



## COI QUERY

Country of Origin

**HAITI**

Title

**Security situation in Port-au-Prince**

Reference period

January 2024 to March 2026

Topic(s)

1. [Background of the conflict](#)
2. [Latest developments](#)
3. [Impact on civilians](#)

Date of completion

1 April 2026

Query Code

Q14-2026

Contributing EU+ COI  
units (if applicable)

**N/A**



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Cite as: EUAA, Country of Origin Information Query, Haiti, Security situation in Port-au-Prince, 1 April 2026, [url](#)



## COI QUERY RESPONSE – Haiti

### Security situation in Port-au-Prince

#### 1. Background of the conflict

In March 2018, after oil imports from Venezuela into Haiti stopped, the government halted subsidies for fuel, which led to high increases in fuel prices, and sometimes deadly protests.<sup>1</sup> In September 2019, the authorities imposed a lockdown lasting for 10 weeks, during which the security situation deteriorated.<sup>2</sup> In 2021, the then-president Jovenel Moïse was assassinated, which triggered a further political crisis and proliferation of armed groups,<sup>3</sup> especially in the capital city, Port-au-Prince.<sup>4</sup> Aside from the instable political situation, in the same year, the country was hit by natural disasters, including a 7.2-magnitude earthquake and a tropical storm, contributing to the worsening levels of instability, criminality, and humanitarian crisis.<sup>5</sup> The situation in the country following the assassination was described by the UN Security Council Report as ‘political deadlock, extreme violence, and dire humanitarian conditions’.<sup>6</sup> By 2023, ‘the last of Haiti’s democratically-elected officials left office’, leaving behind a political vacuum.<sup>7</sup> Former president Moïse was replaced by the acting prime minister Ariel Henry, who resigned in April 2024.<sup>8</sup> The Transitional Presidential Council (CPT) was then established,<sup>9</sup> with a promise to hold elections before the end of 2025.<sup>10</sup> However, according to a December 2025 article by The New Humanitarian, the CPT, consisting of nine members, ‘has been embroiled in political infighting and corruption allegations, plunging Haiti into further chaos.’<sup>11</sup> The mandate of the CPT was set to expire in February 2026.<sup>12</sup> After the conclusion of the CPT’s mandate in February 2026, several political parties recognised Prime Minister Alix Didier Fils-Aimé as the representative of the transitional Government.<sup>13</sup>

Lack of effective leadership, flow of illegal weapons into the country and ‘weak law enforcement’ contributed to the expansion of activities of armed groups competing for

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<sup>1</sup> Concern Worldwide, The Haiti crisis, explained, 13 January 2025, [url](#)

<sup>2</sup> Concern Worldwide, The Haiti crisis, explained, 13 January 2025, [url](#)

<sup>3</sup> Concern Worldwide, The Haiti crisis, explained, 13 January 2025, [url](#); International Rescue Committee, Haiti’s gang violence crisis: What to know and how to help, January 12, 2026, [url](#); Amnesty International, Gang Violence and unrest in Haiti, [December 2024], [url](#)

<sup>4</sup> International Rescue Committee, Haiti’s gang violence crisis: What to know and how to help, January 12, 2026, [url](#)

<sup>5</sup> CFR, Criminal Violence in Haiti, 4 December 2025, [url](#)

<sup>6</sup> Security Council Report, January 2026 Monthly Forecast, 30 December 2025, [url](#)

<sup>7</sup> Concern Worldwide, The Haiti crisis, explained, 13 January 2025, [url](#)

<sup>8</sup> CFR, Criminal Violence in Haiti, 4 December 2025, [url](#)

<sup>9</sup> Amnesty International, Gang Violence and unrest in Haiti, [December 2024], [url](#)

<sup>10</sup> International Crisis Group, Locked in Transition: Politics and Violence in Haiti, 19 February 2025, [url](#), p. 3

<sup>11</sup> TNH, As new UN force set to tackle gangs, Haitians speak of exhaustion and hopelessness, 10 December 2025, [url](#)

