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for every child

Humanitarian Action for Children

Fleeing violence in Port-au-Prince, Vanise and her daughter found refuge at Marie-Jeanne School, now hosting more than 9,000 displaced people. UNICEF is delivering a multisectoral emergency response.

Haiti

HIGHLIGHTS

- Armed violence, displacement and collapsing services continue to endanger children in Haiti. Around 1.4 million people are displaced across the country, including more than 741,000 children. Some 5.7 million people face high levels of acute food insecurity, Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) phase 3 and above, at including 1.2 million children under age 5. Cholera remains a concern as affected populations have restricted access to health facilities, compounded by rising costs and limited resources.
- UNICEF will deliver an integrated life-saving package across health, nutrition, WASH, education and child protection through fixed and mobile teams, with humanitarian cash transfers provided as part of shock-responsive social protection. The response will prioritize hard-to-reach areas through national partners, pre-positioning, accountability and safeguarding, including through protection from sexual exploitation and abuse.
- UNICEF requests \$256.6 million to assist 1.7 million people in Haiti in 2026, including 1.2 million children. Flexible and timely resources are critical to maintain pipelines and enable UNICEF to act as provider of last resort.

KEY PLANNED TARGETS



400,000

children/caregivers
accessing community-
based mental health and
psychosocial support



590,000

children accessing formal
or non-formal education,
including early learning



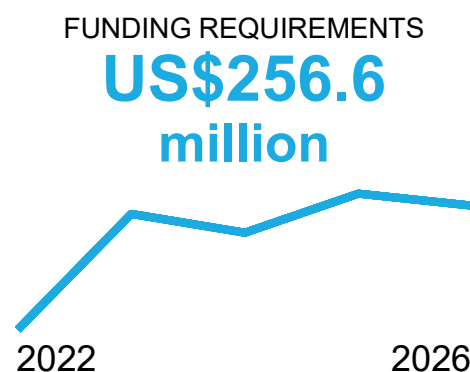
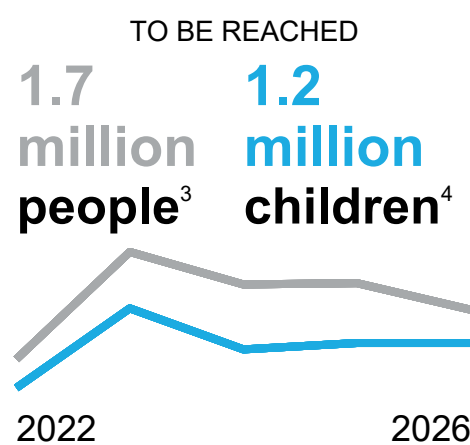
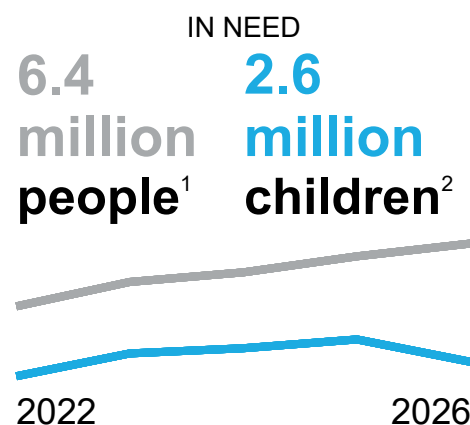
672,500

people accessing a
sufficient quantity and
quality of water



45,000

households reached with
UNICEF-funded
humanitarian cash
transfers (including for
social protection and other
sectors)



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

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

The complex and protracted humanitarian crisis in Haiti is driven by escalating armed violence, mass displacement, collapsing services, the resurgence of cholera, deepening food insecurity and widespread malnutrition, along with recurrent climate shocks. Armed groups control an estimated 90 per cent of metropolitan Port-au-Prince,⁵ while violence has spread northwards, cutting off trade and humanitarian routes. Hundreds of thousands of Haitians, including unaccompanied and separated children, are being returned from the Dominican Republic,⁶ often without documentation or support, and face risks of homelessness, hunger, violence, exploitation and de facto statelessness.

