



The Hague International Model United Nations

Forum: 4th Committee (GA4)

Issue: The Situation in Haiti

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Introduction

Maica grew up in Haiti and was buried under a building for days after the 2010 earthquake ravaged her home country. She managed to survive despite infections that required both her legs to be amputated in New York. There she received secondary and post-secondary education and obtained a degree in Nursing.¹ Maica's story is one of great hardship and great perseverance, one that emulates the experiences of many Haitian people quite well.

Haiti was originally inhabited by the Taíno indigenous people, but was eventually colonized by France in the late 17th century. European diseases quickly decimated the Taíno people and Haitian demographics shifted further as the French imported African people for slave labor on sugarcane plantations. This history of African enslavement and discrimination has disenfranchised the majority Black population in Haiti for centuries.

Since the nation's independence in 1804, Haiti has developed an independent culture with influences from across Africa, France, Spain, and the Americas. At the same time, they have struggled with corruption and instability as a result of ethnic divisions, poverty, natural disasters, disease, and economic dependence. Despite the challenges Haitian people face, many persevere and often immigrate to pursue a better life, similar to Maica.

Currently, corruption and gang violence pose great challenges to Haiti, especially following the implementation of a provisional government with the assassination of Jovenel Moïse in 2021 and the resignation of all democratically elected officials in government.² Additionally, without comprehensive support for Haiti, the struggles of the people will only increase over time as climate change continues to threaten the island nation.³

Definition of Key Terms

Climate Refugees

A climate refugee is "a phrase often used in the media to describe people who are forced to move from their homes due to climate-related events" according to the UNHCR.⁴

¹ Haitian Women for Haitian Refugees. "Maica's Story." *Haitian Women for Haitian Refugees*, <https://haitianrefugees.org/maicas-story/>. Accessed 28 November 2024.

² "Haiti left with no elected government officials as it spirals towards anarchy." *The Guardian*, The Guardian, 10 January 2023, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/jan/10/haiti-no-elected-officials-anarchy-failed-state>. Accessed 28 November 2024.

³ UNICEF. "Haiti facing the challenge of climate change." *UNICEF*, 10 October 2023, <https://www.unicef.org/haiti/en/stories/haiti-facing-challenge-climate-change>. Accessed 28 November 2024.

⁴ Siegfried, Kristy. "Climate change and displacement: the myths and the facts." *UNHCR*, 15 November 2023,

However, this term is not officially recognized by international law. Under the 1951 Refugee Convention, only those fleeing to another nation due to persecution, war, violence, or conflict are protected. If an individual is forced to flee due to violence or persecution due to climate change, they are protected by the Refugee Convention.

Climate vulnerability

Many island nations struggle with climate vulnerability, which is the susceptibility of a nation, a species, or nature to the impact of climate change.⁵ Haiti being both an island and located on a fault line exacerbates its vulnerability to climate change.

Corruption

Corruption has been present in Haiti for centuries and refers to an abuse of power for personal gain and often increases poverty and inequality. Corruption also weakens the legitimacy of a government as well as a nation's economy.⁶

Coup d'état

A Coup d'état is an insurrection carried out by a small group of people to overthrow a political leader and swiftly replace them. A revolution, although also often overthrowing a government leader, is achieved by a larger number of people in pursuit of systematic change.⁷

Deforestation

Deforestation is the purposeful human clearing or thinning of trees and forests. This practice can destroy forests and ecosystems and increase the impacts of climate change.⁸ Deforestation was common in Haiti when it was occupied by France and continues to thrive as Haitians rely on firewood for energy.

Failed State

States that have failed have weak institutions that cannot control or provide for their people, economy, or territory. A failed state also often loses legitimacy among its citizens as well as the international community.⁹

Gang Violence

<https://www.unhcr.org/news/stories/climate-change-and-displacement-myths-and-facts>. Accessed 7 December 2024.

