

SITUATION REPORT HAITI



SWITCHBOARD

HIGHLIGHTS

ECONOMY

Consumer prices jumped by +11% between September and October 2022 in the context of inflation that peaked at 47.2% year-on-year (October 2022), a record in the last 28 years ([Haiti Libre, 2022](#)).

FOOD SECURITY

As heavily armed gangs continue to control the country's principal port and fuel terminal, Haiti faces a series of overlapping crises ([The Guardian, 2022](#)). The country is in the throes of its worst hunger in history: 4.7 million people are facing acute hunger and 1.8 million are urgently malnourished. For the first time in Haitian history, it is the subject of the WFP's highest alert, as thousands of Haitians are suffering from level 5 hunger. Nearly half the population is in highly acute food insecurity and, for the first time ever, over 19,200 are "in catastrophe" ([ReliefWeb, 2022](#)).

HEALTH

As the water taps run dry, Haitians are also facing a cholera outbreak that, in conjunction with the severe malnutrition affecting many, can become deadly ([The Guardian, 2022](#)). As of October 14, the Haitian health authorities recorded 425 suspected cases and 22 deaths ([MSPP, 2022](#)). The national penitentiary in Port-au-Prince itself recorded 14 deaths as a result of overcrowded prisons. As access to health care continues to shrink due to national fuel shortage and gang activities, there are growing concerns about Haitians' welfare among medical NGOs ([The Guardian, 2022](#)).

CASE STUDY



JOINT MOBILIZATION FROM US-BASED HAITIAN DIASPORA ORGANIZATIONS

During the first week of October 2022, a coalition of eight Haitian diaspora organizations—the [Haitian Studies Association](#), [Haitian Bridge Alliance](#), [Haitian American Foundation for Democracy](#), [Haiti Response Coalition](#), [Haitian Ladies Network](#), [Faith in Action International](#), [Haiti Advocacy Working Group](#) and [Haiti Development Institute](#)—organized a series of Haiti-themed events in Washington DC, which included: A Week on Haiti, the Haitian Studies Association Annual Conference, and the Haitian Ladies Network Annual Weekend. This initiative aimed to bring together three key groups—Haitians coming from Haiti, the Haitian-American diaspora, and solidarity activists—to build a broad coalition around support for Haiti. On October 7, 2022, the coalition called on network and coalition leaders to participate in a dialogue in Haiti on US policy, with the aim of building consensus around a call to action for the fairer treatment of Haitians by the US immigration system ([Haiti Response, 2022](#)).

This event echoed other initiatives organized by the Haitian Studies Association (HSA), a non-profit, independent, non-partisan scholarly and professional association whose purpose is to foster intellectual discussion, scholarly research, and teaching on Haiti, Haitians, and the Haitian diasporas. HSA encourages civic engagement through network building, publications and public debate. On October 14, 2022, HSA also organized a panel discussion about Life in Haiti today, inviting several Haitian professionals to discuss how the current situation impacts all aspects of everyday life ([Haitian Studies Association, 2022](#)).

Similarly, the Haitian Medical Associations Abroad also published a public letter to the Haitian Prime Minister, Dr. Ariel Henry, highlighting their deep concerns about the deplorable economic crisis affecting the country, the deteriorating security and crime situation, and the lack of access to health care ([Haitian Times Oct 2022](#)).

SECURITY

The G9 gang coalition led by Jimmy “Barbecue” Chrizier, a former police officer, has taken control of Haiti ([The Guardian, 2022](#)). Kidnappings and extortion are now also happening in what were formerly considered “green zones.”

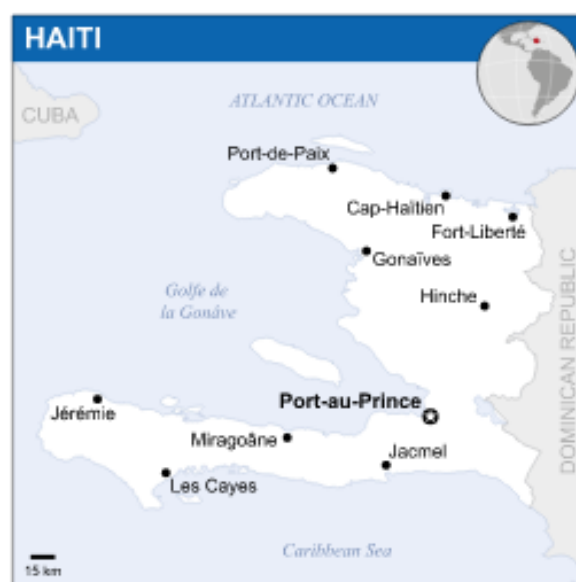
Further, G9’s blockade has left Haitians without access to fuel and only limited access to food and clean water (Ibid.). Access to humanitarian assistance has also been affected by gang activities, as most agencies are unable to use the port due to the gangs effectively taking control on 21 October. In response, the UN Security Council approved a sanctions package for Haiti, targeting gang leaders and those supporting and involved in criminal activities. The sanctions include “assets freeze, travel ban and arms embargo against those engaging in or supporting criminal activity and violence” ([UN News, 2022](#)).

There are also increasing concerns among United Nations agencies around the gang coalition’s use of sexual violence against women and children as a tool of warfare ([Reuters, 2022](#)). The UN has even discussed possible foreign military intervention in Haiti, although it is still unclear whether this will happen, given the poor outcome of previous military interventions (Ibid.). The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights denounces the alarming increase of the use of sexual violence by armed gangs, particularly in the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince ([Relief Web, 2022](#)).

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

The impact of fuel restrictions has meant some medical services cannot be provided as before. Humanitarian actors continue to provide response and protection against sexual and gender-based violence through mobile clinics and referrals to appropriate health facilities for clinical and psychosocial care where possible. ([Relief Web, 2022](#))

On October 21, 2022, The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) announced the official launch of the Civil Society Strengthening Program (CSSP), which aims to strengthen the capacity of Haitian civil society organizations (CSOs) including faith-based organizations, local groups, and those registered and operating in Haiti working with the diaspora. One expected result is that CSOs are better equipped to develop, implement, and monitor their advocacy and service-delivery activities to the highest standards ([US Embassy in Haiti, 2022](#)).



SOURCES: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/oct/18/haiti-un-talks-gangs-hunger-cholera>
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