



©UNICEF/Joseph. A mother and her three children sought refuge in a site for internally displaced persons, escaping heavy fighting between armed groups in Port-au-Prince. December 2023.

Reporting Period: 1 January – 31 December 2023

Haiti End-of-Year Humanitarian Situation Report No. 10

December 2023



Situation in Numbers

2.9 million

children in need of humanitarian assistance
(Humanitarian Response Plan 2023)

1.2 million

children under threat in the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area
(Based on Haitian Institute of Statistics data)

1,161

deaths from cholera
(including 285 community deaths)



77,132 suspected cholera cases
4,608 confirmed cholera cases
(Ministry of Health, 31 December 2023)

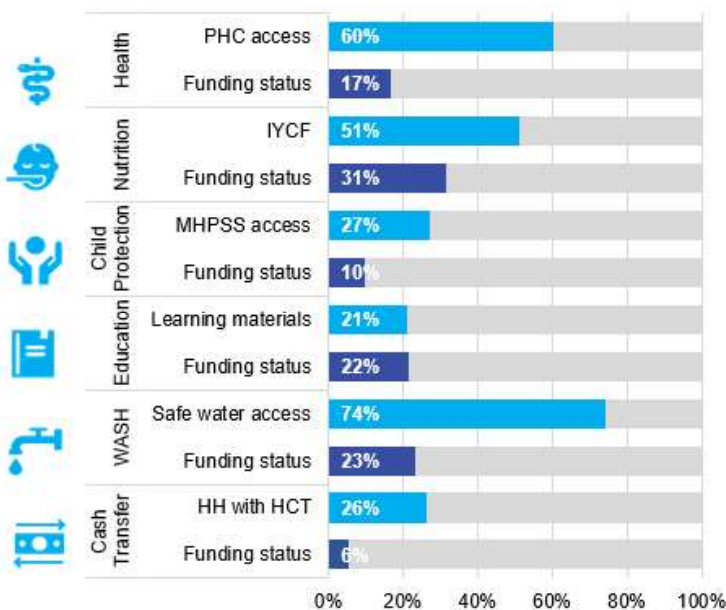


172,300 internally displaced children
(IOM 2023)

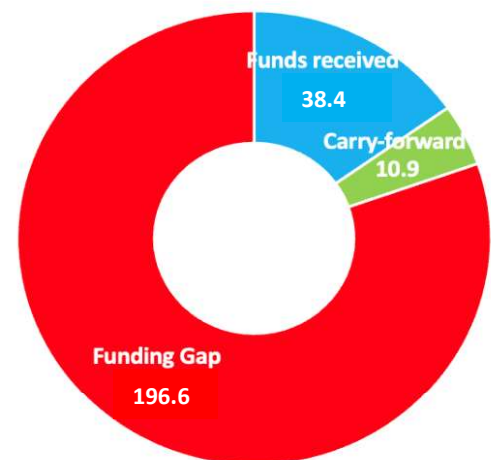
Highlights

- In 2023, Haiti experienced further deterioration in conflict dynamics and worsening humanitarian crises. Instances of violence increased significantly, including killings, kidnappings and sexual assaults by criminal groups. Children remained most vulnerable to these threats, resulting in at least 3 million children needing humanitarian assistance.
- In addition, more than 40 per cent of Haiti's population faced acute food insecurity, while access to essential services such as safe drinking water, sanitation, health care and education was severely restricted. In October 2023, to address the escalating security situation, the United Nations Security Council approved the deployment of a Multinational Security Support Mission led by Kenya, which is expected in the first quarter of 2024. For its part, UNICEF developed contingency and preparedness plans.
- In response to Haiti's increased humanitarian needs, UNICEF helped the Government provide basic services to more than 1.1 million people, including water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), education, health, nutrition, child protection, social protection and emergency services. Anticipating exacerbated needs in 2024, UNICEF undertook preparedness activities, particularly to preposition supplies for rapid responses to population movements, and strengthened child protection services for children associated with armed conflict.
- To respond effectively to humanitarian needs in 2023, while building conditions for more shock-responsive systems in Haiti, UNICEF requested US\$245.9 million. Despite the generous contributions of several donors, UNICEF's humanitarian appeal had a funding gap of US\$196.6 million (80 per cent) as at 31 December.

UNICEF's Response and Funding Status



UNICEF Appeal 2023 US\$245.9 million Funding Status (in US\$ million)



Funding Overview and Partnerships

Following the United Nations system-wide scale-up in May 2023 in response to the deteriorating humanitarian situation, UNICEF revised its 2023 Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) appeal to ensure access to and continuity of basic services for the most vulnerable, while contributing to humanitarian, development and peacebuilding nexus strategies. Although UNICEF's 2023 HAC appeal anticipated a continuous increase in programmatic and financial needs, it was severely underfunded with a financing gap of 80 per cent compared with the US\$245.9 million requested.

UNICEF expresses its sincere gratitude to all public and private donors for the humanitarian contributions received. In 2023, the following partners generously helped support UNICEF's 2023 humanitarian response in Haiti: the Government of Canada, the Government of Japan, the Government of Malta, the Government of Norway, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, the Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Irish Aid, the European Commission's Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations Department (ECHO), the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), and the World Bank. In addition, the United States Fund for UNICEF; the French, Canadian, German, Spanish, Swiss, and United Kingdom Committees for UNICEF; and UNICEF Mexico, have generously helped in supporting UNICEF's 2023 humanitarian response in Haiti.

Given the significant needs and gaps, UNICEF allocated US\$3.5 million of its internal flexible Global Humanitarian Thematic funding to Haiti to scale up the cholera response, address new emergency situations, including the increased number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area, and increase humanitarian work in the department of Artibonite. Internal allocations via the Emergency Programme Fund (EPF) loan mechanism were also provided to continue supporting humanitarian activities.

