

Key Highlights

- Food insecurity: Nearly 5.8 million people (52% of the population) are experiencing acute food insecurity, including approximately 1.9 million people in the emergency phase.
- Mass displacement driven by violence: More than 1.5 million internally displaced people (IDPs), further exacerbating vulnerabilities and increasing pressure on already limited resources.
- Agricultural crisis in Artibonite: Ongoing violence is severely disrupting agricultural production, forcing farmers to abandon their land. Between 5% and 8% of farming households are directly affected in the hardest-hit areas.
- Sharp increase in gender-based violence (GBV): A total of 1,927 incidents were reported between January and March 2026, of which more than 70% were rapes, predominantly linked to armed groups. Nearly 70% of GBV survivors are internally displaced persons, with extremely limited access to essential support and response services.
- Insufficient humanitarian inclusion: Eighty percent of women and girls with disabilities live in areas affected by violence, while 82% of organizations lack the capacity to adequately address their specific needs



Young farmer from Marchand-Dessalines (Artibonite), displaced by armed violence that forced him to abandon his land. ©Claire Pressoir/OCHA/May 2026

Insecurity and Displacement in Artibonite: Rising Risks for Agriculture and Food Security

In Haiti's Artibonite Department, the deteriorating security situation continues to disrupt the lives of rural communities. In this region, which is vital to the country's agricultural production, armed violence has forced many farmers to flee urgently, abandoning their land, crops, and livelihoods in the middle of the farming season.

In Marchand-Dessalines, personal accounts illustrate the scale of this disruption. One displaced woman explains that she lost everything and was forced to separate from her four children in order to provide for

them. *“I am sometimes forced to beg just to find something to send them, even though I could be supporting myself,”* she says. Before the crisis, she produced nearly 100 barrels of rice, in addition to other crops. Today, she is unable to access her land.

Violence has also left deep scars on local communities. One farmer recalls witnessing a particularly tragic event in which a mother and her twelve children were killed while she was trying to find a way to save them. He, too, was forced to flee Marchand-Dessalines, leaving behind his garden, crops, and livestock—assets that once generated tens of thousands of gourdes in income.

Like him, many farmers have seen their livelihoods collapse. The violence has created a climate of fear that prevents people from returning to their fields and has severely disrupted local agricultural production systems.

Repeated displacement is further worsening the situation. A resident of Marmont, in the commune of Saint-Michel, explains that he first fled from Petite Rivière de l’Artibonite and later from Marchand-Dessalines following another attack. Like many others, his family has been displaced multiple times in an effort to survive.

Host communities are also coming under increasing strain. A member of the Communal Section Administrative Council (CASEC) - the executive body responsible for administering a communal section - in Saint-Michel notes that local residents, who were already vulnerable, are now facing the growing pressure of accommodating displaced populations. He explains that the public markets in Marchand-Dessalines, which are essential for selling agricultural produce and finding farm-related employment, are no longer accessible. *“It is not only displaced people who are facing difficulties; host communities are suffering as well,”* he emphasizes.

This reality is part of a broader national crisis. Between March and June 2026, nearly 5.8 million people (52% of the population) faced acute food insecurity, including approximately 1.9 million people in the emergency phase, while nearly 1.5 million people had been displaced, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM, Round 13).

In Artibonite, insecurity is reducing access to farmland, disrupting markets, and undermining livelihoods. Between 5% and 8% of agricultural households in the most affected areas have seen their production directly compromised.

Beyond the statistics, the situation demonstrates how violence is profoundly transforming livelihoods and weakening food security, affecting both displaced populations and the communities that host them

Advocating for Inclusive Humanitarian Assistance in Haiti: The Situation of Persons with Disabilities¹

In Haiti, persons with disabilities remain among the most excluded populations, facing significant barriers to accessing essential services and humanitarian assistance. Despite Haiti’s ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Guidelines on

¹ Article written by Emmanuel Allaramadji of Humanity & Inclusion (HI).

Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action, their meaningful participation continues to be hindered by persistent environmental, attitudinal, and institutional barriers.

Recent data confirms the scale of these challenges. A Handicap International (2023) report found that 80% of women and girls with disabilities in Port-au-Prince live in areas affected by violence, where they are particularly vulnerable to abuse and deprived of their fundamental rights. They face numerous barriers to accessing humanitarian assistance, including unsafe transportation, inaccessible distribution sites, inadequate shelter facilities, and the lack of inclusive policies within humanitarian responses. These physical constraints are compounded by attitudinal and communication barriers. Information about available assistance is not always accessible in terms of language, format, or communication channels, while persistent social stigma and discrimination continue to limit their access to available services. A capacity needs assessment conducted in October 2025 in collaboration with the CCCM Cluster in Haiti highlights the extent of the challenges. The findings reveal that 82% of surveyed organizations acknowledge a lack of knowledge and experience regarding the inclusion of persons with disabilities. This gap represents a major obstacle to the implementation of appropriate and inclusive humanitarian responses. Furthermore, 82% of these organizations report lacking the technical and financial resources required to address the barriers identified within their programs. According to recent data from the Office of the Secretary of State for the Integration of Persons with Disabilities (BSEIPH), more than 500 persons with disabilities living outside displacement sites in the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area were in urgent need of food assistance (May 2026).



