

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS OVERVIEW HAITI

EXECUTIVE
SUMMARY



About this document

This document has been consolidated by OCHA on behalf of the in-country humanitarian community and partners. It provides a common understanding of the crisis, including the most pressing humanitarian needs and the estimated number of people in need of humanitarian assistance. It also represents an evidence base and helps inform joint strategic response planning. This is a technical document and should be interpreted as such without political implications or connotations.

COVER ILLUSTRATION:

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OCHA coordinates humanitarian action to ensure that people affected by emergencies receive the assistance and protection they need. OCHA works to overcome obstacles that prevent humanitarian assistance from effectively reaching emergency-affected populations and provides leadership for the mobilisation of assistance and resources by the humanitarian system.

www.unocha.org/rolac

twitter.com/OCHAHaiti



ReliefWeb Response (RW Response) is the central website for information management tools and services, enabling exchange between IASC clusters and partners operating in a protracted or sudden-onset emergency.

<https://response.reliefweb.int/Haiti>



Humanitarian InSight supports decision-makers by providing access to humanitarian data. The tool provides the latest verified information on needs, delivery of humanitarian response and financial contributions.

hum-insight.com



The Financial Tracking Service (FTS) is the primary provider of consistently reported data on global humanitarian funding and contributes to strategic decision-making by identifying gaps and priorities for effective, efficient and principled humanitarian assistance.

fts.unocha.org

Key figures and projections

Current figures (2022)

PEOPLE IN NEED

4,9M

TREND (2016 - 2022)



WOMEN AND GIRLS

58%

CHILDREN

50%

WITH DISABILITIES

14%

Projections (2023)

PEOPLE IN NEED

5,2M

TREND (2016 - 2023)



WOMEN AND GIRLS

57%

CHILDREN

55%

WITH DISABILITIES

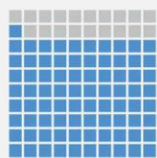
12%



BY SECTOR

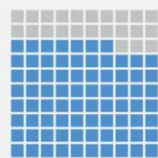
SHELTER

4,2M



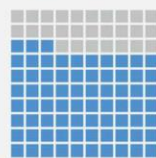
EDUCATION

4,0M



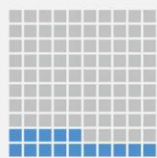
WASH

3,3M



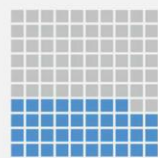
NUTRITION

0,8M



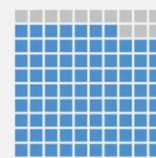
PROTECTION

2,0M



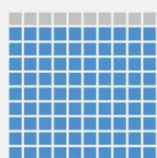
HEALTH

4,5M



FOOD SECURITY

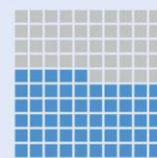
4,7M



BY AGE AND GENDER

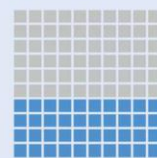
CHILDREN
18 YEARS

2,9M



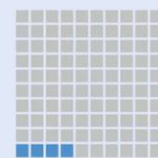
ADULTS
18 - 59 YEARS

2,1M



ELDERLY PEOPLE
60 YEARS+

0,2M



WOMEN
57%



MEN
43%



WITH
DISABILITIES
12%

A series of significant events during 2022 has led to a critical humanitarian situation in Haiti.

Humanitarian needs have risen sharply and are expected to increase further in 2023. The country is plagued by widespread violence and ongoing political unrest, against a backdrop of soaring inflation and a third consecutive year of economic recession. Nearly half the population is now hungry and, for the first time in Haiti's history, at least 19,000 people are threatened with starvation.

Armed gangs control strategic access routes in the country and the capital, Port-au-Prince, and have expanded their criminal activities throughout the country. They commit serious abuses against the population, including large-scale sexual violence, forcing entire communities to move.

