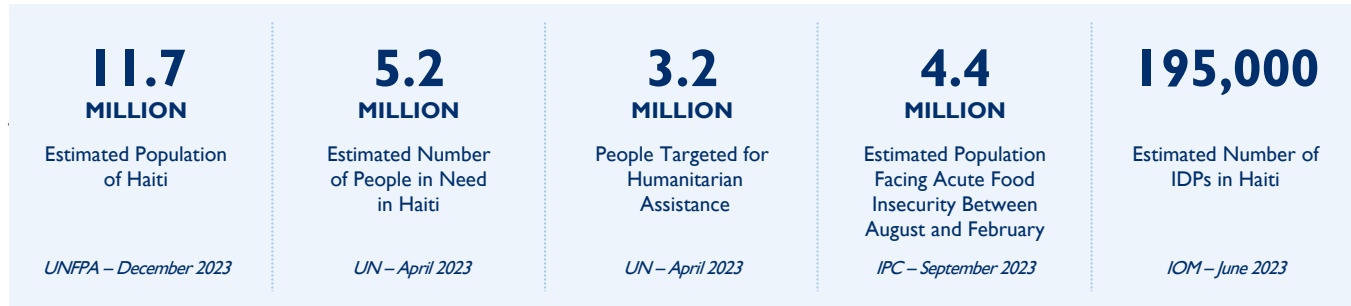


# Haiti – Complex Emergency

DECEMBER 13, 2023

## SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- The UNSC approved the deployment of a GoK-led MSS mission to Haiti on October 2, aimed at reducing OCG violence and related insecurity. Up to 80 percent of people in Haiti’s capital city of Port-au-Prince live in areas under OCG control, limiting access to basic goods and services and hindering humanitarian assistance efforts, the UN reports.
- Artibonite Department has experienced a surge in OCG violence—particularly targeting farming households—in 2023, prompting displacement, disrupting or suspending income-generating activities, and increasing food insecurity concerns.
- Living conditions among IDPs in Port-au-Prince metropolitan area continue to deteriorate, with an increasingly higher number of IDPs sheltering in informal sites with limited resources. Host communities report facing increased strain on already limited household resources when hosting IDPs, with nearly 90 percent of IDPs and host community members experiencing food shortages at least once in the past 30 days.
- In response to rising protection needs resulting from OCG violence, USAID/BHA partners, including Concern Worldwide, GOAL, and SCF, continue to provide assistance to vulnerable populations through protection awareness training, PSS sessions, and GBV response service.



## **KEY DEVELOPMENTS**

### **UNSC Authorizes MSS Mission, Aiming to Increase Security in Haiti**

On October 2, the UN Security Council (UNSC) adopted a resolution to authorize a Government of Kenya (GoK)-led Multinational Security Support (MSS) mission aimed at supporting the Haitian National Police (HNP) to reduce organized criminal group (OCG) violence, facilitating long-term stability and growth in Haiti. The MSS mission is authorized to provide operational and training support to the HNP and deploy Kenyan police officers to assist the mission. A GoK delegation—accompanied by representatives from the U.S. Government (USG)—met in Haiti with Haitian Prime Minister Ariel Henry, Haitian government officials, and HNP representatives on December 6 to discuss preliminary logistics for the MSS mission’s arrival.

Persistent OCG violence and political instability since the July 2021 assassination of former President Jovenel Moïse has exacerbated humanitarian needs and driven widespread displacement in Haiti, particularly in Port-au-Prince metropolitan area, where approximately 80 percent of residents reside in areas under OCG control, the UN reports. At least 195,000 people are currently displaced countrywide, including nearly 140,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Port-au-Prince alone as of November 10, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) reports. Between January and early December 2023, OCG-related violence had resulted in at least 3,960 deaths, injury to more than 1,400 people, and approximately 3,000 abductions, the UN reports. The persistent rise in OCG violence has also hindered civilian movement and humanitarian access, limiting vulnerable populations’ ability to access essential goods and services, and impeding the delivery of live-saving aid.

### **Influx in OCG Activity in Artibonite in 2023, Elevating Protection Risks**

In 2023, sustained OCG violence in Artibonite—Haiti’s primary rice-growing region with a population of 2 million people—has resulted in abductions, civilian casualties, displacement, and protection violations, exacerbating needs among vulnerable populations while adversely affecting critical humanitarian services, the UN reports. OCG-related violence resulted in at least 350 deaths, injury to nearly 230 individuals, and nearly 1,120 abductions between January 2022 and October 2023 in Artibonite, with more than 80 percent of incidents occurring in 2023, according to the UN. Farming households in southern areas of Artibonite have been most affected by the influx of violence, with OCG members reportedly seizing land; destroying crops and critical infrastructure, such as irrigation systems; and taking control of agricultural and other household assets. The attacks have subsequently disrupted local markets, exacerbating food insecurity and malnutrition in the region. Additionally, residents remain at high risk of facing various protection violations, including gender-based violence, especially while traveling. Due to lack of livelihood opportunities and insecurity, more than 22,000 had been displaced across the department as of June, IOM reports.