With humanitarian needs expected to worsen in 2024, donor commitments will be crucial to implement life-saving activities and help restore basic services to all Haitian families. The interagency humanitarian planning process has identified that over US\$673.8 million will be needed in humanitarian assistance in 2024, US\$221.7 million of which is needed by UNICEF to support the needs of children and their caregivers with respect to nutrition, education, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), child protection, social behaviour change and humanitarian cash transfers, among other cross-cutting themes.

Situation Overview and Humanitarian Needs

In 2023, Haiti experienced a continuous deterioration in conflict dynamics and worsening humanitarian crises. Instances of violence increased significantly, including killings, kidnappings and sexual assaults by criminal groups. More than 40 per cent of Haiti's population faced acute food insecurity, and access to essential services such as safe drinking water, sanitation, health care and education was severely restricted. The compounded crises have differentiated impacts on distinct groups and regions: urban populations are entrapped by armed violence; families are displaced by violence; communities outside the capital face food insecurity and are marginalized; and Haitian migrants are repatriated. The inter-agency humanitarian planning process carried out at the end of 2023 estimated that 5.5 million Haitians, nearly half of the country's population, will need humanitarian assistance and protection in 2024.

In 2023, Haiti's school-age children and teachers faced increasingly difficult learning conditions due to a combination of chronic vulnerabilities, growing insecurity limiting access to education, a long-standing lack of access to essential related services and high levels of underlying poverty – a trend that has been noted in the past three years. In addition, the daily insecurity and violence perpetrated by armed groups is resulting in internal displacements, as well as the unfettered closure and occupation of schools. The rapid assessment of the school situation carried out by the Ministry of National Education and Vocational Training in the departments of Ouest and Artibonite in July 2023 identified 755 closed schools (159 were completely closed and 596 were partially closed), of which 402 were in Artibonite and 353 in Ouest. These school closures have affected 1.3 million students (including 294,900 in Artibonite and 1 million in Ouest), and 129,296 teachers (including 11,684 in Artibonite and 117,612 in Ouest). A total of 139 schools (108 in Artibonite and 31 in Ouest) were occupied by 23 armed groups and 116 displaced children.

Violence, including intentional homicides and kidnappings, continued escalating at an unprecedented rate, particularly in the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area and the department of Artibonite. From July to September 2023, 88 grave violations of children's rights occurred in Haiti, 37 of which resulted in the tragic loss of lives or injuries. According to the gender-based violence subcluster, 3,056 cases of rape were reported between January and October 2023, an increase of 49 per cent compared with 2022. According to data collected from child protection and gender-based violence actors, 2,701 cases of sexual violence were reported between January and November 2023, 1,895 cases of which involved children.¹

Furthermore, the Haitian National Police recorded a staggering 1,239 homicides between July and September 2023, compared with 577 in the same period of the previous year. Abductions surged to 701 victims, an increase of 244 per cent. The capital Port-au-Prince has experienced increased violence since November 2023, impacting essential service providers, including hospitals. Following clashes between non-State armed groups and the Haitian National Police in

¹ United Nations Haiti, *Child Protection Subcluster Report*, 2023.

Mariani (Léogâne, Ouest) – during which around 40 reported fatalities have occurred since November 2023 – access to the South through National Route has been further compromised.

As at 31 December 2023, the epidemiological situation of cholera showed that over 77,000 suspected cases had been recorded in Haiti since the start of the October 2022 outbreak. The department of Ouest has recorded the highest number of cases, but since August 2023 has consistently recorded fewer than 100 cases per day. Both the departments of Artibonite and Centre have had a relatively consistent number of cases per week, and have seen only a limited decline since their first peaks in cases at the end of 2022. In September 2023, southern departments experienced peaks in suspected cases. Nationwide, of the 77,132 suspected cases, 4,608 were confirmed (an increase of 272 cases from the previous month), almost half of which were children, with over 1,160 associated community and institutional deaths recorded.²

According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), based on the latest Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) survey, in December 2023, there were almost 314,000 IDPs in Haiti, over half of whom were displaced in 2023 alone. The majority (94 per cent) of those displaced were from the department of Ouest, and over half were children (172,300).³

On 21 October 2022, the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2653, establishing a sanctions regime for Haiti that included targeted asset freezes, travel bans and arms embargo measures. Following Kenya's High Court decision of 16 November 2023 to extend orders blocking the deployment of police officers to Haiti, contrary to Parliament's approval supporting the Government's request of deployment, a Supreme Court decision was delayed to 26 January 2024. In the interim, during a Multinational Security Support Mission pre-planning conference in mid-December 2023, the Governments of Haiti, Kenya, Jamaica and the United States of America outlined that preparations for the Multinational Security Support Mission were ongoing, and stressed the importance of pre-deployment training and accountability mechanisms to prevent human rights violations, protect vulnerable groups and promote the rule of law, to ensure safety and the resumption of access to basic services.⁴

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

Following the activation of the cluster approach, as endorsed by the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator in June 2023, UNICEF continued to lead the Education Cluster (in partnership with Save the Children and the Ministry of Education) and the Nutrition Cluster (in partnership with the Ministry of Health), and has a leadership role in the WASH sector (together with the National Directorate for Water and Sanitation) and the Child Protection Area of Responsibility (together with the Haitian Institute of Social Welfare and Research). UNICEF currently has dedicated in-country staff for cluster and sector coordination, as well as for information management.

For WASH, nutrition and child protection, both coordinators and information management staff are based in Haiti, while for education, only the coordinator is currently in the country, with recruitment ongoing for information management staff.

With respect to protection against sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), UNICEF continued to lead engagement and compliance alongside the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti. Furthermore, UNICEF actively participated in humanitarian intersectoral and inter-agency coordination platforms led by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, in coordination with the Haitian Directorate for Civil Protection and other Haitian government institutions.

