

Metropolitan Area of
Port-au-Prince:

A Review of Key
Secondary Data and
Neighbourhood Wealth
Ranking

Haiti



Preliminary findings
June 2016

1. Introduction

Still in recovery from the January 2010 earthquake that rocked the capital and other areas of the country, Haiti has more recently been impacted by the rise of food prices of many key staples over the past year. These rising prices are caused by the drought and the devaluation of the Gourde compared to the US Dollar and the Dominican peso over the past year. Additionally, on-going political instability contributes to the risk of a continued weakening of the Haitian government and the further economic instability of the country.

Rural populations are of continued concern with regard to food insecurity. Much of the rural population is chronically vulnerable to food insecurity, particularly to the impacts of drought. A rural Emergency Food Security Assessment was conducted by December 2015, to determine the extent of the impact on these rural populations, and there are programmes on-going to assist the most vulnerable. However, there is little current information available on the plight of the large population of urban poor in Haiti.

In order to assess the situation in the Metropolitan Area of Port-au-Prince and other urban areas, the Coordination Nationale de la Sécurité Alimentaire (CNSA) and WFP are managing four complementary components of food security data collection and analysis:

1. An online survey conducted by WFP's mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping Unit (mVAM), to collect some general qualitative perceptions related to food security;
2. Secondary data analysis focused on demographics, poverty, markets and economic trends in the Metropolitan Area of Port-au-Prince;
3. A key informant classification of neighbourhoods or "Quartiers" by relative wealth;
4. A representative urban food security household survey in the Metropolitan Area of Port-au-Prince, as well as other urban areas of the country¹.

Data and findings related to component 1 are available online at: http://vam.wfp.org/sites/mvam_monitoring/haiti.html.

This document aims to summarise key components of the secondary data review (Component 2), focusing on the economic context within Port-au-Prince, and present preliminary findings of the neighbourhood wealth ranking exercise (Component 3). The urban food security household survey (Component 4) is ongoing. Final reporting including all four components will be available in August.

¹ Data include 4,500 households, of which 2,500 in the Metropolitan Area of Port-au-Prince, and 2,000 households in other main urban areas of the country. Preliminary results will be available end of July.

2. Secondary Data Review: Vulnerability Analysis and Economic Context

Demographics and Poverty

- The population in Haiti is rapidly urbanizing - in 1990, 29% of the population lived in urban areas. In 2014, that figure had risen to 57%, and it is projected to reach 76% by 2050. This is one of the highest rates of change in the world².
- Approximately 2.5 million people, i.e. one quarter of Haiti's population, are living in the Metropolitan Area of Port-au-Prince (IHSI, 2015 Estimate). This includes 61,302 displaced people still living in 33 camps since the 2010 earthquake³.
- **About 50% of the poorest neighbourhoods of metropolitan Port-au-Prince have limited access to essential community services** (health, education, public institutions, police, fire services, banks and markets). Between 30 and 40% of the neighbourhoods of Cité Soleil, Petion-Ville, Delmas and Tabarre are missing at least four of these services⁴.
- A **resurgence of cholera cases** was observed in the last few months, especially in the communes of Port-au-Prince, Tabarre and Carrefour⁵.
- According to the 2012 DHS survey⁶, prevalence of child malnutrition in the Metropolitan Area of Port-au-Prince were:
 - ♦ Stunting: 15% of children under five
 - ♦ Wasting: 5% of children under five
 - ♦ Underweight: 7% of children under five
- **The Metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince has a large proportion of poor households, who are particularly vulnerable to economic shocks, such as increases in the cost of food.** In 2012, there were an estimated 725,000 people living in poverty (29%), of which approximately 125,000 are living in extreme poverty (5%)⁷.
- **Much of the population of the Metropolitan Area of Port-au-Prince suffers from chronic economic vulnerability to food insecurity.** According to a 2011 survey, nearly 20% of households in the Metropolitan Area of Port-au-Prince were considered severely economically vulnerable to food insecurity (greater than 75% of expenditures on food), and an additional 20% of households were considered moderately economically vulnerable (between 65% and 75% of expenditures on food).

Markets and Economic Trends

The price of the food basket in Haiti went up by nearly 16% (nominal prices) between the first trimester of 2015 and the first trimester of 2016, and has continued to increase each month since.⁹ While of concern, the rise is less than that observed during the food price crisis of 2008. The relative stability of the price of imported rice has tempered the food basket price increases.

² United Nations. World Urbanization Prospects: The 2014 Revision. New York, 2014.

³ IOM. Displacement Tracking Matrix Number 26, June 2016

⁴ IOM and Community Resource Centres. Vulnerability Survey of the Metropolitan Port Au Prince, Haiti, Final report, February, 2015.

