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Information bulletin no. 2

Haiti: Civil Unrest

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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| Information Bulletin N° 2 | Date of issue: 10 October 2019 |
| Date of disaster: Ongoing since July 2018 | Point of contact: Raphael Hamoir Disaster Management Coordinator, raphael.hamoir@ifrc.org Ines Brill, head of the Cuba, Dominican Republic and Haiti Country Cluster Office, ines.brill@ifrc.org |
| Cross Movement actors currently involved in the country: The Haitian Red Cross, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), The International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) and Partner National Societies (PNSs) such as American Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross Society, German Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross, French Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross and Netherlands Red Cross. | |
| Other partner organizations involved in the country: OCHA, UN Agencies (WFP, FAO, UNICEF, UNDP, UNDSS), The Ministry of Public Health (MSPP); Direction Nationale de l'Eau Potable et de l'Assainissement (DINEPA) | |

This bulletin is being issued for information only; it reflects the current situation and details available at this time.

The situation

Haiti has continuously faced social unrest since July 2018 with mobilization of demonstrations against the increased cost of petrol products, the high cost of life and corruption allegations.

Fuel shortages have sparked riots and have led to interrupted water supplies, while people have struggled to find fuel for their generators, stoves, and vehicles.

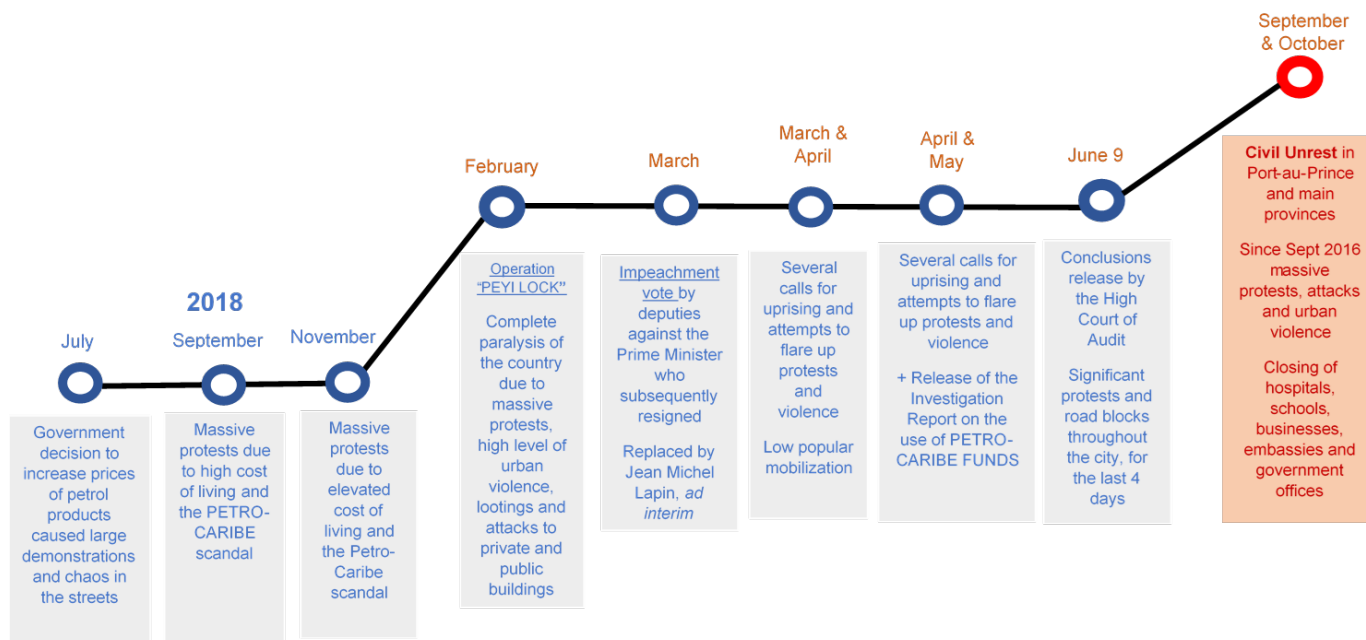
The events of February 2019, known as Operation "Pays Lock", resulted in a complete paralysis of the country's economy for 15 days. The Haitian Red Cross requested Disaster Relief Emergency Funds to respond to the humanitarian consequences of this prolonged crisis. A 320,000 Swiss francs operation was implemented between February and July 2019 ([MDRHT016](#)) in order to provide first-aid and pre-hospital care; as well as strengthening the capacities of the National Society to coordinate and provide assistance to the Haitian population during such events.



