



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Situation Analysis of Internally Displaced and Repatriated Persons in the Commune of Belladère, Haiti

CONTEXT ANALYSIS

July-August 2025



Executive Summary

The commune of Belladère, the main entry point for people repatriated from the Dominican Republic, and host community for high numbers of IDPs, is facing unprecedented migratory pressure. The massive influx is placing a heavy burden on already fragile host communities and on limited local resources. The analysis conducted in July–August 2025 reveals a highly concerning food security situation among displaced and repatriated people: nearly 70 percent report poor or borderline food consumption. Negative coping strategies – such as reducing meals, incurring debt, or engaging in precarious work – are widespread, underscoring their heightened vulnerability. Livelihoods rely on a fragile balance between humanitarian assistance, subsistence farming and small-scale trade. Although nearly 80 percent of displaced and repatriated households have farming experience, the lack of access to inputs, financing and land severely constrains their ability to regain self-reliance.

Context

According to the latest Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) analysis of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) of June 2025, **the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Haiti is estimated at around 1.3 million** – nearly 11 percent of the national population. This figure has more than doubled in a single year and continues to rise.

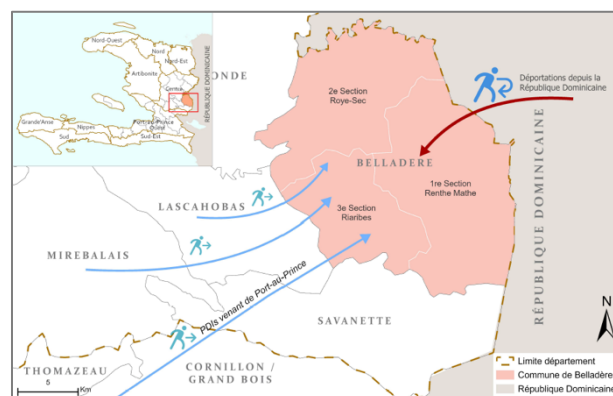
At the same time, the number of Haitians forcibly repatriated from neighbouring countries – primarily the Dominican Republic, which accounted for 98 percent of total arrivals in 2024 and 2025 – has sharply increased. **More than 128 000 people were repatriated during the first half of 2025**, representing a 60 percent rise compared to the same period in 2024, largely due to the tightening of migration policies in Santo Domingo. Most repatriated persons arrive without resources or support networks, exposed to heightened risks of marginalization, insecurity and poverty, which exacerbate existing vulnerabilities and overwhelm the absorption capacities of host communities.

The **rural commune of Belladère**, in the Centre department, is the main entry point for people repatriated from the Dominican Republic, accounting alone for **more than half of arrivals in 2025**. During the first six months of the year, more than 73 000 people entered through Belladère – **a 60 percent**

increase compared to the same period in 2024.

According to IOM's migration intentions survey, **90 percent of repatriated persons do not intend to leave Haiti within the next six months**, suggesting that they are likely to remain and integrate into the economic and social fabric of their host areas.

Provenance of IDPs and repatriated persons



Source: IOM data analysis, 2025

In addition to returnees from neighbouring countries, the Centre department – predominantly rural – is also affected by rising internal displacement. The number of IDPs more than doubled between March and June 2025, driven by large population movements fleeing armed violence in Mirebalais and Saut-d'Eau. **The commune of Belladère alone hosts more than 27 000 IDPs**, most of them sheltered within host families who rely primarily on agriculture and rural livelihoods. This

dynamic places **growing pressure on already overstretched host communities** and on scarce local resources.

The areas most affected include the town centre (Centre-ville), the neighbourhoods of Bois Caïman and Cachiman, and several localities in the Roye-Sec and Renthe Mathe sections.

Between July and August 2025, an analysis was conducted in the commune of Belladère to provide an updated analysis of the situation of both internally displaced and repatriated populations. The study aimed to identify their socio-economic profile, food security status, livelihoods and priority needs, while also highlighting their constraints, resilience capacities and assistance preferences. These findings are intended to inform more targeted and context-specific humanitarian and resilience interventions, with a focus on the **humanitarian–development–peace (HDP) nexus**.

