Haiti

HIGHLIGHTS

- Haiti is facing multiple crises, including growing political instability, civil unrest and gang-related insecurity, deteriorating socio-economic conditions, rising food insecurity and malnutrition, the Haitian-Dominican migration dynamic, waterborne disease epidemics, and high vulnerability to natural hazards, all of which have been further exacerbated by COVID-19. Electoral uncertainty remains a concern and will likely 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 will support the continuity of basic services, including water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), education, health, nutrition, child protection and social protection services. UNICEF will also facilitate disaster risk reduction, emergency preparedness, and interventions to address violence against children as well as gender-based violence 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. This includes US$15 million for the education response and US$12 million for the WASH response.

KEY PLANNED TARGETS

- 38,498 children admitted for treatment for severe acute malnutrition
- 203,500 children and women accessing health care
- 376,051 people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water
- 500,000 children accessing educational services

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

US$ 48.9 million

IN NEED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>People in Need</th>
<th>Children in Need</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>4.4 million</td>
<td>1.9 million</td>
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<td>2021</td>
<td>709,880</td>
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TO BE REACHED

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**HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS**

Haiti continues to face multiple crises, including growing political instability, civil unrest and gang-related insecurity, deteriorating socio-economic conditions, rising food insecurity and malnutrition, waterborne disease epidemics, the Haitian-Dominican migration dynamic, and high vulnerability to natural hazards, all of which have been further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Electoral uncertainty remains a challenge and will likely result in increased social unrest and insecurity, especially in the capital and its metropolitan area, affecting vulnerable children and their families.

Deteriorating economic conditions resulting from confinement measures are putting greater pressure on the livelihoods of vulnerable families, depleting their financial resources and exacerbating existing humanitarian needs. An estimated 4.4 million Haitians (nearly 40 per cent of the population) are food insecure, and an estimated 217,000 children are suffering from acute malnutrition, particularly in the metropolitan region of Port-au-Prince. An estimated 2.95 million people – including 1.2 million children and 400,000 pregnant women and adolescent girls – require emergency health care, which has become difficult to access due to COVID-19 related restrictions.

In addition to the two months of school that students lost during the national lockdowns in 2019 (September to November), another four months of class suspension due to COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, resulted in an estimated 3 million children that have missed out on learning. As a result, most schoolchildren have lost out on an entire year of education. Although all schools reopened by mid-August with biosafety protocols, due to the deterioration of the political climate and socio-economic conditions, growing insecurity and the rise of gang-related activities, a significant number of children are at risk of falling behind on their learning and dropping out of school altogether, with estimates of 500,000 potential dropouts.

Limited access to basic social services due to shutdowns and the interruption of routine health services and psychosocial and recreation activities have increased children's risks of abuse, exploitation and violence, including gender-based violence. Children in institutions and in detention may be vulnerable to the rapid spread of the virus if appropriate hygiene and prevention measures are not established.

The Haitian-Dominican migration dynamic remains a concern, as increased numbers of Haitian returnees have been observed at the border. An increase of Haitian returnees has also been observed at the Haitian-Dominican border, where an estimated 103,000 border crossings were reported from October to November 2020. Many of the returning children arrive in Haiti under precarious conditions, without resources and separated from their families.

The cholera epidemic is now coming to an end, with no cases confirmed since February 2019. However, prevention, surveillance and alert response efforts must be maintained to keep the number of cases at zero and officially declare the end of the epidemic by 2022.

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**SECTOR NEEDS**

**Nutrition**

217,000 children are severely undernourished

**Health**

3 million people need health assistance

**Water, sanitation and hygiene**

3.8 million people lack access to basic WASH services

**Education**

750,000 children at risk of missing their education

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**STORY FROM THE FIELD**

When Raymone heard about COVID-19, she was afraid. She looked for ways to protect her three children against the disease and learned on the radio that handwashing was key.

“We wanted to put a bucket in the middle of the village but we couldn’t find one. We looked at the weekly market in vain,” she says.

Raymone’s village of Sevré is difficult to access, but through its partner, the Haitian Red Cross, UNICEF has supported the installation of handwashing stations in public places to enable communities to access handwashing facilities to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

[Read more about this story here](#)
HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY

In 2021, UNICEF will continue to meet the basic needs of vulnerable children and communities in Haiti. UNICEF will build on its strong field presence to support the continuity of essential health, nutrition, WASH, education and child protection services, and strengthen disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness in all sectors.\(^1\)

Greater focus will be placed on the capital and its metropolitan area to address the projected impacts of persistent extreme poverty, political instability, insecurity and public unrest on vulnerable children and their families.

