

# Security Council B

*Specialized  
Advanced*



**TOPICS:** Addressing Current Proxy Conflicts,  
Crisis in Haiti

**CHAIRS:** Connor Bronson and Hannah Wu

*LAIMUN XXXI*

*December 6-7*



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## Letter from the Secretaries-General

Dear Delegates,

On behalf of our entire staff, it is our pleasure to welcome you to Session XXXI of the Los Angeles Invitational Model United Nations (LAIMUN) conference. LAIMUN XXXI will take place on Saturday, December 6 and Sunday, December 7 of 2025 at the Mira Costa High School (MCHS) campus.

Our staff, composed of over 200 MCHS students, has been working tirelessly to make your debate experience the best it can be. You will find your dais members to be knowledgeable about the issues being debated and MUN procedure. We pride ourselves in hosting a conference that is educational and engaging, and we hope you take advantage of that as you prepare and debate.

At LAIMUN, we value thorough research and preparation. We ask that delegates write position papers following these directions. The deadline to submit position papers to be considered for Committee and Research Awards is Friday, November 21st at 11:59 PM PT. The deadline to submit to be considered for Committee Awards is Thursday, November 28th at 11:59 PM PT.

We also encourage all delegates to read the LAIMUN Rules of Procedure for conference-specific information and as a reminder of points and motions that can be made during committee.

Feel free to reach out to our staff with any questions or concerns you may have. Delegates can find their chairs' contact information next to their committee profile and the Secretariat's email addresses on the staff page. Any member of the LAIMUN staff will be happy to assist you.

We look forward to seeing you in December!

Sincerely,

Katie Anderson and Isabel Boroch  
Secretaries-General, LAIMUN XXXI  
[secretarygeneral@mchsmun.org](mailto:secretarygeneral@mchsmun.org)



## Letter from the Undersecretary-General

Hello Delegates!

Welcome to LAIMUN XXXI! My name is Collin Tarnay, and I am very excited to be your Under-Secretary General of Specialized Committees. This is my 4th year of Mira Costa MUN, and I am thrilled to be your USG.

This year for Specialized, we have chosen a set of current, pressing, and unique topics and committees ranging from IMO to Ad Hoc. I'm looking forward to seeing creative solutions and engaging debate in all of your committees! Our chairs have worked extremely hard this year to prepare for LAIMUN XXXI, and we hope you can return that same level of respect and effort.

With Specialized's variety of relevant topics means that uncomfortable discussions can be created. We would like to ensure that everyone feels safe and heard in committee, and we hope that all delegates remain respectful, diplomatic, and civil. Please ensure you are following LAIMUN's guidelines for committee conduct, and I would like to reiterate that the use of plagiarism, AI, or pre-written operatives is strictly prohibited.

Whether you are in a novice committee or an advanced one, I hope you will have an amazing debate experience. Don't forget to submit your position papers, prepare for debate, and research your topic! If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact your chairs, our SGs, or me at [specialized@mchsmun.org](mailto:specialized@mchsmun.org). Committee information and conference resources will be available at the LAIMUN XXXI website at <https://www.laimun.org/>. See you in committee and I hope you will enjoy what is, in my unbiased opinion, the best branch at LAIMUN!

Best of Luck,  
Collin Tarnay  
USG of Specialized Committees.



## Introduction to the Dais

Hey Delegates!

My name is Connor Bronson and I will be one of your co-chairs for LAIMUN 2025 in Security Council B. I am super excited to meet all of you and have a great 2 days of debate. This year I am a senior at Mira Costa High School, and it is my fourth and final year being a part of the Mira Costa MUN team. I have been to over 10 debates throughout my MUN career, and this is my second time chairing at LAIMUN and my third year being a part of the staff. Outside of MUN, I am a part of the Mustang Morning News, and I am also on the Comedy Sports team.

