

## Haiti

### Update on the context and situation of children

Haiti is the 10th most fragile country in the world in 2023. It is in the midst of a complex crisis shaped by a worsening political and socioeconomic situation, increasing violence and unprecedented levels of insecurity, a deep foundation of multidimensional poverty, and high vulnerability to natural disasters and climate change, further compounding an already dire humanitarian situation and hindering progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Haiti remains the poorest country in the Latin America and the Caribbean region, ranking 163rd of 191 countries on the Human Development Index and the Gender Inequality Index.

With 90% of the population living below the poverty line (and a third of them living in extreme poverty), and anti-government sentiment running high, large-scale protests have erupted periodically throughout 2023. The occupation of key institutions and critical infrastructure by criminal armed groups has caused major disruptions to critical services and utilities, including water distribution and sanitation, waste management and health care. In many areas, especially the most impoverished neighbourhoods, public services and infrastructure are non-existent.

In 2023, armed groups have grown more powerful, controlling or exercising influence over 80% of the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area. Violence perpetrated by armed groups has spread across much of the country, becoming far more intense and causing considerable internal displacement – affecting more than 205,000 people (of whom 49% are children and 58% are female). Almost 4,000 people were killed and 3,000 kidnapped in violence related to armed groups in 2023. Such violence presents significant operational challenges, as well as safety and security concerns, due to restrictions along the main routes. Sexual violence was also widespread, with over 1,100 reported attacks on women as of October.

The number of people in need of humanitarian aid in the country rose from 4.9 million in 2022 to 5.2 million in 2023 (nearly half the population), 3 million of whom are women, girls and boys. Approximately 2 million people, including 1.6 million women and children, live in areas controlled by armed groups and were in need of assistance. The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification results for March to June 2023 indicate a record 4.9 million people in Haiti facing acute hunger. According to the SMART 2023 survey, the prevalence of combined global acute malnutrition rose from 6.8% in 2020 to 7.2% in 2023, and of chronic malnutrition rose from 22.7% in 2022 to 22.9% in 2023.

The number of Haitian migrants detained and taken to the border with the Dominican Republic increased significantly, reaching over 185,310 people between January and August 2023, including pregnant women and 15,171 unaccompanied or separated children. They arrive at the border without any documentation and are at high risk of violence, abuse and exploitation.

The country experienced a cholera outbreak in 2023 that further heightened the vulnerability of already marginalized populations. By year end, the outbreak encompassed 76,900 suspected cases, 4,383 confirmed cases and over 1,158 deaths. As of December 2023, cases of cholera persisted across all departments. With almost half of confirmed cases occurring in children, the impact of the outbreak on their health and nutritional status is causing considerable concern, particularly in the context of the high levels of food insecurity and malnutrition. Despite an annual budget of US\$11.4 million for the 2022/23 fiscal year allocated to the National Directorate of Drinking Water and Sanitation, access to water and sanitation services is limited. At the national level, only 11% of the population have access to running water. People in the poorest conditions are left with undrinkable water, often collected from swamps or unsanitary wells, spreading waterborne diseases.

The impact of the crisis on health is a cause for concern. Rates of maternal and infant mortality remain unacceptably high, and coverage of prevention measures is stagnating or declining, especially for the poorest households. Only 42% of health-care institutions offer the full range of basic services, and these services are often of low quality. Attacks against medical personnel and infrastructure have led some health-care institutions to suspend or downsize their activities. They have also prompted numerous health-care workers to leave the country, further restricting the population's access to health-care services. Government spending on health care has typically been approximately 1% of gross domestic product – well below the 6% that the World Health Organization (WHO) considers necessary to reduce health-related disasters.

The education system in Haiti has been severely impacted by school closures due to recurring lockdowns mainly caused by civil unrest and violence. In 2023, the number of attacks against schools by armed groups increased by 900% and pushed half a million children out of the classroom in Port-au-Prince. Approximately 45% of children aged between 6 and 9 years have never attended school, 1 million children are at risk of dropping out, nearly half of Haitians aged 15 and older are illiterate. In 2023, the government reduced funding for the education sector by 34%.

