

# HAITI

## Food Security Perceptions in Metropolitan Port-au-Prince and Surrounding Communes



### Key Points:



**Unemployment** was perceived as the main difficulty faced by the poor, followed by **electricity**. **Insecurity** and **food prices** are also commonly reported as main difficulties.



**Food prices** were reported as **increasing** over the past three months (March-May 2016) by nearly all respondents.



The **security situation** was perceived as either **unchanged** or **deteriorating** in the past three months by nearly all respondents.



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### Situation update:

Recent drought in Haiti has caused rising food prices, but assessments conducted to estimate the drought's impact on the population's food security have only focused on rural areas, in a country where more than half of the population lives in urban centers. Haiti is also experiencing rapid inflation and political instability, factors that could increase food insecurity, particularly in urban areas. In order to measure perceptions of the food security situation in greater Port-au-Prince, WFP VAM developed a 10-question online survey in French and Creole.

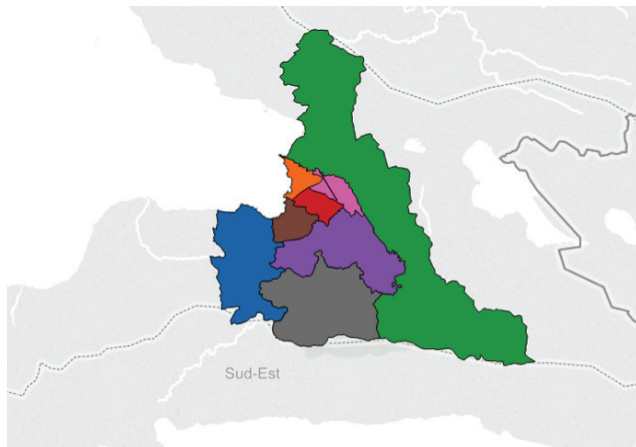
The survey was conducted by RIWI in metropolitan Port-au-Prince (Carrefour, Cité Soleil, Delmas, Port-au-Prince, Tabarre, Pétienville) and surrounding communes (Croix-des-Bouquets and Kenscoff) from 20 May to 9 June 2016. RIWI's methodology uses survey forms to reach random respondents as they surf the web: when users navigate to a link that is broken or inaccurate, they encounter a survey form instead of a broken link notification. Surveys are geolocated, providing a better understanding of the respondent's profile.

A full visualization of the survey results can be found on the mVAM Haiti site at [http://vam.wfp.org/sites/mvam\\_monitoring/haiti.html](http://vam.wfp.org/sites/mvam_monitoring/haiti.html)



**METHODOLOGY AND SURVEY RESPONSES**

**Fig. 1:** Areas of metropolitan Port-au-Prince covered by the online survey

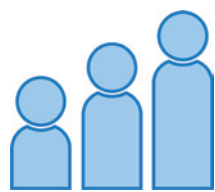


| Sample size by Commune |            |
|------------------------|------------|
| Carrefour              | 110        |
| Cité Soleil            | 19         |
| Croix-Des-Bouquets     | 90         |
| Delmas                 | 234        |
| Kenscoff               | 20         |
| Pétionville            | 186        |
| Port-au-Prince         | 276        |
| Tabarre                | 56         |
| <b>Grand Total</b>     | <b>991</b> |

The sample size of 991 responses includes both complete (518) and partial responses (473), i.e. respondents answered at least demographic and urban challenge questions. Very few responses were received from Cité Soleil or Kenscoff.

Since a sample generated through an online survey would not be representative of the general population, respondents were asked to provide general perceptions of food security related issues in their neighborhoods. The sample is mostly male, young, and well-educated. Research is ongoing to see if this study's results correlate with statistically representative data currently being collected through a household survey.

**Respondents were mostly young, male, and well-educated:**



**AGE**

- 47%** 18-25
- 34%** 26-35
- 11%** 36-45
- 5%** 46-55
- 3%** Over 56



**GENDER**

- 72%** Male
- 28%** Female



**EDUCATION**

- 54%** University
- 22%** Secondary School
- 18%** Professional Training
- 3%** Primary School
- 2%** None



**LANGUAGE CHOICE**

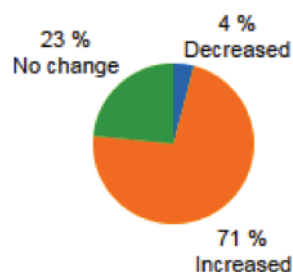
- 57%** French
- 43%** Creole

Respondents could choose to do the survey in French or Creole



**FOOD PRICES**

**Fig. 2:**  
Perceptions of change in food prices over the last 3 months



**Change in the last three months**

Throughout the communes, food prices were reported to have increased over the past three months (March-May 2016) by most respondents. Official CNSA data also shows increases in local staple food prices, tempered only by stable imported rice prices.