After fleeing his home under gunfire, **Wadson Augustin** now lives in a displacement site for internally displaced persons in Port-au-Prince. | © T. Noreille / HI/May 2026

Facing this situation, urgent action is needed. The inclusion of persons with disabilities must become a cross-cutting priority across all humanitarian interventions. This requires:

- Genuinely inclusive emergency preparedness and response strategies;
- The revision of targeting and needs assessment tools to promote the meaningful participation of persons with disabilities;
- Strengthened capacity among humanitarian actors to identify and remove the barriers that prevent persons with disabilities from accessing and participating in humanitarian assistance on an equal basis with others;
- The adoption of a twin-track approach to humanitarian response to reach individuals with specific needs who are often overlooked during general distributions.

In a crisis context, where persons with disabilities can be up to four times more likely to die during emergencies, ensuring their inclusion is an urgent humanitarian imperative. It is both a legal, moral, and strategic obligation.

Effectively addressing their needs and ensuring their meaningful participation contributes to the quality and effectiveness of the humanitarian response in Haiti and supports the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals' « No one left behind » !

In Saint-Michel de l'Attalaye, a Dedicated Voice for the Protection of Women

In the commune of Saint-Michel de l'Attalaye, gender-based violence (GBV) remains a major concern. In a context marked by insecurity and hardship, women and girls continue to face violence that often goes unseen and unreported, while access to appropriate services - including healthcare, psychosocial support, and legal assistance - remains extremely limited.

Within the community, Isalène, a dedicated advocate, works through the Saint-Michel de l'Attalaye Women's Platform to address these needs. Despite limited resources, she and her team play a critical role by providing listening services, referrals, psychosocial support, and, whenever possible, assistance with legal procedures.

"Most of the cases we receive today are linked to the armed violence spreading across Artibonite. Saint-Michel de l'Attalaye was already a challenging area, but the situation has now become extremely serious [...]," she explains.

Over the months, the situation has become increasingly complex. The center now supports not only survivors from the commune itself, but also displaced women and girls, particularly those arriving from the Central Plateau and other areas affected by violence. This shift reflects the widening scope of the crisis and the growing movement of populations in search of safety



Isalène Méus, Head of Plateforme des femmes de Sait-Michel de l'Attalaye, speaking with a young displaced mother.
©Claire Pressoir/OCHA/May 2026

"...the situation is currently overwhelming us because the number of cases keeps increasing, with at least three to four new survivors arriving every day, and sometimes even more."

Behind these numbers are real people. A 16-year-old girl, raped and beaten while fleeing violence, far from her parents. A three-year-old child, whose body bears the irreversible scars of an exceptionally brutal rape. And a woman who died in silence, consumed by shame after being raped, unable even to share her trauma with her own husband.

These stories are not isolated incidents. They reflect a reality that is worsening every day.

The center, originally designed to accommodate around twenty people, is now overwhelmed. *"Sometimes they arrive covered in blood, without clothes, hungry... some with their sick children,"* the coordinator recounts, her voice heavy with emotion. Some flee violence only to fall back into the hands of their abusers. As recently as this year, two young girls were assaulted by the very individuals who claimed they were helping them escape.

What is happening in Saint-Michel de l'Attalaye is part of a deeply alarming national crisis. According to the [latest Gender-Based Violence \(GBV\) report](#), 1,927 cases of GBV were recorded in Haiti between January and March 2026, representing more than 20 cases per day. More than 70% of these incidents were rapes, primarily targeting women and girls and often perpetrated by members of armed groups.

Displaced persons, already stripped of their livelihoods and support systems, are among the most vulnerable. They account for nearly seven out of ten survivors, often with little or no access to healthcare, psychosocial support, or justice services.

And yet, despite the urgency of the situation, resources remain critically insufficient. At the national level, only **5.5%** of the funding required to address gender-based violence (GBV) has been secured. On the ground, this translates into overwhelmed centers, disrupted services, and survivors being left without the assistance they urgently need.

In Saint-Michel de l'Attalaye, the Women's Platform reflects both the resilience of local communities and the limitations of the current response. Once supported by humanitarian partners, the organization now operates with very limited assistance, even as needs continue to rise.

"We need support to keep the center operating. The number of cases is increasing, but we lack the resources necessary to assist survivors in the way they deserve [...]."

In this context, strengthening access to protection services, healthcare, and psychosocial support is essential. The commitment of this community leader represents a vital first line of response, but it cannot, on its own, meet the scale of the needs.

In Saint-Michel de l'Attalaye, as in many other communities across Haiti, this local mobilization underscores the importance of increased support to ensure adequate assistance for survivors and to strengthen protection mechanisms in the context of a protracted crisis.

Return of Haitian Nationals: Strengthened Humanitarian Response to Address Needs Upon Arrival

In Haiti, forcibly returned migrants face growing vulnerability in a context marked by increasing flows and limited reception and protection capacities. Upon arrival, many have extremely limited resources and face immediate difficulties in accessing shelter, food, water, and basic services. In this context, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), in coordination with authorities and humanitarian partners, plays a key role in ensuring reception, registration, and immediate assistance at points of entry.