Following the resurgence of cholera in October 2022, the Cholera Task Force and its five dedicated thematic groups activated by the Ministry of Health continued in 2023, notably: Group 0 on coordination (led by the Ministry of Health); Group 1 on epidemiology and surveillance of suspected cases (led by the Ministry of Health's Division of Epidemiological Research); Group 2 on case management (led by the Directorate of Health Service Organization); Group 3 on WASH/infection prevention and control (led by the National Directorate for Water and Sanitation and the Ministry of Health's Division for Health Promotion and Environmental Protection); Group 4 on vaccination (led by the Ministry of Health's National Vaccination Programme Coordination Unit); and Group 5 on community awareness and communication, including risk communication and community engagement (led by the Ministry of Health's Communication Coordination Unit). UNICEF also continued to support the departmental-level coordination mechanisms, particularly for the health and WASH response, including through the Department Sanitaire or Health Directorates and the WASH directorates (OREPAs) – and local government counterparts.

² Ministry of Public Health and Population, 'Situation épidémiologique du choléra, 31 Décembre 2023, Haïti' [Epidemiological situation of cholera, 31 December 2023, Haiti], 2024.

³ International Organization for Migration, 'Haiti: More than 60% of forced displacements happened in 2023, a year of growing brutality', 2024, <<https://haiti.iom.int/news/haiti-more-60-forced-displacements-happened-2023-year-growing-brutality#:~:text=Haiti%3A%20More%20than%2060%25%20of%20forced%20displacements%20happened,2023%2C%20more%20than%20310%2C000%20people%20are%20internally%20displaced>>, accessed 14 February 2024.

⁴ U.S. Department of State, 'Joint Statement on Multinational Security Support Mission Pre-planning Conference', 2023, <www.state.gov/joint-statement-on-multinational-security-support-mission-pre-planning-conference/>, accessed 14 February 2024.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Education

In 2023, over a million children faced challenges in accessing education. Programme implementation, including school support, was impacted in areas with school closures and a strong presence of armed groups. The escalation of school closures throughout the country due to violence has created uncertainty around the future of children's education, especially in poor neighbourhoods where schools cannot reopen due to a lack of financial resources. The school closures have affected activities such as the multi-year resilience plan financed by the Education Cannot Wait fund and the roll-out of the in-service teacher training programme. In the long term, the continued closure of schools will pose a risk to Haiti's development and security, as a generation will have lost access to a critical tool that minimizes their chances of becoming involved with armed groups.

Despite this challenging context, UNICEF accelerated implementation to respond to growing needs, setting up cash transfers to improve access to education, thus ensuring formal and non-formal education for 80,991 children (51 per cent of them girls) aged 3–17, representing 7 per cent of the annual target (1.1 million children). To address the challenging situations faced by students daily, in 2023, a total of 9,597 children received mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and life skills education in schools, participating in social and emotional learning nationwide as part of efforts implemented by the Ministry of National Education and Vocational Training, AVSI Foundation and Pastoral Action for Human Development (APADEH). UNICEF, together with the Ministry of National Education and Vocational Training, trained 450 teachers on MHPSS through courses, sessions and tailored mentorship programmes.

In 2023, UNICEF also distributed essential teaching and learning materials, which included school bags, textbooks (23,509 *Liv Ink*⁵ books across six departments) and high-performance tents to be used as temporary learning spaces, as well as various supplementary classroom materials across all affected areas, benefiting hundreds of children.

In addition to distributing learning materials, UNICEF and its partners supported continuity of learning through school construction and rehabilitation and awareness-raising on school safety. In total, 77 classrooms were constructed, benefiting more than 10,000 children in the departments of Sud, Nippes, Grand'Anse and Sud-Est. Four schools were also rehabilitated (three in Port-au-Prince and one in Les Cayes), with WASH facilities installed, enabling 5,050 students to return to school. Through the Ministry of National Education and Vocational Training, UNICEF also supported 2,400 teachers in the departments of Sud, Nippes and Artibonite with cash transfers to promote access to schools in hard-to-reach neighbourhoods. Cash transfers were also used as a tool to support 4,492 children in the departments of Sud and Artibonite.

Throughout 2023, the Education Cluster reached 86,159 conflict-affected children (53 per cent of whom were girls) with education services and learning support, attaining just 5 per cent of its annual target, mainly due to insufficient financial resources. This includes supporting 10,492 teachers (71 per cent of whom were women) with training on MHPSS (67 per cent of its annual target). The response included the construction of 77 temporary classrooms (32 per cent of its annual target). The Education Cluster produced statistical data about conflict-affected schools for evidence-based programming and the coordination of a gap-filling response for around 20 of its response actors. To assess its performance after its activation in May 2023, the Education Cluster conducted its Cluster Coordination Performance Monitoring (CCPM), which revealed several gaps, including the insufficient implementation of mechanisms to eliminate duplication in service provision, and insufficient exchanges on key issues relating to PSEA. The analysis of CCPM results is scheduled for early 2024, and any concern will be addressed in the Education Cluster's annual workplan. The task at hand involves implementing the most crucial recommendations, among which include developing an advocacy strategy for the Education Cluster, strengthening the coordination team through recruiting an information management specialist, conducting a joint assessment of education and child protection needs, strengthening operational coordination with the activation of subnational clusters, contributing to the monitoring of serious violations of children's rights in schools, and strengthening anticipatory action to reinforce rapid responses to essential needs.

