



Haiti Urban Food Security Assessment

PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

HAITI RECENTLY EXPERIENCED A DROUGHT



THAT RESULTED IN MANY RURAL HOUSEHOLDS FALLING INTO FOOD INSECURITY



THERE IS A CONCERN THAT RISING FOOD PRICES AND POLITICAL INSTABILITY



MAY ALSO IMPACT THE URBAN AREAS OF HAITI



AN URBAN FOOD SECURITY ASSESSMENT WAS CONDUCTED IN JUNE 2016 TO ASSESS THE SITUATION



ABOUT 1 IN 4 HAITIANS LIVE IN THE METROPOLITAN AREA OF PORT-AU-PRINCE



ABOUT 1 IN 2 HAITIANS LIVE IN URBAN AREAS

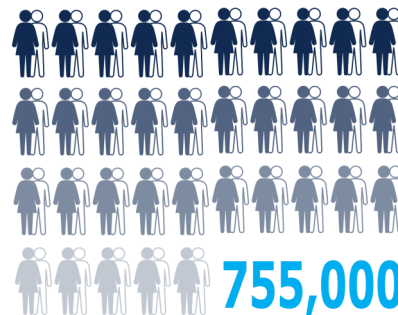
Highlights

- In the urban areas assessed in June 2016, **30% of the households are food insecure with 2% severely food insecure**. The level of food insecurity is considerably less than that seen in the drought affected rural areas assessed in December 2015.¹
- The commune of **Cité Soleil** and the cities of **Gonaïves, Jérémie, and Port-de-Paix** stand out as having the highest levels of food insecurity.
- 40% of households have unacceptable food consumption. Food insecurity is also driven by **economic vulnerability**, with 50% of households spending over half their budget on food.
- Increase in prices of food and other goods** is the most common shock reported.
- The majority of households are forced to engage in negative coping strategies, including 25% relying on crisis or emergency strategies,² which are difficult to reverse.

Food insecurity, hunger and wealth indicators show similar trends. Urban populations remain vulnerable to food insecurity, particularly in poorer areas.

They should continue to be monitored, as further increases in food prices or other shocks will likely result in increases in food insecurity.

IN THE METROPOLITAN AREA OF PORT-AU-PRINCE
29% ARE FOOD INSECURE



out of the estimated 2.6 million total inhabitants

THE LEVEL OF SEVERE FOOD INSECURITY IS 2%

¹ Evaluation de la Sécurité Alimentaire en Situation d'Urgence, Avril 2016, CNSA/WFP, where 47% households were found to be food insecure, with 10% severely food insecure.

² Crisis strategies: for instance, reducing health and education expenses; take children out of school or selling productive assets. Emergency Strategies: for instance begging, selling a house or a piece of land, Restavek.



Methodology

CNSA (National Coordination for Food Security), in partnership with WFP, conducted a food security assessment in the main urban center of each Department, collecting data during June 2016. The household survey sample of 4,490 households was designed to give representative estimates for each of the six Communes that make up the Metropolitan Area of Port-au-Prince, and each of the other nine cities that are a 'Chef Lieu' (Departmental capital cities).

WFP CARI methodology³ was used to estimate the food security index (FSI) which represents the population's overall food security status and combines the food consumption Score (FCS), food expenditure share, and livelihood coping strategies indicators.

Demographics

About 2.6 million urban inhabitants live in the Metropolitan Area of Port-au-Prince (1 out of 4 people in the country). Another 3.1 million live in other urban areas of the country, yielding a total urban population of roughly 5.7 million. Nationally, 52% of the population of Haiti lives in urban areas, and 48% (about 5.2 million) live in rural areas.

53% of the households are headed by a female. Overall, the average size of household is 5 people. There is little difference in the average household size between the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince and other cities.