Concurrently, heightened OCG presence and related security concerns have significantly constrained humanitarian access to the department, with humanitarian actors reporting OCG-imposed checkpoints, roadblocks, and other restrictions. As of November 3, OCGs had seized control of several HNP stations throughout Artibonite, utilizing stolen HNP vehicles to patrol neighborhoods and major roadways, including Artibonite’s main highway. During this period, USAID/BHA partners also reported an uptick in OCG-related security incidents, including the seizure of at least one vehicle, and temporarily suspended activities in several neighborhoods affected by high levels of OCG violence. The surge in OCG violence and related access constraints in early November also delayed the delivery of relief commodities, as humanitarian actors increasingly relied on alternative routes to deliver goods in recent months. Such incidents also continue to result in hospital and school closures and prevent staff from

accessing areas with heightened OCG presence, hindering the delivery of critical education support services and health assistance to populations in need.

### **Increased Strain on Host Communities Prompts Escalating Reliance on Informal IDP Sites**

Ongoing OCG violence and related displacement in Port-au-Prince, coupled with increasingly limited resources, are driving widespread humanitarian needs in the metropolitan area. Nearly 60 percent of IDPs in Port-au-Prince metropolitan area—an estimated 81,000 people—were reportedly sheltering in informal sites—including churches, community centers, schools, and vacant public spaces—as of November 20, representing the first time more IDPs were seeking refuge in informal sites than with host communities since IOM began tracking displacement in the capital in August 2022. Increased cost of living and a reduction in income-generating activities have added strain on host communities in recent months, with more than 40 percent of host community members reporting an inability to shelter IDPs due to a lack of resources, according to a mid-October IOM survey. Among those surveyed, 95 percent of host community members also reported reduced access to nutritious food due to the arrival of IDPs, with nearly 90 percent of IDPs and host community members alike reportedly experiencing food shortages at least once in the previous 30 days. The lack of available housing within host communities has also obliged a high number of IDPs to either seek refuge in informal sites with limited resources in Port-au-Prince or leave the capital for other areas of the country.

Across Haiti, approximately 70,000 people were sheltering in insecure or spontaneous sites, nearly 50 percent of whom—approximately 31,000 people—were sleeping in open air conditions as of September 30, according to the UN. Notably, the majority of informal sites lack access to critical water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure, safe spaces, and other basic resources, leaving IDPs reliant on humanitarian assistance to meet their basic needs, and at increased risk of protection violations and contracting waterborne diseases, such as cholera.

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## **KEY FIGURES**



**12**

USAID/BHA partners providing food assistance in Haiti

## **U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE**

### **FOOD SECURITY**

While security conditions and fuel shortages pose logistical challenges for humanitarian operations, USAID/BHA food security partners continue to work to overcome access constraints and reach populations in need. USAID/BHA continues to support 12 partners in FY 2024 to provide emergency food assistance in Haiti, including cash transfers for food, food vouchers, and in-kind food aid. During September, USAID/BHA partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) reached nearly 289,000 individuals in Port-au-Prince metropolitan area and along the Dominican Republic–Haiti border with hot meals and distributed cash transfers for food to more than 46,000 people. USAID/BHA also supports WFP to maintain a pre-positioned stock of in-kind food commodities to quickly distribute throughout Haiti in the event of a disaster. With USAID/BHA funding, partner Concern Worldwide also supported more than 4,000 households in Port-au-Prince’s Cité Soleil neighborhood with electronic vouchers to purchase food from local markets during August.



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USAID/BHA partners providing protection services in Haiti

## PROTECTION

USAID/BHA supports ten partners to provide critical protection assistance—such as GBV prevention and response, medical referrals, and mental health and psychosocial support—across Haiti to address heightened protection needs resulting from persistent insecurity. USAID/BHA partner GOAL hosted protection awareness sessions during September for more than 1,100 people in Port-au-Prince’s Carrefour commune, aiming to promote positive behavior change—to reduce cases of child abandonment and survival sex—within at-risk communities. With USAID/BHA support, Save the Children (SCF) additionally reached more than 200 GBV survivors with psychosocial support sessions in Grand’Anse and Sud departments in October. During the same reporting period, the NGO also launched a program focused on reducing violence against children and discriminatory gender dynamics within the household, reaching nearly 620 parents and children with child protection training sessions countrywide. Furthermore, partner Concern Worldwide identified more than 540 GBV cases and provided financial support to more than 40 survivors to pay for medical expenses and transportation to health facilities in Port-au-Prince during August and September. USAID/BHA requires all partners to incorporate protection principles into each supported activity in Haiti while promoting meaningful access, dignity, and safety for all participants.



