

Forum: Human Rights Commission

Topic: Responding to the Severe Humanitarian Crisis and Governance Collapse in Haiti amid Rising Gang Control

Chair

Introduction

Almost 1.5 million people have been internally displaced in The Republic of Haiti due to the escalating gang violence and breakdown of public security. This escalation in gang violence is the result of a humanitarian and governance crisis in the Western Hemisphere. For years Haiti has been dealing with political instability, economic decline, violence and collapse of institutions. Which has in concequence created many issues for the country that are still worsening. Because of the political instability, economic decline, and collapse of institutions armed gangs have been able to take advantage and expand. As a result armed gangs such as Viv ansanm are now in control of many areas throughout the country, especially around the capital, Port-au-Prince. These gangs are disrupting services which is making it hard for humanitarian aid to reach people and provide support. The gangs are doing this purposefully to maintain territorial control, extort aid, and restrict movement. This disruption of humanitarian aid and essential services strengthens gang control over territories while increasing the needs of civilians

The crisis all began after President Jovenel Moïse was assasinated in July 2021. Which left the country in a period of uncertainty and distress. Overtime the situation worsened even more for many reasons, but the main one was the unstable government. The reason the government is unstable is because after the president was assasinated a transitional government was placed to handle the politics of the country. Sadly this transitional government has not been effective in dealing with the crisis for two main reasons. The Transitional Presidential Council has experienced political disagreements which have delayed the speed in which they make decisions.

The ongoing humanitarian crisis in Haiti is not only related to the governance collapse but also to the increasing gang violence, economic collapse, and the breakdown of basic services. All of these things can be linked back to the insufficient funding of the Hatian National Police by the government as the police did not have enough money to pay the workers or buy equipment to fight off the armed gangs which in turn allowed them to take control of the economy, harm the citizens, and stop basic services. Almost 10% of the entire country's population had to leave their homes because of violence and insecurity. The most important services that were disrupted and brokendown were healthcare, education, and provisions. The main target of this conflict were women and children, as women were mainly subjects to violence specifically rape, and children were forced to join gangs at a young age while they were still easy to control and mold.

Many humanitarian organizations are facing challenges in providing aid to the people in need because of safety concerns. Which is why the Multinational Security Support Mission was authorized to help the Haitian National Police make the country safer.

The issue of responding to the crisis and governance collapse in Haiti is closely related to the AMMUN theme "Moderating Morality". As it requires the community to balance what is right with political and legal considerations. This is demonstrated through the topic because countries must figure out how to protect the rights and dignity of the Haitian people while respecting Haiti's independence and supporting solutions that come from within the country.

Definition of Key Terms

Armed Gangs

Armed gangs are organized criminal groups that use methods such as violence and intimidation in an illegal matter to control territories or popultaions of people. Examples of these methods are crimes such as kidnapping, extortion, and murder.

Food Insecurity

Food insecurity is the inability to access safe and nutritious foods on a daily basis to maintain a healthy life. This food insecurity can be caused from conflicts, poverty, or disruptions to food production.

Governance Collapse

Governance collapse is when a government fails to carry out its responsibilities, such as maintaining public safety, enforcing the laws and providing public services such as healthcare.

Haitian National Police (HNP)

The Haitian National Police (HNP) is Haiti's national law enforcement agency which maintains order, prevents crime, and protects citizens.

Humanitarian Aid

Humanitarian aid is emergency assistance provided to people affected by crises. Humanitarian aid may include food, healthcare, shelter, water, and safety services.

Humanitarian Crisis

A humanitarian crisis is a situation where many people need assistance because their lives are at risk. These said crises are often caused by conflict, natural disasters, or political instability.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) are individuals who are forced to leave their homes because of conflict or disasters but remain within the borders of their own country.

Multinational Security Support (MSS) Mission

The Multinational Security Support (MSS) Mission is an international security mission authorized by the United Nations Security Council in 2023 to assist the HNP in restoring public security.

Rule of Law

The rule of law is the principle that everyone, including governments and individuals are accountable for breaking the law and must be treated equally before it.

Sovereignty

Sovereignty is the right of a state to govern its own territory and make decisions without external interference.

Transitional Government

A transitional government is a temporary government which has authority to manage a country during periods of political instability until conditions for elections are met.

General Overview

One of the biggest humanitarian emergencies in the world is currently happening in Haiti. This crisis did not come to be because of one event. It happened over many years for multiple reasons which are the poor governance, the corruption, and the escalating gang violence. Since the crisis started public services have declined in both effectivness and efficiency which is effecting the citizens very harshly. Due to the decline in public services and poor governance armed gangs have gotten the chance to take control of parts of Haiti. The control of the armed gangs is raising concerns around the world. Leading the United Nations to say if the violence continues then the government will completely collapse.