Violence against children remains a critical concern. More than 500,000 children live in neighbourhoods controlled by armed groups, where they are witnesses or victims of armed violence. Adolescents are particularly vulnerable to recruitment by armed groups. While numbers are difficult to assess, estimates indicate that 30–50% of members of armed groups are children and adolescents. There is direct evidence that more than half and as many as 70% of women and girls living in armed group-controlled areas have experienced some form of gender-based violence.

In October 2023, the United Nations Security Council approved the deployment of the Multinational Security Support mission to Haiti through Resolution 2699, mandated to support the restoration of security and pave the way for democratic elections. This mission is expected to arrive in Haiti in the first quarter of 2024, and UNICEF foresees an initial increase in humanitarian needs on its arrival, as armed groups position themselves in response to the mission's presence. UNICEF is developing a contingency plan for ongoing deterioration in 2024, focusing on creating standby response capacity and preparedness actions in view of the anticipated increased displacement and protection needs.

## Major contributions and drivers of results

Despite serious disruptions due to political, socioeconomic and financial instability, civil unrest and insecurity, UNICEF delivered development programmes worth US\$34.5 million and humanitarian assistance worth US\$44.2 million, with a focus on maintaining essential health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), education, child protection and social protection services, and strengthening disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness. In line with the L3 activation since April 2023, requiring the Country Office to rapidly strengthen the humanitarian response to save lives, tailored response was designed and implemented for four different categories of people in need: (1) people living in areas controlled by armed groups in Port-au-Prince and Artibonite; (2) displaced people and host communities in spontaneous sites in Port-au-Prince and Artibonite; (3) Haitian migrants repatriated from the neighboring Dominican Republic; and (4) people outside Ouest department.

### Every child survives and thrives

UNICEF has continued to work with the Ministry of Health (MoH) and departmental health authorities to provide an integrated package of preventive and curative health and nutrition services to vulnerable pregnant and breastfeeding women, and children under 5 years. Quality care has been provided to children suffering from wasting, with a 90% cure rate for the 74,630 children treated against 361,823 children under 5 years screened, through a network of 800 government-led health-care facilities across

the country and other modalities (mobiles clinics and community health workers). Over 11,500 children under 5 suffering from severe wasting were treated in a humanitarian setting. Some 15,000 children aged 6–23 months benefited from home fortification with micronutrient powder, and 263,745 pregnant and lactating women were sensitized on improved infant and young child feeding (IYCF). Nevertheless, more work needs to be done in 2024 for Haiti to reach the World Health Assembly target of at least 50% exclusive breastfeeding, as the current rate stands at 40%.

In terms of immunization, catch-up activities for children who had not received any doses or who had been insufficiently vaccinated were organized on a quarterly basis in the country's 10 departments. The result is improved immunization coverage, such as 98% for Penta 1. The abandonment rate for Penta 1/Penta 3 fell from 10% in 2022 to 8% in 2023. The proportion of children having received three doses of diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (DTP) vaccine reached 94% (versus 25% in 2022). UNICEF also continued to strengthen measles vaccination in the Haitian humanitarian context, with 185,691 children vaccinated (against a 2023 target of 162,400). UNICEF supported 89 health-care facilities in the implementation of quality standards for maternal and neonatal care. Finally, 64.7% of live births were attended by qualified personnel in UNICEF-supported health-care facilities.

The systematization of awareness-raising sessions around breastfeeding and complementary feeding practices through community health workers and other community workers made it possible to exceed the objective set for 2023. More than 2,000 U-Reporters, 1,470 women, 40 media and 500 community health workers were mobilized to reach more than 6 million people. UNICEF supported the development of a communications strategy aimed at increasing immunization coverage by focusing on targeting zero-dose and under-vaccinated children.

A socio-anthropological study was carried out with the aim of analysing the factors determining the refusal or abandonment of immunization of children aged 0–5 years in the country. The results made it possible to understand that communities have a good perception of vaccination (95%) but that only 53% of parents have an immunization card. However, refusal or abandonment of immunization is mainly due to poor planning, fear of side effects, and the poor quality of vaccination services. Demand-side obstacles to vaccination identified included residence in rural areas, distance from health-care establishments, rumours and misinformation, lack of information on immunization, lack of knowledge of ASCPs and caregivers, and poor access to the media. To further understand how gender impacts access to services, a gender analysis for vaccination is expected for 2024.

