

SITUATION REPORT HAITI



SWITCHBOARD

HIGHLIGHTS

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS AND RESPONSE

The IOM co-leads the Haiti Shelter/NFI Sector supporting the Haitian government's Civil Protection and Unit for Construction of Housing and Public Building by providing technical and policy advice and coordination support to domestic and international shelter partners (IOM, 2022). IOM Haiti has stated it is ready to provide further support to the Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Communication (MTPTC) with structural assessments—i.e., the IOM will support displaced people's immediate needs by providing housing assistance and help distribute emergency shelter kits and other essentials NFIs (kitchen sets, blankets) to improve living conditions at displacement sites (IOM, 2022).

There remains an ongoing threat in the economically fragile nation from Atlantic hurricanes and tropical storms that continue to hinder reconstruction and disaster risk reduction efforts since the devastating 2021 earthquake (UNU 2022).

POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Haitian government has reiterated its call for an urgent international mission to fight gangs, following its initial October 7, 2022 request that foreign partners deploy armed forces in response to the deteriorating security situation and gang violence (Relief Web Nov 2022).

ECONOMY

Haiti's gradually weakening economy has been affected by cyclical political problems and natural disasters, such as the devastating 2021 earthquake. Haiti has relied on its diaspora and their resources to support the economy, but remittances were expected to decline 16% in 2022 as economic and political crisis has worsened in the country. One factor in this decline may be migrants stuck in transit, unable to reach their destination (The Dialogue Nov 2022).

CASE STUDY



DIASPORA ADVOCACY FOR HAITIAN MIGRANT AND PEOPLE OF HAITIAN ORIGIN RIGHTS IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

On November 10, 2022, called on governments in the Americas—including the Dominican Republic—to stop deportations due to the worsening security situation in Haiti (OCHR Oct 2022). The Dominican Republic has rejected this call, stating that it has the sovereign right to decide its own immigration policies (Reuters 2022), San Diego Tribune 2022).

On November 23, 2022, the Collectif Haiti de France and 17 other diaspora and non-diaspora civil society networks active in Haiti issued a joint statement condemning the government of the Dominican Republic for their mistreatment of Haitian migrants and Dominicans of Haitian origin, who have been subject to mass deportations described by civil society groups as akin to a campaign of ethnic cleansing. Haitians and Dominicans of Haitian origin regularly face abuse from Dominican soldiers and citizens, and the worsening security and governance situation means the Haitian government is unable to effectively advocate for and protect its citizens.

MIGRATION AND DISPLACEMENT

Haitian women, children and men who want to return to Haiti may face life-threatening security and health risks alongside further displacement inside the country. According to the UNHCR, the forced removal of people to places where they may face persecution, torture or other harm constitutes “refoulement,” explicitly prohibited under international refugee and human rights law (UNHCR, 2022).

Further, more than 96,000 people have been displaced by recent gang violence in Port-au-Prince, with lack of access to affected communities deepening the multidimensional humanitarian crisis and hampering emergency response (RELIEFWEB, 2022).

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS AND RESPONSE

The IOM co-leads the Haiti Shelter/NFI Sector supporting the Haitian government’s Civil Protection and Unit for Construction of Housing and Public Building by providing technical and policy advice and coordination support to domestic and international shelter partners (IOM, 2022). IOM Haiti has stated it is ready to provide further support to the Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Communication (MTPTC) with structural assessments—i.e., the IOM will support displaced people’s immediate needs by providing housing assistance and help distribute emergency shelter kits and other essentials NFIs (kitchen sets, blankets) to improve living conditions at displacement sites (IOM, 2022).

There remains an ongoing threat in the economically fragile nation from Atlantic hurricanes and tropical storms that continue to hinder reconstruction and disaster risk reduction efforts since the devastating 2021 earthquake (UNU 2022).

FOOD SECURITY

The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) states that earthquakes were a key driver of food insecurity in Haiti, with an estimated 4.3 million people facing crisis levels. In 2022, conditions worsened with rising costs attributed to the conflict in Ukraine. Haiti faced shocks in global food and field markets due to its heavy reliance on imports. Food security has continued to deteriorate in rural areas, with several going from crisis (IPC 3) to emergency (IPC 4) phases. Over the next six months, the WFP will require \$105m for crisis response, tackling root causes, and bolstering the resilience of Haiti (WFP, 2022).

The USAID program Ayiti Pi Djanm (“A Stronger Haiti”) seeks to combat food insecurity. The 5-year (2022–2027), \$50m assistance plan will tackle food insecurity, nutritional status and building resilience (The Borgen Project, 2022).

HEALTH

At least 144 people died from a cholera outbreak in October, the first reported in Haiti in over three years, with children aged 1–4 most affected. 86% of all reported cases have been hospitalized. The Ouest department accounts for the highest percentage (89%) of suspected cases.

Of the 13,672 suspected cholera cases reported, 59% are male and the most affected age groups are children aged 1–4 years (19%) (RELIEFWEB, 2022). The resurgence of cholera adds further stress to a complex humanitarian situation only further exacerbated by a lack of access to water and healthcare, increasing the risk of transmission. Although cholera is easily treatable, it is difficult for affected communities to receive the medication due to security and access concerns, making it harder for organizations to deliver life-saving medication (RELIEFWEB, 2022).

Children in Haiti are also facing malnutrition epidemic affecting as many as 60 million children under five years old. WFP is targeting a record 160 million food-insecure people in 2022, a significant increase from the already record-high 128 million. Between January and September 2022, WFP reached 133 million people (WFP - 2022).

SECURITY

Violence (including sexual violence), kidnapping, looting and roadblocks by armed gangs has caused a humanitarian situation in the country, marked by acute food insecurity, fuel shortages and limited health care and sanitation. According to the UN Human Rights Office, systematic violations of rights and unremitting armed violence have descended the country into one of the “worst human rights and humanitarian situations in decades” (OHCHR Nov 2022).

Haitian authorities announced on November 3, 2022 that government security forces had regained control of the port. They also noted field distribution will soon resume in the capital, although gangs still control main roads to the north and south, obstructing supply to regions (CRISISGROUP, 2022). The international community is working with the government to stabilize neighborhoods affected by gang violence by providing housing assistance and scaling rental subsidy efforts for a period of one year (IOM, 2022).