<sup>12</sup> TNH, As new UN force set to tackle gangs, Haitians speak of exhaustion and hopelessness, 10 December 2025, [url](#)

<sup>13</sup> The Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, Haiti, 16 March 2026, [url](#). On the political situation, See also: CSIS, Haiti Embarks on Another Rocky Political Transition, 9 February 2026, [url](#)



territorial control and conducted attacks, including on civilian infrastructure.<sup>14</sup> In 2023, violence in Haiti continued to escalate<sup>15</sup> with armed gangs expanding their control to about 80 % of Port-au-Prince.<sup>16</sup> The security situation further escalated in February 2024, after gangs created alliances and launched coordinated attacks across Port-au-Prince targeting civilian infrastructure.<sup>17</sup> The gangs attacked main ports, the city's international airport, prisons, hospitals, and other public buildings.<sup>18</sup> These attacks 'severely disrupted' access to public services and basic goods.<sup>19</sup> While focusing to keep their hold on the capital, during 2024, the gangs also attacked the towns of Gressier, Ganthier, Cabaret, and Arcahaie, and parts of the Artibonite department.<sup>20</sup> In March 2025, gangs launch coordinated attacks on infrastructure in the city of Mirebalais, including on the city prison, leading to the escape of over 500 inmates.<sup>21</sup> Armed gangs eventually extended their control of Port-au-Prince to 90 % according to reports from 2025,<sup>22</sup> and early 2026.<sup>23</sup>

Violations against the civilian population by armed gangs included killings,<sup>24</sup> rapes,<sup>25</sup> kidnappings,<sup>26</sup> forced recruitment, including of children,<sup>27</sup> trafficking in children, extortion, destruction of properties, preventing access to essential services,<sup>28</sup> looting of homes,<sup>29</sup> as well as attacks on civilian infrastructure like medical facilities, schools,<sup>30</sup> and markets.<sup>31</sup> Gangs targeted civilians deliberately<sup>32</sup> and indiscriminately.<sup>33</sup> International Crisis Group reported that gangs committed several 'massacres' against the population,<sup>34</sup> for instance, in December

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<sup>14</sup> Amnesty International, Gang Violence and unrest in Haiti, [December 2024], [url](#)

<sup>15</sup> CFR, Criminal Violence in Haiti, 4 December 2025, [url](#)

<sup>16</sup> CFR, Criminal Violence in Haiti, 4 December 2025, [url](#)

<sup>17</sup> The Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, Haiti, 16 March 2026, [url](#)

<sup>18</sup> International Crisis Group, Locked in Transition: Politics and Violence in Haiti, 19 February 2025, [url](#), p. 14

<sup>19</sup> HRW, Haiti-Events of 2024, 2025, [url](#)

<sup>20</sup> International Crisis Group, Locked in Transition: Politics and Violence in Haiti, 19 February 2025, [url](#), p. 15

<sup>21</sup> UNODC, UN Security Council Briefing on the Situation in Haiti, 2 July 2025, [url](#)

<sup>22</sup> TNH, As new UN force set to tackle gangs, Haitians speak of exhaustion and hopelessness, 10 December 2025, [url](#)

<sup>23</sup> The Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, Haiti, 16 March 2026, [url](#)

<sup>24</sup> BINUH and OHCHR, Children Trafficked by Gangs In Haiti: February 2026 Rethinking the Responses, 20 February 2026, [url](#), p. 11; The Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, Haiti, 16 March 2026, [url](#)

<sup>25</sup> International Crisis Group, Undoing Haiti's Deadly Gang Alliance, 15 December 2025, [url](#), p. 14; The Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, Haiti, 16 March 2026, [url](#)

<sup>26</sup> International Crisis Group, Undoing Haiti's Deadly Gang Alliance, 15 December 2025, [url](#), p. 14' UNSC, BINUH, Report of the Secretary-General, 15 January 2026, [url](#), para. 50; UN News, Haiti explained: why the crisis is deepening — and what comes next, 21 January 2026, [url](#); BINUH and OHCHR, Children Trafficked by Gangs In Haiti: February 2026 Rethinking the Responses, 20 February 2026, [url](#), p.