Campaigns against COVID-19 and cholera were organized in the 10 health departments in addition to quarterly catch-up activities, particularly for measles. Under the leadership of the MoH and in collaboration with departmental coordination and PAHO/WHO, UNICEF supported the cholera treatment centre by providing cholera kits and supporting health-care providers. UNICEF also supported the cholera immunization campaign carried out in four health departments (Centre, Artibonite, North-West and West), with 1,889,071 people vaccinated out of a population of 2,392,105 (79% coverage).

### **Every child learns and acquires skills for the future**

In 2023, UNICEF continued to play a crucial role in supporting education, particularly in emergency situations, in Haiti by strengthening the capacity of the Ministry of Education (MoE) to respond to emergencies. UNICEF provided quality, inclusive and equitable educational opportunities in a safe and protective environment for 79,361 children, girls and boys, including children in sites for internally displaced persons affected by emergencies. A total of 59,898 children received learning materials, and 8,091 children had access to mental health and psychosocial support in their schools/learning programmes. Cash transfers benefited 2,500 teachers and 4,492 children from vulnerable families improved their access to education. A considerable number of children benefited from remedial classes. UNICEF also promoted education as a fundamental right through a back-to-school campaign.

As Cluster Lead Agency, UNICEF has also facilitated the activation of the Education cluster since March 2023, but this remains a challenge despite the existence of several sectoral coordination platforms (GSE, GSE-U, GLPE-H, departmental sectoral tables).

UNICEF supported the Effective Learning Assessment System by helping the MoE to distribute 23,509 learning manuals (LIVINIK) in the country's various departments, and by supporting the reinforcement of the quality of non-formal education services through the CENF (United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund). UNICEF supported the popularization of the school code of conduct, which contributes to the proper supervision of children in the school environment, to ensure their resilience, retention and good attendance.

UNICEF helped strengthen the capacities of the MoE and the departmental departments of education in terms of partner coordination and data collection, with the aid of rapid assessment tools and financial support. At the same time, UNICEF provided long-term support to the MoE by developing and implementing operational plans for non-formal education. In response to emergencies in the country's priority departments, UNICEF implemented activities aimed at increasing opportunities for access to education for school-age children in early childhood, primary, secondary, non-formal and technical education whose teachers and families find themselves plunged into poverty and vulnerability linked to violence and natural disasters.

As regards the response to urban violence, UNICEF supported data collection to assess the impact of violence in the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area. UNICEF also provided school kits to children at Lycée la Saline and other schools to help displaced people reintegrate into the education system.

### **Every child has access to WASH.**

In 2023, despite the deterioration of the security situation, some progress was made on creating an enabling environment and access to WASH services. The Directorate of Potable Water and Sanitation (Direction National de l'eau potable et de l'assainissement, DINEPA) has launched the update of the PHAN and prepared the next joint sector review. For the WASH sector, UNICEF is reinforcing human resource capacity for co-leadership with DINEPA through the mobilization of a dedicated WASH sector coordinator and an information manager as part of the support to scale up the humanitarian coordination and response for WASH.

In coordination with DINEPA and key sector partners, UNICEF completed its five-year urban WASH programme. In addition, UNICEF has supported the Department of Promotion of Health and Environmental Protection (DPSPE), which launched a major project to revitalize and restructure the Hygiene Public Service in July 2023. As a result of UNICEF's direct support in 2023, 53,076 additional people gained access to safe drinking water through the rehabilitation of 12 drinking water supply systems. As part of the technical assistance contract signed with DINEPA with Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) funds, UNICEF and DINEPA are preparing for the construction/rehabilitation of approximately 350 water points in the 4 regions of the country in early 2024.

With UNICEF's direct support, 146 localities have been declared open defecation free, after 51,371 people were reached with and adopted good hygiene practices. UNICEF also supported WASH interventions in schools and health-care facilities: 39 schools were covered, and 10 of them in North-West department benefited from the construction/rehabilitation of water points, hand hygiene stations and hygiene promotion, reaching 20,786 students. To ensure the sustainability of UNICEF interventions and to take climate change into account, water filters have been installed in 10 schools in the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area, along with solar panels. School Staff were trained in the maintenance and use of the facilities.