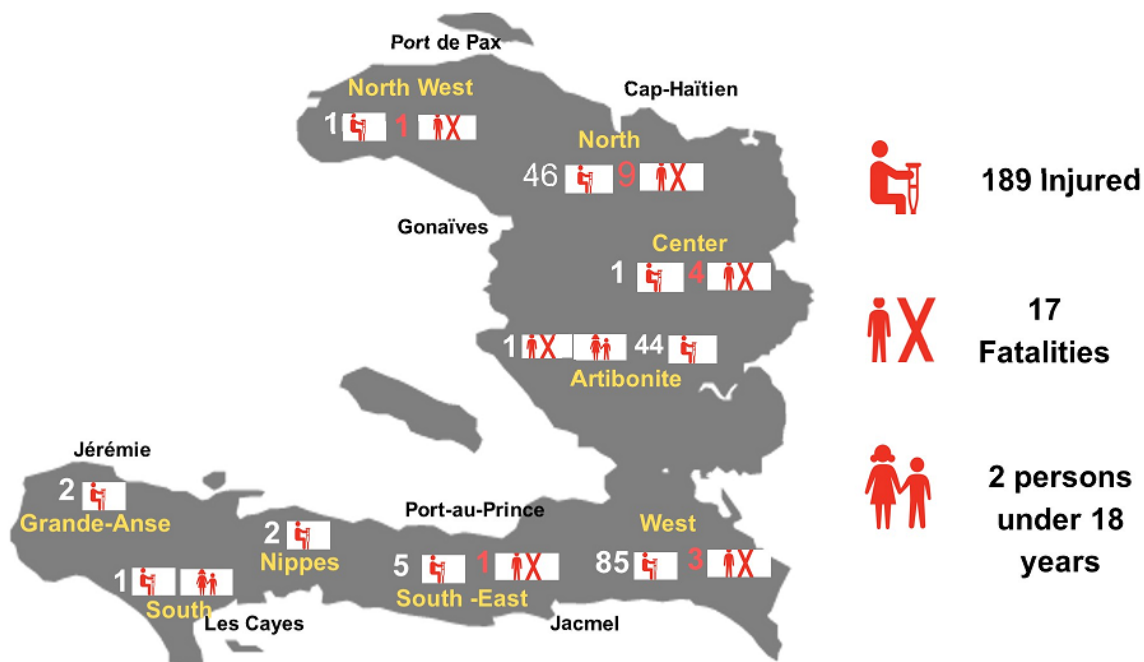
Photo: Haitian Red Cross (HRC) volunteers providing first aid services to the affected population. Source: HRC, October 2019.

Since September 16, 2019 and close to daily to date, manifestations have taken place in Port-au-Prince and the main provinces. Blockages have affected water supply and access to medical services and supplies

Haitians titled the manifestation on Friday, October 4th "*Mobilizasyon san Limit*," or "Unlimited Mobilization". Since then, many humanitarian organisations have had to postpone their operations, including World Food Programme, due to security concerns and lack of fuel.



At least 17 people have died and nearly 189 have been injured in the recent protests. Reported numbers by regions¹:



¹ Alter Presse. Haïti-Crise : 17 morts et 189 blessés en deux semaines. 4 October. 2019

The security situations in the country continued to deteriorate during September and early October provoking the closing of hospitals, schools, humanitarian organizations, government institutions, embassies and businesses.

As of October 10th, the situation continues to be tense in the provinces, particularly in Les Cayes, Mirebalais and Gonaives (which was under tension since Tuesday 8 October). Different groups called for national mobilization on October 11th, 2019.

Day insecurity has continued to increase, with groups ransoming people in the barricades.

The most vulnerable people are also the most exposed to insecurity as they most often walk in areas with a low police presence.

Blockages and barricades have had disastrous consequences on the **socio-economic situation** of the most vulnerable groups, and even more so in the provinces:

- Increase in the prices of basic food products
- Drastic decrease of daily incomes, a vast majority of the working population not under an employment contract, relies on small businesses and daily activities
- Public clerks not receiving their pay
- Paralysis of government services

The Haitian institute for Statistics and Computing (*Institut Haïtien de statistique et d'informatique; IHSI*) reported in August 2019,² that the Consumer Price index showed a monthly increase of 1.6%; and a yearly increase of 19.5%. The variation is due to an increase of all prices index monitored:

- Food and non-alcoholic beverages: +1.5%/month; +22.6%/year
- Clothing and shoes: +3.2%/month; +21.1%/year
- Household items: +0.7%/month; +20.5%/year
- Health: +2.2%/month; + 27.8%/year
- Housing: +2.1%/month; +17.3%/year

In a context of reported **food insecurity** (with 2.6 million people in need of food assistance)³, the IHSI reports the following yearly increase of costs for food products: local rice (19.7%), imported rice (21.0%), corn grain (30.0%), ground corn(30.4%), Mil (24.4%), Wheat / Flour (21.0), Bread (24.1%), Meat on average (26.1%), fresh fish (25.7%), eggs (30.9%), milk on average (27.7%), oil (22.8%), orange (36.6%), chadec (49.0%), lemon (23.9%), mango(34%), papaya (40.4%), dry peas (28.7%), yams (31.6%), bananas (30.6%), potatoes(28.1%), true tree (39.6%) and malanga (28.8%).

The social, security and economic crisis has further deteriorated the precarious humanitarian situation of more than half of the country's 11 million living on less than 2.41 American dollars a day.⁴

The Haiti's water and sanitation agency reported that roadblocks are preventing its diesel fuel supplier from reaching water stations to power pumps.

