

Poverty & Equity Brief

October 2025

HAITI

The official poverty rate for Haiti was 58.5 percent in 2012 (the year of the last official household survey), with around six million people living below the national poverty line. International poverty measures show that 59.2 percent of Haitians lived on less than \$4.20 per day (at 2021 PPP) in 2012, and 40.4 percent lived on less than \$3.00 per day (2021 PPP), the highest level in Latin America and Caribbean (LAC). With a Gini index of 41.1, inequality was also above the World Bank global threshold for high inequality of 40.

Given recurrent shocks, poverty has likely worsened since 2012. Conflict and social unrest have compounded the effects of natural disasters, including multiple hurricanes. Forced displacement is also widespread, with the International Organization for Migration estimating that 1.3 million Haitians were internally displaced in June 2025: around 11 percent of the population. Despite installing a transitional council in April 2024 and the arrival of international forces to try to restore order, intensifying gang violence and political instability still hinder economic development: in 2024 the Haitian economy contracted for the sixth year running. Nowcasts indicate that 67.7 percent of Haitians live on less than \$4.20 (2021 PPP) per day in 2025 and 48.9 percent live on less than \$3.00 (2021 PPP) per day.

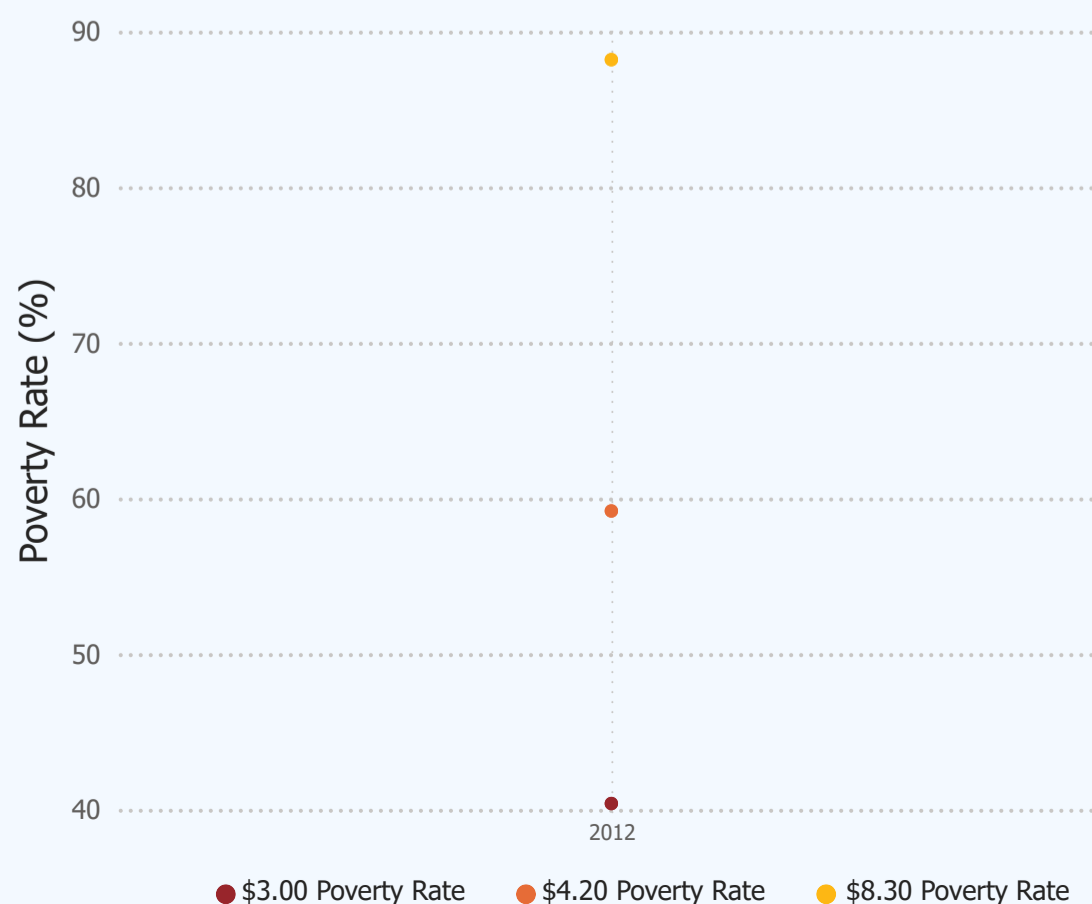
More recent data on food security confirm the extreme deterioration in Haitians' living standards. More than half of Haiti's population are facing high levels of acute food insecurity, according to the March-June 2025 Integrated Food Security Phase Classification report. Some 8,400 Haitians living in displaced person camps are experiencing catastrophic hunger.