The sector coordination among donors remained strong. Five meetings with more strategic contents were held, including three with the participation of DINEPA, which had the opportunity to present its visions and plans. Due to UNICEF's continuous advocacy, DINEPA endorsed setting up a coordination framework with partners and a sector basket fund in 2023.

The worsening of the socio-political and security situation and the cholera outbreak increased the need for emergency WASH. UNICEF continued to support a package of emergency response interventions, including health and nutrition, through mobile clinics and WASH (water trucking through DINEPA and sanitation). In collaboration with the Ministry of Public Works and in partnership with Viva Rio, UNICEF has completed sanitation activities at the municipality of Cité Soleil, including mechanical cleaning of the canals and labour-intensive manual activities. The implementation through cash-for-work and mechanical approaches allowed UNICEF and partners to provide a daily cash benefit for two months to 1,256 workers (including 468 women) from the local community to remove 26,785m<sup>3</sup> of waste from neighbourhoods (about 1,618 trucks full) and improve the environmental conditions.

### **Every child is protected from violence and exploitation**

With support from the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), the governments of Canada, Germany, France and Sweden, the European Union and the Peacebuilding Fund, and in close collaboration with the Haitian Central Adoption Authority (Institut du Bien-Etre Social et de Recherches, IBESR), the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour (MAST), the Ministry of Justice and Public Security and partner non-governmental organizations (NGOs), UNICEF provided psychosocial support to 48,426 vulnerable children (22,538 girls and 18,314 boys), ensured access to protection services for victims of sexual violence, and strengthened community child protection networks. Ongoing efforts were made to raise awareness in the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area, informing 32,510 people (13,757 women and 10,433 men), including community leaders, about child protection issues such as the recruitment and use of children by criminal armed groups.

UNICEF worked to promote family reunification and family-based care, focusing on unaccompanied and repatriated migrant children, as well as child victims of violence, including violence perpetrated by armed groups. UNICEF ensured that other United Nations agencies received an induction on the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM), including the MRM Working Group. Regarding children repatriated from the Dominican Republic, UNICEF's Child Protection section has strengthened its collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Through 4 transit centres along the borders, 1,418 unaccompanied and separated children (550 girls and 868 boys) have benefited from a package of humanitarian measures, including psychosocial support and family reunification.

With the support of UNICEF, digitization and structuring activities were conducted during the year by the implementing organizations. Among these, 80% of the civil registration records were digitized by the relevant departments of the Haitian National Archives. This enables beneficiaries to access extracts from the archives to meet the needs of the State in this field. The sector's activities have also focused on building civil registry offices in the Irois commune, to enable people in the most remote areas to register births and obtain birth certificates. The Office of National Identification has been equipped to ensure the continuity of civil status identification services. Three databases have been developed in the country's three juvenile courts to facilitate better distribution of files and follow-up of cases of children in conflict with the law.

UNICEF continues to work with the government services BPM and IBESR, which are reliable resources for the management of cases of gender-based violence and for social reintegration. Furthermore, through its actions, UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of National Education and Professional Training (MENFP) in finalizing the 'Charter of good practices against gender-based violence in schools'. UNICEF is also supporting MENFP in the development of a national education

programme on violence against women, including in the context of community violence, and on positive social norms, both in schools and at community level. UNICEF and its partners have trained 530 people (490 women and 40 men) in microfinance. In addition, 20 solidarity cooperatives have been created, with 490 members (450 women and 40 men).

### **Every child benefits from an environment that promotes social behaviour change**

In 2023, UNICEF continued to build government and civil society organization (CSO) capacity and equipped them with QBS skills and capabilities (72 government and civil society staff have been trained in QBS and PAA). Strategic and operational plans have been drawn up for back-to-school, routine immunization, youth engagement and the End Violence Against Children (EVAC) strategy document. Partnerships with six CSOs have intensified community engagement and social and behaviour change interventions to support programme implementation and response to humanitarian crises. Around 6.5 million people received key messages on essential family practices and access to social services, over 200,000 people took part in discussions/dialogues, and almost 19,000 people had access to feedback mechanisms.

