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.\(^{(2)}\)

\(^{(1)}\) 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.\(^{(8)}\)

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.