Health

In December 2023, UNICEF's continued support via its implementing partners allowed for the provision of basic primary health services through mobile clinics and health-care institutions. This support was extended to 100 health-care institutions and included the provision of materials and equipment for maternal, newborn and childcare services. This helped reach 294,758 women and children with the basic primary health-care package (71,389 women, 116,151 girls and 107,218 boys, specifically). In terms of vaccination, 19,276 children under 1 were vaccinated against measles (10,235 girls, 9,041 boys). UNICEF continued supporting Haiti's cholera treatment centres, with suspected cases identified during integrated mobile clinic activities transferred to these centres.

In 2023, UNICEF, through its implementing partners, reached 393,813 people (104,687 women, 150,227 girls and 138,899 boys) with the basic primary health-care package across 10 departments, including people living in areas controlled by armed groups, repatriated migrants in the department of Nord-Est, IDPs and host communities. This result is below the planned target of 652,200 people. Key barriers to reaching the planned target included the significant

⁵ Textbooks for learning approved by the Ministry of Education.

funding gap (83 per cent by November 2023), the increased insecurity that hindered access to some areas, insufficient human resources in health-care facilities and the capacities of UNICEF's implementing partners.

Throughout the course of the year, 199,734 children were vaccinated against measles and rubella, of which 105,046 were girls and 94,688 were boys, exceeding the target of 162,400 children. The vaccinations took place in the targeted departments of Sud, Grand'Anse, Ouest, Artibonite and Nord-Est. Multi-antigen campaigns were also carried out in four departments in 2023 (Artibonite, Sud-Est, Nord-Ouest and Ouest), with 23,078 doses of Penta 3 administered, and a total of 9,737 children who had not received any doses subsequently vaccinated. UNICEF also supported COVID-19 vaccination and by the end of 2023 had helped fully vaccinate 389,453 people.

The cholera epidemic remained a constant challenge in 2023. By 31 December 2023, UNICEF had ensured continued support to the cholera epidemic response, including to the cholera treatment centres, and also in terms of community alerts, the transfer of suspected cases identified during integrated mobile clinic activities to the cholera treatment centres, immunization and social and behaviour change, and community engagement for individual and social behaviour change.

To achieve these results, UNICEF provided medical supplies to health-care institutions, including for cholera treatment, assisted the cholera treatment centres with hiring the services of 344 health-care providers, supported 345 community health workers, established mobile clinics in communities to improve the provision of health services in public and private health-care institutions and facilitated the delivery of care.

These results were also achieved thanks to the support that UNICEF provided to the Ministry of Health (at both central and operational levels) and to established partnership agreements with the following civil society organizations, which worked flexibly to adapt their actions to the constantly changing and challenging environment: Médicos del Mundo Argentina (MdM), GHESKIO and the Centre Hospitalier Fontaine, which worked in hard-to-reach and insecure communes, such as Cité Soleil, Martissant and Carrefour Feuilles in the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area, and the border areas of the Nord-Est department in the communes of Ouanaminthe, Capotille, Mont-Organisé and Ferrier.

Nutrition

In December 2023, UNICEF supported the screening of 44,443 children under 5 years (23,200 girls and 21,243 boys) to identify cases of wasting (acute malnutrition). From this exercise, 10,928 children were identified with severe wasting (5,683 girls and 5,245 boys) and were either admitted for treatment in health-care facilities or treated by trained community health workers. A total of 73 per cent were declared cured, 25 per cent were considered as failing and 1.2 per cent died.

In addition, UNICEF reached 498 pregnant and breastfeeding women through counselling sessions that focused on best practices in infant and young child feeding in emergency situations, with a particular focus on preventing wasting and other forms of malnutrition. These positive results were achieved thanks to collaborative efforts between UNICEF and national health-care facilities throughout the country, as well as community health workers, particularly in the commune of Cité Soleil. Civil society organizations also made a significant contribution towards achieving these results, in particular Doctors of the World Argentina (in Cité Soleil and Martissant), Organisation des Cœurs pour le Changements des Enfants Démunis d'Haïti [Organization of Hearts for Change for Poor Children in Haiti] (in the municipality of Delmas), GHESKIO Centres (in the municipality of Tabarre), La Paix University Hospital (in the municipality of Delmas), Foyer Saint Camille Hospital (in the municipality of Croix des Bouquets) and the Fontaine Hospital Centre (in the municipality of Delmas).

In 2023, a total of 406,266 children aged 6–59 months were screened in Haiti (68 per cent of the annual HAC target), with over 41,700 children treated for severe wasting and 54,268 children treated for moderate acute malnutrition. A total of 264,845 primary caregivers received support in infant and young child feeding in emergency situations, reaching 50 per cent of UNICEF's annual target. UNICEF also supported an emergency nutrition response in Cité Soleil through a network of 40 community health workers divided into 20 teams of two community health workers across all neighbourhoods within the municipality. Since this pilot programme began in July 2023, 7,082 children aged under 5 were screened for wasting, of which 5,039 children (1,551 with severe acute malnutrition and 3,488 with moderate acute malnutrition) were treated by community health workers.

In terms of humanitarian coordination, the Nutrition Technical Committee held a coordination meeting to present and discuss overall results reached by Nutrition Cluster partners. The Nutrition Cluster organized a three-day workshop with around 40 community health workers of Cité Soleil on 18–20 December 2023 to assess the progress of their wasting treatment programme.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

In December 2023, UNICEF, through a partnership with the Ouest Regional Water Supply and Sanitation Office, has helped supply water to 30,000 people. This has helped create favourable conditions for improving hygiene and preventing waterborne diseases, especially cholera, which is currently prevalent in Haiti, particularly in the commune of Cité Soleil.

In Cité Soleil, 22 vulnerable neighbourhoods received clean drinking water and chlorinated water for domestic use. Altogether, 50 trucks (equivalent to 150,000 gallons of treated chlorinated water) and 48 trucks (equivalent to 67,200 gallons of drinking water, treated by reverse osmosis) distributed water to Cité Soleil residents in December 2023.