Outside of school, I love to listen to music, play and watch sports, and go to the beach. One of my favorite things to do is head down to the beach to skimboard and play volleyball with my friends. My favorite sport is football, and I love the Los Angeles Rams. I have season tickets to their games and go to almost every one. My top artist on spotify wrapped for the last three years has been Don Toliver, with Travis Scott usually being in a close second. Other than that, a recent hobby I've picked up is poker, and I play practically every weekend with my friends.

Looking forward to a fun and engaging debate! I am looking for you all to be confident and interesting when giving speeches, and always show leadership in Unmod. Reach out with questions, comments or concerns.



Connor Bronson



Hello Delegates!

My name is Hannah Wu and I will be one of your co-chairs for Advanced Security Council B at LAIMUN XXXI this year. I'm a senior at Mira Costa and I have been a part of the Costa MUN program for four years. I also helped staff LAIMUN XXX last year, so I'm extremely excited to be chairing another advanced committee this year! I've been able to attend several local conferences during my time in MUN, my favorite being BruinMUN.

Outside of MUN, I am a violinist in the Costa Symphony Orchestra, where I've had the amazing opportunity to play an international tour in Poland and the Czech Republic. I've played the violin for five years and the piano for eleven years, and I am an avid music lover. I'm very involved in the Elderly Melodies and Red Cross Club at Costa, where I spend a lot of time volunteering outside of school. I also spend most of my free time listening to music; my favorite artists are Future, Frank Ocean, The Weeknd, Ariana Grande, and Sabrina Carpenter.

In this committee, I'm looking for passionate speaking, creative and funny hooks, as well as well-researched and unique solutions. I want to keep debate engaging while still educational, but please don't hesitate to be unique and have fun. In unmod, I hope to see strong leadership, initiative, dedication, and collaboration between delegates. Feel free to reach out if you have any specific questions and I look forward to seeing all of you in committee!

Best,

Hannah Wu



**For Research Award and Committee Award consideration, email your position paper to your dais by Friday, November 21 at 11:59 PM PT**

**For Committee Award consideration, email your position paper to your dais by Friday, November 28 at 11:59 PM PT**



## Committee Description

The United Nations Security Council was first established in 1945, its primary function being to establish cohesive international peace and security following the aftermath of World War II.<sup>1</sup> The Council is one of the primary bodies of the United Nations which has the power to impose obligatory resolutions on all one hundred and ninety three member states, while other bodies of the United Nations can only provide recommendations.<sup>2</sup> Its main function is to impose sanctions, deploy peacekeeping missions, and mediate negotiations over key issues and crises. The other functions of the security council include bringing together parties to negotiate terms of conflict, reserving the right to intervene or investigate any issue that may pose a threat to international peace.

The Security Council comprises fifteen member states, ten of which are elected and serve two-year terms, and five of which –the United States, China, Russia, France, and the United Kingdom– are granted special powers to veto any resolution. These powers are unique to the Security Council and can be solely exercised by these five permanent council members; they are meant to provide security and the ability for permanent members to protect their country’s national interests.<sup>3</sup> Ultimately, these functions and powers are meant to foster peaceful cooperation between United Nations member states.

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<sup>1</sup> CFR Editors. “The UN Security Council.” Council on Foreign Relations, 9 Sept. 2024, [www.cfr.org/background/un-security-council](http://www.cfr.org/background/un-security-council).

<sup>2</sup> <https://main.un.org/securitycouncil/en/content/what-security-council>

<sup>3</sup> Security Council Report. “The Veto : UN Security Council Working Methods : Security Council Report.” Security Council Report, 13 Feb. 2024, [www.securitycouncilreport.org/un-security-council-working-methods/the-veto.php](http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/un-security-council-working-methods/the-veto.php)



The Security Council oversees several topics, mainly relating to the allocation of peacekeeping missions. These include but are not limited to the safety and security of civilians in conflict zones, human rights protection, reintegration, disarmament, environmental protection and sustainability, and reform. Some key issues that the Security Council is notable for being involved in include several proxy conflicts, including the Russian-Ukrainian War, the Israel-Palestinian Conflict and the Syrian Civil War.<sup>4</sup> A majority of the issues that the Security Council deals with relate to the deployment of peaceful negotiation. The Council's involvement in these complex conflicts causes occasional controversy and the need for complex deliberation by member states, still, the fundamental purpose of the Security Council is to maintain international peace and security amongst conflict.