<sup>27</sup> BINUH and OHCHR, Children Trafficked by Gangs In Haiti: February 2026 Rethinking the Responses, 20 February 2026, [url](#), pp. 19-21

<sup>28</sup> UNSC, Report of the Secretary-General, 15 January 2026, [url](#), para. 15

<sup>29</sup> International Crisis Group, Undoing Haiti's Deadly Gang Alliance, 15 December 2025, [url](#), p. 14

<sup>30</sup> International Crisis Group, Undoing Haiti's Deadly Gang Alliance, 15 December 2025, [url](#), p. 14; The Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, Haiti, 16 March 2026, [url](#)

<sup>31</sup> The Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, Haiti, 16 March 2026, [url](#)

<sup>32</sup> Amnesty International, Gang Violence and unrest in Haiti, [December 2024], [url](#); The Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, Haiti, 16 March 2026, [url](#)

<sup>33</sup> Amnesty International, Gang Violence and unrest in Haiti, [December 2024], [url](#); International Crisis Group, Undoing Haiti's Deadly Gang Alliance, 15 December 2025, [url](#), p. 14

<sup>34</sup> International Crisis Group, Locked in Transition: Politics and Violence in Haiti, 19 February 2025, [url](#), pp. i-ii, 16, 17



2024, when the Wharf Jérémie gang killed at least 207 people in the Cité Soleil area of Port-au-Prince, and mutilated and burned their bodies.<sup>35</sup>

Haitian authorities requested assistance from the UN to combat gang violence, which was approved in October 2023, creating a Multinational Security Support mission (MSS), with Kenya volunteering to lead it.<sup>36</sup> MSS was deployed in June 2024 to restore security in the country,<sup>37</sup> however, it faced delays and lack of deployed personnel<sup>38</sup> and it has failed to restore security.<sup>39</sup> In September 2025, the UN adopted a resolution to deploy a new force replacing MSS to help stabilise the country called the Gang Suppression Force (GSF).<sup>40</sup> GSF is expected to be deployed in April 2026<sup>41</sup> with a mandate to “neutralize” gangs, protect vulnerable populations and critical infrastructure and facilitate humanitarian access’.<sup>42</sup>

By 2025, gangs diversified their criminal activities and engaged in piracy, drug trafficking, and extortion.<sup>43</sup> Gangs have used rhetoric positioning themselves as fighting for justice and ‘to protect the poorest Haitians from rapacious elites and colonial powers’<sup>44</sup> also announcing a creation of a new political party, even though it has not been legally registered as of December 2025.<sup>45</sup>

The situation has caused a widespread humanitarian crisis with 1.4 million people being displaced as of December 2025.<sup>46</sup>

## 2. Latest developments

As of January 2026, Haiti continues facing multiple crises, including political, economic, security, and humanitarian.<sup>47</sup>

Concerning security developments, gang violence further escalated towards the end of 2025.<sup>48</sup> Gangs, armed with heavy weapons,<sup>49</sup> used violence to assert control over the

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<sup>35</sup> OHCHR, Haiti: Over 5,600 killed in gang violence in 2024, UN figures show, 07 January 2025, [url](#)

<sup>36</sup> International Crisis Group, Locked in Transition: Politics and Violence in Haiti, 19 February 2025, [url](#), p. 1

<sup>37</sup> CFR, Criminal Violence in Haiti, 4 December 2025, [url](#); TNH, As new UN force set to tackle gangs, Haitians speak of exhaustion and hopelessness, 10 December 2025, [url](#)

<sup>38</sup> International Crisis Group, Locked in Transition: Politics and Violence in Haiti, 19 February 2025, [url](#), p. 18

<sup>39</sup> International Crisis Group, Locked in Transition: Politics and Violence in Haiti, 19 February 2025, [url](#), p. ii, 17; TNH, Haiti in-depth: The new Gang Suppression Force and what it means for Haitians, 3 December 2025, [url](#);

International Rescue Committee, Haiti's gang violence crisis: What to know and how to help, January 12, 2026, [url](#)