⁵ Governor's Office of Planning and Research. "DEFINING VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES IN THE CONTEXT OF CLIMATE ADAPTATION." July 2018, https://lci.ca.gov/docs/20180723-vulnerable_communities.pdf. Accessed 28 November 2024.

⁶ Transparency International. "What is Corruption?" *Transparency International*, <https://www.transparency.org/en/what-is-corruption>. Accessed 28 November 2024.

⁷ The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica. "https://www.britannica.com/topic/coup-detat." *Britannica*, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/coup-detat>. Accessed 28 November 2024.

⁸ Pimm, Stuart L. "Deforestation." *Britannica*, 17 November 2024, <https://www.britannica.com/science/deforestation>. Accessed 28 November 2024.

⁹ Barma, Naazneen H. "Failed State." *Britannica*, 20 November 2024, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/failed-state>. Accessed 28 November 2024.

This specific type of violence refers to criminal and non-political acts of violence against innocent people. Fights between differing gangs can also be defined as gang violence.¹⁰ This has been prevalent in Haiti, especially since Moïse's assassination.

Remittance

In the case of Haiti, remittance is the process of sending money to another person, often in a different country.¹¹ The senders are often friends and relatives who have emigrated from Haiti. Remittance is of relative importance to not only individual Haitian people, but the Haitian economy as a whole.

Shantytowns

A shantytown is defined as “an area in or on the edge of a city, in which poor people live in small, very cheaply built houses” according to Cambridge dictionary.¹² These towns are common in many parts of Haiti, especially just outside of larger cities such as Port-au-Prince.

Background Information

Improving resilience to natural disasters and environmental challenges

On January 12th 2010, a magnitude 7.0 earthquake struck Haiti just outside of the capital of Port-au-Prince. This earthquake killed about 220,000, injured over 300,000, and affected nearly 3.5 million Haitians. Almost 300,000 homes and 4,000 schools were damaged or destroyed.¹³ Nearly 60% of government and administrative buildings were also damaged including the Presidential Palace shown below.¹⁴

¹⁰ USLegal. “Gang Violence Law and Legal Definition.” *USLegal*, <https://definitions.uslegal.com/g/gang-violence/>. Accessed 28 November 2024.

¹¹ Investopedia. “Remittance: What It Is and How to Send One.” *Investopedia*, <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/r/remittance.asp#:~:text=A%20remittance%20is%20money%20sent,low%2Dincome%20and%20developing%20nations>. Accessed 28 November 2024.

¹² *Cambridge Dictionary*, <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/shantytown>. Accessed 7 December 2024.

¹³ “2010 Haiti Earthquake Facts and Figures.” *Disasters Emergency Committee*, 2013, <https://www.dec.org.uk/article/2010-haiti-earthquake-facts-and-figures>. Accessed 7 December 2024.

¹⁴ “Haiti earthquake maps.” *BBC*, <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/8458690.stm>. Accessed 7 December 2024.



This earthquake was not Haiti's first nor last instance of mass death and destruction as a result of natural disasters. More than 10 major hurricanes have hit the island over the past 100 years along with numerous floods, landslides, and cyclones. There have also been limited instances of major tsunamis and droughts in Haiti. Currently the nation is struggling with the two most recent major natural disasters, Hurricane Matthew in 2016 and a 7.2 magnitude earthquake in 2021.

Haiti is highly susceptible to these environmental catastrophes in part due to its climate. Most of Haiti has a tropical climate, with a small semi-arid region north of Port-au-Prince. Air temperatures in Haiti are high year round with an average minimum temperature of 19 degrees celsius in the winter and an average maximum temperature in the summer of 33 degrees celsius. This climate creates an ideal environment for the hurricanes, cyclones and flooding which affect Haiti each year. Additionally, Haiti is located on a fault line between tectonic plates which creates a risk of strong earthquakes.¹⁵

Aside from Haiti's location and climate, human activities have also contributed to environmental catastrophes and their aftermath. Deforestation has been a major issue in Haiti since the colonial times when French colonists first cleared land to make space for sugar plantations. This practice has continued in Haiti over centuries due to the nation's reliance on wood and charcoal as energy sources. 98 percent of Haiti's forests have been cleared which has contributed to landslides, floods, and eroded farmland.