An estimated 1.4 million people are internally displaced, including 741,000 children (53 per cent of those displaced), the highest figure ever recorded.⁷ Altogether, 5.7 million people face acute food insecurity,⁸ 1.2 million of them children under the age of 5.⁹

Access to essential services is collapsing. Only 41 per cent of health facilities with beds in Port-au-Prince remain fully functional.¹⁰ The education system is disrupted: 1,606 schools were closed during the 2024–2025 academic year, affecting 7,500 teachers and depriving 243,000 students of learning.¹¹ Nearly 1.5 million children and teachers need education support.¹² Many schools shelter displaced families. At the same time, 1.3 million people urgently need life-saving WASH services.¹³

The operational environment remains volatile and dangerous. Violence continues to escalate, with rising casualties, lethal drones and an increase in kidnappings targeting civilians. Security operations present an opportunity to support stabilization efforts, but must be conducted in a manner that prevents civilian harm, repeated displacement and disruption to services. Gender-based violence has surged. Between January and September 2025, more than 7,472 cases were reported, an average of 27 new cases per day. Nearly 56 per cent involved sexual violence. Of these, 65 per cent were collective rapes committed by armed groups.¹⁴

UNICEF estimates that 30–50 per cent of armed group members are children,¹⁵ with recruitment rising in 2025 as families lost income, shelter and basic services. The United Nations verified 2,269 grave violations against children in 2024, including killing and maiming, abduction, sexual violence and attacks on schools and hospitals. More than 300 cases involved the recruitment and use of children by armed groups.¹⁶ Although releases continue with support from child protection partners, reintegration remains hindered by insecurity, displacement and weakened state institutions.

Meanwhile, climate shocks erode resilience. Above-average hurricane activity and flooding in 2025¹⁷ destroyed infrastructure, displaced families and fuelled disease outbreaks. Combined with violence and repeated displacement, these hazards push families beyond coping capacity and drive children into dangerous survival mechanisms.

SECTOR NEEDS



4.9 million
people in need of
health assistance¹⁸



1.2 million
people in need of
nutrition assistance¹⁹



1.3 million
children in need of
protective services²⁰



1.5 million
children in need of
education support²¹



3.5 million
people in need of
WASH services²²

STORY FROM THE FIELD



Linda brings her granddaughter, Rose Naika, 13 months, to a UNICEF-supported mobile clinic for care in May 2025. They fled Mirebalais commune in March due to insecurity.

When armed groups stormed Mirebalais in March 2025, families fled in terror, homes burned, bullets filled the air and lives changed forever. Linda carried her granddaughter Rose Naika, 13 months, through the chaos, seeking safety in Hinche. Now displaced along with 50,000 others, they sleep in overcrowded shelters with little food or clean water.

Since early April, UNICEF teams have been on the ground, bringing hope through mobile health clinics, vaccinations, safe water and psychosocial care for children traumatized by violence. More than 8,500 people have received life-saving support, but thousands more like Rose still wait for help, safety and a future.

HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY

The UNICEF response in Haiti will prioritize life-saving assistance in 2026, in line with Humanitarian Reset principles, linking emergency response with recovery efforts and partnering with local actors. UNICEF will deliver integrated multisectoral assistance, strengthen access to basic services, enhance protection and reinforce systems for preparedness and resilience.

Local engagement will enhance humanitarian access. UNICEF will support local services by training and equipping front-line workers and reinforcing institutions to sustain service provision.

Child protection teams will provide case management, safe referrals and family reintegration, while integrating mental health and psychosocial support across sectors. UNICEF will reinforce gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and survivor assistance, including links to health and psychosocial services.

Joint child protection programming with education and social protection activities will target children associated with armed groups as well as vulnerable youth. Health and nutrition interventions will be delivered through mobile clinics, outreach teams and rapid response mechanisms. The priority will be maternal and child health care, immunization, disease surveillance and treatment of acute malnutrition. Community health workers will receive essential supplies and UNICEF will also help strengthen cold-chain systems.

Critical WASH interventions will ensure access to safe water through trucking, household treatment and climate-resilient solutions including rehabilitating networks, installing chlorination points and supporting community-managed systems. Cholera prevention will continue through the case-area targeted intervention approach, WASH 'shield' strategies and community engagement to contain transmission and prevent outbreaks. These interventions will align with health interventions, including clinical case management and support for health facilities.

Education programming will promote learning continuity and well-being through safe spaces, teacher training, catch-up and accelerated learning, psychosocial support and non-formal opportunities for out-of-school children, adolescent girls and children with disabilities. UNICEF will support families through cash transfers. Rehabilitation of damaged schools and investment in the education management information system will strengthen governance.

Humanitarian cash transfers will increase, aligned with national social protection systems. UNICEF will support identification of vulnerable households through government databases and help strengthen institutional capacities to promote sustainability. Gender equality, disability inclusion and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse will be mainstreamed in UNICEF programmes. UNICEF will embed safeguarding principles in risk assessments, programme design and implementation and monitoring. U-Report and youth clubs in priority communes will promote and reinforce youth engagement.