UNICEF also supported the Nord and Centre Regional Water Supply and Sanitation Offices in ensuring the chlorination of drinking water systems, serving 62,215 people in December 2023. In addition to distributing drinking water, the two Regional Water Supply and Sanitation Offices set up a range of awareness-raising activities for households in 26 rural communes of four departments, which included door-to-door visits, sound truck campaigns, the distribution of water purification tablets (Aquatabs) and the distribution of informational leaflets on water treatment, cholera prevention, handwashing and PSEA. Two local partners, Solidarite Fanm Ayisyèn in the commune of Saint Michel de L'Attalaye in the department of Artibonite and Organisation des Cœurs pour le Changements des Enfants Démunis d'Haïti in the department of Centre, carried out similar activities in December 2023, increasing the number of communes that benefited from WASH interventions (including awareness-raising on good hygiene and sanitation practices) to 30 altogether. These two local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have helped deliver hygiene and/or cholera kits to 92,405 vulnerable people in rural areas throughout the departments of Artibonite and Centre, and to people in 11 IDP camps based in Carrefour Feuilles and Champs area of Port-au-Prince. In total, 150,031 people were made aware of good hygiene practices, waterborne disease prevention and cholera, with complete hygiene kits provided to 11,025 households (over 55,000 people) most affected by cholera, oral rehydration solutions to 3,666 households (over 18,300 people) and 448,050 water purification tablets and 787 Aqua Jif bottles to individuals.

Overall, in 2023, UNICEF's WASH in emergencies programme provided over 1.14 million people with humanitarian access to a sufficient quantity of water safe for drinking and domestic needs, including to people in both urban and rural areas facing an outbreak of cholera or fleeing armed group violence. The IDP response remained a priority, with UNICEF working in more than 32 sites in partnership with the National Directorate for Water and Sanitation, the Ouest Regional Water Supply and Sanitation Office and international and local NGOs to ensure access to good and appropriate sanitation facilities to the 35,430 people residing in these sites. Increased violence in the southern communes of Artibonite led to a greater number of displacements in the department, in addition to the displacements from the department of Ouest. To ensure access to those most vulnerable, UNICEF worked with its access team and local partners (Hospital Albert Schweitzer and the Haitian Red Cross) to deliver assistance in the form of hygiene kits to 17,500 IDPs in affected communes of lower Artibonite. Throughout 2023, critical WASH supplies were delivered to more than 980,820 people who had been displaced or were at risk of cholera. Furthermore, as required, UNICEF continued supplying humanitarian actors with cholera WASH supplies, including chlorine, household water purification tablets, soap, and hygiene kits.

More than a year on since the resurgence of cholera in Haiti, all departments continue to experience cases. In 2023, UNICEF helped provide cholera kits to 153,897 people in line with community WASH cholera interventions. This action included support from the Government and over 20 international and local NGOs and community-based organizations involved in the cholera response. The response maintained the rapid response team strategy, which promotes the case area targeted interventions (CATI) approach. CATI teams have responded directly to 3,439 suspected cholera cases, reaching over 20,637 people through household-level interventions (e.g. sanitary barriers, a *cordon sanitaire*).

UNICEF also provided specific support to the 10 departmental health directorates by facilitating coordination meetings, supervision and field activity monitoring, which included visits to cholera treatment centres and training sessions for health-care providers run by departmental epidemiologists and infectious disease coordinators on the data required to implement the community-level WASH response. UNICEF also supported the mobilization of 21 governmental rapid response teams to scale up the rapid response and awareness-raising activities in all 10 departments. The teams contributed to the following outcomes: (1) a response to over 16,416 suspected cholera cases; (2) the deployment of rapid response teams to implement 14,598 cordons sanitaires and to raise the awareness of more than 41,000 households (754,182 people); (3) the decontamination of 167,778 households and 118,836 latrines; (4) the provision of training and support for the preparation and burial of 234 people who died from cholera; and (5) the rehydration and referral of 3,556 suspected cholera cases to the nearest cholera treatment centre.

With respect to the WASH sector, in December 2023, three sector operational coordination meetings were held at the national level on specific responses for cholera, IDPs and disadvantaged neighbourhoods controlled by armed groups and facing recurrent violence (e.g. Cité Soleil). Some of the key outcomes and decisions of these meetings were to mobilize resources, including machinery to clean up waste piles and unblock physical access to the Brooklyn neighbourhood, and to resume water trucking in all vulnerable communities in Cité Soleil, particularly in Brooklyn and Bellecour neighbourhoods. The sector also led a joint WASH and shelter response to the armed attacks of 18 December 2023 in Ganthier, which resulted in the displacement of 488 households (29 per cent settled in four IDP sites). UNICEF, together with its partners GOAL, the Organization for Handicapped Persons (OPH), IOM and the Access Working Group, distributed 170 hygiene kits to households (850 people). The kits were sourced from the IOM Common Pipeline system and were distributed by OPH.

A CCPM survey was launched to assess performance against six core cluster functions and on accountability to affected populations (APP). Preliminary results show that of the 19 subfunctions, 8 were rated good, 10 satisfactory and 1 unsatisfactory, the latter relating to clarifying funding requirements, setting priorities and agreeing cluster contributions for humanitarian funding proposals. These results will be discussed with sector partners in 2024 for the sector's work

improvement plan. With respect to information management, communication and visibility, an operational presence map for the IDP response was created, as was a sector dashboard for January–November 2023.⁶

Child Protection and Gender-based Violence

In collaboration with its partners in Port-au-Prince, including the Organisation des Cœurs pour le Changements des Enfants Démunis d'Haïti, APADEH and Initiative Citoyenne pour les Droits de l'Homme [Citizens' Initiative for Human Rights]/Komite Pwoteksyon Timoun Site Letènèl, UNICEF ensures services for children and caregivers affected by armed group violence. This includes psychosocial activities in mobile and fixed child-friendly spaces and referrals to specialized services such as individual case management, medical care and alternative support. In December 2023, UNICEF and its partners established 10 child-friendly spaces in the most vulnerable areas of the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area. This enabled the provision of MHPSS to over 7,455 individuals, including 3,501 children (2,070 girls and 1,431 boys). Furthermore, 3,226 adults (including 2,380 women and 846 men) and 4,184 children accessed interventions aimed at mitigating, preventing and responding to gender-based violence risks.