The **Health** situation also is severely affected by the lack of accessibility to health services and increased number of hospitals are not functional: staff unable to go to their workplace, lack of basic services such as water, electricity and fuel for generator.

Shortage of blood products have been reported throughout the country as transfusion centers have been shut during the events; or seen reduced donation. Some hospitals have closed due to insecurity or a lack of fuel or medicine.

Advocacy is ongoing to ensure that the opposition ensures the safety and passage of trucks carrying essential equipment and consumables for hospitals such as blood, medicine and oxygen.

The **Education** sector is also heavily affected, but on the scale of basic needs, access to water, food, health care and security are even higher priorities. According to OCHA, nearly 2 million children are unable to attend school due to closures as a result of the unrest.⁵

² [Institut Haïtien de Statistique et d'Informatique. Indice des prix à la consommation \(IPC\) August 2019.](#)

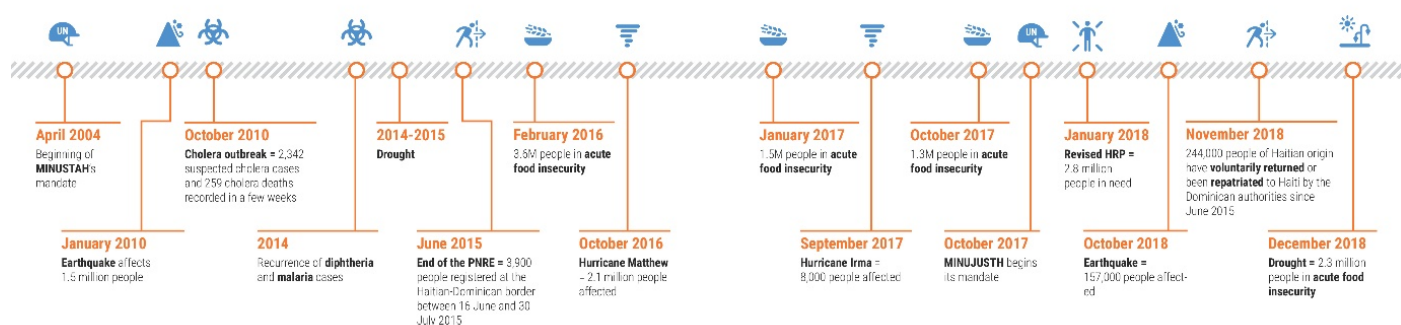
³ [OCHA. Haiti Situation Report.1 October 2019. Relief web.](#)

⁴ [OCHA. Haiti Situation Report.1 October 2019. Relief web.](#)

⁵ [OCHA. Haiti Situation Report.1 October 2019. Relief web.](#)

The current humanitarian situation in Haiti should be read in the light of successive events which have severely impacted the Haitian population:

CHRONOLOGY OF THE CRISIS



Source: UN Humanitarian Response Plan 2019-2020

The security situation of the country has constantly deteriorated since the end of the mandate of the United Nations Stabilisation Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). This mission was replaced by the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH) which mandate is due to expire on October 15, 2019.

Following the drawdown of the United Nations (UN) current presence in the country, a UN Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH) is planned to establish on October 16, 2019 as adopted by the Security Council in resolution 2476. BINUH should include 30 civilian staff and seconded personnel who will assist in planning and executing elections; reinforcing the Haitian National Police through training on human rights; responding to gang violence; developing an inclusive approach with all segments of society to reduce intercommunal violence; ensuring compliance with international human rights obligations; improving prison oversight; and strengthening the justice sector, notably by adopting and implementing legislation to reform it.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action



Haitian Red Cross Actions:

- The Crisis Management Cell is activated to monitor and coordinate actions of the Haitian Red Cross.
- Situation Reports shared on a regular basis with the Red Cross Movement partners.
- Constant coordination with all Movement partners.
- Increased coordination with all branches in order to monitor country-wide events and best respond to the situation:
 - First aid provided during events in Grande Anse, Les Cayes, Bas-Artibonite, St Marc, Port-de-Paix, Gonaives, Mirebalais and Nippes.
- Full activation of the ambulance service to provide immediate first aid and transport:
 - The Haitian Red Cross reported having done 28 ambulance interventions since the beginning of the protests on September 16, 2019; including 4 gunshots



IFRC Actions:

- Security meeting organized with Haitian Red Cross and Partner National Societies in country
- Coordination with the Haitian Red Cross
- Coordination with ICRC
- Close Monitoring of the situation
- Activation of IFRC contingency plan:
 - o IFRC Office in Haiti has been closed; decision to open is based on a day-to-day analysis of the context
 - o IFRC staff in Haiti remaining on stand-by and in contact with security focal point
 - o No field activities are allowed at this stage
- Development of an Information Message and Information Bulletin
- **IFRC SECURITY PHASE IN HAITI ORANGE⁶**

Contact information

For further information, specifically related to this operation please contact:

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⁶ For further information see: [Stay Safe](#).

How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:



Save lives,
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



Promote **social inclusion**
and a culture of
non-violence and **peace**.
