

BIGMUN 2025

Committee on World Food Security (CFS)

Research Report

Topic 2: Identifying solutions to the increasing food insecurity in Haiti



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Introduction

Haiti is a country suffering from a food crisis. There are many factors contributing to the insecurity of the nation, including gang violence, economic instability and natural disasters. About half of the population suffers from food insecurity, and many have had to be displaced due to armed gangs and natural disasters.

This research report will guide you with understanding the situation in Haiti. It will explain previous resolutions and suggest potential solutions, hopefully preparing you to write your own resolution during BIGMUN.

Definition of Key Terms

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): A collection of 17 global objectives established by UN in 2015. They address critical global challenges and try to achieve sustainability, safety and equality by 2030. SDG 2 is **Zero Hunger**, which focuses on food security, proper nutrition and sustainable agriculture. Read more about the SDGs [here](#).

Food security: The 1996 World Food Summit defined food security to exist “*when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life*”.¹

Background Information

Haiti is facing a severe food crisis. Almost half of the population, around 5.4 million people, are struggling to feed their families.

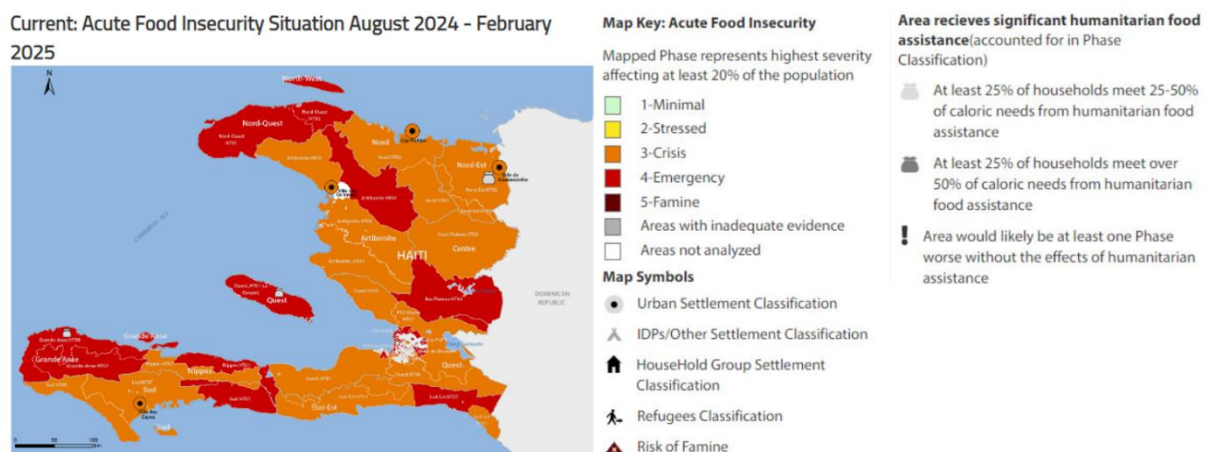


Figure 1. IPC mapping of the food crisis in Haiti for August 2024 to February 2025

The crisis is rooted in decades of underdevelopment, political instability, and economic challenges. The key drivers of the crisis are economic hardship, gang violence and natural disasters.

¹ “Policy Brief: Food Security”. *Food and Agriculture Organisation*, 2006, https://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/faotail/documents/pdf/pdf_Food_Security_Concept_Note.pdf

The 25-35% high inflation² has caused food expenditure to take up to 70% of total household expenditure.³ Trade liberalization policies introduced in the 1980s reduced import tariffs on agricultural goods, which undermines domestic food production. The economy is also experiencing its fifth consecutive year of depression, negative growth, making sovereign development difficult.

There is growing violence in regions like Port-au-Prince, Gressier and Ganthier. Armed gangs control up to 90% of Port-au-Prince, disrupting supply chains and limiting access to food.⁴ Farmers struggle to sell their produce due to blocked transportation routes and unofficial taxes collected by the gangs. According to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) production of important foods such as maize dropped by 39%, rice by 34% and sorghum by 22% compared to a five-year average.⁵

The area is also experiencing the effects of various natural disasters. It suffers periodical droughts, the disastrous Hurricane Matthew in 2016, and a magnitude 7.2 earthquake in 2021.