In 2023, child protection mobile teams established child-friendly spaces in IDP camps and hard-to-reach areas, and provided psychosocial care through these spaces to 55,881 people (24,608 girls and 19,745 boys). UNICEF also provided its partners with 770 hygiene kits, 20 early childhood development kits and 50 recreational kits.

Continuous efforts were made to raise awareness in the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area, informing 32,510 individuals including community leaders, about child protection issues, such as the recruitment and use of children by armed groups.

In July 2023, Haiti's situation was a concern in the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General. UNICEF ensured the Resident Coordinator's office and other United Nations organizations received an induction on the monitoring and reporting mechanism, as well as follow-up training in the fourth quarter of the year, including on setting up the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism Working Group. On 17 October 2023, UNICEF submitted Haiti's first Global Horizontal Note report to the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict on behalf of the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism Working Group.

In October 2023, through its partners CPD and APADEH, UNICEF facilitated the rescue and transport of 60 schoolgirls trapped in La Saline amid armed group violence, as well as the provision of psychosocial support for them. Ongoing efforts include finalizing a handover protocol with the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Justice, and setting up Haiti's first transit centre with the Haitian Institute of Social Welfare and Research for children associated with armed groups or affected by armed conflict.

At the border, the situation remains dire, with migrants refused entry into the Dominican Republic, without a proper assessment of individual protection needs, including pregnant women and unaccompanied children. Through a collaboration with its partners, particularly the Groupe de Recherches et d'Actions pour le Bien-Etre Collectif [Research and Action Group for Collective Well-being] in Ouanaminthe and the Zanmi Timoun Foundation in Belladère, UNICEF successfully reunited three unaccompanied girls and 25 unaccompanied boys with their families in December 2023. In total, 1,446 unaccompanied and separated children were provided with alternative care services in 2023. UNICEF also provided funding to renovate the transit centre run by the Groupe de Recherches et d'Actions pour le Bien-Etre Collectif and continues to support its partners on protection-related issues.

UNICEF provided logistical and technical support for coordination at the national and binational level. Awareness-raising activities on the risks and consequences of irregular migration were conducted in intervention communities. These initiatives supported the government counterpart, the Haitian Institute of Social Welfare and Research, through local partner NGOs (the Zanmi Timoun Foundation, Réseau Frontalier Jeannot Succès [Jeannot Succès Border Network] and Groupe de Recherches et d'Actions pour le Bien-Etre Collectif), working at the four official crossing points (Ouanaminthe, Belladère, Malpasse and Anse-à-Pitres).

In the lower Artibonite area, daily armed group violence and kidnappings persist. UNICEF's partner in Artibonite, Plan International Haiti, started implementing MHPSS in Praville, a location identified as one of the most vulnerable areas in the commune of Gonaïves. A total of 48 children (33 girls and 15 boys) participated in the first psychosocial activity held in Praville. Several training sessions have also been organized for 20 child-friendly space monitors (10 men and 10 women) in Gonaïves, Saint Michel de l'Attalaye and Gros-Morne. Although major interventions are hindered by funding restrictions, over 50 protection agents from Plan International and five child protection committees received training on child-friendly space activity planning and psychosocial support.

In terms of coordination for the Child Protection Area of Responsibility, during the reporting period, 8,066 children (of which 4,702 were girls) affected by the humanitarian crises benefited from MHPSS, as well as various child protection activities through community-based activities in mobile and fixed child-friendly spaces, provided by child protection subcluster partners. In total, 87,051 children were reached via child protection interventions in 2023, which is 16 per

⁶ See

<https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrjoiZWMxMjgwYTMtOWNmMS00YTlhLWJmMjctOWIwY2FjOGNiODM1IiwidCI6ImY2ZjcwZjFILTJhMmQtNGYzMC04NTJhLTlY0YjhjZTBjMTIKNyIsImMiOiJF9.>

cent of the annual target. Furthermore, partner organizations of the child protection subcluster were trained on reporting their achievements through the 5W matrix in the departments of Ouest (23 people), Nippes (14 people), Sud (23 people) and Grand'Anse (15 people). Altogether, 144 people (including 72 women) were trained on different topics in 2023.

Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

In 2023, UNICEF assessed 41 partners and trained 365 service providers and front-line workers on the PSEA response, as well PSEA prevention and risk mitigation. UNICEF focused its efforts on raising awareness of PSEA and integrating the issue into UNICEF programmatic sectors to inform the greatest number of beneficiaries, reaching 439,417 beneficiaries in total. In collaboration with the World Food Programme (WFP), UNICEF funded the inter-agency complaints mechanism (hotline #8111), which received 500 calls per month on average, 89 per cent of which came from the department of Ouest. No cases of sexual exploitation or abuse were reported in 2023.

During December 2023, UNICEF trained 12 trainers from the Haitian Out-of-School Youth Livelihood Initiative (IDEJEN), a local NGO. These 12 trainers will raise awareness among groups of young people and adolescents, the organization's main target group. Through Plan International, UNICEF distributed 2,000 posters and raised awareness of PSEA among 500 people through awareness-raising sessions in Artibonite. The collaboration between local authorities (Regional Water Supply and Sanitation Offices) and WASH partners in the department of Nord made it possible to reach 139,841 beneficiaries (35,467 men, 45,925 women, 27,510 boys and 30,939 girls) with PSEA messages, including existing complaints mechanisms, and 1,856 beneficiaries in the department of Centre through UNICEF's local partners Doctors of the World and the Organisation des Cœurs pour le Changements des Enfants Démunis d'Haiti.

