



Bringing hearts and minds
together for children

HAITI HUNGER CRISIS

RESPONSE UPDATE

A newsletter from Plan International Haiti | 16 January 2023 |



OUR APPROACH

Plan International Haiti works with different stakeholders, and in coordination with the humanitarian sector, so that children and families become more resilient in overcoming the social, economic and environmental challenges that currently undermine their rights and safety in Haiti. In a country facing multiple complex crisis, we continue to assess and mitigate the risks for our project participants, partners and ourselves. Our multisectoral response with the local communities and partners strengthens the protection and resilience capacities, as well as ensures flexibility in action and improved rapid response capacity.

"Since I don't have enough money to feed them, anyone can try to harm them in exchange for food, especially the girls, who are more vulnerable. If someone I don't know gives them something, I always ask why"

Junette (45) single mother of 9

IN A HUNGER CRISIS, CHILDREN, ESPECIALLY GIRLS ARE MOST AFFECTED

The multiple crisis Haiti faces, especially the exacerbated food insecurity, economic degradation, political instability and gang violence are plunging almost **41%** of its population in urgent need of assistance.¹ This situation has massive impacts on children, who, according to UNICEF, are predicted to make up **77%** of the people in need in 2023.²

Protection, access to regular, balanced meals, to education, to clean water and to specialised services remains a major need for them.

Our Rapid Gender Analysis in Belle-Anse, Marigot and Jacmel (Autumn, 2022), showed that **80%** of respondents

say that **girls and women** have the lowest portion because boys and men work harder.

Before and during the crisis, due to a combination of factors such as food insecurity, precariousness, and lack of livelihoods, women and children, especially young girls, are at **high risk of abuse and exploitation, including domestic labor in the cities, child labor, child prostitution and survival sex**. The lack of legal and protection systems amplifies these risks for women and girls.

With **47%** of schools still closed³, the need for safe, clean and affordable education is still urgent. **'The cost of education has become more expensive with the crisis'**. In terms of gender, women feel belittled, not because of lack of skills, but simply because they are women.

In a recent press release⁴, we highlight the impact of the hunger crisis on families who depend on the agricultural sector. Family division of labour of domestic tasks and coping strategies exposes children at increased risks, especially during routine activities such as collecting water and fuel for cooking.





OUR WORK



WE WORK IN

6 COMMUNITIES North-East across

Fort-Liberte, Ferrier and Capotille

AND

16 COMMUNITIES South-East across

Belle-Anse, Jacmel, Marigot, Cayes
Jacmel, La Vallee de Jacmel

CURRENT RESPONSE

Food Security and Nutrition:

- Cash transfers to access food items
- Awareness raising via radio/door-to-door on food security and nutrition
- Working with schools and youth clubs to build school gardens and distribute key agriculture messages

WASH

- Hygiene/WASH kits to schools
- Cholera kits to families
- Sanitation & sensitisation campaigns
- Build and repair water pumps
- Menstrual hygiene kits to girls

Child Protection

- Capacity training on SGBV, protection, SRHR and referral mechanisms
- Awareness campaigns through youth clubs and community leaders

WHAT'S NEXT?

Voices of Girls

Continuing our case studies⁵, we are finalising the details of a piece of inclusive consultation based on feminist participatory action research principles to raise the voices of girls affected by the crisis in Haiti.

South-East Food Security Cluster Leadership

In collaboration with Commission Nationale sur la Sécurité Alimentaire (CNSA), we co-lead the **NE Food Security Cluster**. Efforts are underway to establish leadership in the SE Food Security Cluster for better coordination and response.

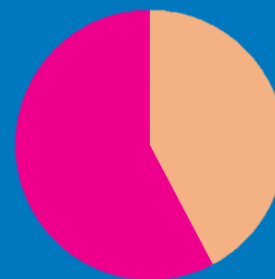
Continuous contextual analysis

We will publish the latest Rapid Gender Analysis in the NE and continue to input into the ENSSAN Survey in coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture. We will work with REACH on their Multisectoral Needs Assessment.

SINCE JULY 2022, WE SUPPORTED MORE THAN 3,000 FAMILIES OR 20,000 PEOPLE INCLUDING 11,200 CHILDREN:

GIRLS (58%)

BOYS (42%)



WITH CASH ASSISTANCE, KEY CHILD PROTECTION, SGBV, NUTRITION, HYGIENE, WASH AND FOOD SECURITY MESSAGES



STRENGTHENING LOCAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE CAPACITY AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

This emergency plan is helpful for my family as well as other families in my locality as this community is known as one of the most vulnerable areas to flooding. Since I was born, I can't count how many times our house has been flooded. We've lost everything we had at home: books, clothes, uniforms, shoes. However, I will never forget the year following Hurricane Laura in 2020, I lost a few days of school because my family lost all their belongings. Diana (17)

“WE CALL ON THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY **NOW TO
FLAG IN ITS SUPPORT, ESPECIALLY GIVEN THE
CATASTROPHIC IMPACT OF THE HUNGER CRISIS IN
HAITI.”**

DAPHNE DE BORDES, COUNTRY DIRECTOR, PLAN INTERNATIONAL HAITI

REFERENCES

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ABOUT PLAN INTERNATIONAL

Plan International is an independent global child rights organisation committed to supporting vulnerable and marginalised children and their communities to be free from poverty. By actively connecting committed people with powerful ideas, we work together to make positive, deep-rooted and lasting changes in children and young people's lives. For over 75 years, we have supported girls and boys and their communities around the world to gain the skills, knowledge and confidence they need to claim their rights, free themselves from poverty and live positive fulfilling lives.



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