53% OF THE HOUSEHOLDS ARE HEADED BY A FEMALE



5 PEOPLE IS THE AVERAGE SIZE OF A HOUSEHOLD

Photo credit: AnneSophie Girard/WFP Haiti



Affected Food Insecure Households

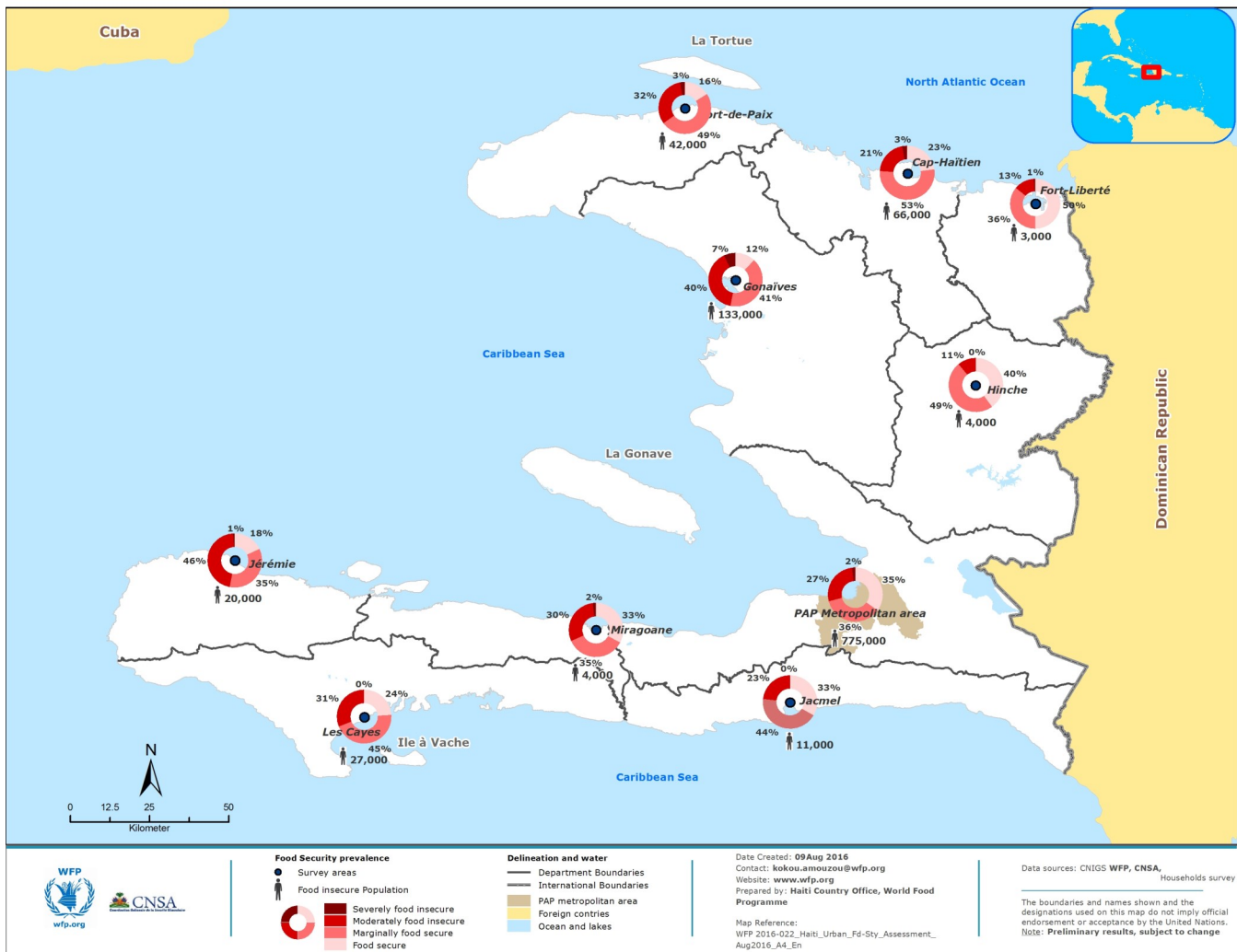
Using the Consolidated Approach for Reporting Indicators of Food Security (CARI), each surveyed household is classified into one of four food security categories (See table below).