Deprivation extends to non-monetary welfare metrics. In 2016, only around 40.4 percent of Haitians had access to electricity, compared to the LAC average of 97.5 percent for the same year. Around 74.9 percent of Haitians were using an improved water source and 54.8 percent had an improved sanitation facility. Like monetary poverty, access to services has likely deteriorated in the last decade.

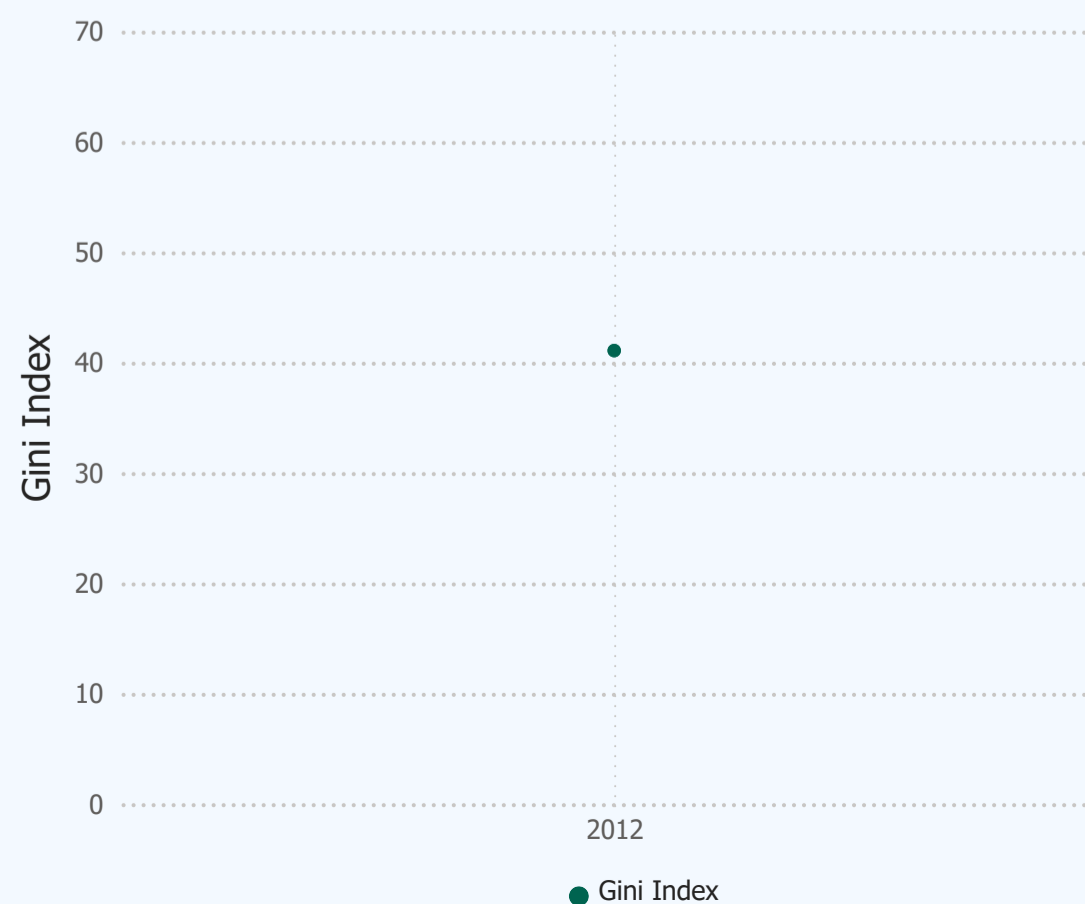
Lack of productive jobs limits Haiti's poverty-reduction prospects. Despite initially dropping between 2020 and 2021, the share of working-age Haitians in employment increased between 2020 and 2023 by 10.6 percentage points, according to high frequency phone survey data. Since living standards did not increase over this period, this suggests that Haitians have been trying in vain to find livelihood activities to make ends meet; in-work poverty is common. This situation likely worsened in 2024 as agriculture, which provides a disproportionate share of livelihoods for the poor, was the sector hit hardest by the drop in economic activity. Beyond addressing the acute humanitarian crisis Haiti faces, tackling insecurity and enhancing the environment for private investment will be essential for creating the productive jobs needed to lift Haitians out of poverty sustainably.



