence, UNICEF worked with DGPC, UNFPA, WHO and NGO partners to support multisectoral mobile teams in Cité Soleil, Croix des Bouquets, Carrefour, Bel Air and Bas Delmas and ensured that a clear referral pathway to child protection services including SV is in place . Over 34,000 children (including 14,249 girls) and caregivers affected by armed violence and the earthquake received mental health and psychosocial support services in child-friendly spaces set up by UNICEF across the country

To support the deinstitutionalization process, UNICEF continued to support IBESR in expanding foster care, with 150 accredited foster families who cared for 120 children in 2022.

In response to children on the move and migration, UNICEF supported IBESR and three local NGOs to set up 4 transit centers to provide alternative care services or family reunification to 2,732 (1,113 girls and 1,619 boys) unaccompanied and separated child returnees from the Dominican Republic and neighbouring countries across four official crossing points and two airports.

All field partners working on emergency responses received GBV prevention and referral training, and GBV analysis was conducted in earthquake-affected areas. Through the EU Spotlight Initiative, UNICEF reached over 68,000 girls, boys and women, with GBV response, risk mitigation and prevention. Over 12,000 people accessed care services under the Spotlight initiative on elimination of violence against women. This included 11,265 survivors, who received training and information on essential services and support initiatives, and 1547, reported cases of violence against women and girls that were reported to the police. Additionally, 113,600 people (18,143 girls and boys) benefited from community outreach programs and advocacy campaigns to promote gender-equitable norms and behaviours.

UNICEF ensured enhanced capacity of personnel of the juvenile justice sector through training on the legal framework, and appropriate procedures for handling and post-prison monitoring of minors in conflict with the law. UNICEF supported parental skills of 35 children in conflict with the Law and provided financial support to prevent recidivism.

UNICEF co-led the Child Protection Sub Sector and continues to support coordination at national and departmental levels, including through supporting the harmonization and tools. In 2022, this led to the development of a toolkit for child protection partners in conducting emergency assessment and for the identification and referral of cases.

Every child has an equitable chance in life access to inclusive social protection and lives free from poverty

UNICEF remains committed to promoting social protection in Haiti. To support the institutionalization and operationalization of the National Social Protection and Promotion Policy (2020), UNICEF contributed to a UN inter-agency Mission to design the social assistance package aimed at operationalizing the policy.

Cash transfers designed to incentivize school attendance reached 11,510 vulnerable households with school-aged children and children living with disabilities, including displaced families in Port-au-Prince, together with incentives to 1144, teachers in the difficult urban setting of Cité Soleil in Port-au-Prince (144 households). Also, 96 households from the most affected municipalities of Pestel (including Cayemites Islands) and Corail received multipurpose cash transfers coupled with awareness-raising on childcare practices. UNICEF continued to advocate within the cash-based transfers working group, in line with the National Strategy for Financial Inclusion (SNIF), for the creation of a digital wallet to improve financial inclusion. A harmonized long-term strategy to

strengthen identification systems is being developed through the National Identification Office.

Prevention of Sexual exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)

While the multi-layered emergencies have exacerbated existing PSEA risks, UNICEF has been at the forefront of the response, with a dedicated PSEA Specialist and a comprehensive in-country action plan. In addition to strengthened internal procedures of recruitment and mandatory training on PSEA, UNICEF interventions focused on community engagement and awareness-raising, mobilizing U-Reporters, in addition to joining the inter-agency Community Feedback Mechanism initiative. All UNICEF partners abide by the same requirements, their capacity on PSEA is assessed using standardized tools, followed by tailored technical support aimed at improving their safeguarding level.

UN Collaboration and Other Partnerships

UNICEF values its partnerships with the Government of Haiti, UN Country team partners, NGOs and civil society organizations (CSOs) and other stakeholders in support of the realization of children's rights. UNICEF Haiti warmly thanks all the partners who provided support in 2022 to reach the most vulnerable children in Haiti in a growingly challenging operational environment.

In 2022, funds received amounted to US\$53.2million. The top donors to UNICEF Haiti were the governments of Canada, the United States, GPE, the World Bank, Japan and the European Union. In addition, implementation partnerships were signed with 38 CSOs and 6 government entities: MSPP, MAST, IBESR, MENFP, DINEPA, Ministry of Environment (MoE) and the Directorate-General for Civil Protection.

UNICEF maintains a strong partnership with the Government of Haiti to better address children's critical needs and protect their rights. UNICEF works closely with MSPP, DINEPA and MENFP at the central and departmental levels to ensure multisectoral support to health, nutrition, WASH, education and child protection. As a key United Nations partner, UNICEF provided financial and technical assistance to strengthen national efforts in these key sectors. In addition to national authorities, financial and technical support was provided to NGO partners to implement key interventions on the ground.

Ahead of Haiti UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2023-2027, UNICEF worked with the country team on the basis of the Common Country Analysis (2021) to develop a risk-informed comprehensive situation analysis of children and women to understand immediate and underlying causes and leverage efforts to address structural drivers of fragility and violence.

In support of United Nations reform, UNICEF Haiti is engaged in a number of joint United Nations initiatives including: Southern Maternal Health Project (UNICEF, UNFPA with Canadian funds); Peacebuilding Funds for Rule of Law (UNDP, UNICEF and UN Women); Spotlight initiative with support from the European Union (Resident Coordinator Office, UN Women, UNFPA, UNDP and UNICEF); and a disaster risk preparedness project with the International Organization for Migration, supported by ECHO. These projects contributed to programme results achieved in 2022 and to the United Nations system-wide humanitarian response. Through the COVAX initiative led by Gavi, WHO, UNICEF and CEPI, UNICEF worked to support the procurement of COVID-19 vaccine doses, as well as freight, logistics and storage. In response to cholera, UNICEF worked closely with PAHO/WHO to support coordination efforts under the National Cholera Task Force with a focus on epidemiological surveillance and the deployment of community health workers.