UNICEF will work with authorities and partners to ensure protection and services for children affected by cross-border displacement. Multi-risk preparedness and anticipatory action remain priorities. As lead or co-lead agency for the education and nutrition clusters and the WASH sector, UNICEF will ensure coordination and provide leadership and accountability, acting as provider of last resort to fill critical gaps, and ensure continuity of child protection priorities within the consolidated Protection Cluster framework.

2026 PROGRAMME TARGETS²³



Health (including public health emergencies)

- 636,524 children and women accessing primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities
- 248,434 children vaccinated against measles, supplemental dose



Nutrition

- 613,416 children 6-59 months screened for wasting
- 129,638 children 6-59 months with severe wasting admitted for treatment
- 391,369 primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling
- 313,095 pregnant women receiving preventative iron supplementation
- 398,720 children 6-59 months receiving vitamin A supplementation



Child protection and GBViE

- 400,000 children, adolescents and caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support²⁴
- 249,800 women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions
- 800 children who have exited armed forces and groups provided with protection or reintegration support²⁵
- 7,237 unaccompanied and separated children provided with alternative care and/or reunified
- 2,000 children who have received individual case management



Education

- 590,000 children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning²⁶
- 180,000 children receiving individual learning materials
- 9,200 teachers and facilitators trained in basic pedagogy and/or mental health and psychosocial support
- 350,000 children accessing mental health and psychosocial support programmes and services in their schools/learning programmes



Water, sanitation and hygiene

- 672,500 people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs
- 106,000 people accessing appropriate sanitation services
- 550,000 people reached with critical WASH supplies²⁷



Social protection

- 45,000 households reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers (including for social protection and other sectors)²⁸



Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP)

- 4,000,000 people reached with timely and life-saving information on how and where to access available services
- 100,000 people sharing their concerns and asking questions through established feedback mechanisms
- 670,000 people with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by personnel who provide assistance to affected populations

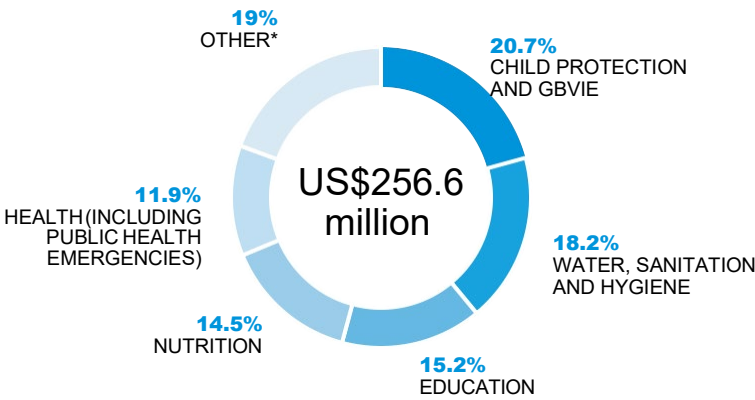
FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2026

In 2026, UNICEF requires \$256.6 million to deliver life-saving assistance to 1.7 million people in Haiti, including 1.2 million children. This funding will sustain primary healthcare and immunization, treat child wasting, expand access to safe water and cholera prevention and ensure safe learning environments with mental health and psychosocial support.

Resources will also enable protection for children and women at risk of violence, displacement and family separation; humanitarian cash assistance linked to shock-responsive social protection; and accountability to affected populations, including safeguarding against sexual exploitation and abuse. Funding will strengthen preparedness and response capacity through pre-positioned supplies, mobile teams and contingency planning, including anticipatory action to mitigate foreseeable shocks such as major climatic disasters (e.g., Hurricane Melissa in October 2025).

The overall requirement is aligned with the 2026 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan for Haiti, except for nutrition, where UNICEF is scaling up prevention interventions to address rising malnutrition. Nutrition requirements have increased by 7 per cent, from \$35 million in 2025 to \$37.3 million in 2026, reflecting expanded targets and higher caseloads. This includes \$34.7 million under the Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan and an additional \$2.6 million to provide vitamin A, folic acid and multiple micronutrient supplements for vulnerable children and women.

Given Haiti’s volatility and operating constraints, without flexible and timely funding 1.2 million children will be left without healthcare, safe water, education and protection services.