Poverty Rate



Inequality



Poverty at Different Lines

Poverty Line	Number of Poor (Thousands)	Rate (%)	Year
National Poverty Line	6,019.2	58.5	2012
International Poverty Line (\$3.00/day)	4,069.7	40.4	2012
Lower Middle Income Class Poverty Line (\$4.20/day)	5,958.8	59.2	2012
Upper Middle Income Class Poverty Line (\$8.30/day)	8,880.9	88.2	2012
Multidimensional Poverty Measure		53.2	2012

Group and Multidimensional Poverty

Poverty by Group	Poverty Rate (%)	Multidimensional Poverty Components	(% of Pop.)
Urban population	20.4	Daily income less than US\$3.00 per person	40.4
Rural population	58.7	At least one school-aged child is not enrolled in school	9.0
Males	41.3	No adult has completed primary education	23.1
Females	39.6	No access to limited-standard drinking water	33.5
0 to 14 years old	48.4	No access to limited-standard sanitation	68.8
15 to 64 years old	35.8	No access to electricity	64.3
65 and older	38.6		
Without education (16+)	53.4		
Primary education (16+)	41.9		
Secondary education (16+)	26.5		
Tertiary/post-secondary education (16+)	5.9		

Note:

N/A denotes a missing/removed value, while N/A* refers to a value which was removed due to having fewer than 30 observations.

The rates in the Poverty by Group table above are shown at the \$3.00 international line.

Data for the Poverty by Group table is derived from a 2012 survey and data for the Multidimensional Poverty Components table is derived from a 2012 survey.

Poverty Data & Methodology

The last national household survey suitable for monetary poverty measurement, the Enquête sur les Conditions de Vie des Ménages Après le Séisme (ECVMAS), was conducted in 2012. More recent estimates of poverty are constructed using nowcasts. These nowcasts take the 2012 ECVMAS data, combine them with macroeconomic data on economic growth and population growth, construct up-to-date estimates of household consumption levels, and calculate poverty accordingly. Collecting a new household survey with detailed information on consumption is unlikely to be feasible in Haiti in the coming years. Yet other methods, including phone surveys, mobile phone data, and geospatial data may help address Haiti's data gaps.

Poverty in Haiti is measured using the cost-of-basic-needs methodology, applied to the 2012 ECVMAS. Per-capita household expenditure is used as the welfare aggregate and includes both food and non-food expenditures. The poverty line reflects a minimum threshold of 2,300 calories per person per day and is based on a food basket of 26 food items.

Harmonization

The numbers presented in the brief are based on the regional data harmonization effort known as the Socio-economic Database for Latin America and the Caribbean (SEDLAC) - a joint effort of the World Bank and CEDLAS from the National University of La Plata (Argentina). SEDLAC includes 18 countries and more than 300 household surveys since the 80s. Several Caribbean countries have not been included in the SEDLAC project due to lack of data. Since an income-based welfare aggregate is widely used in the region for official poverty estimates, income-based microdata is used for the Global Monitoring Database (GMD) and Global Poverty Monitoring. SEDLAC covers demographics, income, employment, and education. Terms of use of the data adhere to agreements with the original data producers.