

Poverty & Equity Brief

April 2025

HAITI

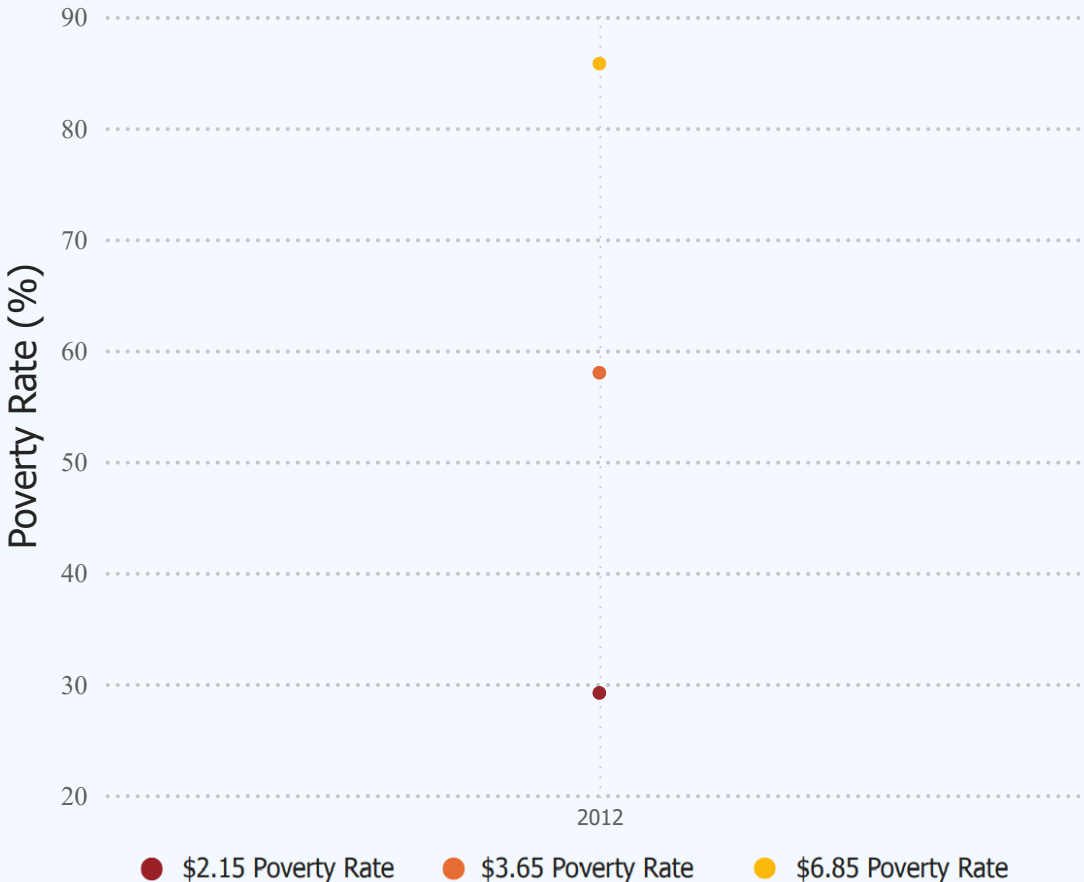
Haiti has endured recurrent shocks, with the effects of natural disasters, including the 2010 earthquake and multiple hurricanes, being compounded by conflict and social unrest. Despite installing a transitional council in April 2024 and the arrival of international forces to try to restore order, intensifying gang violence and political instability still hinder economic development. The economy contracted for six consecutive years between 2019 and 2024: by 2024, real GDP per capita was 12.3 percent lower than in 2012. The official poverty rate for Haiti was 58.5 percent in 2012 (the year of the last official household survey), with around six million people living below the national poverty line. International poverty measures show that 58 percent of the population lived on less than \$3.65 per day (at 2017 PPP) in 2012, and 29.2 percent lived on less than \$2.15 per day (2017 PPP), the highest level in the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region. Nowcasts indicate that the poverty rate is set to reach 66.7 percent (at \$3.65 per day) and 37.6 percent (at \$2.15 per day) in 2025, underlining the fall in living standards. Haiti's poverty-reduction prospects are uncertain and depend on improving security.