Sector	2026 requirements (US\$) ²⁹
Health (including public health emergencies)	30,480,000 ³⁰
Nutrition	37,298,900 ³¹
Child protection and GBVIE	53,240,000 ³²
Education	39,000,000 ³³
Water, sanitation and hygiene	46,800,000
Social protection	23,550,000 ³⁴
Emergency preparedness	12,000,000 ³⁵
Cross-sectoral (AAP, SBC, and PSEA)	14,230,000 ³⁶
Total	256,598,900

**This includes costs from other sectors/interventions : Social protection (9.2%), Cross-sectoral (AAP, SBC, and PSEA) (5.5%), Emergency preparedness (4.7%).*

Figures are provisional and subject to change upon the finalization of the 2026 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan.

ENDNOTES

1. Preliminary estimates from the 2026 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan for Haiti, prepared by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and humanitarian partners. Figures remain under validation as of early December 2025.
2. The 2026 inter-agency figures are still being finalized, including the estimate of children in need. UNICEF calculated the children in need figure for 2026 by applying the percentage (41 per cent of people need) used in the 2025 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan.
3. UNICEF estimates that 1.7 million people will be reached. This includes approximately 1.2 million children (613,416 aged 6–59 months screened for malnutrition and 590,000 accessing formal or non-formal education), as well as 313,095 pregnant women and 200,000 men accessing safe water.
4. Children to be reached are based on the largest sectoral targets: nutrition (613,416 children aged 6–59 months screen for malnutrition); and education (590,000 children in formal or non-formal learning).
5. Security Council, Report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime pursuant to paragraph 9 of Security Council resolution 2692 (2023), S/2025/420, 27 June 2025, available at <https://docs.un.org/en/S/2025/420>. The figure on armed group control of Port-au-Prince is cited from Sky News news report "90% of Port-au-Prince controlled by gangs as thousands forced into heaving displacement camps", 20 May 2025, available at <https://news.sky.com/story/90-of-port-au-prince-controlled-by-gangs-as-thousands-forced-into-heaving-displacement-camps-13368885>.
6. International Organization for Migration (IOM), Dashboard for Monitoring Deportations and Profiles of Deported Migrants in Haiti, available at <https://dtm.iom.int/fr/node/23491>.
7. IOM, Haiti: Report on the internal displacement situation in Haiti – Round 11 (September 2025), IOM, October 2025, available at <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/haiti-information-sheet-displacement-situation-haiti-round-11-september-2025?close=true>.
8. Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), Haiti: Acute food insecurity situation for September 2025–February 2026 and projection for March–June 2026, IPC, 10 October 2025, available at www.ipcinfo.org/ipc-country-analysis/details-map/en/c/1159760/?iso3=HTI.
9. Nutrition Cluster, Preliminary estimates from the 2026 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan for Haiti.
10. OCHA, Haiti: Situation report no. 15 – Armed attacks and displacements in the Port-au-Prince Metropolitan Area, report covering 8–14 February 2025, OCHA, 20 February 2025, available at: <https://reliefweb.int/report/haiti/haiti-armed-attacks-and-displacements-metropolitan-area-port-au-prince-situation-report-15-8-14-february-2025>.
11. Ministry of National Education and Vocational Training, Rapport n°2 sur la situation des écoles affectées par la crise sécuritaire en Haïti à la date du 30 avril 2025, 13 May 2025, available at: <https://reliefweb.int/report/haiti/rapport-ndeg2-sur-la-situation-des-ecoles-affectees-par-la-crise-securitaire-en-haiti-la-date-du-30-avril-2025>.
12. This figure reflects preliminary needs submitted by the Education Cluster for the 2026 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan. It includes 1,456,333 school-aged children and 37,342 teachers.
13. This figure represents the preliminary needs of the WASH sector as submitted for the 2026 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan.
14. GBV Sub-Cluster, Haiti: Snapshot sur les incidents de violences basées sur le genre (VBG), de janvier–septembre 2025, 12 November 2025, available at: <https://reliefweb.int/report/haiti/haiti-snapshot-sur-les-incidents-de-violences-basees-sur-la-genre-vbg-de-janvier-septembre-2025>.
15. UNICEF, "Violence drives Haiti's children into armed groups; up to half of all members are now children", press release, Port-au-Prince and New York, 28 May 2024, available at www.unicef.org/press-releases/violence-drives-haitis-children-armed-groups-half-all-members-are-now-children.
16. United Nations, Children and armed conflict: Report of the Secretary-General, A/79/878–S/2025/247, New York, 17 June 2025.
17. OCHA, Haiti: Hurricane Melissa – Flash update no. 5 (as of 10 November 2025), 17 November 2025, available at: www.unocha.org/publications/report/haiti/haiti-tropical-storm-melissa-flash-update-no5-10-november-2025. Based on data from the Direction Générale de la Protection Civile.
18. This figure represents the preliminary Health Cluster requirements submitted for the 2026 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan, representing a 15 per cent increase from the 2025 level.
19. This figure represents the preliminary needs of the Nutrition Cluster as submitted for the 2026 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan. It includes 129,638 children under 5 years of age at risk of severe wasting.
20. This figure represents the preliminary child protection needs under the Protection Cluster as submitted for the Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan. It represents a 19 per cent decrease compared with the 2025 figure (from 1.6 million to 1.3 million).
21. This figure represents the preliminary needs of the Education Cluster as submitted for the 2026 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan. It reflects a 3 per cent increase, compared with the 2025 figure (from 1,453,568 to 1,493,675).
22. This figure represents the preliminary needs of the WASH sector as submitted for the 2026 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan. It reflects an 8 per cent decrease compared with the 2025 figure (from 3,854,002 to 3,530,913).
23. The planning parameters for this 2026 appeal are based on the initial inter-agency targets established during the design phase of the Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan. While hyper-prioritization of the Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan is ongoing, UNICEF maintains the targets noted in this 2026 Humanitarian Action for Children appeal to ensure programme predictability and avoid premature reductions in life-saving capacities. If there are major contextual shifts, UNICEF will revise this appeal as required, including adjustments to targets and budget envelopes.
24. UNICEF plans to cover 60 per cent of child-protection related targets under the Protection Cluster in 2026. This figure is based on the preliminary targets submitted for the Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan.
25. The target for 2026 has doubled compared with 2025 (from 400 to 800) due to an increase in MRM-reported cases of children associated with armed forces and armed groups.
26. UNICEF plans to cover 60 per cent of the Education Cluster target in 2026. This figure is based on the preliminary Education Cluster target submitted for the Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan.
27. The distribution of critical WASH supplies is implemented alongside hygiene promotion activities; therefore, no separate indicator is reported for hygiene promotion.
28. The target of 45,000 households for cash transfers includes 35,000 newly displaced households and 10,000 households supported through preparedness and anticipatory actions, aligned with the preliminary Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan planning figure.
29. The planning parameters for this 2026 appeal are based on the initial inter-agency targets established during the design phase of the Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan. While hyper-prioritization of the Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan ongoing, UNICEF maintains the targets noted in this 2026 Humanitarian Action for Children appeal to ensure programme predictability and avoid premature reductions in life-saving capacities. If there are major contextual shifts, UNICEF will revise this appeal as required, including adjustments to targets and budget envelopes.
30. Health funding requirements have increased from \$26.5 million in 2025 to \$30.5 million in 2026, a 15 per cent increase driven by: (i) increases in costs for inputs, consumables and medical kits, due to port closures/slowdowns and insecurity-related logistics surcharges; and (ii) intensification of the response, with more service delivery points (mobile teams, temporary clinics and reinforced fixed sites) to reach hard-to-access areas and displaced populations.