<sup>40</sup> TNH, As new UN force set to tackle gangs, Haitians speak of exhaustion and hopelessness, 10 December 2025, [url](#)

<sup>41</sup> International Crisis Group, Locked in Transition: Politics and Violence in Haiti, 19 February 2025, [url](#), p. ii

<sup>42</sup> The Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, Haiti, 16 March 2026, [url](#)

<sup>43</sup> International Crisis Group, Undoing Haiti's Deadly Gang Alliance, 15 December 2025, [url](#), p. i; UNODC, Explainer: Organized crime and gang violence in Haiti, 21 January 2026, [url](#)

<sup>44</sup> International Crisis Group, Undoing Haiti's Deadly Gang Alliance, 15 December 2025, [url](#), p. i

<sup>45</sup> International Crisis Group, Undoing Haiti's Deadly Gang Alliance, 15 December 2025, [url](#), p. i

<sup>46</sup> TNH, As new UN force set to tackle gangs, Haitians speak of exhaustion and hopelessness, 10 December 2025, [url](#)

<sup>47</sup> UNODC, Explainer: Organized crime and gang violence in Haiti, 21 January 2026, [url](#)

<sup>48</sup> UN News, Haiti explained: why the crisis is deepening — and what comes next, 21 January 2026, [url](#)

<sup>49</sup> UN News, Haiti explained: why the crisis is deepening — and what comes next, 21 January 2026, [url](#)



population and territory.<sup>50</sup> They sometimes staged ‘trials’ and ‘sentenced’ some people to death.<sup>51</sup> Police response, in cooperation with international forces, achieved limited success in pushing the gangs back in some areas, but ‘killings remain widespread, especially outside the capital, and reprisals against civilians continue’.<sup>52</sup> Police operations were also able to reopen some ‘key roads’.<sup>53</sup> In cooperation with private US security contractors, Haitian police have also deployed drones to target suspected gang members,<sup>54</sup> which also resulted in civilian casualties.<sup>55</sup> Despite police presence and conducted operations, violence against civilians continued across various communes.<sup>56</sup>

After gaining almost full control of Port-au-Prince in January 2026, gangs continued their territorial expansions in northern and western Haiti.<sup>57</sup> Gang violence has spread to the outskirts of Port-au-Prince and to the adjacent Artibonite and Centre departments, allowing the gangs to control strategic roads and corridors.<sup>58</sup>

According to the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), as of December 2025, there were some 200 gangs, out of which almost half was based in the capital city; these gangs were competing and eventually grouped into seven coalitions.<sup>59</sup> In February 2024, two of the gangs coalitions, G9 and Gpèp, united into an alliance called Viv Ansanm.<sup>60</sup> According to International Crisis Group, Viv Ansanm ‘poses the most severe threat Haiti has faced in decades.’<sup>61</sup> In a report published in February 2026, the Human Rights Service of the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH) and OHCHR reported that there were at least 26 gangs in Haiti.<sup>62</sup> Haitian authorities could not efficiently suppress the gangs,<sup>63</sup> leaving them acting with impunity.<sup>64</sup> Given the inability of security forces to offer protection, some citizens have formed vigilante groups fighting against the gangs; some of these groups, known as Bwa Kale movement, killed suspected gang members, receiving widespread support from the population, even though they operate outside of the state structure and act without any accountability.<sup>65</sup> In some cases, the actions of these ‘self-defence’ groups were ‘encouraged,

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<sup>50</sup> UN News, Haiti explained: why the crisis is deepening — and what comes next, 21 January 2026, [url](#); UNHRC, Situation of human rights in Haiti, Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, 23 March 2026, [url](#), para. 4

<sup>51</sup> UNHRC, Situation of human rights in Haiti, Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, 23 March 2026, [url](#), para. 4

<sup>52</sup> UN News, Haiti explained: why the crisis is deepening — and what comes next, 21 January 2026, [url](#)

<sup>53</sup> UNSC, United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti, Report of the Secretary-General, 15 January 2026, [url](#), para. 13

<sup>54</sup> Security Council Report, January 2026 Monthly Forecast, 30 December 2025, [url](#)

