

HAITI

People in need¹

5.5 million

People targeted¹

3.6 million

Total Funding requirement for WHO Emergency Operations for Haiti

US\$22 250 000

including US\$ 8 950 000 for Grade-3 Haiti Humanitarian Scale-up

1 Data provided for People in need and People targeted is taken from the Global Humanitarian Overview 2024, these figures may be subject to change as part of the HRP process throughout the year.

CONTEXT

Haiti's complex and prolonged humanitarian crisis has significantly worsened in 2023, primarily due to the escalating insecurity tied to the expansion of gang-controlled territory surrounding the capital city. The level of violence severely intensified and expanded geographically in the second quarter of 2023. This situation is also impacting the response capacity of already deteriorated local health systems, further reducing access to essential health services for the Haitian population.

The ongoing conflict and surge in kidnappings affect the entire country, particularly the Ouest and Artibonite departments. Artibonite accounts for a staggering 48% of all kidnappings in the nation, with kidnapers often targeting public transportation, resulting in the simultaneous abduction of multiple individuals for ransom. There is also a distressing surge in cases of gender-based violence (GBV) throughout the country, with particularly alarming increases in the Ouest, Artibonite, and Nord departments, based on data from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

Haitians already faced limited access to healthcare due to inadequate resources and infrastructure, and the situation has worsened due to the rise in violence linked to gang activities. The Haitian Ministry of Public Health and Population (MSPP) reported that 21% of communal sections lack healthcare facilities and nearly half (48%) of the approximately 50 hospitals in the Port-au-Prince Metropolitan Area (PAPMA) are in areas under gang control or influence. This places both medical staff and patients at great risk, leading many health facilities to close due to safety concerns.

Incidents targeting patients, medical staff and health facilities have increased exponentially, with the MSPP reporting 39 cases of doctor kidnappings in the first half of 2023, including high-level staff from the Ministry. Both public and private operational health facilities struggle to remain open due to the departure of qualified staff and the rising operational costs linked to increased prices of fuel and essential supplies. In the Bas Artibonite region, the security situation has significantly reduced health facility operations, and health workers in the Ouest and Artibonite departments express growing concerns over deteriorating working conditions. The lack of healthcare access, combined with rising violence, exacerbates the humanitarian crisis in Haiti, particularly improving vulnerable populations.

The intensification of gang attacks on neighbourhoods around the capital has led to the displacement of tens of thousands of people. According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), there were almost 200 000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the Ouest, Centre and Artibonite departments as of November 2023, distributed in about 100 formal and informal camp sites. The majority of IDPs were identified in the West Department, most of which are in the Metropolitan Area of Port-au-Prince. This situation has prompted increased health sector interventions in 26 IDP sites covering over 24 000 IDPs, including enhanced surveillance, the provision of basic health services, and the referral of patients found in IDP sites to health facilities. Despite significant needs to expand health interventions, they remain limited to 23 camps, due to a lack of partners and resources.



Community health workers talk with community members.

Photo: PAHO / WHO

WHO'S STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- Enhance local and national surveillance, early detection and rapid response capacity for disease outbreaks, including in IDP sites, to reduce morbidity and mortality related to epidemic-prone threats.
- Scale up the capacity of the Haitian health system to provide continued access to, and delivery of, essential health services to population groups in situations of vulnerability, including pregnant women and survivors of gender-based violence in the exacerbated humanitarian crisis caused by gang violence.

WHO 2024 RESPONSE STRATEGY

WHO's response focuses on addressing the urgent health needs of the Haitian population affected by the country's ongoing humanitarian crisis. The primary objective is to support Haitian health authorities in combating the cholera epidemic, while also enhancing the capacities of the health system and partners to swiftly identify and respond to any emerging public health threats in a deteriorated humanitarian context.

WHO's overarching goal is to save lives, reduce preventable mortality and morbidity, and limit the transmission of epidemic-prone diseases, including cholera. To do so, WHO will continue to support and strengthen the operational capacity of reference hospitals and primary healthcare facilities, primarily those in "green zones" and "yellow zones". This aims to ensure the continued delivery of essential healthcare services to local populations, particularly to those severely affected by gang violence and with a special focus on the most vulnerable individuals. WHO's immediate response priorities include:

- **Scaling up response capacities for cholera and other epidemic-prone diseases:** WHO will prioritize the reinforcement of the MSPP's response capabilities in collaboration with the limited number of health partners with operational capacity in Haiti. This entails bolstering epidemiological and laboratory surveillance for cholera and other epidemic-prone diseases, enhancing cholera case management, and implementing effective risk communication and community engagement strategies to promote preventative and protective actions. This comprehensive approach will extend to IDP sites, ensuring appropriate protection mechanisms and delivery of health interventions in situations of extreme vulnerability.
- **Enhancing pre-emergency and emergency services:** To address the intensifying acute health needs, WHO will increase its technical, operational, and logistical support to local health networks, primarily health facilities located in or around areas under the influence of gangs. Particular focus will be placed on maternity wards in facilities located in border departments, which are currently overwhelmed following the closure of the border with the Dominican Republic. WHO will prioritize further capacity-building of health personnel in emergency care delivery and procurement of essential medicines, medical supplies and equipment, fuel, generators and other logistical items to support trauma care for individuals wounded by gang violence. Another pivotal part of WHO's response strategy targets the extended delivery of essential health services through mobile clinics to individuals displaced to temporary sites. These services will encompass the identification and referral of critical conditions including GBV cases and persons in need of mental health support. In that context, the expansion of surveillance activities within these sites will be paramount to ensure the timely detection and management of public health concerns.



Cholera test kits arrive for use in the community.

Photo: PAHO / WHO



A community health worker talks with a woman.

