

Poverty & Equity Brief

October 2026

HAITI

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. Given conflict, natural disasters, and deteriorating macroeconomic conditions, poverty has likely worsened since then. Forced displacement is widespread: 1.5 million Haitians (12 percent of the population) are internally displaced as of May 2026. Against this backdrop, the economy contracted for the seventh consecutive year in 2025. Nowcasts suggest that the official poverty rate reached 67.2 percent by 2025.

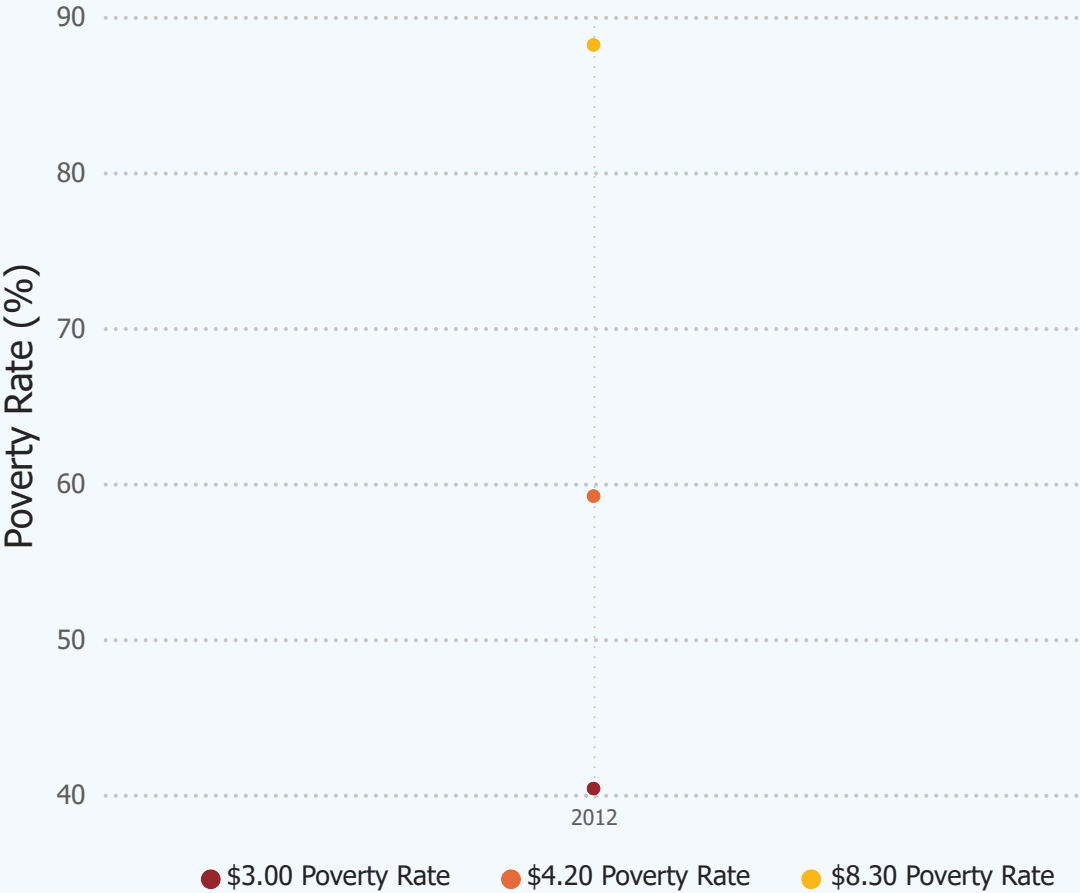
More recent data on food security confirm the drop in Haitians' living standards. According to the Haiti High Frequency Phone Survey (HFPS), the share of households reporting that at least one adult had gone an entire day without eating in the last 30 days climbed from 47.2 percent in 2021 to 73.0 percent in 2025. Relatedly, around 51.8 percent of Haiti's population are facing high levels of acute food insecurity, according to the March-June 2026 Integrated Food Security Phase Classification report. Deprivation extends to other non-monetary welfare metrics. In 2025, just 30.0 percent of Haitians had access to electricity while 65.0 percent had access to improved sanitation according to the HFPS. Access to improved drinking water was more widespread, at 92.4 percent, but this was highly dependent on bottled and tanker water, the supply of which can be interrupted by insecurity. Inequality entrenches poverty in Haiti. In 2012, the Gini index for income was 60.5 while the Gini index for consumption was 41.1, meaning Haiti is one of the most unequal countries in the Latin America and Caribbean region.

Lack of productive jobs limits Haiti's poverty-reduction prospects. Between 2021 and 2025, the HFPS suggests that the share of Haitians who are employed and at work has changed little, hovering around 40 percent. With living standards falling over this period, this indicates that in-work poverty is proliferating, with jobs being too unproductive to deliver economic security. Labor market informality is widespread: in 2025, just 31.7 percent of employed Haitians held wage jobs.

Non-labor sources are unlikely to cushion income losses. About 71.7 percent of HFPS remittance-receiving respondents reported that such receipts had fallen or been eliminated entirely between 2024 and 2025. In 2025, just 6.9 percent of Haitians lived in a household that received social assistance – in any form, from any source – in the previous year. Addressing Haiti's security and humanitarian crisis therefore remains urgent. With stability restored, Haiti could begin to seize the potential of its young and growing labor force, its proximity to large markets in the Americas, its natural capital, and its competitive wages in key export sectors to drive inclusive growth, productive job creation, and poverty reduction.



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 (\$3.00/day)	4,069.7	40.4	2012
Lower Middle Income Class Poverty Line (\$4.20/day)	5,958.8	59.2	2012
Upper Middle Income Class Poverty Line (\$8.30/day)	8,880.9	88.2	2012
Multidimensional Poverty Measure		53.2	2012

Group and Multidimensional Poverty

Poverty by Group	Poverty Rate (%)	Multidimensional Poverty Components	(% of Pop.)
Urban population	20.4	Daily income less than US\$3.00 per person	40.4
Rural population	58.7	At least one school-aged child is not enrolled in school	9.0
Males	41.3	No adult has completed primary education	23.1
Females	39.6	No access to limited-standard drinking water	33.5
0 to 14 years old	48.4	No access to limited-standard sanitation	68.8
15 to 64 years old	35.8	No access to electricity	64.3
65 and older	38.6		
Without education (16+)	53.4		
Primary education (16+)	41.9		
Secondary education (16+)	26.5		
Tertiary/post-secondary education (16+)	5.9		

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 \$3.00 international 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.

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.

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.