<sup>55</sup> HRW, Haiti: Drone Strikes Put Residents at Risk, 10 March 2026, [url](#); Security Council Report, January 2026 Monthly Forecast, 30 December 2025, [url](#)

<sup>56</sup> UNSC, United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti, Report of the Secretary-General, 15 January 2026, [url](#), para. 16

<sup>57</sup> International Rescue Committee, Haiti’s gang violence crisis: What to know and how to help, January 12, 2026, [url](#)

<sup>58</sup> UNHRC, Situation of human rights in Haiti, Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, 23 March 2026, [url](#), para. 5

<sup>59</sup> CFR, Criminal Violence in Haiti, 4 December 2025, [url](#)

<sup>60</sup> The Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, Haiti, 16 March 2026, [url](#)

<sup>61</sup> International Crisis Group, Undoing Haiti’s Deadly Gang Alliance, 15 December 2025, [url](#), p. 37

<sup>62</sup> BINUH and OHCHR, Children Trafficked by Gangs In Haiti: February 2026 Rethinking the Responses, 20 February 2026, [url](#), p. 5. For the overview of the 26 gangs and the areas they control see p. 14 of the report.

<sup>63</sup> International Rescue Committee, Haiti’s gang violence crisis: What to know and how to help, January 12, 2026, [url](#); International Crisis Group, Locked in Transition: Politics and Violence in Haiti, 19 February 2025, [url](#), p. 19

<sup>64</sup> Security Council Report, January 2026 Monthly Forecast, 30 December 2025, [url](#)

<sup>65</sup> International Crisis Group, Locked in Transition: Politics and Violence in Haiti, 19 February 2025, [url](#), p. 19



supported, or facilitated by police officers'.<sup>66</sup> Apart from the self-defence groups or vigilante, the presence of private security companies has also increased; in some cases, there were reports that both have cooperated with gangs.<sup>67</sup>

Between December 2025 and March 2026, the Haitian national police and international forces conducted operations against gangs, winning some 'tactical gains'.<sup>68</sup> Despite the liberation of some territory and more visible police presence,<sup>69</sup> 'killings remain widespread, especially outside Port-au-Prince, and reprisals against civilians continue'<sup>70</sup> as security forces could not regain already taken territory.<sup>71</sup> In the January 2026 report, BINUH reported that armed violence intensified and the territorial expansion of gangs continued beyond the capital, and into the West Department, Centre Department and Artibonite.<sup>72</sup> In March 2026, gangs continued attacking areas in the West, Artibonite and Centre departments, and gaining control of roads and economic corridors.<sup>73</sup>

Concerning the political situation, according to the political transition plans, elections are set to take place for a new president and parliament by early 2027;<sup>74</sup> the legislative elections are to be held in August 2026 and local elections in December 2026; the CPT has trained some electoral staff in preparation for the elections.<sup>75</sup>

### 3. Impact on civilians

Following the escalation of armed violence in the last quarter of 2025, the UN stated that violence has remained 'the dominant force shaping the daily life of Haitians'.<sup>76</sup> According to UN figures, between January 2022 and December 2025, over 26 000 people were killed or injured in Haiti (18 187 killed and 8 001 injured).<sup>77</sup> In 2024, some 5 600 people were killed due to gang violence, a figure increased by a thousand compared to 2023; additionally, some 2 200 people were injured and 1 490 kidnapped in 2024.<sup>78</sup> Between January and November 2025, over 8 100 killings were recorded in the whole country.<sup>79</sup> BINUH recorded 1 991 victims of 'intentional homicides' in between 1 September and 30 November 2025.<sup>80</sup>

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<sup>66</sup> UN Human Rights Council, Situation of human rights in Haiti, Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, 23 March 2026, [url](#), para. 7

<sup>67</sup> NPR, Haiti's gangs have 'near-total control' of the capital, U.N. says, 3 July 2025, [url](#)

<sup>68</sup> The Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, Haiti, 16 March 2026, [url](#)

<sup>69</sup> UN News, 'Glimmer of hope' in Haiti amid shifting gang frontlines, 16 March 2026, [url](#)