¹⁵ "Country Haiti." *Climate Change Knowledge Portal*, <https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/country/haiti/vulnerability>. Accessed 7 December 2024.

Both deforestation and natural disasters have caused internal migration in Haiti into shantytowns and towards the coast of the island. A concentrated population near the coast is dangerous as it leaves 96% of Haiti's population susceptible to natural catastrophes.

Climate change will continue to increase the intensity and frequency of disasters in Haiti and will make many Haitians climate refugees. Climate change is also correlated with increased spread of disease and increased internal conflict which would further destabilize Haiti.

Multiple solutions have been suggested in recent years to combat climate change and its adverse effects on Haiti. There are three major categories of climate oriented solutions to this topic: environmental action, disaster preparedness, and action against overpopulation.

Environmental action in Haiti could be taken by promoting kerosene powered stoves and other wood and charcoal alternatives. Additionally, taxing the sale of wood and charcoal and using those funds to reinvest in environmental rehabilitation would disincentivize deforestation in Haiti. Deforestation could also be halted by planting trees that produce profits, such as mango trees, which would promote reforestation. Lastly, in terms of environmental action, Haiti requires a more comprehensive land ownership system. Currently Haitians who use land for farming and other agricultural practices are not officially owners of the land. This lack of ownership disincentives land users from investing in sustainable farming methods as they feel no responsibility over the land. A clear land ownership system would increase accountability for farmland in Haiti.

Disaster preparedness is also required to mitigate the effects of climate change in Haiti. Based on previous disasters, the specific supplies required for relief are known, but they are often difficult to obtain. Through foreign aid relief supplies could be delivered to Haiti in preparation for the nation's rainy season.

Lastly, action against overpopulation could be taken by providing youth education on family planning and investing in rural areas to prevent migration to cities and shantytowns. Many of the solutions presented above are unpopular among the Haitian population for fear that environmental protection will result in a short-term increase in poverty. Thus, it is vital to combine environmental and disaster protection policies with policies combating poverty.¹⁶

Fostering economic growth through the strengthening of infrastructure

Haiti has faced significant challenges in generating economic growth for decades, with the nation's per capita GDP having fallen to roughly one-third to two-thirds of its level in

¹⁶ "Haiti: Saving the Environment, Preventing Instability and Conflict." *JSTOR*, 28 April 2009, https://www.jstor.org/stable/resrep38201?searchText=preventing+climate+change+haiti&searchUri=%2Faction%2FdoBasicSearch%3FQuery%3Dpreventing%2Bclimate%2Bchange%2Bhaiti%26so%3DreI&ab_segments=0%2Fbasic_search_gsv2%2Fcontrol&refreqid=fastly-default%3A45ad8f. Accessed 7 December 2024.

1965. Haiti is currently classified as the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. There is an unequal distribution of income in Haiti with over half of the population living in absolute poverty, surviving on less than 1 USD per day. Many households receive remittances from family members who have emigrated from Haiti and these remittances account for an average 30% of household income.

There are a variety of causes behind Haiti's inability to grow economically aside from the country's history of colonization and natural disasters. One major cause is that registering a business in Haiti is a lengthy process often taking up to a year to complete. Additionally registering a business can be costly and it is difficult for companies in Haiti to engage in foreign trade. This is why less than 25% of Haiti's GDP is generated through industry and manufacturing.

Haiti is also highly reliant on foreign aid from both governmental and non-governmental organizations which has contributed to dependence and inflation. For most food products, for example, Haiti relies on imports which makes the country susceptible to inflation because as prices on the world market rise, so do the prices in Haiti. Additionally, many public services are provided by foreign investors, with private providers supplying most health services and teaching about four-fifths of Haitian children. Lastly, Haiti's tax revenue generates a small proportion of the nation's GDP while much of Haiti's national spending is geared towards subsidies rather than public services.