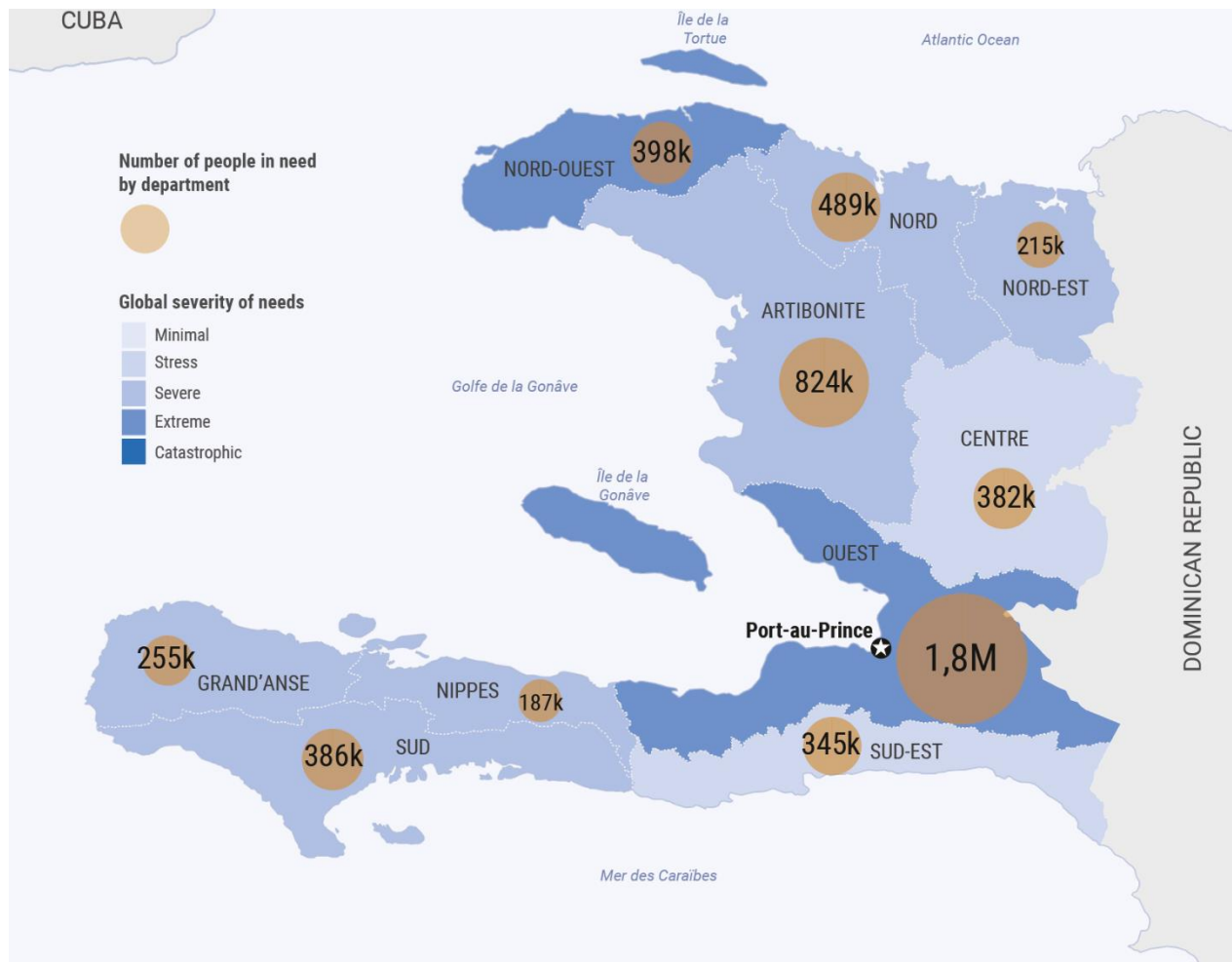
From September to November, the blockade of Haiti's main oil terminal paralysed the economy and closed

schools. Meanwhile a new cholera epidemic declared on 2 October spread to nine departments, after three years without any recorded cases in the country.

As this complex crisis continues and appears to intensify, an estimated 5.2 million people will need humanitarian assistance in 2023, up from 4.9 million last year. Of these 57% are women and girls. Humanitarian actors estimate that US\$715 million is needed to meet the challenges on many fronts.

The Humanitarian Needs Profile was developed, for the first time, around individual testimonies collected from across the country in order to include the perspective of Haitians. These testimonies were supported by analysis and data collected from humanitarian partners and through a needs assessment conducted in the summer of 2022 by the NGO IMPACT REACH.

Map of severity and people in need by department



1. INSECURITY AND VIOLENCE: 11.5 million Haitians, an entire country, are hostage to gang brutality and violence.

Since 2020, the grip of armed gangs has grown to encompass the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area (ZMPAP) through the development of sophisticated tactics and the emergence of powerful gang coalitions. OCHA estimates that at least 1.5 million people, or half of the capital's population, are directly affected by the violence and have their freedom of movement and access to basic services restricted. Waves of kidnappings, a source of funding for gangs, affect all areas of the capital. Nationally, 13% of households experienced security incidents in the 12 months prior to the needs assessment. In the ZMPAP, this rate rises to 24% of affected households.

Clashes between gangs in turf battles and with the Haitian National Police have resulted in numerous victims and a permanent climate of fear. In Cité Soleil, an emblematic commune of the ZMPAP where nearly 300,000 people live in very difficult conditions, gangs

clash among the population leaving them trapped and deprived of access to basic services such as water and sanitation, health or education.