Furthermore, as part of activities to close the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence campaign (which took place from 25 November to 10 December 2023), UNICEF and the Network for Gender Equality in Humanitarian Action (REGAH) organized a round table, bringing together 70 people (including 53 women) living in IDP sites. UNICEF shared the six PSEA fundamental principles, including the existing complaints mechanisms, as well as the challenges related to responding to the situation of displaced girls in camps in Haiti.

Social Protection (Humanitarian Cash Transfers)

In December 2023, UNICEF achieved significant milestones in its continuous efforts to support critical sectors amid the ongoing crisis. Firstly, as part of its collaboration with the Ministry of Education, UNICEF successfully finalized cash payments for 500 teachers. Such payments not only ensure financial stability for teachers, but also strengthen the education system's overall resilience. The closure of schools between September 2022 and June 2023 due to security concerns has been a significant challenge to the education landscape. This situation has affected children's education in multiple departments and impinged the identification and continuation of crucial child protection services. Due to these school closures, there is a growing concern that certain students, particularly girls, may never return to school. Moreover, most children have experienced a significant loss of learning time, potentially leaving them ill-prepared to engage with age-appropriate curriculum, necessitating the implementation of catch-up courses.

The social protection intervention therefore prioritized three key objectives. First, the intervention's primary goal was to ensure that all children and young people return to school and are provided with tailored services that meet their specific learning needs. Second, a dedicated focus was placed on supporting all children to overcome any learning delays, which was integral to the intervention's objectives. And finally, efforts were directed towards preparing and supporting teachers to effectively address any learning delays that their students experienced.

In terms of tangible outcomes, 698 schools and 34,900 children have directly benefited from the intervention, which also encompasses a cash transfer, motivation and encouragement component for teachers. Of the 2,492 teachers enlisted, 1,992 teachers have successfully received payments through the mobile money mechanism, demonstrating an 85 per cent success rate. UNICEF has committed a total of US\$852,000, underscoring the importance of this intervention. Preliminary findings from post-distribution monitoring surveys have proved the intervention's effectiveness and flexibility, however, security concerns must be thoughtfully considered for future operations with the Ministry of Education. Approximately 6 per cent of beneficiaries expressed insecurity during the intervention's implementation, highlighting potential risks that require mitigation in future iterations.

Social and Behaviour Change, Accountability to Affected Populations and Localization

In December 2023, UNICEF significantly increased the engagement of key stakeholders to promote and influence behavioural change for positive, healthy practices through community forums and institutional engagement around childhood immunization, cholera prevention and breastfeeding. Around 568 community leaders, young volunteers and community workers were trained and deployed to support social and behavioural change, reaching 20,860 people on essential family practices and PSEA in cholera-affected areas and the department of Ouest. With 4,700 adolescents and young people newly registered to the U-Report platform, the total number of U-Reporters recruited from January to December 2023 reached over 25,000 people, with a focus on low coverage and security-affected areas. Altogether, UNICEF now has over 104,800 U-reporters across the country.

In 2023, UNICEF interventions reached over 6.45 million people with messages and information on life-saving and essential family practices (handwashing, childhood immunization, exclusive breastfeeding), protective behaviours, cholera prevention and PSEA. UNICEF strengthened community engagement and outreach interventions, which included 5,917 community dialogues, home visits and demonstration sessions on handwashing and water disinfection and preparation, and 24 radio programmes broadcasted through 25 radio stations across the country. UNICEF has established partnerships with five civil society organizations, building a network of 180 local organizations and over 2,000 young people, community relays and community leaders trained and deployed to support community engagement, including in IDPs sites. As a result of the community engagement intervention, 1,814 under-vaccinated children and 1,059 pregnant women were identified by community mobilizers, young U-Reporters and women's groups and referred to health-care facilities for vaccination or prenatal consultations.

UNICEF started collecting the views and concerns of affected communities to inform the design and implementation of its programmes, including through the use of the RapidPro/U-Report platform as a feedback mechanism (with a monthly U-Report poll), interactive radio programmes to answer and address callers' questions and concerns, a dedicated telephone number and ideas boxes implemented by partners. In total, 24,305 people had access to established accountability mechanisms to share their views or concerns, which were mainly about cholera, the poor management of waste and public rubbish bins, insufficient drinking water (and the need for water pumps), the difficulties of visiting health centres due to transport costs and travel distances, and childhood immunization (vaccination calendar, campaign dates and available vaccination sites).

UNICEF continued its partnership with WFP on PSEA reporting. As the lead agency, and in addition to its internal process, UNICEF supported the AAP Working Group, which involves 15 United Nations organizations and NGOs in the development of the AAP strategy and action plan as part of the country's humanitarian response plan. Both inter-agency and internal UNICEF AAP strategies aim to establish a collective mechanism, while also strengthening information provision, community participation and feedback and complaints mechanisms to inform response interventions. As part of this effort, UNICEF supported the training of 90 staff members from government institutions, NGO implementing partners and the Food Security Cluster on AAP mainstreaming in the humanitarian response and on community feedback and complaints mechanisms.

Human Interest Stories and External Media

The year 2023 unfolded with impactful high-level visits, beginning with that of the [UNICEF Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean](#) and culminating in a pivotal visit from [UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell](#) in July, accompanied by the Executive Director of WFP. The elevation of Haiti's emergency status to L3 earlier in the year also provided a platform to effectively profile the country's humanitarian situation in collaboration with unwavering support from UNICEF headquarters and the regional office.