Many solutions have been proposed and initiated to reduce Haitian poverty and increase governmental efficacy and economic growth. One such solution is to reduce inflation through the process of making Haiti's national bank independent from the government. This would allow the bank to slowly end the supplying of funds to the Haitian government when government funding falls short. The bank would also publish monetary data each month to increase transparency and reduce corruption. Additionally Haiti is in the process of increasing the share of GDP generated by tax revenue and consolidating economic records to better plan and execute budgets.

Previously the Haitian government has also worked on projects with organizations such as the UN to implement infrastructure and provide basic public services to Haitian citizens. These projects have resulted in the construction of roads and bridges accessible during floods, as well as hospitals. The use of Haitian labor in these projects has provided work for many unemployed people and taught many people, especially women, valuable construction skills that they would not have otherwise learned.¹⁷

Another potential solution to the economic situation in Haiti is shifting expenditures from subsidies to public services. This would prove the efficacy of the Haitian government,

¹⁷ "Building a resilient Haiti." *UNOPS*, <https://www.unops.org/news-and-stories/stories/building-a-resilient-haiti>. Accessed 7 December 2024.

improve the lives of Haitian citizens, and open doors for further foreign investment in other industries.

Haiti additionally has the opportunity to capitalize on its relations with the United States. Because the main investor and trading partner in Haiti is the US, the US dollar could replace the Haitian Gourde. This would relieve stress on the national bank, in terms of exchange rates, and would reduce inflation. Lastly, with access to the US clothing market, Haiti could attract investments in the garment industry and provide job opportunities for unemployed Haitians, thus increasing the nation's economic growth.¹⁸

Addressing corruption and gang violence for civilian protection

Authoritarian leaders, over 10 assassinations and coups, and prevalent organized crime have all been part of Haiti's history as an independent state. A combination of these factors and economic insecurity has led to corruption in governmental institutions and rampant gang violence. These crises have caused the resignation of many Haitian government officials and have led many to classify Haiti as a failed state. In recent months gang violence in Haiti has escalated to the point where 20,000 people were forcibly displaced from November 11th through the 15th. Gangs also closed all air traffic over Haiti, having shot at commercial planes, and occupied roads to prevent travel. Multiple different criminal groups have now combined in Port-au-Prince to control a majority of the city and attack the Haitian police. These gangs have killed over 4,000 people in 2024 and have left 94% of girls and women susceptible to sexual violence as a weapon of terror.¹⁹

Combating these gangs is a complex task that involves addressing both the governmental corruption at the root of gang violence, as well as the effects this violence has on the Haitian population. In order to combat corruption, one essential task is changing the perspectives of citizens in Haiti. Corruption undermines institutions, unequally distributes wealth and power, and stunts economic growth. Living in a country where corruption is the norm can lead to cynicism and a belief that change isn't possible. Altering this mindset is one of the first steps in achieving a more equal, less corrupt Haiti. When citizens believe change is possible, they are more likely to report injustices and inequalities allowing the government to improve and better provide for its citizens.

¹⁸ "CHAPTER SIX Economic Policy." *JSTOR*, 2010, https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.7249/mg1039srf-cc.13?searchText=improving+economy+haiti&searchUri=%2Faction%2FdoBasicSearch%3FQuery%3Dimproving%2Beconomy%2Bhaiti%26so%3Drel&ab_segments=0%2Fbasic_search_gsv2%2Fcontrol&refreqid=fastly-default%3A5c7a585ed0d3e. Accessed 7 December 2024.

¹⁹ "Over 20,000 Flee as Rising Gang Violence Spurs Mass Displacement in Haiti." *IOM UN Migration*, 17 November 2024, <https://www.iom.int/news/over-20000-flee-rising-gang-violence-spurs-mass-displacement-haiti>. Accessed 7 December 2024.