Food Security

Migratory pressures are unfolding against an already fragile backdrop of food insecurity: **one in two households in the commune of Belladère is food insecure** (IPC Phase 3 or above), including 7 percent of its population in severe food insecurity (IPC Phase 4), characterized by highly inadequate food consumption or a major loss of livelihoods – largely agricultural – leading to significant food deficits.

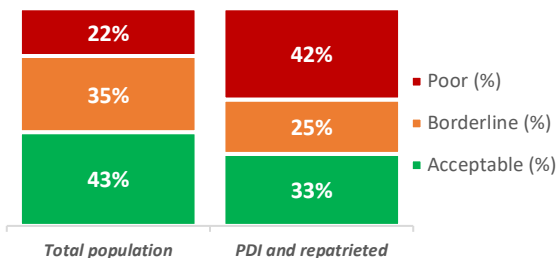
Movements of IDPs affect not only the host areas but also the places of origin. These communities see their fields and productive activities abandoned by those who leave, resulting in a sharp decline in agricultural and food production, as well as a general deterioration in service provision.

In Belladère, although the security situation remains volatile, local markets are functional and accessible to migrants, with bartering and purchases on these markets currently representing their main source of food supply.

The food security situation of migrants in the rural commune of Belladère is significantly more concerning than that of the general population.

Nearly 70 percent report poor or borderline food consumption, compared with a lower proportion among host communities. Diets are monotonous and poorly diversified: in the communal section of Riaries, food consumption relies almost exclusively on rice and herring, while in Roye-Sec it is dominated by tubers, legumes and bananas. Across all sections, fruit, milk and animal proteins are largely absent.

Difference in Food Consumption Score (FCS) between the general population and IDPs/repatriated persons in Belladère



Source : ENSSAN, 2024 | FAO, 2025

Comparison with the National Food Security and Nutrition Survey (*Enquête Nationale sur la Sécurité Alimentaire et Nutritionnelle*, ENSSAN) 2024 and the survey data reveals a significant gap: while 43 percent of households in the commune reported acceptable food consumption, only 33 percent of displaced and repatriated households reach this level. Conversely, **the proportion of households with poor consumption climbs to 42 percent among them, nearly double the communal average estimated at 22 percent**. While these results can be partly explained by a general deterioration in food security indicators, their magnitude highlights the particularly high exposure of these populations to food insecurity.

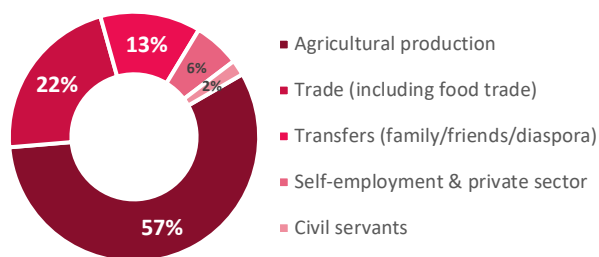
The reduced Coping Strategies Index (rCSI) further confirms this trend: it averages 21 across all households in Belladère but rises to 37 among displaced and repatriated households. This reflects **a heavier reliance on negative mechanisms such as reducing the number of meals, shrinking portion**

sizes, taking on debt, or resorting to precarious work. These findings point to far greater food stress among displaced and repatriated populations, underlining both their heightened vulnerability and the urgent need for targeted assistance to reduce dependence on harmful coping strategies and to strengthen their food security.

Livelihoods

An analysis of resilience dynamics in the commune of Belladère shows that migrant populations rely on a fragile balance between humanitarian assistance, available means of production and limited local economic opportunities.

Sources of income in the commune of Belladère



Source : FAO, 2025

In Belladère, **the economy is based primarily on subsistence agriculture** (57 percent) and petty trade (22 percent), with only limited support from remittances and very few formal employment opportunities. Displaced and repatriated populations depend on the same sources, with local variations:

- In Roye-Sec, households combine donations with small-scale farming to preserve a degree of autonomy.
- In Centre-ville, donations are complemented by informal activities (trade, handicrafts, services), allowing partial diversification of income.
- In Renthe Mathe, external aid remains the main source of support, revealing heightened dependency.

