



HEALTH

Even before the earthquake, the health situation in Haiti was already one of the most fragile in the region. However, over the past years, significant progress was made in several areas, including nutrition and HIV-AIDS prevention. In 2012, the United Nations continued to support a wide range of programmes to improve service delivery to the most vulnerable through state and non-state actors. The fight against cholera has remained a priority. Since the outbreak of the epidemic in October 2010, the United Nations has spent about USD 118 million on prevention and treatment activities in support of the Government of Haiti.

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES

The Government, the UN and a coalition of partners led a [nationwide vaccination campaign](#), resulting in nearly [3 million children](#) under 10 years vaccinated against polio, measles and rubella.

The [acute malnutrition rate for children](#) under 5 years old went from 9% in 2006 to [5.1% in 2012](#).

[More than 360,000 Haitians](#) benefited from programmes to prevent and treat moderate acute malnutrition, with support from the Ministry of Health and the UN.⁽¹⁾

At the end of 2012, the country-wide cholera case fatality rate was 1.2%, down from a high of 2.4% in November 2010.⁽²⁾

[10-year plan on the elimination of cholera in Haiti](#) finalized by the Ministry of Health and the National Potable Water and Sanitation Directorate (DINEPA), with UN technical assistance.⁽³⁾

The [Initiative launched by the UN Secretary-General](#) on 11 December 2012 comes in direct support to this plan. This Initiative promotes expanded access to clean water and sanitation, improved health care and the global mobilization of resources to tackle cholera in Haiti in 2013 and beyond.

[HIV infections were reduced](#) by 50% from 2008 to 2012.⁽⁴⁾

The number of people on antiretroviral drugs over the last 4 years increased by 200%.⁽⁵⁾

More than 70% of tuberculosis patients were cured in 2012, with support from the Global Fund to fight Aid, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Activities supported by this Fund are implemented by the Government of Haiti, the Haitian Red Cross and several NGO partners.⁽⁶⁾

More than 62,000 children under five received **Long Lasting Insecticised Nets** in four of the most endemic departments.⁽⁷⁾

Four **maternity clinics** are now **operational** in the Port-au-Prince area, in the Artibonite and in the South-East departments, providing **emergency neo-natal obstetrics care, advice on family planning** and **prevention of mother-to-child transmission services**. Such services were also introduced in 11 additional health facilities throughout the country, covering more than 18,300 pregnant women.⁽⁸⁾

Awareness-raising campaign on sexual and reproductive health reached more than 20,000 youths in the Nippes and South-East Departments.⁽⁹⁾

In 2012, **more than 47,000 Haitians living in camps received preventive health information** on waterborne diseases, malaria, dengue, TB/HIV and reproductive health in the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area.⁽¹⁰⁾

CHALLENGES AND PERSPECTIVES

- The UN will continue to accompany the Government of Haiti to plan, manage, monitor and decentralize basic social services, particularly in the most vulnerable and under-served communes.
- It will work with the Government to increase national resources dedicated to the national HIV-AIDS response, which, to date, is more than 90% funded by external partners.
- The UN will also continue to provide financial and dedicated technical assistance to Haitian institutions to further integrate cholera treatment into health structures and improve waste management and water and sanitation services in health facilities and throughout the country.



VOICES

In Haiti, kangaroo mother care helps stabilize the health of premature babies

In Haiti, a baby born before term is very vulnerable.

Yet, thanks to kangaroo mother care, more and more preterm babies born in the neonatal unit of the Hospital of the State University in Port-au-Prince are surviving.

The method, named for the similarity to how certain marsupials carry their young, was initially developed to care for preterm infants in areas where incubators are unavailable or unreliable. In kangaroo care, the baby wears only a diaper and a hat and is placed in foetal position with maximal skin-to-skin contact on the parent's chest.

"Kangaroo care arguably offers the most benefits for preterm and low-birth-weight infants, who experience more normalized temperature, heart rate and respiratory rate, increased weight gain and reduced incidence of respiratory tract disease," explains Health Specialist at UNICEF Haiti Mireille Tribié.

Kangaroo care also helps to improve sleep patterns of infants and to promote frequent breastfeeding.

⁽²⁾ See specific UN fact sheet on cholera preparedness and response for more information

⁽⁴⁾ Source: UNAIDS/WHO/MSPP 2012 estimates

⁽⁵⁾ Source: MSPP/PNLS, from 20,015 (2008) to 41,200 (2012) ; UNGASS Report; PNLS bulletin Dec. 2012

⁽⁶⁾ GHESKIO, ZL/PIH, Care, FEBS, PLAN, Save the Children, MARCH, VDH, FOSREF, CDS, Espoir Anaise and PSI. Since 2011, UNDP is the Principal Recipient of the Fund and is accountable for its financial management.

UN Entities: ⁽¹⁰⁾IOM, ⁽³⁾PAHO/WHO, UNDP, ⁽⁸⁾⁽⁹⁾UNFPA, ⁽³⁾⁽⁷⁾⁽⁸⁾UNICEF, ⁽¹⁾WFP