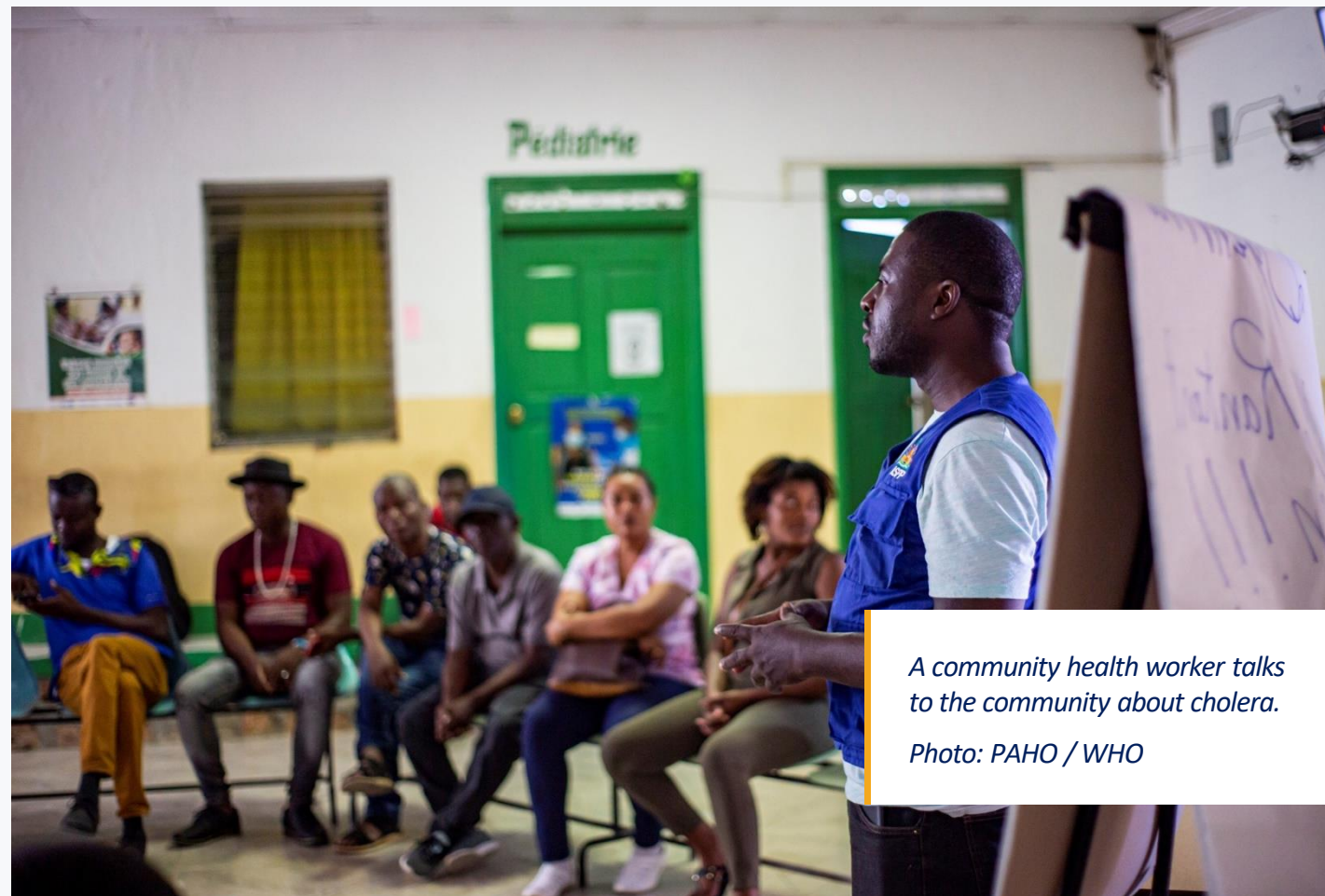
Photo: PAHO / WHO

KEY ACTIVITIES FOR 2024

- Support and expand laboratory and epidemiological surveillance capacities for cholera and other epidemic-prone diseases, including in IDP camps.
- Monitor and evaluate the quality of case management, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and infection prevention and control (IPC) measures in Cholera Treatment Centers (CTCs).
- Improve the clinical management of cholera cases in CTCs through capacity-building, small repairs and the provision of medical and WASH supplies.
- Enhance community-based surveillance and sensitization through the Community Health Workers (CHWs) network.
- Scale up healthcare access and delivery capacity in primary health services.
- Provide medicines and supplies for hospitals in areas under gang influence or control, including maternity wards.
- Provide mobile clinics in IDP sites, including for supporting GBV and mental health cases.
- Support emergency rooms and operating theaters for the continuation of activities, such as the provision of medical supplies and equipment.
- Support the National Ambulance Center with the provision of medical supplies and logistical means to ensure the transportation of patients.
- Support hospitals around the drafting of a mass casualty plan.
- Build capacity of medical staff on emergency case management.
- Sustain the operational capacity of hospitals strained due to the current situation, such as providing access to electricity, fuel, waste management, etc.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2023

CHOLERA OUTBREAK: COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS PILLARS OF RESPONSE ON THE GROUND



A community health worker talks to the community about cholera.

Photo: PAHO / WHO

Integrated into their communities, Community Health Workers (CHWs) like Esterline Dumezil in Cite Soleil are the backbone of the community health response. “The people in my commune regularly talk to me about their health problems, but also about their economic and social problems,” she explains. Following an extensive training, Esterline was deployed to the field along with 300 other colleagues, aiming to go door-to-door and educate the community on the symptoms and risks of cholera, as well as good hygiene, water and sanitation practices.

CHWs also carry out surveillance work, record and report suspected cases and deaths in the community and refer patients to nearby cholera treatment centers. This day-to-day work allows the ministry to detect cholera as easily as possible in order to respond quickly to those in need of care and help prevent the spread.

“We are still on the ground, despite the difficult situation in the country. As CHWs, we are not idle, and we are trained to help the most vulnerable. It’s a duty, and it’s a source of pride for us,” concludes Esterline.

Thanks to the financial support of donors who support PAHO’s response in Haiti, more CHWs are currently being trained and mobilized in the fight against cholera in the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area. CHWs are an essential component of the Haitian health system to protect communities from health threats such as cholera, promote healthy behaviours, and facilitate access to health services.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Medical supplies arrive for a Haitian community.

Photo: PAHO / WHO

2024 FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

Emergency Appeal Requirement

Haiti Emergency Appeal Funding requirements by pillar (US\$'000)

	Haiti	Regional support	Total
Funding requirement by response pillar			
P1. Leadership, coordination, planning, and	600	400	1 000
P2. Risk communication and community er	1 700	200	1 900
P3. Surveillance, case investigation and cor	6 000		6 000
P4. Travel, trade and points of entry			
P5. Diagnostics and testing	1 500	300	1 800
P6. Infection prevention and control			
P7. Case management and therapeutics	5 300		5 300
P8. Operational support and logistics	2 800	700	3 500
P9. Essential health systems and services	2 750		2 750
P10. Vaccination			
P11. Research, innovation and evidence			
Total	20 650	1 600	22 250

The table above presents WHO's funding requirements to respond to the ongoing emergency event in 2024. In addition to this, WHO also requires funding for its core work to support countries to prevent, prepare, detect and respond to emergencies. The table below presents the overall needs for both the ongoing emergency response (included in WHO's 2024 Health Emergency Appeal) and the core budget for WHE in the country, (included in WHO's Programme Budget 2024-2025).

Haiti Emergency Appeal Funding requirements by emergency event (US\$'000)

Emergency Event	Country level operations	Regional level support	Total
Multi-Region Cholera	12 400	900	13 300
Haiti Humanitarian Crisis	8 250	700	8 950
Total	20 650	1 600	22 250



A PAHO response team member assesses needs in a camp for internally displaced people. Photo: PAHO / WHO