<sup>70</sup> The Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, Haiti, 16 March 2026, [url](#)

<sup>71</sup> BINUH and OHCHR, Children Trafficked by Gangs In Haiti: February 2026 Rethinking the Responses, 20 February 2026, [url](#), p. 8

<sup>72</sup> UNSC, Report of the Secretary-General, 15 January 2026, [url](#), para. 13, 14

<sup>73</sup> The Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, Haiti, 16 March 2026, [url](#)

<sup>74</sup> UN News, Haiti explained: why the crisis is deepening — and what comes next, 21 January 2026, [url](#)

<sup>75</sup> UNHRC, Situation of human rights in Haiti, Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, 23 March 2026, [url](#), para. 19

<sup>76</sup> UN News, Haiti explained: why the crisis is deepening — and what comes next, 21 January 2026, [url](#)

<sup>77</sup> BINUH and OHCHR, Children Trafficked by Gangs In Haiti: February 2026 Rethinking the Responses, 20 February 2026, [url](#), p. 11

<sup>78</sup> OHCHR, Haiti: Over 5,600 killed in gang violence in 2024, UN figures show, 07 January 2025, [url](#)

<sup>79</sup> UN News, Haiti explained: why the crisis is deepening — and what comes next, 21 January 2026, [url](#)

<sup>80</sup> UNSC, Report of the Secretary-General, 15 January 2026, [url](#), para. 14



According to BINUH, in the period of 1 March 2025 - 15 January 2026, over 5 500 people were killed and 2 600 others injured.<sup>81</sup> Geographically, most killings and injuries occurred in Port-au-Prince and West department, followed by Artibonite and Centre departments.<sup>82</sup> Most kidnappings occurred in Artibonite, followed by West and Centre departments.<sup>83</sup>

Civilians were killed due to the gang violence, operations by security forces, and by vigilante or self-defence groups.<sup>84</sup> In the context of gang violence, among those targeted were persons perceived to oppose 'gang-imposed ruling', and persons perceived as collaborating with the police or vigilante groups.<sup>85</sup> Concerning civilians killed in security operations,<sup>86</sup> these included law enforcement operations on the ground as well as operations in the air, using drones and helicopters.<sup>87</sup> In the period of 1 March 2025 - 15 January 2026, 60 persons not affiliated with gangs were killed and 49 injured in drone attacks.<sup>88</sup>

The humanitarian situation continued to deteriorate in January 2026, with the following figures reported: 5.7 million people facing food insecurity, two million of which near emergency levels, leaving female-lead households and children particularly affected,<sup>89</sup> 1.4 million people displaced, 1 600 schools closed and 1.5 million children out of school.<sup>90</sup> Some 6.4 million people were in need of humanitarian assistance.<sup>91</sup>

Gangs have also used sexual violence in order to 'systematically consolidate control and strike fear' among the population.<sup>92</sup> In 2025, 8 000 cases of gender-based violence were recorded, an increase from the previous year; according to the International Rescue Committee (IRC) the rise of sexual violence against children since 2023 was by 1 000 %.<sup>93</sup> While men represented the majority of victims of killings, injuries, and kidnappings, women constituted the majority of victims of sexual violence.<sup>94</sup> In the period of 1 September-30

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<sup>81</sup> UNHRC, Situation of human rights in Haiti, Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, 23 March 2026, [url](#), para. 9

<sup>82</sup> UNHRC, Situation of human rights in Haiti, Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, 23 March 2026, [url](#), para. 9

<sup>83</sup> UNHRC, Situation of human rights in Haiti, Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, 23 March 2026, [url](#), para. 9

<sup>84</sup> UNHRC, Situation of human rights in Haiti, Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, 23 March 2026, [url](#), para. 9

<sup>85</sup> UNHRC, Situation of human rights in Haiti, Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, 23 March 2026, [url](#), para. 4

<sup>86</sup> UN Human Rights Council, Situation of human rights in Haiti, Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, 23 March 2026, [url](#), para. 21

<sup>87</sup> UN Human Rights Council, Situation of human rights in Haiti, Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, 23 March 2026, [url](#), para. 6