⁵ OCHA. Humanitarian bulletin, Haiti, Issue 61. May 2016

⁶ <http://dhsprogram.com/what-we-do/survey/survey-display-368.cfm>

⁷ World Bank. Investing in people to fight poverty in Haiti : Reflections for evidence-based policy making, 2014

⁸ Re-analysis of 2011 data by author

⁹ CNSA. Bulletin # 13: Panier alimentaire et conditions de sécurité alimentaire. <http://www.cnsa509.org/panier-alimentaire-et-conditions-de-securite-alimentaire-avril-2016/>



- The consumer price index (CPI) for food, drink and tobacco has increased 16.7 percent between May 2015 and May 2016, and the general CPI in the Metropolitan Area of Port-au-Prince has gone up 15.1% during this same period.
- In the last 12 months, increases in local food commodity prices have been even worse than during the 2008 food price crisis. In particular, in the first quarter of 2016, black beans and local maize meal experienced a year-on-year increase four times that of the first quarter of 2008. This sharp increase was tempered slightly by the second quarter, with similar increases demonstrated for 2008 and 2016. Despite relatively stable month-on-month price increases or decreases in February and April 2016, the price level remains nevertheless significantly high and above the five year average.
- Imported rice prices remained relatively stable in 2015, helped by a favourable international environment that has seen the

US dollar value of imported rice downward trending for several years¹⁰. However, since the end of the first quarter of 2016, the price for imported rice has been on the rise despite the slowdown in the depreciation of the Haitian Gourde (HTG) against the U.S. Dollar (USD). A similar trend is observed for imported wheat flour.

A few key risks exist that could further aggravate food insecurity in urban areas:

- Continued political instability
- Continued devaluation of the gourde,
- A continued increase in the price of the food basket, particularly in the case of an increase in the price of imported rice without a decrease in other food prices.
- On-going hurricane season

¹⁰ WFP. Market Analysis, April 2016

¹¹ WFP. Adapting to an Urban World. Urban Case Study Port-au-Prince. March 2016

3. Relative Wealth Classifications of *Quartiers* in the Metropolitan Area of Port-au-Prince

In urban contexts, access to public services, hygiene/sanitation conditions, and quality of infrastructure are often community/neighbourhood factors which can directly influence food insecurity, nutrition and economic vulnerability. Building on the lessons learnt and recommendations of the “Adapting to an Urban World – Port-au-Prince case study”¹¹, the ‘Quartiers’ of the Metropolitan Area of Port-Au-Prince were classified into relative wealth groups (very poor, poor, average/better off). This data was collected in May 2016 via key informant interviews, and triangulated with geospatial data on building density and satellite imagery. These preliminary results are subject to further refinement and validation. The purpose of this wealth classification is to provide an additional layer of analysis to support the household level data collection and analysis.

Neighbourhoods or ‘Quartiers’ in the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince with likely higher

concentrations of poor households are more commonly -though not exclusively- found in the communes of Cite Soleil, Port-au-Prince, and Carrefour, and are generally nearer the bay (see map, below).