Historical Background

Haiti became the world's first independent Black republic in 1804. Although this was a historic achievement, the country has faced constant political and economic instability, and reoccuring natural disasters since the independance. All of these hardships have slowed down long-term development. Because of these challenges the successive governments have not been able to provide essential public services or even stabilize the politcs of the country and improve the economy.

One of the most devastating events in Haiti's history occurred on 12 January 2010, when a 7.0 magnitude earthquake near the capital of Haiti struck. This earthquake killed more than 200,000 people and displace over 1.5 million people. The country already had fragile institutions but after the earthquake they were weakened even more. In the years that followed, the country had an outbreak in cholera disease which affected the health of many citizens which in turn caused a political collapse and economic decline, which made it harder for the governments that followed to improve on the state of Haiti.

Political instability became even worse after the disputed elections in 2015 and 2016, which led to protests and accusations of electoral fraud, these disputed elections caused the public to lose trust and confidence in the government. The crisis worsened further when President Jovenel Moïse was assassinated in his recidence on 7 July 2021. This made the government extremely weak and until now Haiti has not been able to establish a stable government or even organize new elections. This long period of political uncertainty has led to the rise of armed gangs and breakdown of public safety.

Political and Governance Crisis

The main problem that Haiti is facing right now is the weak government as the government is currently transitional and many of the members are infighting which is prolonging the process of making decisions and the civilians are accusing the members of being corrupt which is slowing down the working speed. Another issue is that The institutions that are supposed to keep people safe, provide justice, and give services are not doing their jobs. Because they lack the man power, equipment, and funding.

As the government got weaker, armed gangs such as Viv ansanm started to take control. Viv Ansanm was officially formed in February 2024 as a coalition of major gangs. They are now in charge of areas in Port-Au-Prince, including neighborhoods such as Cité Soleil, Martissant, Croix-des-Bouquets, and parts of Delmas, roads and ports. The police in Haiti have attempted to conduct anti-gang raids and regain control of some areas. However the HNP are not strong enough to deal with these groups. The reason behind this is the lack of personnel, equipment, and money. This has made it hard for the government to maintain order and protect the people.

Rise of Armed Gangs and Security Challenges

The gangs in Haiti are a big threat to the country's stability as they continue to disrupt the daily lives of people. Over the years these gangs have been gaining power and they are now in control of key areas. They are using these areas to be violent with the people and get what they want. They are also kidnapping people, taking money from them, and selling drugs. All of these things are making it exteremly hard for people to lead nomral lives.

The gangs are mostly in the capital city, Port-au-Prince. They are in charge of neighborhoods and roads which makes it hard for people to move around. The violence is not just in the city; it is also spreading to more rural areas. Many people have been hurt and there are a lot of kidnappings and attacks on schools and hospitals. During 2024 more than 5,600 people were killed, over 2,200 were injured, and nearly 1,500 were kidnapped in Haiti.

Human Rights Impact

The situation in Haiti is causing a lot of harm to the people. Women and girls face conflict-related sexual violence. As well as children whom are kidnapped and forced to join gangs. Another large issue that is causing harm to Haitians is the lack of access to things like food, healthcare and clean water. Although efforts are being made by humanitarian organizations to help the people of Haiti many of these organizations are facing problems in reaching the people in need due to the gang control of major roads.

Women and children are being affected the most and are the main targets of attack from the gangs whether it is violence or recruitment. Another issue that is uprising is that many schools have been closed which means that thousands of children are not getting an education which effects them in the long run. Also hospitals are also being attacked, which makes it hard for people to get help, and there is not enough food for people to saturate themselves and families have had to leave their homes.

International Response

The international community is trying to help Haiti by providing political assistance whether it is from other countries giving advice or giving resources for the police to be able to act against the gangs. The United Nations, the Caribbean Community and the Organization of American States are all working together to help Haiti. In 2023 the United Nations authorised the MSS mission to help better the situation in Haiti. Despite all the efforts that Kenya made during the mission the situation is still not getting better. The government is still weak and there is not enough money to help the country.

This problem in Haiti shows how important it is to have a government and to protect human rights. If the government is not working well, it can cause a lot of problems, for the country and the region. The challenge is not just to help the people who are suffering now but also to find long-term solutions that will make Haiti a stable and safe country.

Major Parties Involved

Caribbean Community (CARICOM)

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) has played a leading role in promoting dialogue and regional cooperation in Haiti. CARICOM helped negotiate between Haitian stakeholders, resulting in the establishment of the Transitional Presidential Council in 2024. The organization continues to advocate for Haitian-led solutions and works with the United Nations and other international partners to promote good governance, constitutional reform, and future elections. CARICOM remains committed to supporting Haiti's long-term stability and recovery.