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<sup>4</sup> "United Nations Security Council | EBSCO." EBSCO Information Services, Inc. | [Www.ebsco.com](http://www.ebsco.com), 2025, [www.ebsco.com/research-starters/military-history-and-science/united-nations-security-council](http://www.ebsco.com/research-starters/military-history-and-science/united-nations-security-council).



## Topic A: Addressing Current Proxy Conflicts

### I. Background

Proxy conflicts are considered to be wars and other disputes in which there are actors present that do not originate from the area of conflict. These actors, although they may not be directly engaging, they can be heavily involved in the conflict. Many major examples of proxy wars come from the Cold War era, with the war in Vietnam being one of the most commonly known proxy wars.<sup>5</sup> During proxy wars, the third party actor typically tries to advance their own strategic goals, the same way that the United States attempted to contain communist ideals by getting involved in Vietnam. They do this through providing things like funding, arms, intelligence, and other forms of political backing. Of the 55 active global conflicts in 2022, 20 of them were demonstrated to have seen significant involvement from third party proxy actors.<sup>6</sup> Proxy wars may not seem entirely different from other wars, but in reality, they can become major regional security threats. The destabilization of entire regions, along with the humanitarian crises that come with them, are large effects of proxy wars. These wars fuel large quantities of refugees, and overall create devastating effects on entire regions by unnecessarily prolonging conflict.

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<sup>5</sup> Westad, Odd Arne. *The Global Cold War: Third World Interventions and the Making of Our Times*. Cambridge University Press, 2005.

<sup>6</sup> Pettersson, Therese, and Magnus Öberg. "Organized Violence 1989–2022, and the Role of Conflict Brokers." *Journal of Peace Research* 60, no. 4 (2023): 551–564.



The Cold War saw one of the largest influxes of significant proxy wars worldwide. Conflicts in places such as Vietnam, Afghanistan, and Angola were all examples of the United States and the Soviet Union competing in an ideological battle without direct confrontation through proxy wars. The intense ideological divide between the West and the East faded after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, but geopolitical rivalries and natural resource competition continue to drive proxy wars globally. Today, two regions stand out as being the most significant battlegrounds for different proxy conflicts. These two regions are the Middle East and Eastern Europe.<sup>7</sup> The Middle East in particular has become the main stage for global proxy conflicts, specifically due to the fact that they have all the major factors that entice third party actors to get involved. Weak central governments, abundant natural resources, and ethnic and sectarian divides, all contribute to the strategic influence of outside influencers. Some of the largest global powers, such as the United States and Russia, have repeatedly intervened in these conflicts, while regional actors like Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey have become influential by backing local partners. This has created an environment where conflicts in the area are not only internal battles, but also competitions to receive support from foreign patrons.

The results of these proxy wars reach beyond politics and what takes place on the battlefield. They also create global problems, with one of the biggest problems being large humanitarian crises. Crises like refugee influxes, food insecurity, and destroyed infrastructure continue to devastate and put a strain on civilian populations in areas where proxy conflicts are

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<sup>7</sup> Berman, Ilan, and John Hardie. "Proxy Wars in the Middle East and Eastern Europe." American Foreign Policy Council Report, 2021.