Around half of the population is experiencing acute food insecurity, including 2 million people with emergency levels of food insecurity and 6,000 people with catastrophic food insecurity, according to September 2024 data. Continued proliferation of gang violence has further disrupted access to food and non-food items. High food prices contribute to food insecurity and disproportionately hurt poorer Haitians who devote a larger share of consumption to food. Overall inflation rose from 20.9 percent year-on-year in January 2024 to 29.7 percent in January 2025, with food price inflation in January 2025 running higher still, at 36.7 percent.

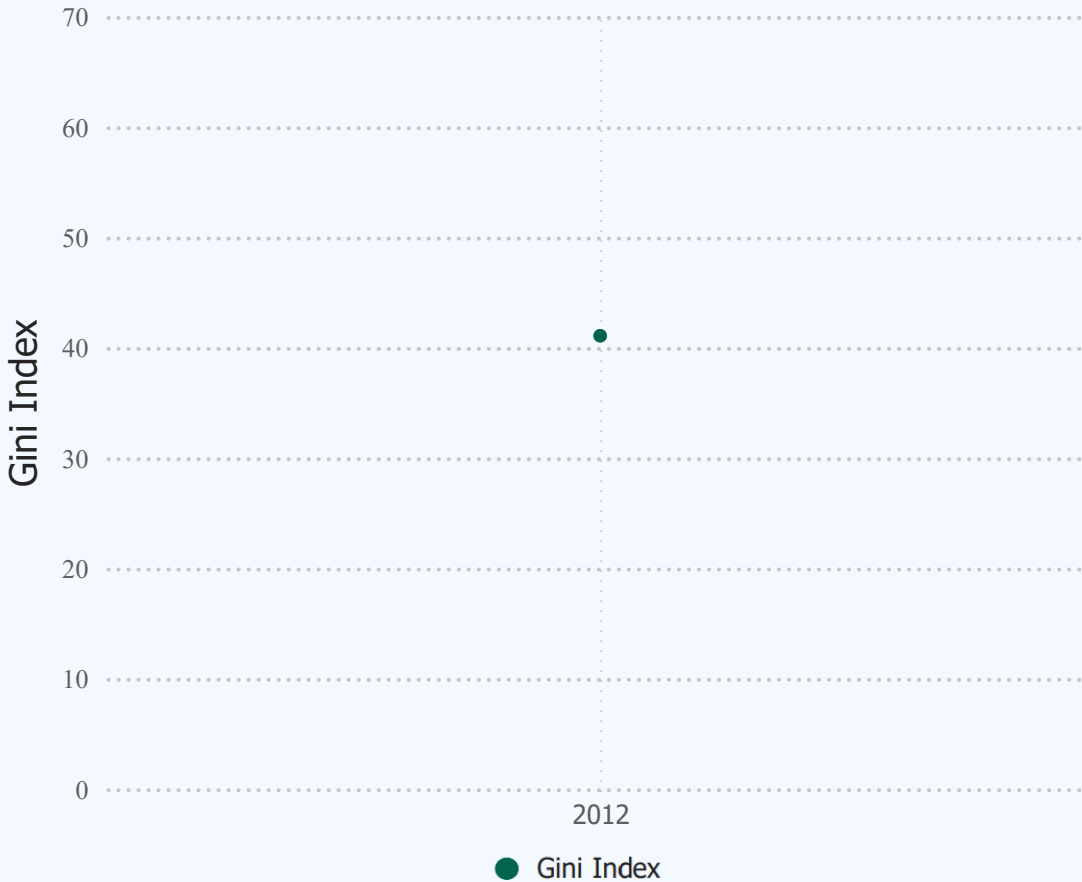
Lack of productive jobs and low access to basic services limit Haiti's poverty-reduction prospects. Despite initially dropping between 2020 and 2021, the share of working-age Haitians in employment increased between 2020 and 2023 by 10.6 percentage points, according to high frequency phone survey data. Since living standards did not increase over this period, this suggests that Haitians have been trying in vain to find livelihood activities to make ends meet; in-work poverty is widespread. This situation likely worsened in 2024 as agriculture, which provides a disproportionate share of livelihoods for the poor and vulnerable, was the sector hit hardest by the drop in economic activity: GDP in agriculture contracted by 5.6 percent. Turning to basic services, around 40.4 percent of Haitians had access to electricity in 2016, compared to the LAC average of 97.5 percent for the same year. Around 74.9 percent Haitians were using an improved water source and 54.8 percent had an improved sanitation facility. Access to services has likely deteriorated since then, with the COVID-19 crisis and rising insecurity.