ToC and implementation guide documents on EVAC, with support from the Regional Office, are available, as is an updated risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) plan for cholera response. UNICEF leveraged U-Report to measure communities' knowledge, perceptions and attitudes through 12 polls on various issues ranging from cholera, vaccination and nutrition to protection, education and youth engagement. To support the implementation of social and behaviour change plans, the coordination platform was strengthened at national and regional levels through revitalization of the communication subcommittee of health departments, back-to-school alliances and accountability platforms. Efforts also focused on scaling up U-Report, especially in departments with low coverage, bringing the total number of U-Reporters to 103,542 (with a 66.6% average response to polls).

### **Every child has an equitable chance in life and access to inclusive social protection and lives free from poverty**

In 2023, Haiti has faced a profound humanitarian crisis affecting 3.2 million individuals, thereby accentuating the urgent need for immediate assistance. Within this context, the social protection data management system (SIMAST) records information for 619,296 households, representing approximately 3 million individuals. UNICEF supported the completion of the national social protection strategy and the strategic plan for 2023–2025, and significant progress was made in the effective coordination of social protection initiatives and crisis response. This progress was the result of increased efforts to harmonize national social protection policies and strategies with specific emergency response objectives. The number of children covered by the social protection programme increased to 11,340 in 2023. The UNICEF Country Office set up a shock-responsive cash transfer project with funding of US\$500,000 in collaboration with the Emergency team. By facilitating the integration of the HOPE platform, this system improves the traceability of interventions, streamlines decision-making based on reliable data, and strengthens transparency and accountability. In 2023, the system managed transactions totalling US\$634,662 for humanitarian and social protection interventions. The programme also helped set the groundwork for future large-scale interventions by establishing the HOPE platform and signing Long Term Agreements with financial service providers and data agreements with the government.

### **PSEA/gender**

As the demands placed on UNICEF and its partners have increased due to the security and humanitarian situation in the country, the development of activities related to protection from and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) has progressed significantly across all programmes. UNICEF created a specific PSEA and Gender unit, developed and endorsed two bi-

annual work plans with budgets, and integrated PSEA awareness activities in the WASH, nutrition, health and child protection sectors (reaching a total of 297,150 people). Forty-five partners were assessed, and the results were shared with other United Nations agencies (such as IOM). Approximately 32,836 people (including 9,407 girls and 14,551 women) benefited from gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions. UNICEF directly trained 250 staff and focal points, as well as 105 front-line workers. UNICEF developed and funded activities on sexual and gender-based violence with women-led organizations (Refanip, a consortium of 700 organizations), a youth programme (with 103,000 U-Reporters), and a nutrition programme for adolescent mothers.

## **Emergency**

Key achievements included: coordination of the internal L3 response and contribution to the system-wide scale-up; expansion of emergency work in Artibonite; and coordination of the cholera response and the access team. UNICEF has supported the coordination, advocacy and fundraising for responses to internally displaced persons in Port-au-Prince and in Bas Artibonite as a priority across sectors, while internally displaced persons in the south have been supported with cash/education in emergencies. The subsequent cash transfer programme – with three active Long Term Agreements granted to DIGICEL, SOGEBANK and LEVIER – allowed UNICEF to assist over 100,000 individuals each month, subject to the availability of resources.

Due to UNICEF’s direct support, 1,082,090 people affected by emergencies benefited from water supply, 718,718 from hygiene kits, and 12,890 people from sanitation. For cholera response, UNICEF provided WASH and cholera supplies, including 64 tons of chlorine, and funded NGOs and the four OREPAs to increase rapid response, including chlorination, control of residual chlorine, and awareness-raising activities. The activation of a WASH cluster contributed to improve coordination by mobilizing dedicated expertise, and to increase the active contribution of key humanitarian actors.

Regarding the response to urban violence, UNICEF supported data collection to assess the impact of violence perpetrated by armed groups in the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area. UNICEF has provided school kits to children at Lycée la Saline and other schools to help displaced people reintegrate into the education system. The Nutrition cluster has been activated and, in collaboration with the MoH, has improved the capacities of 40 community health workers – particularly in the commune of Cité Soleil. They have been decisive in the treatment of severe wasting and in improving the survival of children in areas controlled by armed groups.

## **UN Collaboration and Other Partnerships**

UNICEF values its partnerships with the Government of Haiti, United Nations Country Team partners, NGOs, CSOs and other stakeholders in the realization of children’s rights. UNICEF Haiti warmly thanks all partners who provided support in 2023 to reach the country’s most vulnerable children in an increasingly challenging operating environment.