A comprehensive communication strategy, encompassing [press releases](#), [multimedia and digital initiatives](#) helped underscore UNICEF's commitment to addressing the challenges faced by Haitian children. Leveraging the role of the Executive Director within the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, UNICEF conducted robust advocacy initiatives, including at the United Nations Security Council in November 2023.

Key global events, including [World Children's Day](#), provided an opportune platform to shed light on the situation in Haiti, amplifying the voices of children through initiatives such as Kids Take Over. The launch of the 2024 [Humanitarian Action for Children](#) appeal for Haiti not only addressed immediate needs, but also strategically repositioned Haiti on the global humanitarian agenda.

With respect to the media, UNICEF secured high coverage from world-renowned outlets, drawing attention to critical issues such as rising violence, malnutrition and the deteriorating situation in the department of Artibonite. Prestigious media outlets such as CNN, Le Figaro, the Associated Press and the Miami Herald played instrumental roles in amplifying UNICEF's advocacy efforts.

Youth-led advocacy initiatives emerged as a dynamic force, witnessing a remarkable 30 per cent increase in the [U-Report fan base](#), rising from 77,000 in 2022 to 103,000 in 2023. Young people actively participated in key global events, including the International Day of the Girl Child, as well as in regional initiatives related to the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean (EU-LAC) Summit.

Next SitRep: February 2024

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

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

Who to contact for further information: **Bruno Maes**
Representative
UNICEF Haiti Country Office
Tel: +509 3624 1777
Email: bmaes@unicef.org

Horica Tasuzgika Phiri
Emergency Chief
UNICEF Haiti Country Office
Tel: +509 3618 6594
Email: dtphiri@unicef.org

Lalaina Fatratra Andriamasinoro
Communications Chief
UNICEF Haiti Country Office
Tel: +509 3744 6199
Email: lfandriamasinoro@unicef.org

Annex A

Funding Status*

Sector	Requirements	Funds available		Funding gap	
		Humanitarian resources received in 2023	Carry-over	US\$	%
Health	23,981,485	3,142,742	903,514	19,935,229	83%
Nutrition	43,059,989	10,241,568	3,318,443	29,499,978	69%
Child protection	42,048,720	3,246,920	863,108	37,938,692	90%
Education	45,221,328	7,505,033	2,122,895	35,593,400	79%
WASH	60,518,572	11,897,749	2,285,737	46,335,086	77%
Social protection	14,941,584	823,128	0	14,118,456	94%
Cross-sectoral	16,160,407	1,585,838	1,370,117	13,204,452	82%
Total	245,932,085	38,442,979	10,863,814	196,625,293	80%

*As at 31 December 2023. As defined in the 2023 HAC appeal for a period of 12 months.

Annex B

Summary of Humanitarian Response Results

Sector Indicator	HAC 2023 Target TOTAL	Total Result 2023						
		Girls	Boys	Women	Men	Results	Change (since the last SitRep)	% Progress
Nutrition								
# Children aged 6 to 59 months screened for wasting	600,000	208,526	197,740			406,266	44,443	68%
# Children aged 6-59 months with SAM admitted for treatment	115,602	21,702	20,036			41,738	10,928	36%
# Primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving IYCF counselling	519,000			264,845	-	264,845	498	51%
# Children suspected with cholera and severe wasting are managed according to the national protocol for the management of cholera cases in children with acute malnutrition	4,000	106	70			177	-	4%
Health								
# Children and women receiving essential healthcare services in UNICEF supported facilities	652,200	150,227	138,899	104,687	-	393,813⁷	293,471	60%
# Children under one vaccinated against measles	162,400	102,467	91,938			194,405	18,950	120%
# New health professionals recruited and deployed in health institutions	200					299	113	150%
# Suspected cases detected, referred to a cholera treatment center or rehydrated in the community	9,000					3,163	2,556	35%
Water, sanitation, and hygiene								
# People accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking and domestic needs	1,543,900	288,092	231,625	340,718	284,793	1,144,926	30,000	74%
# People accessing appropriate sanitation facilities	118,000	8,858	7,086	10,629	8,858	35,431	-	32%

⁷ The significant increase during the last quarter of 2023 is due to the arrival of health supplies, which were provided to 100 health-care facilities that started reporting, thus increasing the number of beneficiaries reached as reported in December.

# People reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services	1,440,000	256,702	215,759	274,237	234,122	980,820	180,031	68%
Education								
# Children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning	1,120,000	37,826	23,160			80,991	3,256	7%
# Children receiving individual learning materials	382,714	26,077	27,821			71,911	-	19%
# of children accessing mental health and psychosocial support in their schools/learning programmes	382,714	5,629	3,968			9,597	-	3%
Child protection, GBVIE and PSEA								
# Children, parents, and caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support	205,200	24,608	19,745	7,164	4,364	55,881	7,455	27%
# Unaccompanied and separated children provided with alternative care or reunited	6,480	553	893	-		1,446	28	22%
# Women, girls, and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions	57,840	9,787	8,445	14,907		41,421	7,410	42%
# People with access to safe channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse	1,543,900	42,720	34,175	51,472	42,755	440,917	143,767	29%
# children, youth, parents and community leaders sensitized on recruitment and use of children by armed groups	346,571	5,458	2,862	13,757	10,433	32,510	-	9%
Social Protection								
# Households reached with UNICEF-funded multipurpose humanitarian cash transfers	33,840					8,867	890	26%
Cross-sectoral (HCT, C4D, RCCE and AAP)								
# People reached through messaging on prevention and access to services ⁴	4,000,000					6,449,612	10,900	161%
# People with access to established accountability mechanisms	30,000					24,305	3,936	81%