One avenue of reducing corruption and gaining public trust is by first working on “low hanging fruit”. In other words, building momentum by tackling small noticeable instances of corruption to gain public support.

Another important measure in combating corruption is naming and punishing big corrupt actors in Haiti to show citizens that accountability is possible. It is also vital to hold both opposition parties and parties in power responsible for their actions to discourage the assumption that anti-corruption campaigns only target opposition parties and interest groups.

Although holding these individuals accountable is an important method to combat corruption, focus also needs to be placed on reform and future corruption prevention. This can be achieved by introducing “fresh eyes”, including young people and business owners, into varying sectors of government to encourage change.²⁰

Tackling corruption to prevent future gang violence does not overshadow the need for measures to combat present repercussions of gang violence. Past UN missions including the MINUSTAH have sent police forces to Haiti in attempts to stabilize the nation and prevent organized crime. Currently a mission led by Kenya operates to train Haitian police forces and combat gang violence.²¹

Combatting both the symptoms and causes of gang violence in Haiti would stabilize the nation and provide more opportunities for economic growth.

Major Countries and Organizations Involved

France

France held colonial power over Haiti beginning in 1697, after the territory was ceded by Spain. French colonists brought over African slaves to create sugar plantations, contributing to the current predominantly Black population in Haiti. In 1804 at the end of the Haitian Revolution, Haiti was declared independent, making this one of the most successful slave rebellions in history. However, in 1825, France declared Haiti's independence would only be recognized with a payment of 150 million francs. The French government also insisted on cutting the import duties on French goods in half. Haiti was only able to fully pay off this debt to France over one hundred years later, in 1947. The large sums of money Haiti was forced to pay to France contributed to stifled economic growth and poverty in the

²⁰ Klitgaard, Robert. “Addressing Corruption in Haiti.” *JSTOR*, 22 March 2010, https://www.jstor.org/stable/resrep03087?searchText=%22corruption%22+%22haiti%22&searchUri=%2Faction%2FdoBasicSearch%3FQuery%3D%2522corruption%2522%2B%2522haiti%2522%26so%3Drel&ab_segments=0%2Fbasic_search%2Fcontrol&refreqid=fastly-default%3A897dec1. Accessed 7 December 2024.

²¹ “Chapter Three: Haiti.” *JSTOR*, 1 June 2013, https://www.jstor.org/stable/resrep09589.7?searchText=reducing+gang+violence+haiti&searchUri=%2Faction%2FdoBasicSearch%3FQuery%3Dreducing%2Bgang%2Bviolence%2Bhaiti%26so%3Drel&ab_segments=0%2Fbasic_search_gsv2%2Fcontrol&refreqid=fastly-default%3Adc7a5835afd. Accessed 7 December 2024.

country. Haiti still struggles with its colonial past, lacking infrastructure, and high rates of poverty as a result of France.²²

United States

The United States first recognized Haiti as an independent nation in 1862, however there was little diplomatic interaction between the two nations until the early 1900s. In 1915, near the start of the first World War, the United States feared German influence in Haiti and sent in Marines to stabilize the region. From 1915 until 1934, Haitians were subjected to forced labor, censorship, and racial segregation which led to various uprisings costing over 15,000 lives. During this period the US also controlled Haiti's finances and security. In more recent times, the United States has become Haiti's primary trading partner and the US Agency for International Development has also been Haiti's top relief contributor since the 2010 earthquake. The United States has struggled with increased Haitian immigration and thousands of Haitians have been deported since 2016.²³

Kenya

Kenya and Haiti had few diplomatic ties until 2023. In October, the UN authorized the Multinational Security Support mission (MSS) led by Kenya.²⁴ This mission has sent 1000 Kenyan officers to Haiti, supplemented by military forces from Caribbean nations to establish security and address gang violence in the region. This mission is an opportunity for Kenya to have a more active role in international politics and support the interests of Africa.²⁵ The mission has been extended through 2025, however, there have been concerns for the mission's success due to past reports of human rights abuses by Kenyan police forces.