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) plays an important role in assisting people who have been displaced within Haiti. The IOM provides emergency shelter, protection services, data collection, and humanitarian aid to displaced communities. It also monitors displacement trends, helping governments and humanitarian organizations allocate resources effectively and respond to the growing humanitarian crisis. Through these efforts, the IOM continues to support vulnerable populations across Haiti.

Kenya

Kenya has become an important international partner by leading the Multinational Security Support (MSS) Mission in Haiti, which was authorized by the United Nations Security Council in 2023. The Kenyan government deployed police personnel to assist the Haitian National Police (HNP) in combating gang violence, protecting critical infrastructure, and creating conditions that allow humanitarian aid to reach affected communities. Kenya has emphasized that its role is to support Haiti's institutions rather than replace them..

Republic of Haiti

The Republic of Haiti is the country most directly affected by this crisis and plays the central role in restoring governance and responding to the humanitarian emergency. Following the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse in 2021, Haiti has experienced prolonged political instability, delayed elections, and weakened public institutions. The transitional government has worked with international partners to restore public order, improve security, and facilitate humanitarian assistance. However, weak state institutions and widespread gang violence continue to hinder these efforts, making international support essential for Haiti's recovery.

The United States of America (USA)

The United States of America (USA) has been one of Haiti's largest international donors and has strongly supported efforts to restore security and governance. The USA has provided assistance to humanitarian organizations operating in Haiti and has imposed sanctions on individuals linked to gang activity and corruption. It has also supported the deployment of the Multinational Security Support (MSS) Mission and worked with international partners to encourage political transition and institutional reform. The USA continues to play a significant role in supporting Haiti's recovery.

United Nations (UN)

The United Nations (UN) has been one of the primary international organizations assisting Haiti in addressing its humanitarian and governance crisis. Through agencies such as the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP), and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the UN provides humanitarian assistance, monitors human rights violations, and supports displaced populations. The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) also established the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH) and authorized the Multinational Security Support (MSS) Mission to assist the Haitian National Police (HNP) in restoring security. The United Nations continues to play a central role in coordinating the international response to Haiti's ongoing crisis.

Timeline of Events

Date	Event
2017 / 2 / 7	Jovenel Moïse officially assumed office as President following delayed elections. His presidency was marked by allegations of corruption, political unrest, and widespread protests, further reducing public trust in the government.
2021 / 7 / 7	President Jovenel Moïse was assassinated at his private residence. His death created a political vacuum, intensified instability, and delayed efforts to restore democratic governance through national elections.
2022 / 10 / 7	The Government of Haiti formally requested immediate international security assistance to help the Haitian National Police combat escalating gang violence and restore public order.
2022 / 10 / 21	The United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 2653, establishing a sanctions regime targeting individuals and entities

	responsible for supporting gang violence, arms trafficking, and activities threatening peace and security in Haiti.
2023 / 10 / 2	The United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 2699, authorizing the Multinational Security Support (MSS) Mission to assist the Haitian National Police in restoring security and protecting critical infrastructure.
2024 / 3 / 12	Following regional negotiations led by CARICOM, Prime Minister Ariel Henry announced that he would resign once a Transitional Presidential Council was established. This marked an important step toward restoring political governance.
2024 / 6 / 25	The first contingent of Kenyan police officers arrived in Haiti to begin the deployment of the MSS Mission, supporting the Haitian National Police in addressing gang violence and improving security conditions.

2025/ 1 / 1	The United Nations reported that more than one million Haitians had been internally displaced due to escalating gang violence, highlighting the worsening humanitarian crisis and increasing need for international assistance.
2025 / 4 / 21	The United Nations Security Council warned that Haiti was approaching a "point of no return," citing the continued expansion of gang control, worsening humanitarian conditions, and the urgent need for coordinated international action.

Attempts to Solve the Issue

The Sanction Regime on Haiti, 21 October 2022 (Security Council Resolution 2653)

Resolution 2653 set up a sanctions system that targets people and groups involved in gang violence arms trafficking and actions that threaten Haitis peace and security. The resolution brought in travel bans, asset freezes and a ban on arms for individuals. The goal was to cut gangs financial resources and access to weapons. These sanctions have put international pressure, on gang leaders and their supporters. However their impact has been limited because enforcement is weak and illegal guns still flow into Haiti.

Multinational Security Support (MSS) Mission, 2 October 2023 (Security Council Resolution 2699)

Through a UN resolution the Security Council allowed a Multinational Security Support Mission to help Haitis police. This missions goal is to make public security better and protect

buildings. The mission is led by Kenya and it wants to make Haitis security better. The mission has gotten support from other countries but, It still has some problems. Gangs, with weapons are still getting bigger. So the mission has not made a difference across Haiti yet. The Haitian National Police and the Multinational Security Support Mission are working together. The United Nations Security Council and Kenya are supporting the mission. Haitis security is still a challenge.

