Haiti is experiencing a multi-faceted humanitarian crisis, but current funding levels are insufficient to address rising food security and health needs.

Humanitarian and security concerns in Haiti have been growing, especially since the 7.2 magnitude earthquake on 14 August 2021. The human toll was high, with 2,231 confirmed deaths, 15,976 injured, and 12,945 affected. The earthquake resulted in food insecurity, water contamination, and health challenges.

In the months following the earthquake, Haiti experienced a cholera outbreak, which infected 2,700 people and claimed 30 lives. Cholera is a waterborne disease caused by the bacterium V. cholerae, and it can be contracted through consumption of contaminated water. The epidemic was exacerbated by the already weakened health system in Haiti.

In January 2022, Haiti was projected to face levels of food insecurity above IPC Phase 3 (moderate food insecurity) and towards Phase 4 (severe food insecurity) in 3.5 million people, or 29% of the population. This represents a significant increase from 2021, where 44% of the population was found to be in food insecurity or higher (IPC Phase 3+).

The challenges include slow recovery from the earthquake, which has disrupted transportation networks and infrastructure, leading to food price hikes and reduced access to food. In an effort to address this, the Humanitarian Response Plan was scaled up to 40% of the total population – to be in need of assistance, highlighting protection issues, displacement, recurring political instability.

No stranger to environmental hazards and the impacts of climate change, Haiti is still grappling with the effects of the earthquake, the rise in insecurity, and the ongoing political instability. Humanitarian action needs to be appropriate to overcome the humanitarian emergencies in Haiti.

In the countryside, most households (69%) reported surface water as their main drinking water source, with a further 11% using artesian water and 11% using river water. In urban areas, the use of surface water increased to 91%, illustrating the critical issue of access to clean water.

On 2 January 2022, Haiti officially reported its first cholera case in 2022, with the first confirmed cholera cases on 29 January. The surge in cases has raised concerns regarding the potential for a new wave of cholera.

The 2022 Global Humanitarian Overview projected 4.9 million people – over one-fifth of the population – to be in need of humanitarian assistance, highlighting the severity of the situation.

In Cité Soleil, a current cholera hotspot, 49% of households were relying on unsafe water sources, with 75% of people using surface water for drinking. Such reliance on contaminated water sources increases the risk of cholera transmission.

The Humanitarian Task Force (HTF) is working closely with the government to respond to the cholera outbreak, and stakeholders are meeting regularly to discuss the response.

In conclusion, while Haiti has made some progress in disaster response infrastructure, the current funding levels are insufficient to meet the needs of those affected by the earthquake and the cholera outbreak. Continued support and funding are crucial to address the multiple challenges facing the country.