Table 1 Food Security Classification

All areas covered by the survey			Food SECURE		Food INSECURE	
Domain	Indicator	Food Secure	Marginally Food Secure	Moderately Food Insecure	Severely Food Insecure	
Current Status	Food consumption	Food Consumption Score	60% acceptable	n/a	22% borderline	17% poor
Coping Capacity	Economic Vulnerability	Food Expenditure Share	50% <50%	30% 50-64%	13% 65-74%	7% >75%
	Asset Depletion	Livelihood Coping Strategy	36% No coping	39% Stress coping	18% Crisis coping	7% Emergency coping
Food Security Index			32%	38%	28%	2%

³ More information at: <http://www.wfp.org/content/consolidated-approach-reporting-indicators-food-security-cari-guidelines>

Map 1: Urban Food Security Assessment, July 2016



Map 2: Port-au-Prince Metropolitan Area Food Security Assessment, July 2016

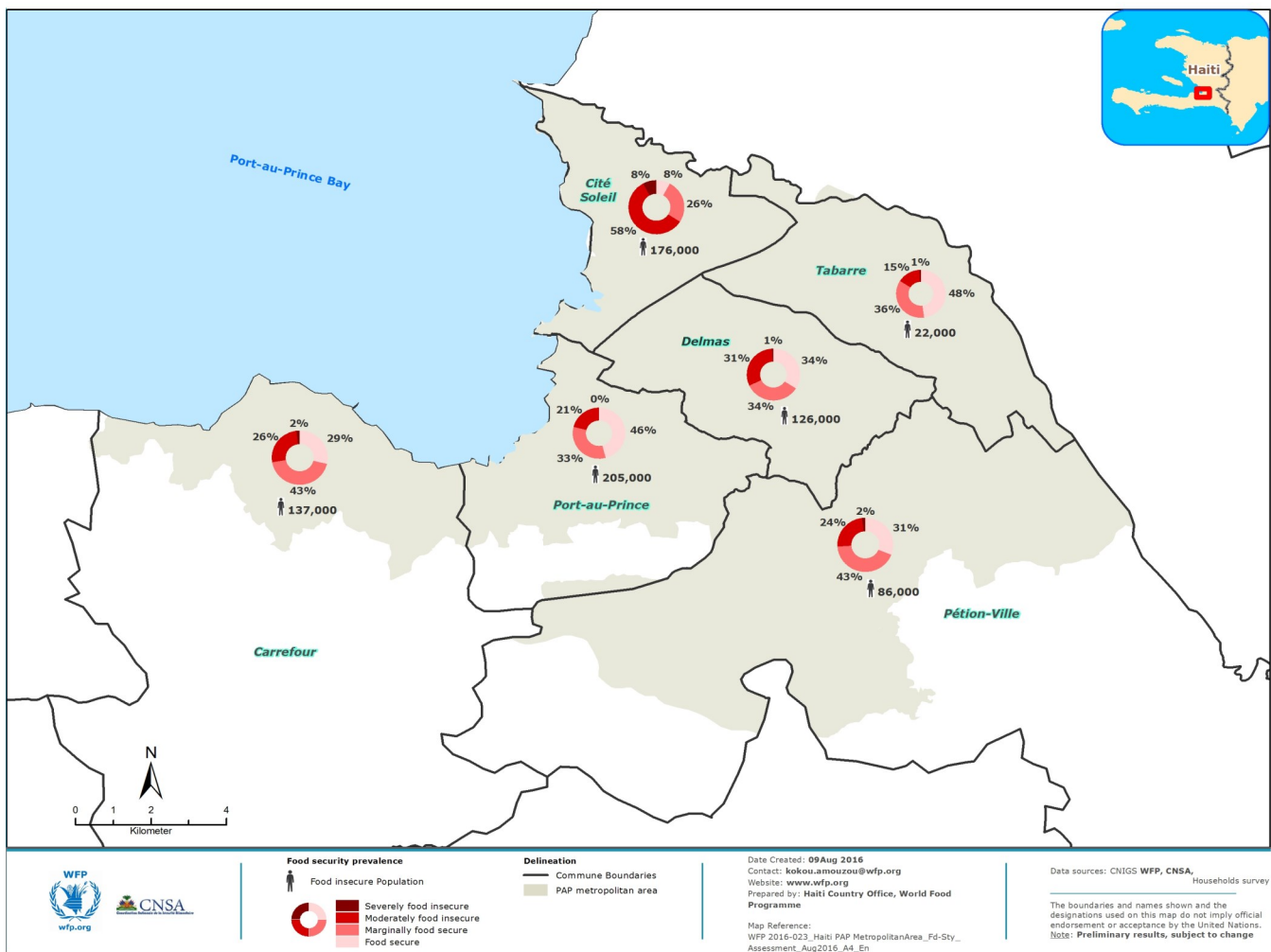


Table 2 Prevalence of Food Insecurity

<i>Commune/Ville</i>	Percent of Food Insecure households (moderate + severe)	Percent of moderately food insecure households	Percent of severely food insecure households	Total population in the areas covered by the survey (IHSI 2015)	Food insecure population (rounded)
Port-au-Prince	21%	21%	0%	977,790	205,000
Delmas	32%	31%	1%	395,260	126,000
Carrefour	27%	26%	2%	501,678	137,000
Pétionville	26%	24%	2%	327,923	86,000
Cité Soleil	66%	58%	8%	265,072	176,000
Tabarre	16%	15%	1%	130,877	22,000
TOTAL- Metropolitan Area of Port-au-Prince	29%	27%	2%	2,598,600	755,000
Jacmel	23%	23%	0%	48,248	11,000
Cap-Haitien	25%	21%	3%	269,036	66,000
Fort-Liberté	14%	13%	1%	22,416	3,000
Gonaïves	48%	40%	7%	278,584	133,000