Dominican Republic

The Dominican Republic shares an island with Haiti and has had tense relations with the nation for centuries. Before the Dominican Republic was established as an independent nation in 1844, it was occupied by a Haitian president who allowed Haiti to monopolize the economy and government on the island. When the Dominican Republic became independent, Haiti's control over important governmental sectors strained the relationship between the two countries and caused territorial and cultural disputes. One of the darkest

²² Louis, Lisa. "France's historical responsibility for Haiti – DW – 03/21/2024." *DW*, 21 March 2024, <https://www.dw.com/en/france-has-a-historical-responsibility-for-events-in-haiti/a-68637807>. Accessed 7 December 2024.

²³ Maizland, Lindsay, et al. "Haiti's Troubled Path to Development." *Council on Foreign Relations*, <https://www.cfr.org/background/haitis-troubled-path-development>. Accessed 7 December 2024.

²⁴ "Emerging Practices in New Mission Models: The Multinational Security Support Mission in Haiti." *International Peace Institute*, 5 December 2024, <https://www.ipinst.org/2024/12/emerging-practices-in-new-mission-models-the-multinational-security-support-mission-in-haiti>. Accessed 7 December 2024.

²⁵ Nyaoga, Sibi. "What Kenya's proposed mission to Haiti says about Nairobi's foreign policy." *Atlantic Council*, 21 December 2023, <https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/africasource/what-kenyas-proposed-mission-to-haiti-says-about-nairobis-foreign-policy/>. Accessed 7 December 2024.

times in the Dominican-Haitian relationship was in 1937 when Dominican dictator Trujillo ordered the killing of over 15,000 Haitians and Dominicans of Haitian descent in what is known as the Parsley Massacre. From the 1940s until the early 2000s diplomatic engagement improved slightly, however, this was only temporary and bilateral relations again worsened in 2010. After the magnitude 7.0 earthquake in Haiti, about 200,000 Haitians migrated to the Dominican Republic to seek asylum. In 2013 many Haitian migrants were removed from the Dominican Republic after new citizenship regulations were passed in the country. Following this the Dominican Republic began building a wall along its border, closed the border to Haitians, and banned 39 Haitian personalities from the nation.²⁶

Habitat for Humanity

Habitats for Humanity has provided valuable assistance and relief in Haiti, especially following the 2010 earthquake. In 2011, a project was initiated that works to clear up land ownership and resolve land disputes in Haiti. In 2015, another project was launched to help low-income families afford safe housing with assistance from developers and banks. They also offer Haitians training in disaster preparation, secure building methods, financial planning, and job skills. Haitians are also encouraged to organize individual housing projects and allow women and minorities to participate in decision-making.²⁷

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

The Red Cross has been present in Haiti for over 20 years providing humanitarian relief. Two years ago the ICRC opened a new office in Haiti to ensure long-term progress in the region. Following the 2010 earthquake and Hurricane Matthew in 2016, the Red Cross provided sanitation, clean water, and healthcare to Haiti to mitigate the effects of the disasters.²⁸ While the Red Cross has provided some vital relief to Haiti, it has also been criticized for raising millions of dollars for Haitian housing campaigns and accomplishing far too little with the accumulated funds.²⁹

Doctors Without Borders (MSF)

Médecins Sans Frontières, Doctors Without Borders in English, is committed to providing mental and physical health support to the people of Haiti considering the current instability and gang violence. The organization has provided over 35,000 emergency room

²⁶ Compère, Marvens. "Policies and Politics Behind Today's Haiti-Dominican Republic Relations." *Pulitzer Center*, 27 September 2023, <https://pulitzercenter.org/stories/policies-and-politics-behind-todays-haiti-dominican-republic-relations>. Accessed 7 December 2024.

²⁷ "Housing in Haiti." *Habitat for Humanity*, <https://habitatthaiti.org/housing-in-haiti/>. Accessed 7 December 2024.