Overall, community resilience remains heavily conditioned by the availability of external aid, while

agriculture and small trades play only a secondary role, constrained by persistent structural limitations. **This dependency undermines prospects for self-reliance** and highlights the urgent need to strengthen households' productive and economic capacities in a sustainable way to reduce vulnerability.

Among migrant households, **nearly 7 in 10 are headed by women**, often isolated and facing both economic responsibilities and social vulnerabilities. This reality reflects both increased fragility—linked to the economic and social burden borne by women—and their central role in managing household livelihoods.

Agriculture continues to be an anchor for migrant populations. Before their displacement, **one in five repatriated persons currently residing in Belladère worked in agriculture**. According to this analysis, **more than 90 percent of repatriated persons and 74 percent of IDPs report having agricultural experience**. Forced returns and displacement have led to the abandonment or loss of cultivated land, small livestock, and agricultural tools, undermining their capacity to engage in farming. The lack of access to land, inputs and financial services severely restricts their ability to put this knowledge into practice.

As a result, displaced and repatriated populations face **significant barriers to restarting income-generating activities**. The absence of reintegration support and growing pressure on local resources further aggravate household insecurity.

Territorial disparities exacerbate these challenges: while Centre-ville benefits from financial infrastructure and services that partially support the local economy, rural sections such as Roye-Sec remain completely excluded from such networks, deepening inequalities.

Assistance and Preferences of the Affected Population

Access to assistance. Residency status appears to be a major determining factor in access to assistance.

Only 9 percent of repatriated persons report having received support, compared with 27 percent of IDPs. This disparity suggests that humanitarian assistance is more concentrated on IDPs, likely due to their greater visibility within aid mechanisms and their longer-standing presence in host areas.

The majority of assistance effectively received by households comes from the humanitarian system, followed by religious organizations and, to a lesser extent, community solidarity. This assistance mainly takes the form of essential items (tarpaulins, soap, utensils), sometimes accompanied by small food rations or, more rarely, cash transfers.

While essential to meeting immediate needs, this assistance remains largely insufficient. **It does not address underlying economic vulnerabilities, nor does it support the recovery of autonomous livelihoods.** The limited use of cash transfers and productive support reduces its short-term impact and does not contribute to strengthening the self-reliance of the most vulnerable households.

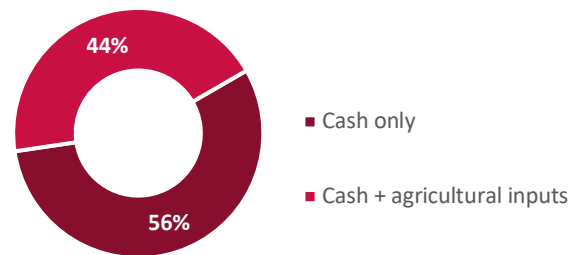
Preferences for assistance. Beyond food needs—which remain a clear and most frequently expressed priority among internally displaced persons in Belladère according to IOM data—other priority needs are emerging, going beyond basic consumption requirements.

Results indicate that **households clearly express a demand for productive support to restart and diversify livelihoods**, in addition to monetary assistance. In rural areas, priorities focus primarily on seeds, livestock, and technical training—whether in agriculture, financial management, or entrepreneurship.

While cash assistance remains the preferred modality for 56 percent of households, **44 percent**

favor a more productive combination, integrating cash transfers with agricultural support. More specifically, demand is concentrated on seeds—particularly peanuts and black beans, followed by other secondary crops—and on poultry and goat rearing, while fishing remains marginal. Technical training needs confirm this trend, with priority given to agricultural practices, followed by financial management and entrepreneurship.

Preferences for forms of assistance among IDPs and repatriated persons in Belladère



Source : FAO, 2025

Preferences vary, however, according to gender, status, and education level.

Female-headed households express a slightly stronger preference for cash-only assistance (60 percent compared with 47 percent among men). Male-headed households, on the other hand, more frequently request a combination of agricultural inputs and cash. These differences may reflect structural disparities in access to productive resources and economic networks by gender.

