

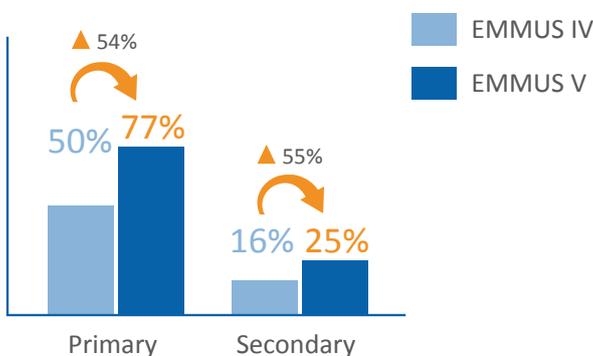


EDUCATION

The education sector faces many challenges, due to the lack of public infrastructures, the often prohibitive non-public school fees, and the uneven distribution of schools throughout the country. However, over the past years, important progress was made, notably regarding attendance to primary school. The UN works with the Government of Haiti to continue increasing children's access to school, regulate the education system, abolish education fees, and define quality standards for state and non-state service providers.

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES

Universal primary education
 Net attendance Rate (%)



77% of children of primary school age (11-16) are attending primary school, a significant improvement from just under 50% in 2005-2006.

With the national programme for free education under implementation in all ten departments, more than 1 million

children are currently estimated to benefit from free education. The UN supported 750,000 of these children along with more than 16,500 teachers and 2,700 schools with the distribution of school kits, teaching materials and furniture to contribute to raising the enrolment rate in 2011-2012.⁽¹⁾

Close to 200 schools were completed with water and sanitation facilities in earthquake-affected areas, providing over 70,000 children with access to an improved learning environment while reducing their exposure to water-borne diseases.

Awareness raising on cholera prevention reached 1 million children in 5,000 schools.⁽²⁾

In support of the implementation of the National School Meals Programme, the UN worked with more than 16 local and international NGOs partners to provide a hot meal every day to 685,000 children in over 2,000 schools country-wide.⁽³⁾



This year, a total of 894,000 children countrywide were reached with school meals by different partners.

In an effort to increase local purchases and stimulate the Haitian economy, the UN also provided locally produced milk, “Let a Gogo” to 28,000 children in 72 schools.⁽⁴⁾

To reduce charcoal consumption and promote alternative energy sources, the use of briquettes to cook meals in schools was promoted, thereby saving 20,575 Kg of charcoal and 123,000 Kg of wood during the 2011-2012 school year.⁽⁵⁾

Technical assistance provided to the Ministry of Education in curriculum reform, teachers’ training and consolidation of national statistics on the education sector.⁽⁶⁾

CHALLENGES AND PERSPECTIVES

In 2013, the UN will continue supporting government institutions to increase children’s access to quality formal, community and family-based early learning opportunities.

The UN will also accompany the government in developing policy frameworks to regulate the education system and define quality standards for service providers.

In response to the food security crisis that hit Haiti this year, WFP is planning to provide take-home rations to school children during the lean season (April-May 2013).

Efforts will also continue to scale up local purchases of food and increase the number of briquettes used to cook meals in schools.



A SUCCESS STORY: GLORIA

Gloria lives in the community of Citron Marlique in the mountains on the outskirts of Port-au-Prince. She shares a one-room cement house with her parents and three sisters.

She’ll be joining about 200 other primary-school-age children. The brand-new school is just down the hill from her house. It was built by UNICEF, with the support of the community of Citron Marlique.

On the first day of school, a school kit finds its way to Gloria. She quickly finds a spot in her classroom to sit down and carefully write her name in each of her new notebooks.

A visitor to the classroom asks Gloria why she appears so happy.

“I’m happy because I come to class and I can join my friends,” she replies.