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Haiti

Haiti continues to face multiple crises, including worsening food insecurity and malnutrition, the Haitian-Dominican migration situation,¹ water-borne disease epidemics and high vulnerability to natural disasters. The situation further deteriorated in 2019 due to the unstable and fragile economic, political and social contexts and recurring civil unrest, which culminated in a countrywide shutdown in September that may lead to increasing needs in 2020. An estimated 3.7 million Haitians are food insecure and over 65,500 children under 5 years are affected by acute malnutrition.² More than 850,000 vulnerable people require access to primary health care, including maternal and child health services.³ With an estimated 10,000 Haitians denied entry to and deported from the Dominican Republic every month,⁴ the Haitian-Dominican migration situation remains a concern. Given their legal and social status, children who have been denied entry or expelled may not be able to access services and are vulnerable to violence and exploitation. The cholera epidemic is on the decline, with no confirmed cases since February 2019, and an 80 per cent decrease in suspected cases since 2018.⁵ However, continuous progress is required to maintain zero cases, declare the complete elimination of cholera and hand cholera prevention and control over to the Government.

Humanitarian strategy

In 2020, UNICEF will strengthen national capacities to manage acute malnutrition, improve infant and young child feeding and prevent micronutrient deficiencies among children in Haiti. UNICEF will continue to support the Government's Plan for Cholera Elimination 2013–2022 through a revised response strategy focused on surveillance and coordination, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) prevention and rapid response to diarrhoea cases. Humanitarian WASH activities will include the distribution of household water treatment products, hygiene promotion, water trucking and temporary sanitation. Protection assistance will be provided to children suffering from abuse, exploitation and family separation due to natural disasters, insecurity and/or migration. Schools will be adequately equipped and alternative learning programmes will target migrant children returning to Haiti. UNICEF will maintain contingency agreements with several partners and stocks of pre-positioned supplies to respond to humanitarian situations as they arise. UNICEF will support the Government to strengthen humanitarian coordination and disaster preparedness and response, focusing on mainstreaming climate change adaptation. To enhance efforts to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse, UNICEF will strengthen systems for reporting, as well as survivor assistance, accountability to affected populations and capacity building of staff and partners, focusing on emergency preparedness.

Results from 2019

As of 31 August 2019, UNICEF had US\$10.7 million available against the US\$23.9 million appeal (44 per cent funded).⁶ In support of the Government's Plan for Cholera Elimination, UNICEF supported rapid response teams and community awareness-raising, benefiting over 170,000 people, with zero confirmed cases in the country since February 2019. More than 7,000 children and nearly 300 teachers benefited from WASH rehabilitation in schools damaged by the October 2018 earthquake; over 2,900 children received psychosocial support; and some 8,000 children resumed school in equipped temporary learning spaces. In response to the countrywide shutdown of February 2019,⁷ 8,000 people benefited from water trucking in Cornillon (West) and nearly 860 people benefited from water trucking and household water treatment. Over 190 solar refrigerators were installed to support the national cold chain system.⁸ Nearly 16,600 children under 1 year were vaccinated against measles in the South. UNICEF covered 90 per cent of the country's therapeutic nutrition commodity needs, reaching over 18,300 children under 5 years suffering from acute malnutrition. Over 34,000 children received learning materials. Lack of funding hampered the delivery of protection services for children affected by migration, as well as community management of acute malnutrition, WASH shield activities⁹ and education.

Humanitarian Action for Children

unicef 

Total people in need

4.6 million¹⁰

Total children (<18) in need

1.9 million¹¹

Total people to be reached

648,200¹²

Total children to be reached

366,000¹³

2020¹⁴ programme targets

Nutrition

- 11,000 children aged 6 to 59 months treated for severe acute malnutrition
- 55,000 children aged 6 to 59 months treated for moderate acute malnutrition

Health

- 336,000 children under 5 years vaccinated against measles
- 78,000 pregnant women attending at least two prenatal visits

WASH

- 450,000 people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene
- 200,000 people reached with handwashing behaviour change programmes
- 20,000 people accessing appropriate sanitation facilities

Child protection

- 28,000 child victims and/or children at risk receiving case management, mental health and psychosocial support
- 1,400 unaccompanied and separated children accessing family-based care or appropriate alternative services

Education

- 30,000 children aged 5 to 14 years, including children repatriated from the Dominican Republic, receiving individual learning materials

Cholera

- 115,300 people reached by the cordon sanitaire provided by the rapid response teams

	Sector 2019 targets	Sector results	UNICEF 2019 targets	UNICEF results
NUTRITIONⁱ				
Children aged 6 to 59 months treated for severe acute malnutrition	6,500	8,526	6,500	8,526
Children aged 6 to 59 months treated for moderate acute malnutrition	13,000	9,876	13,000	9,870
HEALTH				
Children under 1 year vaccinated against measles ⁱⁱ			35,000	16,568
Pregnant women who attended at least two prenatal visits ⁱⁱⁱ			37,000	5,580
CHOLERA				
People reached by the cordon sanitaire provided by the rapid response teams	333,000 ^{iv}	170,175 ^v	333,000	170,175
Suspected cholera cases identified and responded to within 48 hours with a complete WASH package	95%	92%	95%	92%
WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE^{vi}				
People accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene	525,000	17,839	350,000	16,339
People reached with handwashing behaviour change programmes	225,000	8,983	150,000	7,483
People accessing appropriate sanitation facilities	60,000	8,983	40,000	7,483
CHILD PROTECTION				
Unaccompanied and separated children accessing family-based care or appropriate alternative services	1,800	298	800	0 ^{vii}
Child victims and/or children at risk receiving case management, mental health and psychosocial support	7,125	2,918	3,300	2,918
People in four at-risk communities reached with key messages on child protection ^{viii}	10,000	8,012	5,000	7,549 ^{ix}
EDUCATION^x				
Children aged 5 to 14 years, including children repatriated from the Dominican Republic, receiving individual learning materials	87,300	36,818	30,000	34,601
Children aged 5 to 14 years accessing formal education through rehabilitation and/or equipping of schools	11,520	13,942	5,000	7,929

* Results are through 31 August 2019 unless otherwise noted.