prevalent. The United Nations High Commissioner for refugees stated that more than 43 million people were displaced by conflict and persecution in 2023 alone, many of which had significant external involvement in battle.<sup>8</sup> In addition to these humanitarian crises, proxy wars have large economic effects as well, as they have the ability to disrupt global markets. Wars in places that are significant to energy production can cause disruptions and volatility in oil and gas prices, and blockades can cause detrimental effects to international trade routes. Proxy conflicts like the war in Ukraine, which is a conflict that involves both direct invasion as well as proxy war properties, shows how these types of conflicts can cause problems such as food insecurity, even in places where the conflict is not directly taking place. Combined, Ukraine and Russia contribute to nearly 30% of all wheat exports worldwide.<sup>9</sup> With the conflict that broke out between the two nations in 2022, food prices involving wheat and other significant sources of gluten have risen drastically. The World Food Programme estimates that this conflict alone has pushed over 70 million people into food insecurity worldwide.<sup>10</sup> Examples like these continue to demonstrate the rippling worldwide effects that proxy wars can have on nations around the globe, as a conflict that takes place in one region can still have drastic impact on countries thousands of miles away.

Specific examples of proxy conflicts can demonstrate more completely the effects that they have not only on a regional crowd, but on a global audience as well. One example is shown

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<sup>8</sup> UNHCR. Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2022. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, June 2023.

<sup>9</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The Importance of Ukraine and the Russian Federation for Global Agricultural Markets and the Risks Associated with the Current Conflict. FAO, March 2022.

<sup>10</sup> World Food Programme (WFP). Global Report on Food Crises 2023. World Food Programme, May 2023.



through the Syrian Civil War, which began in 2011. This is one of the clearest and most prominent cases of a proxy battleground. This conflict was initially sparked by domestic protests in the nation, but it quickly escalated once the external forces of other nations became heavily involved. Countries such as Russia and Iran gave their decisive support to the Assad government through a variety of different methods, including air assistance, funding, and even ground support. Global powers such as the United States, Turkey, and many Gulf nations provided varying levels of assistance and support to the opposing groups. The war has resulted in the deaths of more than half a million people, and has displaced more than 13 million, therefore also becoming the cause for one of the largest humanitarian crises in modern history.<sup>11</sup> Despite the fact that there were years and years of external diplomacy trying to put an end to the war, external involvement from other nations hardened both sides of the conflicts and prolonged it to be much longer than it originally would have been.

Other wars, like the war in Yemen, show similar patterns to the Syrian War. Starting in 2015, this conflict has been framed by many to be a proxy struggle between the nations of Saudi Arabia and Iran. Iran is in support of the Houthis, which is a rebel group that controls the capital, Sana'a, and much of the northern areas of Yemen. Saudi Arabia is in support of the group opposing the Houthis, which in this case is the official government. The Saudi-led coalition has intervened militarily to support the internationally recognized government in a time of political unrest and revolt. This war has devastated the population of Yemen, as the United Nations

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<sup>11</sup> Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR). Syrian Conflict Death Toll Report 2011–2023. London: SOHR, 2023.



estimates that over 377,000 people have died from direct conflict or indirect causes of the war.<sup>12</sup> More than 80% of Yemen's total population is in significant need of humanitarian aid, which has made Yemen one of the world's most desperate humanitarian emergencies.<sup>13</sup> The conflict also has global implications, as it threatens international shipping through the Red Sea and Bab el-Mandeb Strait.<sup>14</sup>

Taken together, these cases, as well as many other cases of proxy wars, show the recurring patterns that they present. They create prolonged stalemates, devastate civilian populations, and create problems that ripple throughout the globe. These conflicts are typically very difficult to resolve because there is often very little incentive for external forces to withdraw their support from these conflicts. Peace agreements have also proven to be difficult to achieve, as local groups are now not only trying to obtain their own goals but are also trying to obtain the goals of foreign nations that provided them support. Complicating things further, humanitarian relief is frequently blocked or politicized, worsening the effects of war on the civilians. Overall, proxy wars create a series of significant problems, and are extremely difficult to solve.