Source: WFP/mVAM 2016



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**Price of Spaghetti**

Across metropolitan Port-au-Prince, the price of a plate of spaghetti, a common street food, was most frequently reported as 50-75 gourdes, but in the wealthier communes of Delmas and Pétionville, the most commonly reported price range went higher, 50-100 gourdes.

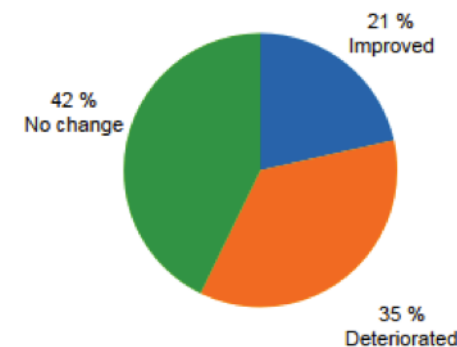


**CRIME AND SECURITY**

**Security situation reported as deteriorating or unchanged over the past three months (March - May 2016)**

Since mid-2015, the security situation throughout metropolitan Port-au-Prince and surrounding communes has been affected by increasing political demonstrations that sometimes turn violent. Crime is also a concern in metropolitan Port-au-Prince, though it is underreported. Reported violent crime is predominantly gang-related and robbery-related. Gang-related violent crime is centralized, mostly in specific areas such as Cité Soleil, whereas robberies occur throughout the city.

**Fig. 3:**  
Perceptions of change in security situation over the last 3 months



Source: WFP/mVAM 2016

**Fig. 4:** Percentage of respondents reporting Key Urban Challenges in metropolitan Port-au-Prince, by commune

| Security Perception | Commune   |             |                    |        |          |             |                |         |
|---------------------|-----------|-------------|--------------------|--------|----------|-------------|----------------|---------|
|                     | Carrefour | Cité Soleil | Croix-Des-Bouquets | Delmas | Kenscoff | Pétionville | Port-au-Prince | Tabarre |
| Deteriorated        | 36        | 40          | 37                 | 39     | 30       | 30          | 35             | 39      |
| Improved            | 19        | 10          | 13                 | 19     | 38       | 22          | 20             | 28      |
| No change           | 44        | 50          | 49                 | 41     | 30       | 46          | 44             | 32      |

Source: WFP/mVAM 2016



**KEY URBAN CHALLENGES FACED BY THE POOR**

Respondents were asked to identify the two main difficulties faced by the poor.

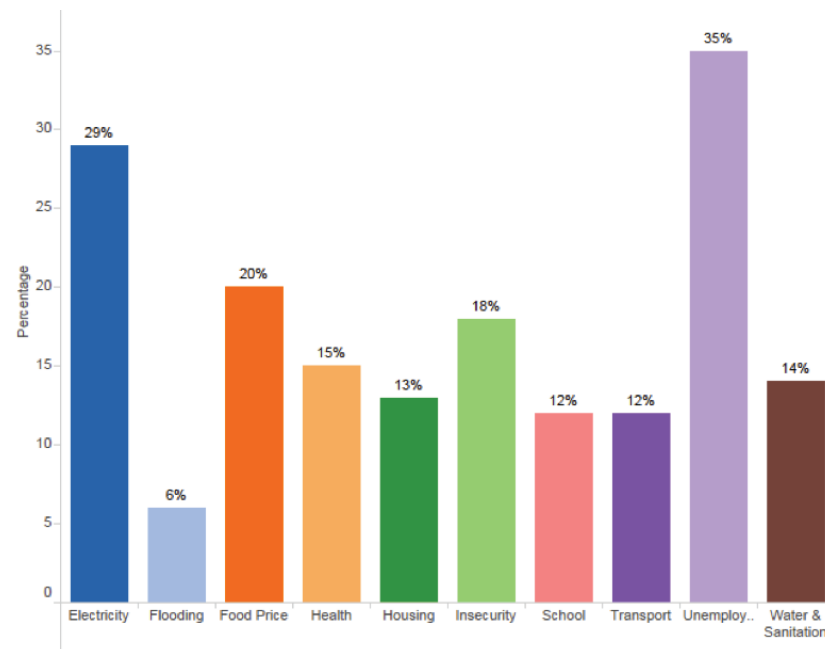
**Unemployment** was the most commonly reported difficulty in all communes, which is in line with the high unemployment rate of 40% and the youth unemployment rate of over 60% in urban Haiti (World Bank 2014).

**Electricity**, and either **insecurity** or **food prices**, were the second and third most commonly reported difficulties in all communes except for Cité Soleil, Kenscoff and Port-au-Prince.