ⁱ Pending the finalization of the 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP)/Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO), the nutrition sector target is the same as the UNICEF target as UNICEF is the only agency providing assistance on acute malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies. While the original HRP/UNICEF target for severe acute malnutrition treatment represented 50 per cent of the expected caseload, overachievement reflects the growing caseload due to the negative impact of the socio-economic crisis on poor households, and the worsening food insecurity and nutritional status of children.

ⁱⁱ Vaccinations include measles and rubella, polio, Bacillus Calmette-Guérin, diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis, poliomyelitis and haemophilus influenza.

ⁱⁱⁱ This covers institutional visits only as mobile clinics have stopped since the end of 2017 (Hurricane Matthew).

^{iv} The sector targets for cholera are the same as the UNICEF targets as UNICEF is the lead agency on the cholera rapid response in support of the Government.

^v The underperformance on the cholera cordon sanitaire indicator is due to an 80 per cent decrease in the number of suspected cases requiring a rapid response.

^{vi} WASH interventions focused on preparedness as the need for response due to natural disasters was much less than the original planning targets.

^{vii} Since there were no large-scale natural disasters in Haiti in 2019, the need for robust emergency assistance for unaccompanied and separated children has been limited. Though civil society actors continue to report arbitrary expulsions at the border, underfunding has continued to limit UNICEF's protection services for unaccompanied and separated children at the border. Funding from the European Union is in the pipeline to support activities at the border, including care for unaccompanied children.

^{viii} This indicator corresponds to the 2019 HRP indicator "At-risk departments reached with key messaging on child protection."

^{ix} The overachievement is due to additional awareness-raising activities in urban settings following increased gang violence, which was not included in the HRP and UNICEF targets.

^x Due to an increase in available funding, notably for the 2018 earthquake response, UNICEF was able to reach more beneficiaries than initially planned. Thus, results exceed targets.

Funding requirements

In line with the Haiti HRP 2019–2020, UNICEF is requesting US\$18.6 million to meet the humanitarian needs of children in Haiti in 2020. Funding is urgently needed to treat the rising number of children suffering from acute malnutrition; maintain support to the Plan for Cholera Elimination; strengthen routine vaccination and antenatal care in the southern departments; conduct essential WASH emergency and resilience work; provide protection and assistance to children being repatriated or expelled from the Dominican Republic and those affected by natural disasters; and strengthen emergency preparedness in all sectors.

Sector	2020 requirements (US\$) ¹⁵
Nutrition	3,000,000
Health	2,200,000
Water, sanitation and hygiene	4,400,000
Child protection	2,986,000
Education	2,000,000
Cholera	4,000,000
Total	18,586,000

¹ Dominican Constitutional Court TC168/13 (2013) indicates that those born in the Dominican Republic between 1929 and 2007 to migrant parents in irregular conditions are no longer considered Dominicans and are at risk of statelessness.

² This is based on data from the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (October 2019) and the Haiti Mortality, Morbidity and Utilization Survey (2016–2017).

³ This figure is provisional and subject to change upon finalization of the inter-agency needs and planning documents. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 'Haiti: 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan' (draft), OCHA, 2019; and Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 'Haiti: 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview' (draft), OCHA, 2019.

⁴ Office for the Protection of Civilians/Haiti Protection Group, 'National Protection Strategy', November 2018.

⁵ Government of Haiti Ministry of Health cholera bulletins, 2018–2019.

⁶ Available funds include US\$7.5 million received against the 2019 appeal and US\$3.1 million carried forward from the previous year.

⁷ From 7 to 15 February, the country was in a general shutdown due to demonstrations, resulting in the closure of shops, markets, schools and health centres, and the suspension of social services.

⁸ As part of the Cold Chain Equipments Optimized Platform Project, with the financial support of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and the World Bank, 721 solar refrigerators will be installed by 2020. The process started in 2017. From January through August 2019, 193 solar refrigerators were installed, bringing the total number installed to 384 (53 per cent).

⁹ WASH 'shield' activities complement the 'sword' (rapid response) through the chlorination of water supply systems, emptying and safe disposal of septic tanks, hygiene promotion activities and the distribution of household water treatment supplies.

¹⁰ This figure is provisional and subject to change upon finalization of the inter-agency needs and planning documents. 'Haiti: 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan' (draft) and 'Haiti: 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview' (draft).

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² This includes the total children to be reached (366,000 - see endnote #13), plus 57.5 per cent of the WASH target (adult population of 258,800) and 30 per cent of the health target for pregnant women (23,400). Fifty-one per cent of people to be reached are women/girls (330,582) and 49 per cent are men/boys (317,618); and 15 per cent are people with disabilities (97,230).

¹³ This includes the largest coverage target for children under 5 years (health: 336,000) and the education target for children aged 5 to 14 years (30,000) to avoid double counting. The number of children to be reached includes 50 per cent girls and 50 per cent boys (183,000 each); and 15 per cent are children with disabilities (54,900).

¹⁴ Programme targets are provisional and subject to change upon finalization of the inter-agency planning documents.

¹⁵ Figures are provisional estimates. Financial requirements are subject to change upon finalization of the inter-agency appeals/planning documents.

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