## II. UN Involvement

The challenge of how to approach proxy wars is one that the United Nations has grappled with for nearly the entirety of its existence. Direct involvement in putting an end to these

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<sup>12</sup> United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). *Assessing the Impact of War in Yemen: Pathways for Recovery*. UNDP, November 2021.

<sup>13</sup> United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). *Yemen Humanitarian Needs Overview 2023*. United Nations, February 2023.

<sup>14</sup>International Crisis Group. *The War in Yemen and the Bab al-Mandab Strait: Maritime Security Risks and Global Trade*. Crisis Group Report No. 2021.



conflicts, however, is nearly impossible, as the root of the conflict stems from local forces operating under the support and goals of external forces, typically global powers. This makes it extremely difficult for accountability to be enforced, as typical peacekeeping models and operations have proven to be insufficient in putting an end to these conflicts.

Nonetheless, the UN has still taken a number of actions in response to major proxy conflicts. Their support ranges from things like humanitarian aid, mediation efforts, and even direct embargos.

One of the earliest examples of such intervention and involvement from the UN comes from the conflict in Afghanistan in the 1980s. During this conflict, the UN did not deploy any peacekeepers, but they did play a central role in negotiating the 1988 Geneva Accords.<sup>15</sup> These accords ended up paving the way for Soviet withdrawal in the war, proving to be extremely vital to de-escalating the conflict. This pattern, where the UN facilitates dialogue instead supporting direct action in conflict, has proven to be a relatively effective way for the UN to address proxy conflicts.

One of the UN's primary tools has consistently been the use of Security Council resolutions that can effectively limit the support of external forces for warring nations. Arms embargoes are among some of the most frequently invoked measures by the Security Council, and one example of this is seen through Resolution 1970 (2011). This resolution imposed a large

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<sup>15</sup> United Nations Peacemaker. Geneva Accords on Afghanistan (1988). UN Peacemaker Database



and comprehensive embargo on Libya in the wake of the Libyan Civil War<sup>16</sup> This resolution was aimed at restricting the flow of weapons to rival factions. Very similar measures were implemented in Yemen in 2016 through Resolution 2216. This established an embargo that was targeted towards the Houthi movement, and it did so by encouraging all member states to stop the transfer of arms towards the area.<sup>17</sup> However, although these resolutions were intended to cut off external parties that tend to fuel proxy dynamics, they have had little effect in practice, as they were frequently violated by some of the more powerful global powers.

Altogether, the United Nations has used three main strategies to address proxy wars worldwide. Those strategies are: restricting the flow of weapons through embargoes, providing aid and peacekeeper deployments, and creating diplomatic frameworks to reduce conflict. Although the results of these strategies have been mixed, it is nevertheless clear that the United Nations has taken significant action to help prevent proxy wars around the globe.

### **III. Topics to Consider**

#### **A. Global Arms Trade**

It is important to consider the fact that there is a large flow of arms and other weapons that circulate around the globe. These weapons help sustain and support proxy wars, and are typically engineered and distributed by large global powers.<sup>18</sup> The availability of these weapons

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<sup>16</sup> United Nations Security Council. Resolution 1970 (2011), Adopted by the Security Council at its 6491st meeting, on 26 February 2011. UN Doc. S/RES/1970 (2011).

<sup>17</sup> United Nations Security Council. *Resolution 2216 (2015)*, Adopted by the Security Council at its 7426th meeting, on 14 April 2015. UN Doc. S/RES/2216 (2015).

<sup>18</sup> Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). *Trends in International Arms Transfers, 2022*. SIPRI Fact Sheet, March 2023.



makes it easy for local interest groups to obtain them from external forces, creating proxy wars in an instant. Previous United Nations Resolutions, such as Resolution 2216 (2015), show how there is an intent for the arms trade to be limited or halted, but they also reveal the weakness of their mechanisms. They are constantly violated by nations who hold large amounts of power, such as Russia and the United States, as these nations want to advance their own interests more than they want to advance global interests.<sup>19</sup> The question remains on how the United Nations should approach this issue, as simple encouragement has proven to be ineffective, while infringing on sovereignty is not allowed.

