

HIGHLIGHTS (1 hour ago)

- More than 2.6 million Haitians in rural areas are now food insecure; forecasts for the coming months indicate that their situation may worsen.
- Although preparations for the hurricane season (1 June - 30 November) are underway, many challenges remain.



Map Sources: ESRI, UNCS, The Times Atlas of the World.
 The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Map created in Sep 2013.

KEY FIGURES



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CONTACTS

Christian CRICBOOM
 Head of Office
cricboom@un.org

Alix NIJIMBERE
 Deputy Head of Office
nijimber@un.org

BACKGROUND (1 hour ago)

Socio-political and economic situations affecting Haiti's most vulnerable populations

Haiti has once again been marked by socio-political tensions in recent weeks, tensions that have led to stoppages in economic and social activities in Port-au-Prince, as well as Les Cayes, Gonaïves and Cap-Haïtien. Given that these tensions are countrywide, the situation is affecting a large part of Haiti's population, who are dependent on trade with large cities for supplies and access to basic services. Since 2018, the economic situation has continued to deteriorate; the cost of living has increased due to a 23 per cent depreciation of the national currency over the preceding six months. This increase, combined with socio-political tensions and low agricultural productivity, led to an 11 per cent increase in the monthly price of the basic food basket in February

and a 26 per cent increase compared to the year before. Recurring social protests (July 2018, November 2018, February 2019 and June 2019) have had an impact on humanitarian activities and limited people's access to assistance. For instance, during the February 2019 crisis ("peyi lòk"), humanitarian actors identified difficulties in obtaining fuel, gas and water supply. These shortages have severely hampered the functioning of health facilities and have limited or prevented people from accessing food and water. Humanitarian needs in Haiti are recurrent, frequently caused by disasters such as earthquakes and hurricanes, or by epidemics. Aggravating structural factors limit access to basic services, increase chronic vulnerability, reduce the resilience of the Haitian population and contribute to perpetuating a humanitarian crisis situation. In 2019, more than one in four Haitians (some 2.6 million people) are in need of urgent humanitarian assistance. The 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan for Haiti requires US\$216 million to meet the needs of 1.3 million of Haiti's most vulnerable people.

FEATURE (1 hour ago)**More than 2.6 million Haitians in rural areas are now food insecure; forecasts for the coming months indicate that their situation may worsen.**

The number of food-insecure people doubled between 2018 and 2019. The main causes of this food insecurity are the reduction in agricultural production brought on by dry spells and the significant deterioration of the economic situation. At present, some 2.6 million people are estimated to be food insecure. More than two million are in "crisis phase" (IPC3) and 571,000 in "emergency phase" (IPC4). This situation is expected to worsen in the coming months. Several departments (Nord, Nord-Ouest, Nord-Est, Ouest and Sud-Est) continue experience a dry spell that has greatly affected the winter season crops that represent 20 per cent of national production. Forecasts for the spring season (representing 60 per cent of national production) are pessimistic. The lack of rainfall has also affected livestock, making the situation in the country's pastoral areas critical.

FEATURE (1 hour ago)**Preparation for the hurricane season is underway, but many challenges remain**

Classified as the most vulnerable country in Latin American and the Caribbean and the 14th most vulnerable country in the world, Haiti is significantly exposed to hydrometeorological and seismic hazards that bring about grave humanitarian consequences. Haiti is located directly on the path of seasonal hurricanes and is subject to extreme weather conditions. Its vulnerability to natural hazards is exacerbated by environmental degradation, such as deforestation, river dewatering and soil erosion. In underdeveloped cities, chaotic urbanization and lack of sanitation increase people's vulnerability. Although the Government of Haiti has made considerable efforts in recent years to coordinate preparedness and response efforts, as demonstrated in the aftermath of the October 2018 earthquake, there is still an urgent need to assist Haitian institutions in building capacity and preparing for disasters. Humanitarian and development organizations are working closely with the Civil Protection Directorate (DPC) to improve its ability to adequately prepare for the hurricane season that began on 1 June 1 and will continue until 30 November 30. Joint activities include emergency planning, pre-positioning of relief stocks, emergency shelter rehabilitation, sensitization of at-risk populations and training activities for key stakeholders. Despite these initial milestones for preparedness activities, challenges remain in the rapid and effective preparation of everything needed to cope with a hurricane or an extreme and sudden natural phenomenon. DPC, who function as the backbone for emergency response coordination in Haiti, do not have an adequate and dedicated budget, facing enormous operational challenges that hinder its ability to fully respond to emergencies. The international community advocates for the continued strengthening of the DPC, including the adoption of a



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HAITI

Situation Report

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legal framework to address these constraints and the modification of its current status, allowing it to acquire a new operating model that will facilitate the fulfilment of its mandate as the national authority in charge of emergency management.

OCHA coordinates the global emergency response to save lives and protect people in humanitarian crises. We advocate for effective and principled humanitarian action by all, for all.

<https://www.unocha.org/latin-america-and-caribbean-rolac/haiti>

<https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/haiti>

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