In 2023, funds received amounted to US\$42.9 million out of a planned amount of US\$156 million of ORR, and US\$62.4 million out of a planned amount of US\$246 million of ORE. UNICEF’s main donors were the governments of Canada and the United States, GPE, BHA, the World Bank, Norway, SIDA, Japan and the European Union. In addition, implementation partnerships have been signed with 45 CSOs and 7 government entities: MSPP, MAST, IBESR, MENFP, MPCE, DINEPA, the Ministry of Environment and the Direction Générale de la Protection Civile.

UNICEF maintains a strong partnership with the government to better respond to the critical needs of children and protect their rights. UNICEF works closely with the MSPP, DINEPA, MENFP and the Ministry of Social Affairs at central and departmental levels to ensure multisectoral support for health,

nutrition, WASH, education, child protection and social protection. As a key United Nations partner, UNICEF has provided financial and technical assistance to strengthen national efforts in these key sectors. In addition to national authorities, financial and technical support was provided to NGO partners to implement key interventions in the field.

UNICEF has developed a strategic partnership with the MoH and its partners to provide quality care to ensure the survival and development of children suffering from wasting. UNICEF has also developed a joint intervention plan with the World Food Programme (WFP) on the prevention and treatment of wasting considering the nutritional crisis in Haiti. This joint plan brings together the actions of the two agencies and creates synergies to improve the impact on women and children. In partnership with PAHO/WHO and UNFPA, UNICEF has improved immunization and maternal, infant and neonatal health indicators. UNICEF also joined forces with other key partners such as the governments of Japan, Canada and Germany and GAVI to achieve these results. Other United Nations agencies (WHO, WFP, UNFPA, UNAIDS, UN Women, OCHA and IOM) and local partners such as MDM, GHESKIO, Centre Hospitalier Fontaine and CSE also contributed to these results.

The nutrition programme benefits from a strong partnership with the MoH, community health workers and more than 10 CSOs. This partnership has helped to strengthen knowledge and practices.

UNICEF has established strategic partnerships with the MoH and leading NGOs/CSOs to provide quality care for the management of childhood wasting in Haiti. These partnerships have helped to increase treatment coverage and provide quality care for children suffering from wasting, particularly in the most vulnerable areas.

The successful partnership between UNICEF and the MoH, which is very dynamic, has been the basis for the success of this well-coordinated humanitarian action for the nutrition sector in Haiti. In addition, a joint work plan between UNICEF and WFP has been developed and will be implemented in 2024, thus avoiding duplication and ensuring effective and efficient interventions. UNICEF has also developed a partnership with various organizations working in hard-to-reach areas controlled by armed groups (GHESKIO, MDM Argentina and CHF) to support primary care arrangements for mothers, newborns and children. Finally, UNICEF will continue to increase the number of its implementing partners in 2024 to expand access, particularly for children and women in vulnerable situations.

UNICEF assumed co-leadership of the Education cluster to support the MoE's emergency-related activities, and collaborated with numerous partners such as GPE, ECW, the World Bank, IDB, UNESCO, the European Union/ECHO, and local and international NGOs (AVSI, Plan International, Save The Children, OCCED'H and APADEH). UNICEF also explored new partnerships, in particular with the Slim Foundation, which successfully contributed US\$4 million to school construction. As part of ECW's multi-year work plan, UNICEF strengthened its collaboration with WFP, enabling the two agencies to work in the same schools as much as possible. UNICEF also worked closely with Civil Protection on the 'Politique nationale de protection et de promotion sociale' work plan to integrate preschool education and cash transfers.

In addition to co-leading sectoral coordination in WASH, nutrition, child protection and education sector humanitarian response, UNICEF contributed to OCHA-led humanitarian planning, inter-agency appeals, and intersectoral information and partnership management. UNICEF also collaborated closely with the United Nations Department of Safety and Security and the Country Team Operations Management Team to ensure their risk management and implementation measures comply with United Nations system-wide requirements, as well as contributing to these security and operational bodies of the United Nations system in Haiti.