The World Food Programme (WFP) reported that over 700,000 people had been internally displaced. UN's International Organisation for Migration (IOM) reported that approximately 83% were staying with families, causing additional strain on households which have limited financial and social safety nets, making it increasingly difficult for them to access and afford food.⁶

Humanitarian food organisations and NGOs are short of US\$ 230 million to complete aid by the end of 2024.⁷

Major Countries and Organisations Involved

World Food Programme (WFP) – They have helped 1.35 million Haitians so far in 2024, through emergency assistance, school meals, social protection, and resilience activities. They have stated that “*with additional resources, WFP stands ready to scale up emergency food assistance*”.⁸

Solidarités International – They give aid to displaced people six areas, including Monfort, “*the largest and hardest-to-reach site*”. They also helped tackle the spread of cholera, a possibly fatal infection transmitted through contaminated water and food.⁹

² “Haiti Inflation Rate”. *Trading Economics*, <https://tradingeconomics.com/haiti/inflation-cpi>

³ “Haiti: Acute Food Insecurity Situation for August 2024 - February 2025 and Projection for March - June 2025”. *Integrated Food Security Phase Classification*, 2024, <https://www.ipcinfo.org/ipc-country-analysis/details-map/en/c/1157971/>

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ “Explainer: 5 things to know about food security in Haiti in times of crisis”. *United Nations Sustainable Development Group*, 2024, <https://unsdg.un.org/latest/stories/explainer-5-things-know-about-food-security-haiti-times-crisis>

⁶ “Hunger in Haiti, explained”. *Concern Worldwide US*, 2024, <https://concernusa.org/news/hunger-in-haiti/>

⁷ “Hunger in Haiti reaches historic high with one-in-two Haitians now in acute hunger”. *World Food Programme*, 2024, <https://www.wfp.org/news/hunger-haiti-reaches-historic-high-one-two-haitians-now-acute-hunger>

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ “Haiti” *Solidarites International* <https://www.solidarites.org/en/missions/haiti/>

Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere (CARE) – CARE Haiti has operated since 1954, aiding people in emergencies such as natural disasters. In the modern crisis, they focus on “*food distribution, water, and sanitation, and the safety and empowerment of women and girls*”.¹⁰

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) – CRS focuses on helping displaced people outside of the capital region. Their goal is to “*ensure access to food, water, agricultural support, education and counseling care*”.¹¹ They have an ongoing project which helps almost 90 000 residents. Read more about the [project here](#).

Relevant UN Resolutions

Resolution 2751 (2024)

- This resolution expressed gratitude for Kenya’s leadership of the Multinational Security Support Mission in Haiti and it welcomed the deployment of the mission to Haiti to help address the security crisis.

Resolution 2752 (2024)

- Expanded the scope of the arms embargo on Haiti, aiming to address the illicit flow of arms, which contributes to instability and violence in the country

Resolution 2699 (2023)

- Authorized the deployment of a Multinational Security Support Mission to Haiti for an initial 12-month period and also specified that the mission would be led by Kenya in cooperation with the Haitian government. Furthermore, it aimed to help address the security crisis and enable humanitarian access by establishing sanctions in response to the high levels of gang violence and criminal activities in Haiti. The resolution also imposed travel bans and asset freezes on individuals engaged in actions threatening Haiti’s peace and stability.

Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue

Firstly, the WFP has been providing emergency food assistance, including hot meals, food distributions, and cash transfers, and in March 2024, the WFP reached a new milestone by reaching 460,000 people with food assistance programs. Moreover, the WFP has been purchasing US\$1.7 million worth of local food monthly for school meals, working with over 170 local agricultural organizations across Haiti.

¹⁰ “Haiti” CARE, <https://www.care.org/our-work/where-we-work/haiti/>

¹¹ “CRISIS IN HAITI: Help Haitian families facing violence!” Catholic Relief Services, <https://support.crs.org/donate/haiti-crisis>

Another key initiative by the WFP has been the School Meals Program which, with the support of the Ministry of Education, provides daily meals to 340,000 schoolchildren, with 70% of the food sourced locally.

Other than the WFP, another key organization has been The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), which has been providing support for planting seasons, including cash transfers, vegetable seeds, and tools to support agricultural livelihoods. Lastly, the International Labour Organization (ILO) has supported farmers in growing nutritious breadfruit and exporting cacao, aiming to boost their incomes and improve food security not only for themselves, but all of Haiti.

Possible Solutions

Immediate humanitarian aid, long-term development projects, and security enhancements are the three categories of potential remedies for Haiti's growing food shortages.

Expanding emergency food aid programs is essential for providing immediate humanitarian aid in order to reach more individuals experiencing severe food insecurity. This can be supplemented by growing the Home-Grown School Meals Program, which helps smallholder farmers and local businesses in addition to giving kids nutrition. International organizations can also support Haitian farmers and the local economy by increasing their purchases of local food.

Long-term development can increase crop resistance to repeated droughts by funding small-scale water infrastructure and equipment. Food security and agricultural productivity can be improved by extending microloan programs for female farmers and putting regenerative agriculture practices into practice.

Reducing urbanization can be achieved by addressing rural developments by establishing economic opportunities in agricultural areas. Lastly, increasing the scale of long-term development projects and humanitarian assistance require better cooperation amongst UN agencies, regional organizations, and international financial institutions.

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