Gender-based violence has reached alarming levels, with rape used in some areas as a weapon of war to terrorise and control populations. Fear of stigmatisation or reprisals, as well as the lack of police presence in some neighbourhoods and deficiencies in the judicial system, prevent victims from seeking justice. In addition, many survivors do not receive support or care due to the lack of nearby facilities and prohibitive transportation costs.

Children are especially affected by the abrupt deterioration of the security, economic and social situation, with particular concern for those living in gang-affected areas or returnees.

2. EXODUS: Violence is causing many Haitians to flee from their homes, either a few hundred metres or several thousand kilometres away.

There are currently more people displaced by violence than by natural hazards. In the southern departments, which were particularly affected by the August 2021 earthquake, some 2,528 people are still displaced as a result of the earthquake.

In comparison, an estimated 155,200 people, or 39,600 households, are displaced in the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area (ZMPAP) 75% of whom live in host communities.

In Cité Soleil, the conflict between two gang coalitions in July 2022 left more than 200 people dead, 250 injured and thousands displaced. Food security in the commune has deteriorated sharply, with nearly 20,000 people facing catastrophic food insecurity. The water, sanitation and hygiene situation in the commune is also very worrying. Located on the seafront, some neighbourhoods are regularly flooded and, due to the lack of maintenance of the drainage channels, mountains of waste are accumulating. As drinking water is delivered by tanker trucks, deliveries are determined by the security situation, sometimes leaving the population without drinking water for several days. In

this context, the resurgence of cholera began, confirmed on 2 October. By 31 December 2022 Cité Soleil had recorded 12% of suspected cases.

Until November 2022, hundreds of people were living in the Hugo Chavez square in the heart of the capital, gathered in a makeshift displacement site near the international airport. The plaza was a refuge for people who had fled gang clashes, particularly in April and July 2022, and the living conditions were undignified, particularly due to the lack of basic sanitation facilities. During the social unrest that shook the country between September and October 2022, humanitarian actors' access to the site, essential to support these particularly vulnerable populations, was

severely compromised. The Government took action in November to relocate the 3,000 displaced people there.

Many Haitians are trying to leave the country in search of better living conditions. Nearly one in 10 households say they will migrate in the next six months, a smaller proportion in rural areas (7%) than in urban areas (10%). However, forced repatriation continued in 2022 from several countries, even after the declaration of a new cholera epidemic. In particular, some 154,333 people were repatriated from the Dominican Republic in 2022, compared to 24,819 people repatriated in 2021.

3. AN ECONOMY AT STANDSTILL: Insecurity, the blockade of the Varreux terminal and inflation have undermined the country's economic life.

The social unrest that brought the country to a standstill in September and October 2022 was reminiscent of the "Peyi Lòk" ("closed country" in Haitian Creole) episode of 2019, a major social protest movement that paralysed the country for over three months. In September 2022, the government announced a cut in oil price subsidies and a de facto increase in prices at the pump, exacerbating the already rising oil prices and transport costs linked to the war in Ukraine, as well as the galloping inflation of the national currency.

Consequently, a wave of social protest paralysed the country until November with sometimes violent demonstrations, roadblocks, looting and transport standstill. The blockade of the Varreux oil terminal by a gang, along with the lack of fuel, supply difficulties and transport shortages have slowed down the economy considerably. Every day, more and more people are falling into extreme poverty, with 31% of the population living on less than US\$2.15 a day.

4. WIDESPREAD FOOD INSECURITY: In 2023, 4.7 million Haitians are estimated to be food insecure.

Fuel shortages, insecurity, climate change and disasters have had a major impact on the agricultural sector. Meanwhile, road blockades by gangs and

protests, significant increases in food prices, and lack of employment opportunities have all contributed to food insecurity.

The October 2022 Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis shows a major deterioration in the food crisis with 4.7 million people, almost half the population, at high levels of acute food insecurity.

For the first time in the country and the Americas, an estimated 19,200 people living in Cité Soleil are at a

catastrophic level of food insecurity. A study conducted in April 2022 in the commune by the Government and UNICEF also showed that 20% of children under the age of five were suffering from acute malnutrition, including 5% of severe acute malnutrition, well above emergency thresholds.

5. FAILURE OF THE HEALTH SYSTEM: The health of Haitians has become a privilege, with almost a quarter of the population more than an hour's travel away from primary care.

Access to health care is a significant concern for Haitians as the country experiences a resurgence of cholera. After the first two cases were reported in the ZMPAP on 2 October, the epidemic spread rapidly throughout the country, reaching more than 22,000 suspected cases by the end of December. More than half of the cases are among children.

