

# Security Council

## Addressing the food security crisis in Haiti



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## Introduction

Nations being plagued by the scarcity of food and water is something the global stage is no stranger to. However, Haiti is currently facing the largest food security crisis in the modern day, with over half of its population of 11.9 million being projected to face acute food insecurity. The instability of the government, gangs running rampant looting and murdering in the streets, Haiti's economy collapsing, and the multitude of tropical natural disasters the country commonly faces are the largest factors to this crisis. Food insecurity in Haiti has transcended from just a humanitarian crisis in Haiti, it is now a matter of regional and national stability.

## Definition of Key Terms

**Food Security:** The indication that every person, at any time, has the capability to obtain enough safe and nutritious food, considering both its physical availability and economic accessibility.

**"Acute Food Insecurity":** Refers to a situation where a person cannot secure sufficient food, thus threatening their life or job security.

**"IPC (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification)":** An international system that categorizes the intensity of food insecurity, from Phase One (Minimal) to Phase Five (Famine). Haiti is currently classified to be in Phase 4.

**"Humanitarian Access":** The ability of aid organizations to safely reach those in need of aid.

**"Supply Chain Disruption":** Interruptions in the processes involved in the production, transportation, or delivery of goods, including food products.

**"Gang Violence":** The use of force by armed criminal groups to dominate territories, resources, and populations. In Haiti, gang violence is seen through actions such as: kidnappings, road blockades, extortion, and attacks on civilians and humanitarian workers, which directly affect food distribution, market functions, and access to humanitarian aid.

## General Overview

Haiti's food security crisis arises from ongoing structural challenges coupled with recent political and social upheavals. The country relies heavily on food imports, rendering it vulnerable to global price fluctuations and supply disruptions. Widespread poverty, elevated unemployment rates, and inflation have severely reduced purchasing power, leaving millions



of Haitians unable to afford food even when it is available. Rural regions suffer from poor soil quality, inadequate irrigation, and limited market access, while urban dwellers depend almost entirely on unstable supply chains. As a result, food insecurity affects both urban and rural populations, leading to a significant rise in malnutrition among children and pregnant women.

Addressing this crisis is exceptionally difficult due to the intricate relationship between insecurity, political dysfunction, and systemic corruption. Armed gangs control vital ports, highways, and neighborhoods, extorting traders and hindering humanitarian assistance. This obstructs food from reaching markets and prevents aid from reaching those in need. Furthermore, Haiti lacks a functioning central government capable of enforcing laws, coordinating policies, or ensuring transparency. Corruption within governmental institutions and customs procedures inflates prices and misallocates resources, undermining both local initiatives and international support. Without essential security and governance, even well-funded programs struggle to operate effectively.

Compounding these challenges are frequent natural disasters and global indifference. Earthquakes, hurricanes, floods, and droughts regularly devastate crops and infrastructure, forcing communities back into dependency before they can recover. Climate change intensifies the frequency and severity of these disasters, complicating long-term planning. Simultaneously, international attention has shifted to other global concerns, resulting in underfunded appeals and sluggish responses.

## Major Parties Involved

**Haiti:** The Haitian government struggles to maintain its authority as a political entity and further as ensurers of public service, with them mainly supporting international assistance despite the lack of territorial control.

**Armed gangs:** The main facilitators of violence in Haiti, primarily controlling trade routes and key infrastructure. The activity of these criminal groups directly disrupt the distribution of aid to Haitian civilians, as many humanitarian groups deem it too dangerous to operate in the nation due to the activity of these gangs.

**International donors (USA, Canada, European Union):** International donors play a major role in ensuring sufficient aid is given to Haiti, funding aid programs, nutritional support, and supplying agriculture equipment to Haiti.

**NGOs (Non-Governmental Organisations):** These organisations deliver food, water, emergency medical care, and community support to the civilian population, often being blockaded by criminal organisations.

## Timeline of Events

- **2010:** A catastrophic earthquake kills over two hundred thousand people and devastates infrastructure, weakening food systems for years.
- **2016:** Hurricane Matthew destroys crops and livestock, intensifying rural poverty and dependence on food imports.
- **2021:** Assassination of President Moïse leads to a power vacuum and rapid expansion of gang control.

- **2022:** Gangs seize fuel terminals and major roads, causing nationwide shortages and blocking food distribution.
- **2023-2024:** United Nations agencies report record levels of acute food insecurity, with parts of Haiti approaching famine conditions.

## Previous attempts to solve the issue

### 1. Humanitarian Food Aid Programs

- Organizations like the World Food Programme have offered emergency food and cash support. Nevertheless, access has been limited due to security issues, and convoys often face attacks or blockades from armed groups.

### 2. Agricultural Support Initiatives

- The FAO, in collaboration with its partners, has provided seeds, tools, and training to farmers. These efforts have improved local production in some areas, but they still fall short due to land degradation, climate challenges, and restricted market access.

### 3. Stabilization and Security Missions

- Past UN peacekeeping missions were intended to restore order. Although they temporarily decreased violence, they failed to promote long-term governance reforms and economic recovery, allowing instability to reemerge.

## Possible Solutions

### International Security Intervention

Authorize a multinational force under the auspices of the United Nations to restore essential security in critical urban areas, ports, and transportation routes. This force would focus on dismantling gang strongholds, safeguarding civilians, and reopening vital supply lines. By reestablishing state control over infrastructure, humanitarian organizations would be able to safely deliver food and necessary assistance.

### Targeted Anti-Gang Operations and Disarmament

Support the Haitian National Police by providing training, intelligence, and resources to carry out coordinated operations against major gang networks. These operations should prioritize disarmament, capturing gang leaders, and reclaiming strategic sites such as ports and fuel terminals. Alongside judicial reform, this strategy would lessen the influence of criminal organizations and reduce their capacity to exploit food systems.

### Humanitarian Access and Emergency Food Networks

Create secure humanitarian corridors and emergency distribution centers in both urban and rural areas. These locations would be protected by international oversight, ensuring the continuous delivery of food, medicine, and clean water. Consistent access would help prevent localized famines and stabilize at-risk communities.



## Long-Term Agricultural and Economic Recovery

Invest in climate-resilient agricultural methods, irrigation infrastructure, and local markets to rejuvenate domestic food production. Offer micro-financing and training opportunities for farmers and small businesses, thereby decreasing reliance on imports. Strengthening local food systems would tackle the underlying causes of hunger and foster sustainable livelihoods.

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