Hinche	11%	11%	0%	37,370	4,000
Les Cayes	31%	31%	0%	86,780	27,000
Jérémie	47%	46%	1%	42,388	20,000
Miragoâne	31%	30%	2%	13,577	4,000
Port-de-Paix	35%	32%	3%	121,220	42,000
TOTAL- Other urban areas (Departmental Capitals)	34%	30%	4%	919,619	309,000
TOTAL- All areas covered by the survey	30%	28%	2%	3,518,219	1,063,000



Looking at all areas covered by the survey, 30% of households are food insecure, including 28% moderately food insecure, and 2% severely food insecure. These figures demonstrate that 40% of households have unacceptable food consumption, including limitations in both quantity and quality. The table shows that food insecurity is also driven by high expenditures on food, used as an indicator of economic vulnerability, with 50% of households spending over half their budget on food. Finally, the majority of households are forced to engage in negative coping strategies, including 25% relying on crisis or emergency strategies, which are difficult to reverse.

When disaggregating by the Metropolitan Area of Port-au-Prince and other areas, only slight differences are seen. In the Metropolitan Area of Port-au-Prince, 29% of households are food insecure (27% moderate, 2% severe). In the other cities, 34% of households are food insecure (30% moderate, 4% severe).

In both areas, the prevalence of poor and borderline food consumption are similar. However, households outside the Metropolitan Area of Port-au-Prince tend to spend more of their total expenditures on food, and slightly more likely to reporting having used emergency coping strategies.