31. Nutrition funding requirements have increased by 7 per cent, from \$35 million in 2025 to \$37.3 million in 2026, reflecting expanded targets and higher caseloads in line with the 2026 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan. This amount includes \$34,679,100 aligned with the Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan, plus an additional \$2,619,800 to scale up vitamin A supplementation, folic acid and multiple micronutrient supplements.
32. The funding requirement for child protection has decreased by 9 per cent, from \$58.5 million in 2025 to \$53.2 million in 2026, due to a reduction in the mental health and psychosocial support target, in line with the decrease in the provisional people in need figure for child protection in 2026. The budget includes \$24.98 million for prevention and response to gender-based violence in emergencies, while targets and budgets for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse are reflected in the cross-sectoral line item.
33. The education target has been revised from 600,000 to 590,000 children, a 2 per cent decrease compared with the 2025 appeal. Despite this adjustment, the budget has increased by 1 per cent to accommodate higher operational costs. This revision is fully aligned with the Education Cluster's provisional planning under the 2026 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan.
34. A total of 45,000 households are targeted for cash transfers, including 35,000 newly displaced households receiving \$240 per month for two months and 10,000 households supported under preparedness and anticipatory response interventions.
35. Funds required for preparedness cover contingency planning, pre-positioning of emergency supplies (including for the hurricane season), capacity-building for counterparts and emergency logistics solutions. The impact of category 5 Hurricane Melissa highlights the urgent need to scale up preparedness and anticipatory action.
36. The cross-sectoral budget includes social and behaviour change, risk communication and community engagement and accountability to affected populations (\$11.45 million); gender equality programming (\$250,000); and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (\$2.5 million).