In line with the Government of Haiti’s response to COVID-19 and relevant inter-agency planning, UNICEF will maintain its multi-sectoral support for risk communication and community engagement, surveillance and coordination, as well as WASH prevention and rapid response. These same actions and partners will support the anticipated phase out of the cholera response plan in February 2022.

UNICEF will support continued access to essential health care services, including routine immunization through procurement/distribution of essential vaccines and cold chain support, as well as prenatal and postnatal care, and HIV response care. A key focus will be on strengthening the health system to increase health centre capacities to provide appropriate care in the most affected and vulnerable communities. National and local capacities will also be strengthened to manage acute malnutrition and infant and young child feeding services and prevent micronutrient deficiencies.

UNICEF will support the Ministry of Education to coordinate the response and conduct real-time monitoring, focusing on ensuring the availability of distance learning programmes, and access to these programmes among vulnerable children during present and future school interruptions. Protection assistance will be provided to children exposed to violence, including gender-based violence, exploitation and family separation. UNICEF will focus on strengthening psychosocial response capacities for children in the urban areas of Port-au-Prince that have been significantly affected by COVID-19.

To mitigate the negative socio-economic impacts of COVID-19, UNICEF will strengthen shock-responsive social protection mechanisms, focusing on emergency cash transfers to help the most vulnerable families make ends meet. The Government and sector and inter-agency partners will be supported to strengthen humanitarian coordination and disaster preparedness and response, focusing on strengthening the linkages between humanitarian action and development programmes, long-term system strengthening and capacity building and mainstreaming climate change adaptation. UNICEF will also maintain contingency agreements with several partners, as well as stocks of pre-positioned supplies, to respond to humanitarian situations as they arise.

Accountability to affected populations and efforts to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse will be mainstreamed across sectors. UNICEF will strengthen reporting systems, survivor assistance and capacity building of staff and partners, focusing on emergency preparedness.

Progress against the 2020 programme targets is available in the humanitarian situation reports: https://www.unicef.org/appeals/haiti/situation-reports

This appeal is aligned with the revised Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action, which

**2021 PROGRAMME TARGETS**\(^1\)

**Nutrition**
- 38,498 children aged 6 to 59 months with severe acute malnutrition admitted for treatment
- 57,519 children aged 6 to 59 months with moderate acute malnutrition admitted for treatment

**Health**
- 203,500 children and women accessing primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities
- 35,000 children under 1 year vaccinated against measles
- 37,000 pregnant women who attended at least two prenatal visits
- 3,000 healthcare facility staff and community health workers trained in infection prevention and control (IPC) and provided with personal protective equipment (PPE)

**Water, sanitation and hygiene**
- 376,051 people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene\(^2\)
- 273,775 people reached with handwashing behaviour change programmes
- 150,432 people accessing and using adequate sanitation facilities
- 690,400 people reached with improved capacity to face a shock through disaster preparedness activities

**Child protection, GBViE and PSEA**\(^3\)
- 28,500 children and caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support
- 717,570 people with access to safe channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse
- 1,450 unaccompanied and separated children reunified with their primary caregiver or provided with family-based care/alternative care services
- 20,000 women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions

**Education**
- 500,000 children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning
- 500,000 children receiving individual learning materials

**Social protection and cash transfers**
- 20,000 households reached with humanitarian cash transfers across sectors\(^4\)

**Cholera**
- 95 per cent of cholera suspected cases (including ‘other acute diarrhoea’ cases) identified and responded to within 48 hours with a complete water, sanitation and hygiene package
**FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2021**

In 2021, UNICEF requests US$48.9 million to meet the humanitarian needs of children in Haiti that have been significantly exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

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.

Without adequate funding, UNICEF will be unable to support 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.

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**Sector** | **2021 requirements (US$)**
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Nutrition | 5,200,000
Health | 4,900,000
Water, sanitation and hygiene | 12,000,000
Child protection, GBVIE and PSEA | 2,377,000
Education | 15,000,000
Social protection and cash transfers | 4,920,000
Cholera | 4,000,000
Cluster coordination | 500,000
**Total** | **48,897,000**

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*This includes costs from other sectors/interventions: Cholera (8.2%), Child protection, GBVIE and PSEA (4.9%), Cluster coordination (1.0%).
ENDNOTES

1. The people in need figure derived from the 65 priority communes based mainly on the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis as per the “Haiti: Humanitarian Needs Overview – Humanitarian Response Plan 2021”, (Haiti HNO/HRP 2021), UNOCHA, (To be released March 2021). The reduction from 5.1 million people in need to 4.4 million in 2021 is due to the unexpectedly limited epidemiological impact of COVID-19 in Haiti.

