

Haiti Food Security

Sud and Grand'Anse Departments



USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) provides life-saving humanitarian assistance—including food, water, shelter, emergency healthcare, sanitation and hygiene, and critical nutrition services—to the world's most vulnerable and hardest-to-reach people.

Haiti is one of the poorest countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. It has an approximate population of 11.5 million people, with about half of them living in poverty. **Haiti ranked 111th of 117 countries included in the 2019 Global Hunger Index**, which is a composite measure of undernourishment, child wasting, child stunting, and child mortality. About half of the population is under 25 years of age.



OVERVIEW

- Grand'Anse and Sud are located on the southern peninsula of Haiti, where they are particularly vulnerable to hurricanes, droughts, and floods.
- The population size is estimated at about 720,443 persons in Sud and 421,505 persons in Grand'Anse.
- Three livelihood zones are observed in these areas: HT07 (South beans, bananas, and petty trade), HT08 (Southwestern coast maize, cassava, and bush products), and HT01 (dry coastal maize and charcoal).
- Agriculture is the main source of income: 80 percent of households in Sud have access to land for agriculture, compared to 84 percent in Grand'Anse.
- Gender disparities in access to education and income prevail.

POVERTY AND MALNUTRITION

Poverty, food insecurity, and malnutrition are widespread in both departments.

Indicator	Sud	Grand'Anse
Poverty rate*	50	70
Food insecurity	44.6	77.9
Stunting	22	21.6
Wasting	2.1	3.6

HDHS, 2017

* Two bottom-quintiles from 2017 HDHS wealth index.

POVERTY ANALYSIS

For this analysis, poor households are those living in the two lowest quintiles of the asset distribution.



Generally, poor households in Sud ...

- are more likely to be: 1) headed by men, and 2) less educated than non-poor households.
- tend to live in structures with walls made from cane/palm, dirt/mud, or other materials; sand floors; and metal or leaf roofs.

Generally, poor households in Grand'Anse ...

- are more likely to be headed by someone not married and, in particular, widowed.
- have a higher proportion of members who are younger than 15 years of age.

Poor households in both departments ...

- are less likely to own modes of communication (e.g., radios, TVs, mobile phones, landlines/house phones, computers, and Internet); modes of transportation (e.g., cars, motorcycles, and bicycles); and other assets, such as fridges, watches, and bank accounts.
- are more likely to access drinking water through (protected or unprotected) springs and are less likely to have access to a toilet.
- experience shocks related to natural disasters or health emergencies.

FOOD AVAILABILITY

PRODUCTION AND IMPORTS

The main staple food crops across Haiti are plantains, rice, maize, wheat flour, tubers, beans, peas, and sorghum. Domestic production meets **58 percent** of demand for **maize** and **22 percent** for rice. **Wheat flour and edible oils** are imported.

Households have a **high dependence on purchases** to meet their basic food needs. Poor households are **highly susceptible to global and local food price fluctuations**.

CHALLENGES

Communities and farmers face **challenges**, including limited storage and processing capacities, climate change, limited access to land, limited access to markets, poor irrigation systems, roads, limited availability of agriculture extension services, finance, and supplies.

SOCIAL DYNAMICS

Female-headed households use fewer inputs, have less productive farms, have lower incomes, and suffer from higher rates of food insecurity.

ACCESS TO FOOD

COST OF FOOD

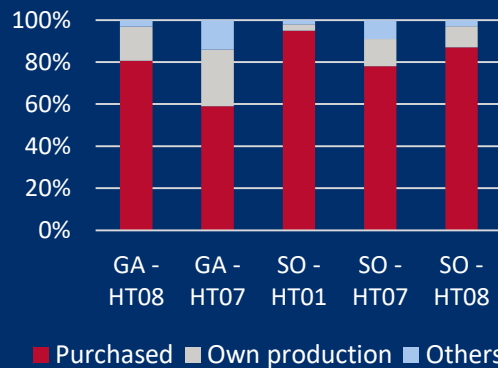
High inflation and a **volatile exchange rate** are reflected in high prices for staples such as rice, wheat flour, and cooking oil.

Households experience multiple **shocks** that influence their access to food, including high prices, health emergencies, loss of employment, and political instability.

Households benefit from various forms of food assistance (cash/vouchers, etc.).



Mode of Accessing Food by Livelihood Zone



COPING STRATEGIES

Households have adjusted their **consumption patterns** or employed some of the strategies at their disposal to increase their access to food. For example:

- Reducing meal portions
- Reducing number of meals
- Securing cheaper food items

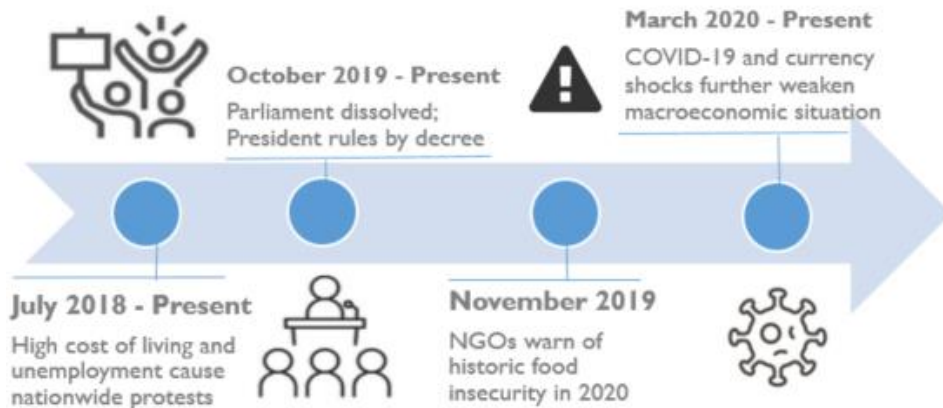
FOOD UTILIZATION / NUTRITIONAL STATUS

Diets are mainly cereal based and lack diversity, contributing to macro and micro-nutrient deficiencies (iron, iodine, folate, vitamin A, and zinc).

In both departments, children are **more likely to be stunted** if their mother is illiterate. Children in both departments are more likely to be wasted if they are girls, are children whose pregnancy was unwanted, or are children whose mothers are divorced, separated, or widowed.

STABILITY

External risks such as **political instability, violence, crime, natural disasters, macroeconomic volatility, and medical emergencies** threaten the stable supply of food, income, and economic resources to poor Haitian households.



The Research Technical Assistance Center (RTAC) is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under the terms of contract no. 7200AA18C00057. This two-page document was produced by NORC at the University of Chicago and is the sole responsibility of RTAC and NORC at the University of Chicago and does not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.



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