Four areas stand out as having a higher prevalence of food insecurity: **Cité Soleil**, **Gonaïves**, **Jérémie** and **Port-de-Paix**. Similar trends are observed in other proxy indicators of food security. These cities have higher levels of both hunger (as measured by the household hunger scale)⁴ and less asset wealth (as measured by a wealth index)⁵. These indicators of hunger and wealth also show Cap Haitien and Miragoane as areas of concern.

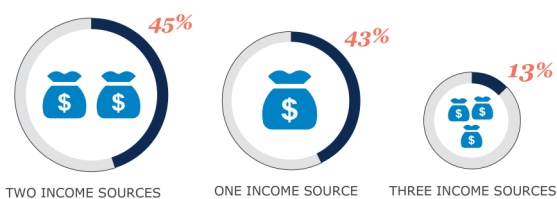
4 The HHS is a perception based indicator based on questions related to food deprivation, or hunger, at the household level. <http://www.fantaproject.org/monitoring-and-evaluation/household-hunger-scale-hhs>

5 The Wealth Index (WI), a relative measure of household wealth, based on assets, house construction, crowding, and other indicators such as water and sanitation, classifies households into 5 equal size groups of relative wealth (from the poorest 20% to the richest 20%).

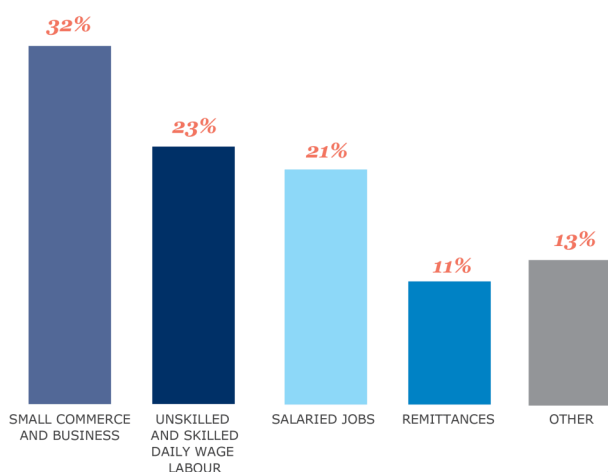


Livelihoods

Number of income sources



Main sources of income



In the survey, the respondents were asked their three main sources of income. 43% of households reported only one income source, 45% reported two sources, and 13% reported three sources.

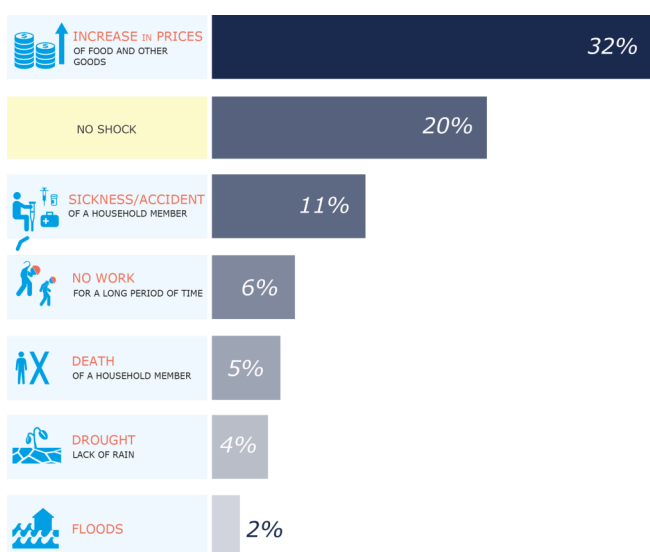
Most households in the urban areas covered by the survey rely on Small commerce and businesses (32% of households), unskilled and skilled daily wage labour – (23% of households) and salaried jobs (21% of households). Remittances are the main income source for 11% of households.

Household relying on salaried jobs tend to be more common in the Metropolitan Area of Port-au-Prince, particularly in Delmas, Pétionville, and Tabarre. Among the communes in the Metropolitan Area, Cité Soleil has the lowest prevalence of salaried jobs (15%) followed by Carrefour (19%).