The Haitian government and humanitarian actors are facing logistical difficulties in responding to the epidemic due to the presence of gangs, repeated fuel shortages, and a lack of qualified personnel, all of which have exacerbated the situation.

The crises in the country are having a considerable impact on the functioning of the health system. According to PAHO/WHO, in December 2022, 73% of the country's 22 largest health facilities reported that they did not have enough inputs to function normally. They face challenges such as blockages of some roads and logistical platforms by gangs, fuel shortages and social unrest, and the high cost of bringing medical inputs into the country. Fuel supply difficulties have forced facilities to ration their electricity consumption, even leading to

the temporary closure of services. In December, 45% of the 22 facilities reported fuel problems.

Both patients and medical staff are left without transport and struggling with insecurity. Patients are often limited by the price of care or a severe lack of information, particularly on how to get tested for cholera. In addition, there is a brain drain of qualified medical personnel.

Access to clean water remains a challenge and a major cause of the spread of cholera, especially for the most vulnerable populations. Overall, almost half of households report having at least one problem accessing water. In Nippes and the North-West, 71% and 75% of households respectively report not having access to sufficient drinking water. In Cité Soleil, this is the case for 80% of households. In the country as a whole, rural households are more affected, with nearly 60% lacking access to enough drinking water.

6. EDUCATION AT ALL COSTS: Only 20% of Haitian schools are public, the rest are private and therefore not affordable for the majority of the population.

The economic, social and security context severely disrupted the schooling of young Haitians in 2022. According to the education sector, 4.2 million children have been deprived of their right to education, which will have a long-term impact on their socio-economic development and expose them to the risk of being recruited by gangs.

Haiti is among the ten countries in the world with the lowest national public spending on education as a share of GDP, affecting the availability of infrastructure and teachers. For the 2021-2022 school year, 59% of households with at least one child not in school cited high education costs as the main reason.

In addition, 24% of households with at least one child aged between 3 and 17 mention insecurity at school or on the way to school as a barrier to accessing education. In ZMPAP, gang violence has targeted schools as well as schoolchildren and teachers

on their way to school, resulting in the closure of hundreds of schools. In the southern departments, efforts to rebuild the 1,250 schools destroyed in the 14 August 2021 earthquake were hampered by logistical difficulties related to gang activity and the fuel crisis. Approximately 300,000 children were left in environments not conducive to learning.

The deteriorating economic and security context and social tensions led to successive postponements of the start of the 2022/2023 school year, initially scheduled for September, until November. Schools did not reopen until early 2023, although not all pupils returned to school.

Risk analysis

This risk analysis examines developments that are likely to have an impact on needs in the years 2023. The risks and impacts are mainly at the national level, although localised events such as insecurity or natural threats may have an impact locally.

Possible risks and influences on the vulnerabilities of affected populations over the next 12 months include:

- Political developments,
- Security perspectives,
- Social issues,
- Economic downturn,
- Major natural threats (floods, hurricanes, droughts, earthquakes),
- Epidemics including the evolution of cholera.

The year 2023 will be strongly impacted by the evolution of the internal and external political situation. The path to free and transparent elections will be complicated in a context of high insecurity. International intervention in support of the national police is not guaranteed and the growing influence of armed groups will continue to have a significant impact on insecurity and therefore on humanitarian access. The trend of increasing kidnappings, human rights violations or fighting for control of territory could continue and further reduce humanitarian access.

Further migration flows and displacement of the metropolitan population and other urban areas to other neighbourhoods/regions are expected. A continuation of deportations and repatriations of Haitian migrants from other countries is expected in 2023.

Fuel accessibility will determine socio-economic development. As fuel prices rised in 2022, this could have a knock-on effect on other sectors of the economy, leading to a rapid increase in the price of basic services and consumer goods. In addition, the depreciation of the gourde against the US dollar could increase the price of imported goods on the Haitian market.

In the shadow of inflation and economic failure, black markets could develop further. This could be particularly true for fuel, which is still difficult to access, especially outside the capital.

Growing dissatisfaction, particularly among the younger generation, with their socio-economic situation could increase international migration. Others may join the ranks of armed groups.

Unless the downward spiral is halted and possibly reversed by political and economic stabilisation and enhanced security measures, the negative socio-economic trend will continue in 2023. The return to political and security stability would allow a gradual relaunch of economic activity and investment.

As every year, the country will be exposed to several natural threats, particularly during the cyclone season. The consequences of climate change, such as drought in the northwest of the country, will continue to affect agricultural crops.

The cholera epidemic will continue to spread throughout the country. While a decrease in cases may be recorded in early 2023 due to the efforts undertaken in 2022 and vaccination, it is possible that the disease will increase again during the rainy season.



The displaced
Acrylic on canvas
Shneider Léon Hilare

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