IDPs are more likely to express a preference for agricultural inputs (23 percent), while repatriated households more often request cash transfers combined with livestock support (21 percent).

Education level also influences preferences: households with no formal education overwhelmingly prefer cash-only assistance (88 percent), while university graduates tend to favor combinations that include agricultural inputs or livestock (36 percent).

Social Cohesion and Conflict

The pressure created by the arrival of migrants in the commune extends beyond economic and food-related aspects; **it also affects peace and social cohesion**. Competition over limited resources—land, precarious jobs, humanitarian assistance—can generate tensions between migrants and host communities.

In some contexts, migrants may also be perceived as receiving a disproportionate share of assistance, while local communities feel that their own needs are not sufficiently addressed. Such perceptions can fuel frustration and increase the risk of internal conflict.

Although social cohesion currently appears to be preserved and no major conflicts have been reported between migrant and host populations, strengthening this cohesion remains essential to prevent the emergence of future tensions.

In addition to establishing community dialogue spaces and transparent mechanisms for targeting and delivering assistance, it is equally important to invest in the empowerment of migrants while supporting vulnerable members of host communities. Such an approach **can transform a source of fragility—potentially generating conflict over resources—into a productive capacity** that contributes to the economic development of the area and, more broadly, of the country.

Recommendations

In this context, it is imperative to restore livelihoods. Beyond being among the most preferred forms of support expressed by migrants, they remain essential to foster stabilization, reduce the risk of conflict and revive income-generating activities, thereby strengthening self-reliance and reducing dependence on humanitarian assistance.

The vast majority of repatriated persons in Haiti do not intend to leave the country within the next six months. This underscores the **critical importance of investing in livelihood stabilization as soon as they return**. In the absence of short-term prospects for onward movement, these populations are settling in already fragile areas where economic opportunities are limited without further investment.

Urgent action is needed to support the reintegration and stabilization of migrants and to strengthen the resilience of host communities by investing in agriculture, livestock and fisheries as pillars of economic self-reliance. Only by enabling these populations to rebuild their lives can the cycle of dependency be broken and lasting stability achieved.

Immediate

- Combine cash transfers with emergency food production (short-cycle seeds, small ruminants, market gardening kits) for households with agricultural potential, in order to quickly increase local food availability.
- Strengthen protection for isolated female-headed households by combining financial assistance, tailored productive support, and access to land or small livestock.

Short term

- Scale up agricultural recovery programs by distributing improved seeds, tools and small livestock, combined with technical training to maximize productive impact.
- Develop cash-for-work interventions focused on rehabilitating agricultural and rural infrastructure (irrigation basins, feeder roads, local markets), which simultaneously provide temporary employment, strengthen community resilience, and increase access to productive assets.
- Promote microcredit schemes and local cooperatives to support the processing and marketing of agricultural products.
- Establish community dialogue spaces to reduce social tensions and strengthen

cohesion around the management of productive resources.

Medium term

- Establish institutional mechanisms for social protection and secure access to land, integrating displaced and repatriated populations into agricultural policies.
- Promote sustainable and climate-resilient agriculture, integrating vulnerable households into local and national value chains.
- Foster the social and economic inclusion of repatriated populations through adapted public policies, strengthening their contribution to local development and reducing dependency on external aid.

Sources

- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), 2025.
- Coordination Nationale de la Sécurité Alimentaire (CNSA). *Enquête Nationale sur la Sécurité Alimentaire et Nutritionnelle*, 2024. Port-au-Prince, Haiti.
- Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC). Haiti, September 2024.
- International Organization for Migration (IOM), 2025.

Methodological note. The survey combined a quantitative approach, based on a representative sample of 365 households (80 percent displaced and 20 percent repatriated) in the commune of Belladère, and a qualitative approach using interviews and focus group discussions. This mix enabled both a measurement of the scale of needs and the collection of lived experiences, coping strategies and priorities expressed by affected populations, providing both statistical and contextual insights into their situation.

A more detailed version of the analysis, as well as disaggregated data, is available upon request.

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