In the other cities covered by the survey, there are slightly fewer households relying on salaried jobs and small commerce than in the Metropolitan Area of PaP, and slightly more relying on unskilled daily wage labour.



Shocks



Shocks in the last six months

Households were asked if they had experienced any shocks or 'negative events' that had an impact on their household, and what the most significant event was.

The most common shock 'increase in prices of food and other goods', was cited as the main shock by 32% of households. Other common shocks included sickness/accident of a household member (11%), and the death of a household member (5%). One in five households reported having experienced no shock in the past six months.

While rare overall, some shocks were more frequently reported in certain areas. **Drought/lack of rain** was reported by 4% of all urban areas studied, but was a much more common shock in Hinche (40%), Port-de-Paix (24%), Jacmel (20%), Gonaives (21%), and Fort-Liberté (16%). **Floods** were only cited as the main shock by 2% of households overall, but in Fort-Liberté, 58% of households cited floods as their main shock.



Migration

Overall, 12% of households had at least one member migrate in the past 12 months. This figure is almost double in Tabarre and Cap-Haitien (22% and 25% respectively). The lowest migration figures are found in Cité Soleil and Jérémie, which are also the areas with the highest concentration of poor households.

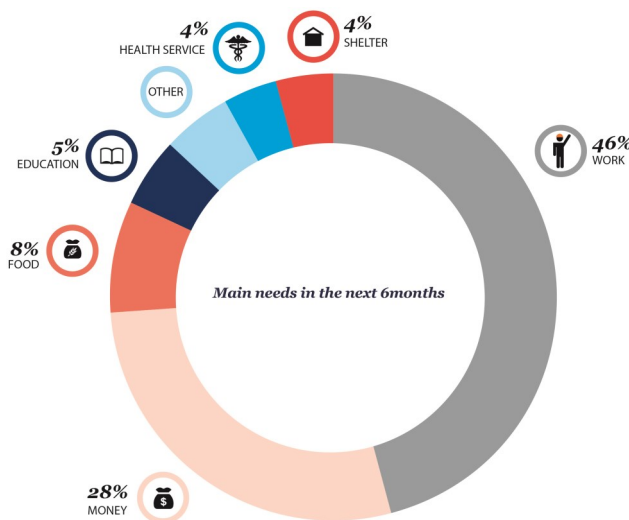
Of household reporting members migrating in the past year, 54% stayed within Haiti, including 20% who stay in the same department. Over one fifth reported migrating to the United States. This figure increases significantly in wealthier areas (e.g. Tabarre and Pétionville) where the majority of migrants in these locations go to the United States (65% and 45% respectively). Almost half (48%) migrated for **work**, versus only 10% who left to **study**.



Photo credit: Amélie Girard/WFP Haiti

ALMOST ALL HOUSEHOLDS REPORTED THAT THERE IS LOWER MIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION THAN USUAL

Outlook for the next six months



Households were asked how they predicted their situation would be in 6 months: overall, 32% say it will be worse, 11% the same, and 21% say it will be better. Households in some areas tended to have a more pessimistic outlook of their futures. In Cité Soleil, 77% of households predicted things to get worse, and only 1% said things would get better.

The sharp depreciation of the gourde against the US Dollar seen in late 2015 and early 2016 is somewhat stabilized, but could still accelerate even if the cost of the food basket also tends to stabilize.⁶

The ongoing hurricane season and political agenda characterize time of increased risk of additional shocks. Urban populations remain vulnerable to food insecurity, particularly in certain areas. They should continue to be monitored, as further increases in food prices or other shocks will likely result in increases in food insecurity.

6 Haïti, Bulletin #14, Panier alimentaire et conditions de sécurité alimentaire, CNSA/MARNDR

For more information please contact:

WFP Haiti Country Office — wfp.haiti@wfp.org

Haitian National Coordination for Food Security Office (CNSA) - cnsa@cnsahaiti.org