**Health** in **Cité Soleil** appears along with unemployment and insecurity in the top three difficulties, rather than food prices or electricity (though the sample size is small). **Flooding** also appears in responses after two rainy months, though less frequently, but it may become a larger problem during the hurricane season, which runs from June through November. In **Port-au-Prince commune, water and sanitation** was the third most commonly selected difficulty.

The main difficulties reported reflect a lack of access to basic services found in poor areas of metropolitan Port-au-Prince. Between 30% and 40% of the "quartiers" of Cité Soleil, Petionville, Delmas and Tabarre are missing at least four of the basic services of health, education, public institutions, police, fireman, banks and markets (IOM and Community Resource Centres 2015).

**Fig. 5:** Perceived Key Urban Challenges in metropolitan Port-au-Prince



Source: WFP/mVAM 2016

**Fig. 6:** Percentage of respondents reporting Key Urban Challenges in metropolitan Port-au-Prince, by commune

| Urban Challenge | Commune   |             |                    |        |          |              |                |         |
|-----------------|-----------|-------------|--------------------|--------|----------|--------------|----------------|---------|
|                 | Carrefour | Cité Soleil | Croix-Des-Bouquets | Delmas | Kenscoff | Petion-Ville | Port-au-Prince | Tabarre |
| Electricity     | 32%       | 10%         | 34%                | 32%    | 20%      | 23%          | 30%            | 30%     |
| Flooding        | 4%        | 21%         | 8%                 | 2%     | 25%      | 6%           | 5%             | 10%     |
| Food Price      | 23%       | 21%         | 15%                | 17%    | 20%      | 24%          | 19%            | 28%     |
| Health          | 16%       | 26%         | 11%                | 12%    | 10%      | 17%          | 17%            | 14%     |
| Housing         | 10%       | 10%         | 7%                 | 14%    | 10%      | 13%          | 14%            | 12%     |
| Insecurity      | 16%       | 31%         | 18%                | 20%    | 25%      | 18%          | 15%            | 12%     |
| School          | 13%       | 10%         | 14%                | 11%    | 15%      | 11%          | 13%            | 10%     |
| Transport       | 17%       | 0%          | 17%                | 12%    | 5%       | 11%          | 9%             | 12%     |
| Unemployment    | 37%       | 47%         | 41%                | 34%    | 35%      | 34%          | 33%            | 33%     |
| Water           | 11%       | 15%         | 13%                | 13%    | 5%       | 11%          | 21%            | 12%     |



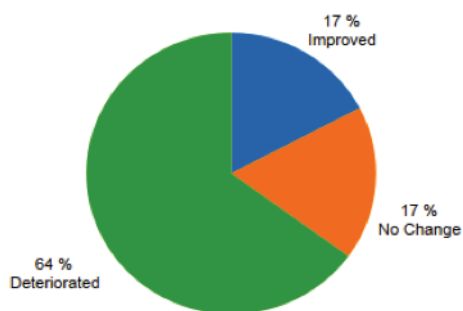
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PERCEIVED CHANGES IN QUALITY OF LIFE

**Fig. 7:**  
Perceptions of change quality of life for the poor, over the past three months



Source: WFP/mVAM 2016

**Poverty**

When asked how the quality of life had evolved for poor people living in their neighbourhoods over the past three months (March-May 2016), the majority of respondents answered "deteriorated".



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**Fig. 8:** Sample online survey question. Respondents could complete the survey in French or Creole.

**Veillez sélectionner votre âge et votre sexe dans la liste ci-dessous.**  
**/ Ou se gason oubyen fi ? ki laj ou ?**

Nous vous prions de bien vouloir remplir ce questionnaire sur les conditions de vie à Port-au-Prince. /  
Tanpri, nou ta renmen ou ranpli kesyonè sa pou nou sou kondisyon moun ap viv nan Pòtoprens.

| Masculin / Gason |         |         | Féminin / Fi |         |         |
|------------------|---------|---------|--------------|---------|---------|
| < 18             | 18 - 25 | 26 - 35 | < 18         | 18 - 25 | 26 - 35 |
| 36 - 45          | 46 - 55 | 56 +    | 36 - 45      | 46 - 55 | 56 +    |

Source: WFP/mVAM 2016

**METHODOLOGY**

This mVAM bulletin is based on data collected from 20 May to 9 June 2016, using a specially designed online survey. The survey reaches random respondents as they surf the web: when users navigate to a link that is broken or inaccurate, they encounter a survey form instead of a broken link notification.

The exponential growth of global internet access means that in a few years, such surveys could become a widespread and viable tool for measuring food security.



**For further information please contact:**

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**mVAM resources:**

**Website:** [http://vam.wfp.org/sites/mvam\\_monitoring/](http://vam.wfp.org/sites/mvam_monitoring/)

**Blog:** [mVAM.org](http://mVAM.org)

**Toolkit:** <http://resources.vam.wfp.org/mVAM>



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