<sup>88</sup> UN Human Rights Council, Situation of human rights in Haiti, Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, 23 March 2026, [url](#), para. 24

<sup>89</sup> UNSC, Report of the Secretary-General, 15 January 2026, [url](#)

<sup>90</sup> UN News, Haiti explained: why the crisis is deepening — and what comes next, 21 January 2026, [url](#)

<sup>91</sup> International Rescue Committee, Haiti's gang violence crisis: What to know and how to help, January 12, 2026, [url](#)

<sup>92</sup> International Rescue Committee, Haiti's gang violence crisis: What to know and how to help, January 12, 2026, [url](#)

<sup>93</sup> International Rescue Committee, Haiti's gang violence crisis: What to know and how to help, January 12, 2026, [url](#)

<sup>94</sup> UNHRC, Situation of human rights in Haiti, Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, 23 March 2026, [url](#), paras. 9-10



November 2025, BINUH recorded 449 incidents of sexual violence involving 466 victims (430 women, 35 girls and 1 boy); collective rape being the most common type of violation, while there were also reports of sexual slavery.<sup>95</sup> In the same period, humanitarian partners of BINUH recorded almost 1 700 cases of GBV, mostly rape and sexual assault.<sup>96</sup> Between 1 March 2025 and 31 December 2025, BINUH recorded 1 495 cases of sexual violence by armed groups, among them gang rape represented 81 % of the violations; this included 1 578 survivors: 1 412 women, 159 girls, 6 boys, and 1 man.<sup>97</sup> Cases of GBV are believed to be underreported due to fear and stigma and services to support survivors remained limited.<sup>98</sup>

For additional information on the situation of women, see the EUAA query response [Situation of women without support network in Port-au-Prince](#) published on 30 March 2026.

Displacement has reached 1.4 million people by September 2025, a number which has doubled since the previous year. The number of displacement sites in the country increased to 238, 'reflecting the growing intensity and geographical spread of the crisis'.<sup>99</sup> Displaced families had limited access to food, water, and health care.<sup>100</sup> In the first half of January 2026, 6 000 people were newly displaced by renewed violent clashes in the capital.<sup>101</sup> Violence affected access to humanitarian assistance, leading Doctors Without Borders to suspend their activities.<sup>102</sup> As of January 2026, some 4.9 million people were in need of medical assistance and about 10 % of health facilities were fully operational, as reported by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA)<sup>103</sup>

Concerning the situation of children, they faced forced recruitment, with UN figures showing that half of gang members were children, with recruitment rates having increased since 2024<sup>104</sup> and children being also involved in violent roles.<sup>105</sup> According to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), recruitment of children increased by 200 % in 2025.<sup>106</sup> Some children were forced to join armed groups to support their families while others were separated from their families and turned to armed groups as a copying mechanism.<sup>107</sup>

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<sup>95</sup> UNSC, Report of the Secretary-General, 15 January 2026, [url](#), para. 50

<sup>96</sup> UNSC, Report of the Secretary-General, 15 January 2026, [url](#), para. 51

<sup>97</sup> UNHRC, Situation of human rights in Haiti, Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, 23 March 2026, [url](#), para. 10

<sup>98</sup> UN News, Haiti explained: why the crisis is deepening — and what comes next, 21 January 2026, [url](#)

<sup>99</sup> UNSC, Report of the Secretary-General, 15 January 2026, [url](#), para. 64

<sup>100</sup> International Rescue Committee, Haiti's gang violence crisis: What to know and how to help, January 12, 2026, [url](#)

<sup>101</sup> UNOCHA, Today's top news: Occupied Palestinian Territory, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Yemen, 14 January 2026, [url](#)

<sup>102</sup> UNOCHA, Today's top news: Occupied Palestinian Territory, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Yemen, 14 January 2026, [url](#)

<sup>103</sup> UNOCHA, Today's top news: Occupied Palestinian Territory, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Yemen, 14 January 2026, [url](#)

<sup>104</sup> International Rescue Committee, Haiti's gang violence crisis: What to know and how to help, January 12, 2026, [url](#)

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