Poverty Rate



Inequality



Poverty at Different Lines

Poverty Line	Number of Poor (Thousands)	Rate (%)	Year
National Poverty Line	6,019.2	58.5	2012
International Poverty Line (\$2.15/day)	2,939.6	29.2	2012
Lower Middle Income Class Poverty Line (\$3.65/day)	5,843.3	58.0	2012
Upper Middle Income Class Poverty Line (\$6.85/day)	8,640.0	85.8	2012
Multidimensional Poverty Measure		46.8	2012

Group and Multidimensional Poverty

Poverty by Group	Poverty Rate (%)	Multidimensional Poverty Components	(% of Pop.)
Urban population	40.1	Daily income less than US\$2.15 per person	29.2
Rural population	74.4	At least one school-aged child is not enrolled in school	9.0
Males	58.9	No adult has completed primary education	23.1
Females	57.2	No access to limited-standard drinking water	33.5
0 to 14 years old	66.4	No access to limited-standard sanitation	68.8
15 to 64 years old	53.2	No access to electricity	64.3
65 and older	55.3		
Without education (16+)	70.7		
Primary education (16+)	60.3		
Secondary education (16+)	44.7		
Tertiary/post-secondary education (16+)	12.7		

Note:

N/A denotes a missing/removed value, while N/A* refers to a value which was removed due to having fewer than 30 observations.

The rates in the Poverty by Group table above are shown at the \$3.65 lower-middle income line.

Data for the Poverty by Group table is derived from a 2012 survey and data for the Multidimensional Poverty Components table is derived from a 2012 survey.

Poverty Data & Methodology

The last national household survey suitable for monetary poverty measurement, the Enquête sur les Conditions de Vie des Ménages Apres le Séisme (ECVMAS), was conducted in 2012. More recent estimates of poverty are constructed using nowcasts. These nowcasts take the 2012 ECVMAS data, combine them with macroeconomic data on economic growth and population growth, construct up-to-date estimates of household consumption levels, and calculate poverty accordingly. Collecting a new household survey with detailed information on consumption is unlikely to be feasible in Haiti in the coming years. Yet other methods, including phone surveys, mobile phone data, and geospatial data may help address Haiti's data gaps.

Poverty in Haiti is measured using the cost-of-basic-needs methodology, applied to the 2012 ECVMAS. Per-capita household expenditure is used as the welfare aggregate and includes both food and non-food expenditures. The poverty line reflects a minimum threshold of 2,300 calories per person per day and is based on a food basket of 26 food items. The national overall poverty line is close to the \$3.65 (2017 PPP) international poverty line, being just 0.9 percent higher. The national extreme poverty line is 12.7 percent lower than the \$2.15 (2017 PPP) international poverty line.

Harmonization

The numbers presented in the brief are based on the regional data harmonization effort known as the Socio-economic Database for Latin America and the Caribbean (SEDLAC) - a joint effort of the World Bank and CEDLAS from the National University of La Plata (Argentina). SEDLAC includes 18 countries and more than 300 household surveys since the 80s. Several Caribbean countries have not been included in the SEDLAC project due to lack of data. Since an income-based welfare aggregate is widely used in the region for official poverty estimates, income-based microdata is used for the Global Monitoring Database (GMD) and Global Poverty Monitoring. SEDLAC covers demographics, income, employment, and education. Terms of use of the data adhere to agreements with the original data producers.