2. Ibid. This figure is based on children being 42.5 per cent of the general population, as per demographic data from the 2016-2017 Demographic Health Survey (DHS).

3. The people to be reached figure is derived from the Haiti HNO/HRP 2021. To avoid potential double counting of beneficiaries, this figure includes the following UNICEF targets: the highest coverage programme target for WASH (adults only); the target for essential health care services; the target for psychosocial support services; the target for formal/informal education; and nutrition targets. The remaining people in need will be covered by other humanitarian partners (United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations, donors) and government institutions. This figure includes 50 per cent women/girls and 50 per cent men/boys, as well as 10 per cent people with disabilities as per demographic data from the 2016-2017 DHS.

4. 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 avoid potential double counting of beneficiaries, the children to be reached figure includes the target for Education (500,000 children), Nutrition (96,017 children), Health (101,750), and Child Protection (12,113 children). This figure includes 70,988 children with disabilities (10% of the population as per DHS 2016-2017).

5. This particularly affects the most vulnerable groups, such as the poorest households and women-headed households, which mostly rely on informal labour markets.

6. Haiti HNO/HRP 2021. According to the Ministry of Health SMART Nutrition survey (December 2019). The metropolitan area has the highest prevalence of severe acute malnutrition (2.5 per cent) and global acute malnutrition (6.5 per cent).

7. The availability of and access to neonatal and childcare services significantly decreased as the pandemic took hold, with a 73 per cent decline in the number of monthly visits among children under 5 years, according to the Ministry of Health. Routine vaccination programmes for polio, measles and other fatal diseases have been interrupted, leading to a 45 per cent decline in coverage from March to April 2020. Rumors against vaccination and other health services are also leading to a drop in service utilization.

8. According to ‘Haiti: 2019-2020 Humanitarian Response Plan - Revision due to the COVID-19 Pandemic’, 60 per cent of households do not have soap or water at home to wash their hands, 66 per cent are not treating the water before consuming it and 26 per cent lack access to an improved water source (40 per cent in rural areas).

9. The unstable and fragile economic, political and social contexts and recurring civil unrest left the country paralyzed for over three months (September to November) and severely hampered public services and humanitarian access. According to the Ministry of Education, an estimated 3 million students did not have access to school for nearly three months between September and November 2020.


11. Ibid.

12. The Ministry of Education is still collecting data to provide specific numbers on attendance for 2020-2021.


14. Haiti HNO/HRP 2021

15. Ibid. This corresponds to approximately 23% of the Haitian population. Although the whole of the territory is affected, the majority (65%) of the needs will be concentrated in three departments: West (1,208,810 people), Artibonite (459,231 people) and North (265,205 people).

16. According to the Haiti HNO/HRP 2021, this figure includes 1,885,000 people affected by the food crisis (IPC 3 and 4); 1,425,000 people living in municipalities vulnerable to natural disasters that do not have WASH contingency plans; 231,000 people living in a household where one of the members is affected by a water-borne disease; 226,000 people living in a household in which one of the children under 5 is affected by malnutrition; 40,000 people affected by a climatic hazard (drought or flood); 15,000 people displaced as a result of internal conflict.


18. UNICEF leads cluster coordination for the WASH, nutrition and education clusters and the child protection area of responsibility.

19. Communication for development, including accountability to affected populations, is integrated into sectoral responses and interventions.

20. In addition to supporting continued access to safe water for people affected by natural disasters, planned activities will focus on community awareness and mobilization and prevention activities, with the engagement of community and religious leaders, influencers, youth and women's groups to raise awareness on handwashing among vulnerable communities.

21. Due to space constraints, the following acronyms appear in the appeal: GBViE (gender-based violence in emergencies); PSEA (prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse); C4D (communication for development); and AAP (accountability to affected populations).

22. In line with the national social protection and promotion policy, these multipurpose unconditional cash transfer include four monthly cycles of cash distribution worth US$82 (70 per cent of the monthly improved food basket value per household, as calculated by the Government). The targeting of beneficiary households is based on a set of criteria including school enrolment of the children, the family’s economic vulnerability and the situation of women in the households for the empowerment purpose. For the forthcoming conditional cash transfer in education, a 3-tier targeting was set (geographic, schooling and economic situation of the households).

23. The overall child protection sub-sector funding requirement under the Haiti HRP 2021 amounts to US$3,395,167. UNICEF will aim to cover US$2,376,617 including US$500,000 towards GBV prevention and response and US$300,000 for prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse interventions.

24. This figure is an estimate and is based on the calculation that learning materials and other school fees will cost US$30 per child per year, with the target of 500,000 children for the year.