²⁸ "Haiti." *International Committee of the Red Cross*, <https://www.icrc.org/en/where-we-work/haiti#text942893>. Accessed 7 December 2024.

²⁹ Elliott, Justin, and Laura Sullivan. "How the Red Cross Raised Half a Billion Dollars for Haiti and Built Six Homes." *ProPublica*, 3 June 2015, <https://www.propublica.org/article/how-the-red-cross-raised-half-a-billion-dollars-for-haiti-and-built-6-homes>. Accessed 7 December 2024.

consultations, treated people for physical and sexual violence, and operates in seven cities and villages across Haiti.³⁰ The organization has had to suspend its support in Haiti’s capital Port-au-Prince in recent months due to increased violence and threats by Haitian police forces in the city.³¹

Timeline of Events

1492	Columbus lands in the Caribbean	Christopher Columbus landed on the island, naming it Hispaniola, which began colonial control over the land and the Taino indigenous people.
1697	Hispaniola divided, Haiti established	Haiti, the western third of Hispaniola, was ceded to France in the Rijswijk Treaty.
1791-1804	Haitian Revolution	A series of conflicts occurred that shifted power between Haitians and colonizers. This revolution resulted in Haiti’s independence in 1804.
1822	Unification of Hispaniola	Jean-Pierre Boyer, the Haitian president at the time, invaded Santo Domingo (current Dominican Republic). He abolished slavery there, but Haitians still had a monopoly over

³⁰ “Haiti | Our Work & How to Help.” *Doctors Without Borders*, <https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/what-we-do/where-we-work/haiti>. Accessed 7 December 2024.

³¹ “Haiti: Violence and threats by police force MSF to suspend activities in Port-au-Prince area.” *Doctors Without Borders*, 19 November 2024, <https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/latest/haiti-violence-and-threats-police-force-msf-suspend-activities-port-au-prince-area>. Accessed 7 December 2024.

		governmental and economic power on the island.
1844	Independence for Dominican Republic	Haitians were removed from Santo Domingo, which strained relations on the island and formed an independent Dominican Republic.
1915	US intervention in Haiti	The Haitian president Vilbrun Guillaume Sam ordered the execution of many political prisoners and was overthrown. This prompted US intervention which was justified by the Monroe Doctrine.
1934	US troops removed	The US removed troops from Haiti, but they had fiscal and indirect control over the island until 1947.
1957	Beginning of Duvalier Dynasty	François Duvalier was elected president, and despite his initial popularity, he quickly transformed Haiti into a dictatorship with many attempts to overthrow him.
1986	End of Duvalier Dynasty	The Duvalier family's reign ended as François Duvalier's son was forced to flee Haiti.
1990	Aristide election	Jean-Bertrand Aristide became the first president to

		be freely and fairly elected by the Haitian people
1991-2004	Overthrow and return of Aristide	Aristide was overthrown by the Haitian military and returned in 1994 when the de facto government stepped down and allowed US troops to occupy the country. Aristide peacefully transferred power in 1995 and returned to power in 2000. He was forced to flee the country in 2004 due to rebellions and a lack of support from France and the US.
2010	7.0 magnitude earthquake in Haiti	The worst earthquake in 200 years hit Port-au-Prince, the capital of Haiti, and its surrounding area, killing over 300,000 people and leaving another 1.6 million homeless.
2021	Assassination of Jovenel Moïse	President Moïse was assassinated by an unidentified gunman which left Haiti in a state of uncertainty.
2024	Resignation of Haitian government officials	Prime Minister Ariel Henry resigned along with all other democratically elected members of the Haitian government.

UN Involvement

The United Nations has been involved in Haiti many times throughout the nation's tumultuous history. Haiti first joined the UN as one of its founding members in 1945, however the UN had little involvement in its affairs until the early 1990s.