Possible Solutions

The problem of gangs taking over Haiti is an issue. One way to solve this problem is to help the Haitian National Police get stronger with the help of countries. The Haitian National Police does not have people, equipment, training or money to deal with the gangs. These gangs are armed and control a lot of areas, which puts people in danger of getting hurt or having to leave their homes. The United Nations and other groups can help the Haitian National Police by giving them training, new equipment and money. They can also teach the police about rights. If the Haitian National Police gets stronger Haiti will be safer. Will not need as much help from other countries. This will make it easier for schools, hospitals and businesses to operate safely.

There is another problem in Haiti, which is the amount of IDP's. Almost 1.5 million people have had to flee their homes because of gang violence. These IDP's are in desperate need of resources as they lost almost everything when fleeing, but helping them is near impossible. As gangs block roads, attack people who try to help, and will not let aid into specific areas. This means that people are not getting the food, medicine and water they need. One way to solve this problem is to make routes, for the organizations that want to help. The Haitian government, the organizations that want to help and other countries can work together to make this happen. This will allow the organizations to get the help to the people who need it the women, children and old people. Countries can also give money to help the people who have been displaced. If we can get the help to the people who need it we can reduce the suffering and speed up recovery.

Guiding Questions

1. What is your country's position on the humanitarian and governance crisis in Haiti?
2. Has your country participated in humanitarian or peacebuilding efforts in Haiti or in similar crises? If so, what role did it play?
3. How does your country approach the protection of human rights during situations of armed violence and political instability?
4. What is your country's view on balancing humanitarian intervention with respect for national sovereignty?
5. How can your country contribute to improving humanitarian conditions in Haiti?
6. What experience does your country have in supporting democratic governance, institution-building, or the rule of law in other countries?
7. How does your country believe the international community should respond to the rise of armed gangs while protecting civilians?
8. What measures does your country support to protect women, children, and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) during humanitarian crises?
9. What role does your country believe the Human Rights Council should play in addressing the situation in Haiti?
10. How can your country's experience with humanitarian aid, disaster response, or conflict resolution contribute to Haiti's recovery?
11. How can international cooperation be strengthened to improve humanitarian access in areas affected by gang violence?

Appendix

- United Nations – Haiti Overview https://www.un.org/en/
- United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH) https://binuh.unmissions.org/
- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) – Haiti https://www.ohchr.org/en/countries/haiti

- United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) – Haiti https://www.unocha.org/haiti
- World Food Programme (WFP) – Haiti https://www.wfp.org/countries/haiti
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) – Haiti https://www.unicef.org/haiti
- International Organization for Migration (IOM) – Haiti https://www.iom.int/haiti
- Caribbean Community (CARICOM) https://caricom.org/
- Security Council Report – Haiti https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/
- ReliefWeb – Haiti Crisis Updates https://reliefweb.int/country/hti
- Human Rights Watch – Haiti https://www.hrw.org/americas/haiti
- Amnesty International – Haiti https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/americas/central-america-and-the-caribbean/haiti/

Bibliography

Amnesty International. *Haiti*. Amnesty International, https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/americas/central-america-and-the-caribbean/haiti/. Accessed 12 July 2026.

Caribbean Community (CARICOM). *CARICOM*. https://caricom.org/. Accessed 13 July 2026.

Human Rights Watch. *Haiti*. Human Rights Watch, https://www.hrw.org/americas/haiti. Accessed 7 July 2026.

International Organization for Migration. *Haiti*. IOM, https://www.iom.int/haiti. Accessed 5 July 2026.

ReliefWeb. *Haiti*. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, https://reliefweb.int/country/hti. Accessed 6 July 2026.

United Nations. *Haiti*. United Nations, https://www.un.org/en/. Accessed 14 July 2026.

United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti. *BINUH*. United Nations, https://binuh.unmissions.org/. Accessed 7 July 2026.

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. *Haiti*. OCHA, https://www.unocha.org/haiti. Accessed 7 July 2026.

United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. *Haiti*. OHCHR, https://www.ohchr.org/en/countries/haiti. Accessed 14 July 2026.

United Nations Security Council. *Resolution 2653 (2022)*. United Nations Digital Library, https://digitallibrary.un.org/. Accessed 10 July 2026.

United Nations Security Council. *Resolution 2699 (2023)*. United Nations Digital Library, https://digitallibrary.un.org/. Accessed 12 July 2026.

United Nations World Food Programme. *Haiti*. WFP, https://www.wfp.org/countries/haiti. Accessed 9 July 2026.

United Nations Children's Fund. *Haiti*. UNICEF, https://www.unicef.org/haiti. Accessed 6 July 2026.

Contact Information

Karim Younis
karim_younis@abs.edu.jo
+962796051212