This heightened pressure at the border is largely driven by the continuous rise in forced returns: from nearly 200,000 returnees in 2024 to more than 270,000 by the end of 2025, which represents a 36% increase compared to the previous year. As of June 2026, over 117,000 Haitians have already been repatriated since January 2026. The vast majority (98%) come from the Dominican Republic. The main entry points (Belladère, Ouanaminthe, Anse-à-Pitres, and Malpasse) are facing growing pressure, particularly Ouanaminthe, where peaks of 500 to 600 arrivals per day have been observed. These flows are placing significant strain on reception and assistance mechanisms.



Deported migrants gather outside the Border Reception Center (CRF) in Belladère, awaiting assistance from IOM and the National Migration Office (ONM). This safe space provides essential services to returnees, including food, water, and basic relief items, helping them regain a measure of stability as they begin the process of reintegration.
© Antoine Lemonnier /OIM/ 2024

Beyond the sheer volume of forced returns, the nature of needs is also evolving, reflecting increasingly vulnerable profiles. In 2025, 25% of returned migrants were women and nearly 10% were children. IOM has also observed an increase in the number of forcibly returned pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers, and young children. As of March 2026, in Belladère and Ouanaminthe alone, IOM registered over 2,900 postpartum women and more than 5,000 children under five years of age, underscoring the importance of strengthening health and protection services upon arrival.

These trends are accompanied by heightened protection risks, particularly for children and other vulnerable groups. In 2025, 2,230 unaccompanied children were recorded among returnees – 87% between the ages of 13 and 17. In a context of persistent insecurity, they face increased risks, including recruitment by armed groups.

According to IOM data, conditions of return further exacerbate these vulnerabilities. Reports indicate that 47% of migrants are arrested on the road and 25% at their workplace, often without prior notice and without their personal belongings. In addition, 87% left Haiti for economic reasons, while 20% were already internally displaced prior to migration and 26% consider leaving again. These compounding factors intensify the need for immediate assistance and support upon arrival.

Humanitarian efforts remain essential but insufficient. In 2025, IOM provided transportation assistance to more than 33,000 returnees and mental health services to over 19,000 people. While these interventions provide crucial support, needs far exceed current capacities.

In this context, strengthening reception, protection, and reintegration mechanisms remains essential. IOM and its partners' efforts – while providing vital aid upon arrival and gradually building local capacities – require sustained support to keep pace with rising needs.

A Presence That Matters: Edem Wosornu's Visit Highlights the Urgency of the Humanitarian Crisis in Haiti

In March 2026, against the backdrop of a deepening crisis in Haiti, Ms. Edem Wosornu, Director of OCHA's Crisis Response Division, visited the country to meet with communities affected by the crisis as well as the humanitarian actors working alongside them. Her mission had a clear objective: to gain a deeper understanding of realities on the ground and advocate for strengthened international mobilization in response to an increasingly challenging situation.

In Port-au-Prince, Ms. Wosornu met directly with people affected by the crisis. At the Community Resource Center (CRC) in Delmas, the Pierre Labitrie Municipal School, and the Foundation for Reproductive Health and Family Education (FOSREF) in Pétiion-Ville, she engaged with women, children, and displaced families living in extremely precarious conditions. These visits helped put faces to the statistics and provided a tangible understanding of the impact that violence and displacement are having on the most vulnerable populations.



Edem Wosornu meeting with a young mother displaced by armed violence. ©Wilbert Georges/OCHA/Mars 2026

The mission also extended to the Centre and North-East departments. In these regions, Ms. Wosornu listened to the testimonies of crisis-affected people and humanitarian teams who face hardship every day, as well as challenges in maintaining essential services. These exchanges highlighted a shared reality: despite ongoing efforts, humanitarian needs continue to grow faster than the response capacity.

During her visit, the Director met with national authorities, United Nations agencies, NGOs, and humanitarian partners. Together, they discussed challenges related to coordination, humanitarian access, and funding shortfalls. All emphasized the urgent need to scale up efforts in a context where available resources remain insufficient to match the magnitude of the crisis.

In her remarks, Ms. Wosornu expressed her gratitude to the partners supporting the humanitarian response while issuing a strong appeal to the international community. Above all, she conveyed the voices of the people she met during her field visits:

“What people want above all else is for the violence to stop, so they can return home and live with dignity, and live in peace.”

This statement encapsulates the primary aspiration of crisis-affected communities: to regain a normal life in safety and dignity.

Finally, Ms. Wosornu underscored the importance of strengthening a humanitarian response that is more closely connected to communities, by increasing support for local actors and remaining firmly guided by humanitarian principles. Her visit helped shed light on both the severity of the crisis and the commitment of those working on the front lines.

Faced with a crisis that continues to endure, she emphasized a critical message: without stronger and sustained engagement from the international community, it will be difficult not only to meet immediate humanitarian needs but also to support Haiti in advancing toward more durable solutions.

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