#### B. Humanitarian Aid

Another large and prominent area of consideration is the humanitarian aid crises that are inflated by proxy wars. Civilians are at risk of being injured or displaced every day, and coming up with ways to protect and support them is vital. One example of this is shown through Resolution 2165 (2014), which authorized cross-border aid without government consent. This was a pivotal moment for civilians in conflict zones worldwide, as it set a large precedent that, in order to protect human lives, it is acceptable to bypass state obstruction. This was proven to be extremely effective, as by 2021, UN convoys were able to deliver different forms of humanitarian aid to over 4.1 million people through this mechanism alone.<sup>20</sup> However, the renewal of this resolution was proven to be very highly debated, with nations such as China and

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<sup>19</sup> Chayes, Sarah. *Thieves of State: Why Corruption Threatens Global Security*. W.W. Norton & Company, 2015.

<sup>20</sup> United Nations Security Council. *Resolution 2165 (2014), Adopted by the Security Council at its 7216th meeting, on 14 July 2014*. UN Doc. S/RES/2165 (2014).



Russia threatening to veto any sort of extension on the grounds that it violates the ideals of sovereignty. In general, the relevancy of humanitarian aid is universal throughout almost all conflicts, and proxy wars are no different. It is important to consider how humanitarian aid should be approached when it comes to proxy wars, and what types of strategies should be used and what type of aid should be deployed.

### C. Humans Rights Violations

A third pressing topic relating to proxy wars is accountability for human rights violations. Proxy wars and conflicts are known for being prone to involving atrocities committed by non-state groups that are oftentimes supported by foreign nations, which may blur responsibility. One example of this is seen through the conflict in Yemen, where it is reported that airstrikes led by the Saudi coalition, alongside Houthi attacks on populated areas, have killed many civilians and ripped apart important infrastructure.<sup>21</sup> However, it is extremely difficult to point blame in a specific direction, as both of these groups are supported by foreign nations that are not directly involved in the war. Therefore, it is important to consider how this should be approached. Should the International Criminal Court be given broader jurisdiction over proxy conflicts, or should the United Nations create specialized tribunals, as it did in the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, to prosecute violations tied to foreign sponsorship?<sup>22</sup> It is essential to address how accountability

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<sup>21</sup> Human Rights Watch. *Yemen: Events of 2021. World Report 2022*. Human Rights Watch, January 2022.

<sup>22</sup> Cryer, Robert, Håkan Friman, Darryl Robinson, and Elizabeth Wilmschurst. *An Introduction to International Criminal Law and Procedure*. 4th ed. Cambridge University Press, 2019.



mechanisms can function when permanent members of the Security Council are themselves implicated in supporting warring factions.

#### D. Geopolitical Context

One final major topic to consider is the broader geopolitical context and incentives that continue to drive and fuel proxy warfare across the globe. There are very specific reasons that third party nations decide to get involved in conflict that otherwise wouldn't involve them, and addressing these problems at their roots can certainly help limit the prevalence of proxy warfare in the future. Proxy wars persist simply because powerful nations may view them as easy, low-cost strategies to expand their own influence without ever seeing any direct confrontation.<sup>23</sup> This dynamic was demonstrated throughout the Cold War, and it continues today in places such as Syria, Yemen, Libya, and even Ukraine. Addressing proxy conflicts therefore requires not only local ceasefires and humanitarian aid but also broader efforts to reduce great power rivalry and establish new norms limiting foreign interference.