450 MT

Of USAID/BHA-facilitated relief commodities transported to Haiti to respond to the cholera outbreak

## LOGISTICS AND RELIEF COMMODITIES

USAID/BHA continues to mobilize supplies to support cholera treatment and response efforts amid ongoing fuel shortages in Haiti. In partnership with the logistics nonprofit Airlink, USAID/BHA established a humanitarian air bridge to deliver critical health and WASH supplies to relief organizations combating cholera in Haiti, transporting nearly 290 metric tons (MT) of assistance to eight humanitarian organizations as of August. USAID/BHA also supports WFP to provide critical transportation and logistics services to support the broader humanitarian response.

USAID/BHA also funds IOM to maintain pre-positioned emergency relief supplies—sufficient to support nearly 75,000 individuals—in Haiti for distribution in response to sudden-onset disasters. IOM continues to distribute relief items from its contingency stocks—including critical hygiene kits and cholera prevention supplies—to support approximately 60,000 people in need throughout Haiti, including individuals affected by the cholera epidemic.



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USAID/BHA-supported partners conducting WASH activities in Haiti

## HEALTH AND WASH

USAID/BHA-supported programming for health and WASH in Haiti is working to prevent and address the spread of cholera and other communicable diseases, as well as provide access to safe drinking water for people in need. USAID/BHA currently supports 11 partners implementing

WASH activities to disseminate disease prevention messaging, provide hygiene kits and safe drinking water to vulnerable households, repair WASH infrastructure, and conduct awareness campaigns on hygiene best practices to reduce the spread of disease. During September, USAID/BHA partner Concern Worldwide reached approximately 5,400 individuals in Cité Soleil and Port-au-Prince's Delmas commune with water trucking services, providing approximately five gallons of safe drinking water per person per day.



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USAID/BHA partners  
providing health services in  
Haiti

USAID/BHA health partners work to strengthen the capacity of health care centers across Haiti, adjusting existing programming to meet emerging cholera response needs, while also working to overcome security-related access constraints. With USAID/BHA support, Project Hope provided critical assistance to support cholera prevention activities through the deployment of medical personnel and the delivery of medicine, health supplies, and WASH items to communities in need in Grand'Anse, Nippes, and Sud departments during October. During the same reporting period, the NGO also reached 26,000 people with hygiene awareness sessions focused on the importance of safe food handling, handwashing, hygiene, and water sanitation to prevent the spread of cholera across the three departments. Additionally, USAID/BHA partner the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) reached more than 4,900 people with life-saving health and psychosocial support (PSS) assistance through mobile clinics in September.

## CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- Civil unrest, disease, economic instability, and insecurity—combined with recurring shocks from natural disasters, including droughts, earthquakes, floods, and hurricanes—have resulted in essential commodity shortages, food insecurity, and other humanitarian needs throughout Haiti in recent years. In response, USAID/BHA funds humanitarian programs in Haiti that aim to save lives, alleviate suffering, build resilience, enhance food security, strengthen livelihoods, and respond to disease outbreaks. USAID/BHA also funds programming to reduce disaster risk in Haiti and bolster national self-sufficiency through emergency preparedness and management.
- Amid the continued deterioration of the security situation in Haiti, Chargé d'Affaires, a.i., Eric W. Stromayer issued a redeclaration of humanitarian need on October 8, 2022, in anticipation of continued humanitarian needs in FY 2023.
- In response to the worsening humanitarian crisis and cholera epidemic in Haiti, USAID/BHA activated a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) on October 14, 2022, to identify, verify, and address the immediate humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable Haitians, with a particular focus on alleviating food insecurity; addressing acute protection needs; and supporting cholera prevention and response. The DART is actively coordinating with humanitarian partners and the U.S. Embassy in Haiti to lead the USG's humanitarian response efforts. USAID/BHA also activated a Washington, D.C.-based Response Management Team on October 14, 2022, to support the DART.

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## PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at [interaction.org](https://www.interaction.org).
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed, often in the affected region; reduce the burden on scarce resources, such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space; can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietarily, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
  - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: [cidi.org](https://www.cidi.org).
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [reliefweb.int](https://www.reliefweb.int).

USAID/BHA bulletins appear on the USAID website at [usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work](https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work)