

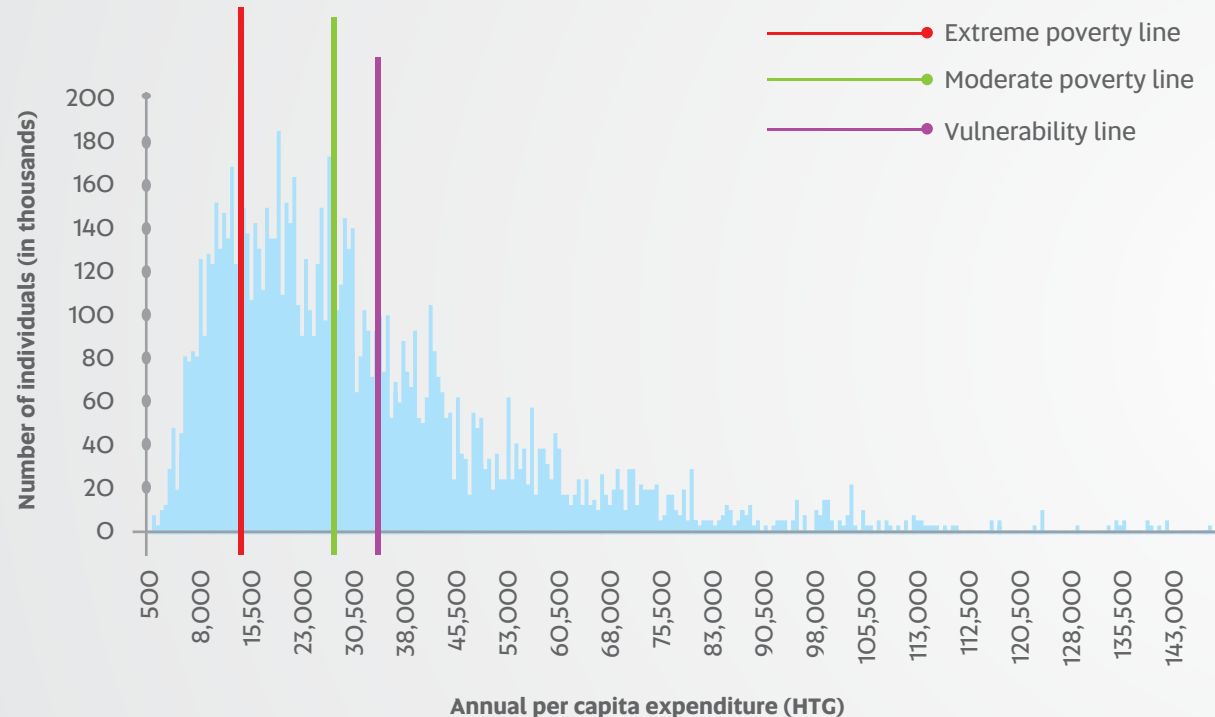


Strengthen social protection programs to reduce the risk of falling or staying in poverty



Vulnerability is extensive in Haiti.

Nearly 70% of the population is poor or vulnerable to poverty; one million people could be pushed into poverty by an adverse shock. Only 2 % of the population consumes at least the equivalent of US\$10 a day, which is the region's income threshold for joining the middle class. An adequate social protection system would allow poor and vulnerable households to manage the risks and shocks they regularly face and to invest in health or in their children's education.



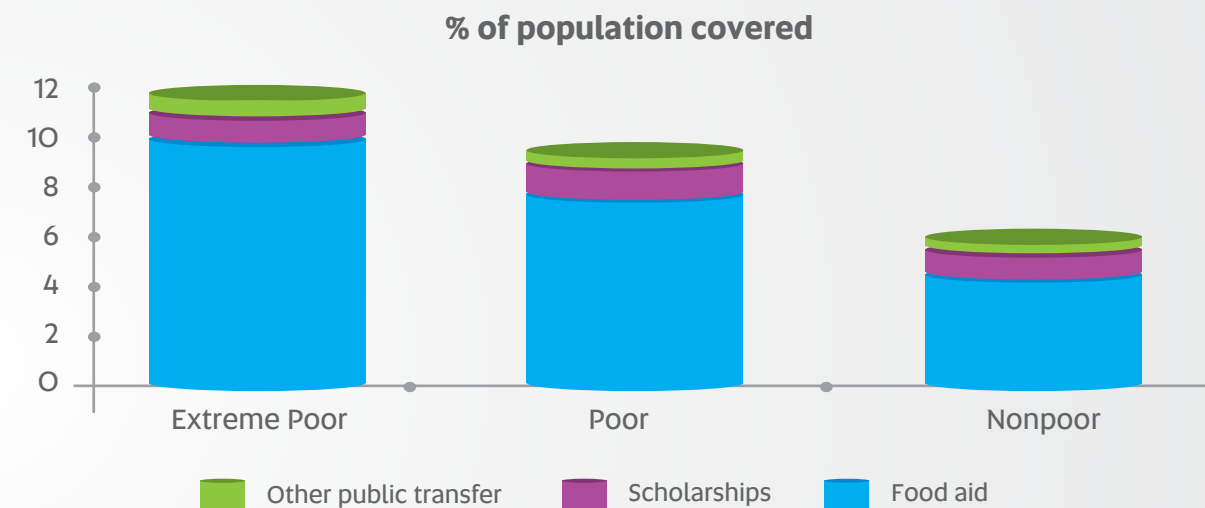
Despite recent expansion, coverage of social protection programs is limited¹.

Only 11% of employees in Haiti have access to social security and two-thirds of them are concentrated in the richest 20%. In 2012, only 8% of the Haitian population and 11% of the poor received non-contributory social assistance benefits.

1. Social protection encompasses programs ranging from contributory social insurance or social security (pensions or health insurance) to noncontributory social assistance (social safety nets), which is directed to the poorest. This coverage rate does not capture a number of larger programs such as school feeding or new programs introduced in the last years

The costs to the poorest households associated with this lack of protection are high, especially for future generations.

Young children are particularly under-represented among the beneficiaries of social assistance, even though the poverty rate among this group is over 70%.



To complement recent expansions of welfare programs and coordination efforts under EDE PEP, three actions are essential to improve the protection and promotion of human capital among the poor and vulnerable:

- Develop a unified and effective targeting system.
- Expand the protection coverage when financially possible.
- Improve coordination on the ground between departments and agencies, while strengthening the institutional and financial architecture of social protection to improve efficiency and sustainability.

