



- [English](#)
- [Español](#)
- [Français](#)
- [Arabic](#)
- [Chinese](#)



- [HOME](#)
- [INFO BY COUNTRY](#)
- [WHAT WE DO](#)
- [ABOUT UNICEF](#)
- [UNICEF PEOPLE](#)
- [VOICES OF YOUTH](#)
- [UNITE FOR CHILDREN UNITE AGAINST AIDS](#)
- [PRESS CENTRE](#)
- [PROGRESS FOR CHILDREN](#)
- [MULTIMEDIA CENTRE & UNICEF BLOGS](#)
- [UNICEF PHOTOGRAPHY](#)

[unite for children](#)



At a glance: Haiti

[Latest](#)

[Newline](#)

[Background](#)

[Funding appeals and humanitarian action updates](#)

[Statistics](#)

[Contact us](#)

[Country website](#)

[Countries in this region](#)

[All countries](#)

Creating a Haiti fit for children, three months after the earthquake



© UNICEF/2010/Nybo

At the Champs de Mars settlement camp in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, a young boy and his mother adjust to living in a settlement three months after the earthquake.

tent after their home was destroyed in the 12 January earthquake.

By Thomas Nybo

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti, 9 April 2010 – As Haiti slowly moves forward after the 12 January earthquake, UNICEF is set to release a comprehensive report taking stock of humanitarian efforts on behalf of the children of Haiti.

[VIDEO: Watch now](#)

The report, to be released next week, provides an overview of the progress made so far, as well as a critical look at the challenges ahead – all with an eye to the future, in the hope of transforming Haiti, with children at the centre of the plan.

‘A children’s recovery’

"UNICEF has said from the beginning that the earthquake was very much a children's emergency," said UNICEF Haiti Acting Chief of Communication Edward Carwardine. "And it's also important that this now becomes a children's recovery, that we put children at the forefront of the agenda as we move forwards, that we make sure their voices are heard, that their needs are identified and clearly spelled out, and that their rights are upheld as we move forwards."



© UNICEF video

A boy smiles in a temporary camp for families displaced by the earthquake in Haiti.

The upcoming report, Mr. Carwardine added, “tries to sum up what's been achieved, but also identifies where the needs still are, where there are still gaps – and there are many things that still need to be done for children.”

One of these children is 13-year-old Shasha Liza. The earthquake destroyed her home and killed her father. She's now living in a small tent with nine other people.

"It's not easy to live in this camp," she told a visitor. "If we had proper tents, and better access to water, it would be easier to stay here for a longer period of time. It's difficult now – it's filthy, and when it rains, all the dirt turns to mud."

Shasha is anxious to return to school, and because of the earthquake, she now wants to study politics and become a senator, with the goal of changing the Haitian Government from within.

Return to learning

With schools across the country beginning to re-open, Shasha’s dream is now becoming a little more accessible.



© UNICEF video

Schoolchildren sit outside their makeshift classrooms in Port-au-Prince, the Haitian capital.

UNICEF and its partners are working hand-in-hand with the Government of Haiti to return more than 700,000 students to school over the next two months. On 7 April, Minister of Education Joel Desrosiers Jean-Pierre joined UNICEF Acting Representative in Haiti Françoise Gruloos at the re-opening of L'Institution Sacre-Coeur. More than 1,000 eager students showed up for the event.

"We have to go back to school," Mr. Desrosiers Jean-Pierre told the students. "It's our only chance to succeed after the earthquake. So, dear children, I invite you to take up your school activities once again."

Education, nutrition and protection

Education is one of three key areas UNICEF has identified as being crucial for the future of Haiti's children. So far, UNICEF has distributed hundreds of School-in-a-Box kits and some 1,400 school tents for temporary classrooms.

"It's about ensuring education for every child – an inclusive education, an education that presents no barriers or obstacles to children to come back to school," said Mr. Carwardine. "It's about ensuring that we focus on the nutrition of children. Undernutrition has been a major problem here in Haiti, even before the earthquake, and so we want to make sure that as children move out of this current emergency, that they don't fall victim to yet another emergency, which is one of malnutrition.

"The third area is protection," he added. "It's not just about protecting children in these difficult times; it's also making sure there are systems and structures in place that provide a long-term safety net for children, that their rights are protected, and that their welfare is very much at the heart of everything we do here – whether it's about policy or projects or services, that children have this protective environment in which they can grow up out of this disaster."

A Haiti fit for children

To help create such an environment, more than 19,000 Haitian children are reached each day through child-friendly spaces and recreational activities supported by UNICEF and its partners.

UNICEF is also improving the lives of vulnerable earthquake survivors with a new rapid-assessment programme to monitor all of the temporary camps in Port-au-Prince.

Teams of young Haitians are fanning out across the capital on motorcycles, visiting each camp every two weeks. They quickly evaluate the conditions, which helps direct resources to the people who need them most.

Whether the focus is education, nutrition or protection, in the end, the work being done here is about one thing: creating a Haiti that is fit for children.

- [Email this article](#)

-
-

[Español](#) [Français](#)

- [Email this article](#)
- [Printer friendly](#)

-

 [Donate now](#)

Video

8 April 2010: UNICEF correspondent Thomas Nybo reports on the ongoing efforts to create a Haiti that is fit for children, three months after the earthquake.

 VIDEO [high](#) | [low](#)

UNICEF correspondent Nina Martinek reports on the situation of children in Haiti three months after the earthquake. Produced by Nora Nonet.

 VIDEO [high](#) | [low](#)

[Broadcast-quality video on demand from The Newsmarket](#)

UNICEF situation report

[Children of Haiti: Three Months After the Earthquake](#) [PDF]


Earthquake in Haiti

[Preventing sexual violence](#)


['Children in Haiti: One year after – the long road from relief to recovery'](#) [PDF]

[Press release: Earthquake anniversary highlights needs](#)


[One year on, despite gains, children at risk](#)

 with video


[A young survivor thrives in school](#)

 with video

[Fresh start in a mountain village](#)


 with video

[Rebuilding the education system](#)


 with audio

Facebook


[Education from the ruins](#)

 with video


[Reuniting separated families](#)

 with video

[Mobilization to prevent cholera](#)

 with video

[Families struggle in Cité l'Eternel](#)


 with video

[Helping children cope](#)

[A mother remembers](#)

[All Haiti stories...](#)

New enhanced search

SEARCH 

[Why UNICEF](#)

[Contact us](#)

[Legal](#)

[Support UNICEF](#)

[News feeds](#)

[RSS](#) [PODCAST](#) [VODCAST](#) [SOCIAL MEDIA](#)