

## Coordination Situation Report #10

Covering January Period to Date  
January 26, 2024

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- *Coordination Meetings for 2024 Gradually Commencing:* Given security situation deteriorations in Haiti, including in the south, the recommencement of in-person humanitarian coordination meetings has been delayed. Virtual meetings remain an option to address urgent issues in the interim, but the majority of meetings are generally planned to recommence in February pending developments in the security situation. The security situation is also impacting transportation of humanitarian supplies to and within the south of the country (see more in Key Coordination Updates).

### SITUATION DEVELOPMENTS

- *Kenya's High Court Rules on the Legal Deployment of Police Officers to Haiti:* Despite approval from Kenya's parliament in November, on January 26 Kenya's High Court prohibited the deployment of 1,000 police officers to Haiti to lead the UN approved Multinational Support Mission to restore security. The order throws the mission into doubt, but the Kenyan government is expected to appeal the decision.
- *Gang Attack on New Neighbourhood in Port-au-Prince:* From January 15<sup>th</sup>, the Solino neighbourhood in Haiti's capital faced a four-day siege attack by gang members, with gunfire and torching of homes reported. According to the Human Rights Network RNDDH, around 24 people died in the violence and residents report being unable to leave their homes. An absence of police forces was initially reported, however on January 18, Haiti's National Police reported that officers had been deployed to the area and released a video showing their efforts. Given that gangs control some 80% of Port-au-Prince already, the gang presence in Solino is seen as concerning as it provides access to other peaceful areas that have not yet fallen under gang control. In response to this imminent threat, nearby communities are reported to have erected makeshift barricades using rocks, trucks, tyres and trees.
- *Pope Francis Appeals for Release of Bus Kidnapping Hostages:* On January 19, eight passengers, including six nuns from the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Anne, were abducted by an unknown gang while travelling on a bus in Port-au-Prince. Pope Francis appealed for the release of all the hostages on January 21, and called for an end to the violence in the country. On January 24, it was reported that the hostages had been released and were unharmed.
- *Haiti's National Police Force Shrinking:* According to data from Haiti's main trade union for the police force, nearly 3,300 officers have been lost from Haiti's National Police in three years. The majority (near 90%) were sacked due to abandoning their posts, while 123 resigned, and approximately 80 police officers were killed in the last year alone. Already in 2024, The National Haitian Police Union (SYNAPOHA) has confirmed the deaths of five police officer deaths in the early days of the year. In addition to the shrinking number of police

officers, the report also emphasized the lack of equipment, training and infrastructure and a need for more incentives for a force facing significant dangers.

- *Environmental Group Clash with Government Forces:* The Brigade for the Security of Protected Areas (known as B-SAP), who are responsible for protecting environmentally sensitive areas in the country responded to the prime minister's firing of their leader by attempting to forcefully enter the local customs office on January 24. Haitian National Police units used tear gas to repel their efforts. There is concern that B-SAP has the potential to further inflame tensions in the country with some group members publicly declaring allegiance to Guy Phillippe – a former police commander who was involved in a previous coup attempt in the country who has recently returned after serving six years of prison time in the U.S.
- *Police Operations Continue Against Gangs in Mariani and Carrefour:* National Police are continuing operations in the southern area of Port-au-Prince in locations impacting access to the south via the National Highway Road Number Two (RN2). In Carrefour-Feuilles, police fire shots at gang members suspected of returning to loot abandoned houses, killing four.
- *Gang Attack on Sea Travel:* Reports indicate that members of the Mariani gang attacked canoes travelling on the Le Lambi-Lamentin route (off Carrefour) on January 6, killing some seven people and kidnapping several passengers, mainly small traders. Later, a woman was freed, with a source close to the freed hostage indicating that this was due to the presence of four children on the boat. The remaining hostages are reported to be held in Le Lambi.
- *Security Situation Remains Precarious in Artibonite:* Gang violence is continuing in the north of the country. One of the key incidents during this period involved members of the "Gran Grif" gang taking a public transport bus full of passengers hostage on January 7, as the bus was crossing Artibonite.
- *Police Arrest Gang Members:* Two alleged members of the 400 Mawozo Gang, the Cantave brothers, have been arrested by the Lascahobas Police, in the Centre Department of Haiti.
- *Fuel Shortages Continue in the South:* As access to the south of the country remains unchanged, fuel shortages are continuing and leading to increased tensions. An incident was reported in Jacmel earlier in the month, where three individuals who were found to have stolen fuel, were lynched and their bodies were set on fire. Project HOPE continues to undertake mitigation efforts to ensure sufficient fuel stocks given the shortages, with sufficient stocks available for the start-up of activities in 2024.
- *Demonstrations Impact Security Situation in Les Cayes:* Demonstrations have been reported this week in Les Cayes forcing closures of schools, offices and stores. Humanitarian coordination activities have been impacted by this situation (see more in section below).
- *Humanitarian Boat Transport Service Remains Suspended:* The World Food Program boat transport service has been suspended since mid-December pending improvement of the security situation in the La Salinne area of Port-au-Prince, in proximity to the port, and Mariani.

## KEY COORDINATION UPDATES & PROJECT HOPE RESPONSE COORDINATION ACTIVITIES

### Overall Response Efforts

- *OCHA Coordination Meeting (Les Cayes/Sud).* The OCHA Coordination meeting planned for January 24, was adjusted to be held virtually given the current security circumstances. The meeting focused on the security situation in the south and the impact on humanitarian operations and recommendations. Project HOPE outlined the impact for current operations, including delaying the baseline survey until February, as well as challenges in transporting items from Port-au-Prince (including equipment, materials, kits and medicines)

and within the south. OCHA has suggested that additional transportation support could be offered by WFP and has shared a template with all partners to provide further information of the types of items, quantity, and weight requiring transportation assistance that is planned to be provided to WFP for their consideration. The next meeting is planned for February 15.

- *Cholera Response Coordination Meeting (Jeremie/Grand'Anse)*: The Grand'Anse Health Directorate has invited Project HOPE to attend the cholera response meeting scheduled for January 26. Project HOPE is planning to attend and will provide further details in the next report.

## WASH

- *WASH Cluster Meeting Cancelled*: The WASH cluster meeting planned for January 25 was cancelled due to the current security situation in Les Cayes. Urgent issues will be address via online discussions or online meetings as needed in the interim until the security situation allows recommencement of in-person meetings.