The first UN observer mission was sent to Haiti 1993. This mission entitled the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) was originally designed to initiate Aristide's return to Haiti after the overthrowing of his government. The UNMIH lasted two years and was extended from 1996 through 1999 to allow for safety and security in Haiti and establish a police force to enforce rule of law.

Five UN peacekeeping missions followed in Haiti over various time periods and for various purposes. The missions that were implemented next were the United Nations Support Mission in Haiti (UNSMIH) in 1996, the United Nations Transition Mission in Haiti (UNTMIH) in 1997, and the United Nations Civilian Police Mission in Haiti (MIPONUH) in 1996.

The UNSMIH was established to create a professional and stable national police force meant to maintain peace and security within Haiti. This mission was terminated a year after its initiation and was followed by the UNTMIH. The UNTMIH was designed to assist Haiti in further professionalizing the police force. This mission lasted only four months and was then terminated before the start of 1998.

The MIPONUH followed these two missions and was meant to train special police units and supervise the police force to ensure professionalism. This operation lasted from 1996 until 1999. In 2000 the initiative's purpose was amended by the General Assembly, which renamed the mission International Civilian Support Mission in Haiti and lasted until 2003.

The two most recent initiatives in Haiti were the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) implemented in 2004 and the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTAH). The MINUSTAH was initiated by the Security Council resolution 1529 to deploy authorities from the Multinational Interim Force in order to combat the threat Haiti posed to international peace and security. MINUSTAH was extended until 2017 when it was followed up by the MINUJUSTAH. The MINUJUSTAH was established in 2017 by the Security Council to enforce rule of law in Haiti and strengthen institutions. This initiative was then ended in 2019.

Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

Many attempts have been made at solving the economic, political, and social crises in Haiti, primarily by foreign governments and NGOs. The UN has been involved in Haiti on multiple occasions, approving and funding 6 missions to train Haitian police, enforce rule of

law, and establish stability in the nation. Additionally UN organs have collaborated with the Haitian government to provide public services and important infrastructure such as roads and bridges accessible during floods.

Other organizations have also played a major role in mitigating crises in Haiti. Habitat for Humanity for example, has worked to address the housing crisis in Haiti, in particular following the 2010 earthquake. The organization has funded housing projects to assist low-income families and provide financial planning and job skills to Haitian people. The International Committee of the Red Cross and Doctors Without Borders have provided further humanitarian aid in Haiti. Despite criticism as to the efficacy of these organizations, they have supplied basic infrastructure such as sanitation, clean water, and healthcare in Haiti. Moreover, to combat gang violence, these organizations have delivered physical and mental health support in various locations across Haiti.

Possible Solutions

The situation in Haiti is a multifaceted crisis involving social, political, and economic sectors and requires multiple different possible solutions. Addressing corruption, gang violence, economic challenges, and climate change are all vital in stabilizing Haiti.

Eradicating corruption must be achieved by first adjusting citizen's opinions of the government and creating the belief that change and a non-corrupt government is possible. Addressing small and noticeable instances of corruption would build momentum and gain public support. Furthermore, holding powerful corrupt individuals accountable would change public opinion regarding Haiti's efforts in tackling corruption. Introducing more young people and business owners into government sectors would also encourage change and prevent future corruption. Although addressing corruption also helps tackle gang violence, missions to support and train Haitian police forces are another important addition.

To promote economic growth in Haiti, the nation could shift expenditures to provide more public services for citizens and continue collaboration with organizations funding infrastructure improvement and creation in the country. Using US-Haiti trade relations to attract investments in the garment industry and replace the Haitian Gourde with the US dollar would also reduce inflation and promote financial development.

Tackling the challenges posed by deforestation and climate change in Haiti would require disaster preparedness initiatives funded by foreign aid. Additionally

promoting wood and charcoal alternatives and planting profitable trees would improve the environmental challenges in Haiti. It is vital to combine environmental and disaster protection policies with policies to combat poverty to increase popularity for these initiatives in Haiti and not ostracise impoverished people in Haiti.

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