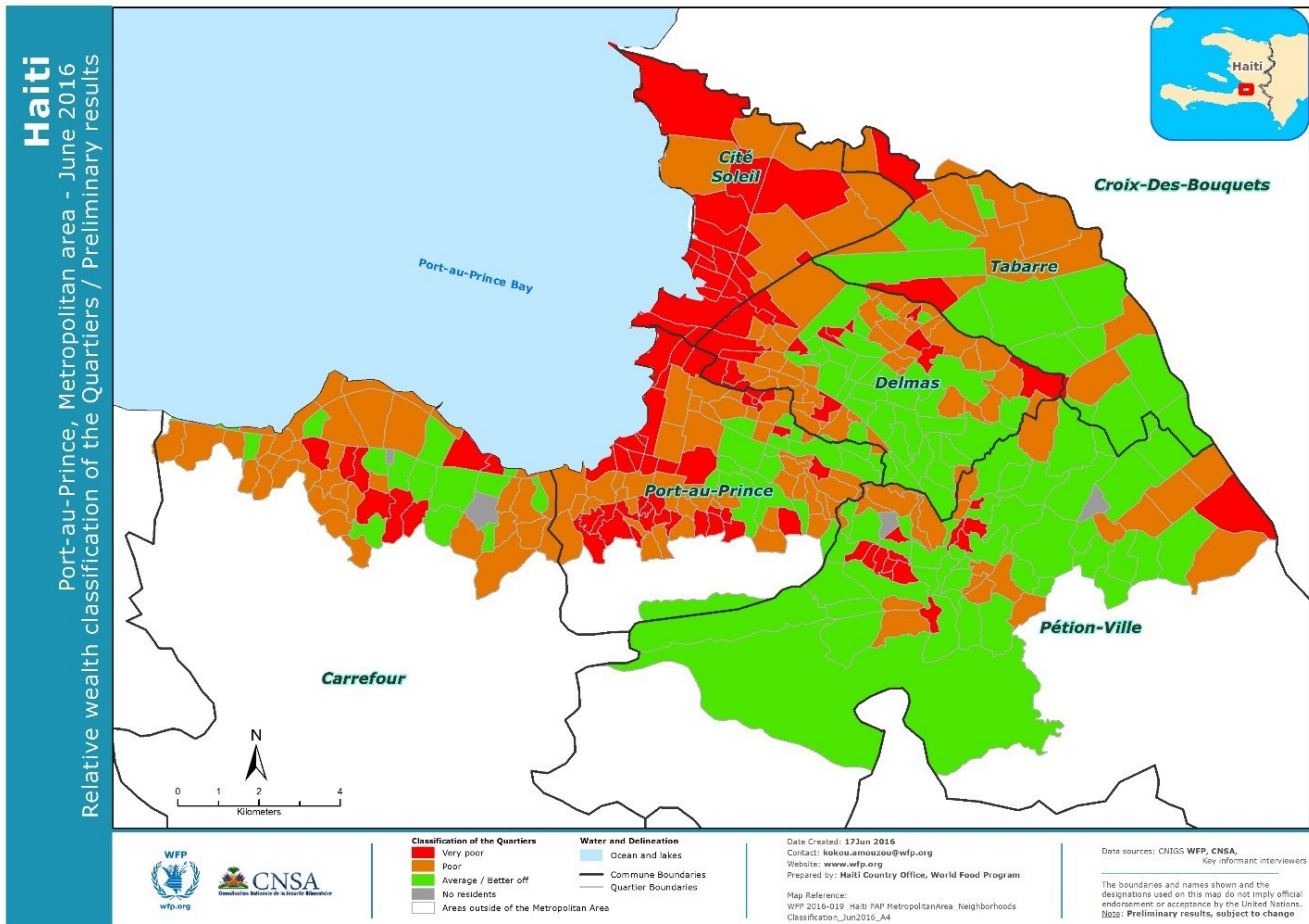
In order to classify these Quartiers, two key informant interviews were conducted in each of the six communes that make up the Metropolitan Area of Port-au-Prince. Each interview consulted two to three key informants (totalling 12 key information interviews, with a total of 27 key Informants). Key informants consisted of staff of NGOs (national and international) working in the selected areas, local leaders, and people working at the city hall (la Mairie) of the commune.

The key informants were asked to classify the quartiers in their commune into the relative wealth categories. To reduce subjectivity, each classification was defined using the following general characteristics:

Group	Description
VERY POOR	This includes areas recognized as ‘urban slums’ (<i>bidonvilles</i>). Generally very high density populations. Households generally don’t have latrine/toilets inside the homes. General poor sanitation/hygiene throughout the quartier (accumulated trash, no organized trash removal, for example). Poor access to basic services (health, water, etc.) Homes of very poor quality construction (thin plywood, corrugated metal rooves, etc.), and in risky areas (ravines, steep inclines, etc.)
POOR	Generally moderate density areas. Some households may have some services, though not all. The quality of house construction is generally better than that found in the slums (<i>bidonvilles</i>), though is not consistently high quality (high quality generally recognized as cement construction, non-dirt floors, etc.).
AVERAGE/BETTER OFF	These are areas of generally lower density populations, living in larger houses (with some exceptions, for example, moderate population density in some areas of Petion-Ville are nonetheless quite rich areas). These Quartiers have better access to basic services (water, electricity, etc). Households consistently have running water and toilets within their homes. Households often own cars/mopeds.
NO RESIDENTS	Few to no residents. Usually these <i>quartiers</i> are academic campuses, industrial zones, or hotel complexes.

Following this exercise, the key informant classifications were then triangulated using geospatial and satellite data. For most of the quartiers, this triangulation process simply verified the key informant findings. Of the 368 quartiers total, three data points were added to quartiers not classified by the key informants, three errors in classification were suspected, verified, and then corrected.

These stratifications were also taken into consideration in designing the sample of the ongoing urban food security household survey, which will allow for analysis and reporting by three wealth classifications.



While the classifications are considered to be generally reliable, they are subject to a few caveats:

- Quartiers are not homogeneous. Not all households in a very poor quartier are very poor, nor will all households found in average/better off quartiers be middle and upper class.
- Some cases need further confirmation, so the quartier-specific results should be interpreted carefully if used as a geographic targeting tool. The results continued to be triangulated by field visits and other data sources.

- The results of the household survey will also be used to check these findings, verifying if the household level indicators of economic vulnerability and food insecurity show worse results in the neighbourhoods with worse classifications.

Additionally, further refinement may be needed to more accurately define and distinguish differences between quartiers, particularly between the very poor and the poor.

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