The events of 2023 highlighted the importance of building flexibility into monitoring and evaluation frameworks, to be able to adapt quickly to unforeseen crises or emergencies. This adaptability has enabled us to adopt a more responsive approach to the changing needs of the communities we serve, through greater use of multipurpose unconditional cash transfers to meet families' basic needs. Faced with a drain on skilled professionals, the Country Office developed a strategic recruitment plan and initiatives to attract young talent to strengthen its workforce following the departure of over 40% of its national staff.

This adaptability involved the following, among other things:

- Reinforcing health structures through human resources support in a context of massive departure of qualified human resources to other countries enabled us to achieve a satisfactory rate of assisted deliveries in 2023. Also, the quarterly organization of catch-up vaccination activities has improved Expanded Program on Immunization performance, which must be continued to reduce the number of children with zero doses or insufficient vaccination.
- Decentralizing the treatment of wasting disease by involving community health workers in the management of uncomplicated cases in Cité Soleil has improved access and coverage, as well as treatment performance indicators. The experiment is to be extended nationwide in 2024. Partnerships with NGOs and CSOs have also proved useful in extending the programme's coverage to reach children left behind.
- Consolidating the gains made through access requires stakeholder engagement to be strengthened through field activities. The achievements of access in Martissant are of interest to other players such as the Peacebuilding Fund, which wants to take advantage of them to create synergy between access and peacebuilding from a humanitarian–development–peace nexus perspective.
- Reactivating the emergency coordination forum that brings together the emergency focal points and the UNICEF cluster/sector coordinators will help strengthen the multisectoral approach to emergency preparedness.

UNICEF collaborated closely with the MoH to develop and execute a pioneering service delivery method for managing uncomplicated wasting through community health workers in the Cité Soleil commune. Between July and November 2023, UNICEF implemented an innovative approach that screened 7,082 children (3,867 girls and 3,215 boys). Of these, 1,552 children (904 girls and 648 boys) were treated for severe wasting, and 3,488 children (1,952 girls and 1,536 boys) were treated for moderate wasting.

Education police (EDUPOL) improve the safety of schools, children and teaching staff. UNICEF advocated for EDUPOL to become part of the international force and succeeded in obtaining funding to support it.

The emergency–development–peace nexus strategy remains important to continue to support strategic initiatives/reforms aimed at strengthening the capacity of the education system while addressing immediate needs.

Effective cluster coordination between the various platforms (GSE, GSE-U, GLPE-H, departmental sectoral tables) at central and departmental levels in alignment with the objectives of the 10-year Education and Training Plan is an added value offered by UNICEF.

The use of digital platforms (U-Report/Rapid Pro and Kobo Collect) is also a major innovation for better defining the content of awareness-raising messages. The intensification of communication activities before and during integrated campaigns, and before and during catch-up activities, has helped increase demand for vaccination, while facilitating the access of vaccination teams to populations, even in areas controlled by armed groups. In addition, the funds mobilized for COVID-19 vaccination have

made it possible to strengthen various components of routine vaccination (cold chain and logistics, service delivery, demand generation, data monitoring/availability, etc.).

Systematizing the integration of awareness-raising activities into the package of all community health workers and health service providers has been critical to sustaining, promoting and protecting IYCF practices in Haiti. These efforts need to be sustained in 2024 to improve IYCF-related indicators (early initiation of breastfeeding, exclusive breastfeeding rates, dietary diversity, minimum acceptable diet, etc.) and knowledge and practices enabling breastfeeding and adequate complementary feeding.

Leveraging technological advances, particularly in data collection tools and platforms, has proved decisive in streamlining monitoring processes. The integration of user-friendly, real-time data tools has increased efficiency and improved the speed of decision-making and reporting, particularly for situation reports. Furthermore, the introduction of the KOBO tool for monitoring the daily work of community health workers in the Cité Soleil commune has helped improve the quality of the community approach to the management of severe wasting and deserves to be extended to other communes benefiting from humanitarian nutrition interventions.

The emergency context characterized by violence, particularly in urban areas, has a significant effect on the socioeconomic situation of the population, including teachers and community members, making them less able to fully assist children in terms of education. Cash transfers remain the main approach to helping families and teachers overcome problems of access and quality in the education sector, in addition to the distribution of school materials, classroom construction and teacher training, particularly on psychosocial support.