Building on the Country Programme Evaluation (2021), a Strategic Moment of Reflection highlighted the following priorities: overarching priorities (nexus; systemic change; coordination; gender and youth participation); strengthening capacities (reinforcing monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning (MEAL); strengthening capacity development; coordination & and advocacy frameworks); and internal capacity strengthening including multisectoral and integrated programming in line with the humanitarian-development-peacebuilding (HDP) nexus. At regional level, UNICEF-Haiti participated in the regional **Real Time Assessment (RTA) on the COVID-19 vaccine roll out**.

On this basis, UNICEF worked with partners to develop a new Country Programme Document (CPD) for 2023-2027, with a budget of US\$182.8 million, focused on strengthening integrated service delivery within fragility contexts, while addressing longer-term systemic changes and supporting emergency preparedness and response and with a humanitarian and development (nexus) approach. Recommendations from the **Real Time Evaluation (RTE) of the UNICEF 2021 earthquake response** and the **Country Programme Evaluation (CPE)** were used to feed into the design of the new Country Programme.

Further to the **Common Country Analysis (CCA, 2021)**, which focused on the root causes and risks associated with growing instability, UNICEF together with the UN country team supported the elaboration of a **Situation Analysis (SitAn, 2022)** to understand immediate and underlying causes and leverage efforts to address structural drivers of fragility and violence to feed into the development of the Haiti UNSDCF 2023-2027.

Significant progress was made in producing reliable data and evidence on the situation of children. To support an integrated response in vulnerable areas in the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince, UNICEF together with national authorities conducted rapid health and nutrition assessments in the metropolitan area, as well as a multi-donor needs assessment (MSNA) exercise in partnership with REACH. A new SMART nutrition survey, which was planned for 2022, was postponed to 2023 due to security concerns. The survey will provide up-to-date data on the prevalence of wasting and shed light on exclusive breastfeeding among children under six months of age in Haiti, which currently stands at 40%.

UNICEF needs to be fit for purpose to operate in this complex programmatic environment shaped by multiple shocks and growing insecurity. Security and access remain key concerns for programme implementation, and this has required adjustments in the way of working to ensure access to vulnerable populations while adhering to the principle of 'do no harm' and protecting staff and those we are serving. A significant achievement in 2022 was the acceleration and expansion of UNICEF humanitarian work in Port-au-Prince to include activities in gang-controlled areas. Thanks to the hiring of access specialist assets and strong collaboration at the inter-agency access working group, UNICEF was able to deploy in Cité Soleil and Martissant to provide water trucking and mobile health and nutrition clinics where services have been closed due to gang violence and insecurity for over a year.

The need for integrated programming is particularly acute in the metropolitan area around Port-au-Prince, where vulnerable communities affected by extreme poverty and gang violence have very limited access to basic social services. While Port-au-Prince, Cité Soleil, Gonaïves, Saint Marc and Carrefour alone account for 42% of unvaccinated children (Penta3) in the country, UNICEF has worked with the Government, departmental authorities and partners to develop integrated programming around immunization, maternal and child health and nutrition, education and child

protection services for vulnerable children and their families. Multipurpose humanitarian cash transfers (HCT) have shown significant added value in addressing the impacts of various shocks on vulnerable households.

Education will remain a key focus in 2023 and beyond. The validation of the first national alternative education policy in 2020 opened the way for an improved educational offer for half a million Haitian children outside the school system. A key area 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 (chambers of commerce) in the training and professional reintegration of adolescents.

There is an acute need to prevent outbreaks of waterborne diseases through awareness-raising on handwashing and essential emergency WASH and to better prepare for climate-related emergencies through resilience and disaster preparedness with vulnerable communities. In line with the evaluation of the UNICEF WASH project in the departments of Artibonite and Center (2014-2019), UNICEF adopted a strategy to ensure the quality and sustainability of sanitation where water system users pay. This strategy will contribute to strengthen the capacity for maintenance of school sanitation facilities and hygiene awareness. In the earthquake-affected area, UNICEF also supported the launch of the water and sanitation for health facilities improvement tool (WASH FIT) in South department and Nippes as a pilot before scaling it up.

Health system strengthening along with close collaboration and direct support to decentralized structures and communities remain key areas of focus for UNICEF programming, with significant investments to be made in 2023 and beyond with the support of Global Affairs Canada. The ongoing establishment of District level Health Units (UAS) is a major step towards operationalizing the community health strategic plan and decentralizing the health-care system. Providing key medical supplies and training for community health workers will remain key priorities in 2023 and beyond.

UNICEF has been strengthening its outreach to adolescents and young people, partnering with Digicel in campaigning to boost the reach of U-Report and strengthening ties with the Ministry on the Status and Rights of Women (MCFDF) to better promote adolescents' and young people's rights. Goodwill ambassadors and 1030 U-Reporters (out of the 80,000 registered in Haiti) were trained and mobilized to promote child rights, notably on school reopening, cholera prevention and vaccination. During the September 2022 crisis, UNICEF partnered with SAKALA to engage U-Reporters in providing psychosocial support to children, adolescents, young people and their families in neighbourhoods affected by gang violence.