#### IV. Case Study: Syrian Civil War

In 2011, the Syrian Civil War, which was originally part of a wider movement of Arab Springs across the Arab world, rapidly developed into an extremely complex proxy conflict that raged throughout the decade. What initially had been demonstrations against President Bashar al-Assad's rule escalated into a nationwide conflict that drew in powerful foreign actors. The Assad regime relied heavily on Iran and Hezbollah to maintain control in the early years of the

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<sup>23</sup> Mumford, Andrew. *Proxy Warfare*. Polity Press, 2013.



conflict, with billions of dollars of aid, weapons, and thousands of Hezbollah fighters.<sup>24</sup> This support enabled Assad to stave off gains by the rebels even as his military was weakened by desertions. The war soon turned into a stage of conflict for regional influence, with Gulf states such as Saudi Arabia and Qatar directing money and weapons to opposition fighters to counter Iranian expansion.

Russia's direct entry in 2015 was a turning point in the civil war. Moscow launched a sustained aerial campaign that targeted not only ISIS but also opposition-held areas to secure Assad's hold on power.<sup>25</sup> Russian military support, accompanied by Iranian ground forces, permitted the regime to reestablish its control over major cities such as Aleppo in 2016. Meanwhile, the United States initially aided moderate rebel forces through clandestine programs, but by 2017 focused on the battle against ISIS, working in alliance with Kurdish-led militias. This conflicted with Turkey, which aided other rebel factions while also carrying out its own military campaigns to prevent Kurdish independence along its border. These converging and conflicting alignments rendered Syria a matrix of rival outside interests, each with its own agenda masquerading behind local proxies.

The cost in humanitarian terms has been appalling. Over 500,000 have been killed since 2011, and 13 million Syrians have been internally displaced or become refugees abroad, with 6.8

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<sup>24</sup> Smyth, Phillip. "Hezbollah's Long War in Syria." *The Washington Institute for Near East Policy*, PolicyWatch 2508, April 2016.

<sup>25</sup> Sutyagin, Igor, and Justin Bronk. *Russia's Air Operations in Syria: Strategy, Successes, and Limits*. Royal United Services Institute (RUSI), October 2017.



million refugees outside the country.<sup>26</sup> Aleppo and Raqqa were ruined, and civilian targets have been targeted again and again. The United Nations attempted to facilitate through the Geneva peace talks and approved cross-border aid under Resolution 2165 in 2014, which allowed relief materials to be sent to millions without Damascus's approval.<sup>27</sup> Nothing, however, was done with these efforts as foreign patronage of warring groups legalized the war and left Syria divided. Recently, In December 2024, the Assad regime collapsed during a major offensive led by the rebel coalition (notably Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham and Turkish-backed forces), which succeeded in capturing Damascus. Bashar al-Assad fled to Russia and was granted asylum. Following his departure, a transitional government was established under President Ahmed al-Sharaa, and in March 2025 a temporary constitution (interim constitutional declaration) was signed to guide a five-year transition period.

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<sup>26</sup> United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). *Syria Emergency*. UNHCR, updated 2023.

<sup>27</sup> United Nations Security Council. *Resolution 2165 (2014)*, adopted 14 July 2014.



## V. Questions to Consider

1. How can the United Nations strengthen the effectiveness of arms embargoes in proxy wars, given the fact that they have proven to be ineffective in Libya and Yemen?
2. How can humanitarian aid in proxy conflicts be expanded so that it supports civilians, guaranteeing they will have access to basic human necessities like food and shelter?
3. What role should international mediation play in de-escalating proxy wars?
4. How can peacekeeping operations be adapted so that they are more effective in addressing current humanitarian aid and proxy wars?
5. What long term reforms, either diplomatic or structural, can be put into place as changes to the UN system in order to reduce the future likelihood of proxy conflicts?
6. How can mechanisms of accountability, such as international tribunals or sanctions for violations of humanitarian law, be strengthened to deter external actors from fueling proxy wars?



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## Topic B: Crisis in Haiti

### I. Background

Even prior to the recent escalation of extreme instability and gang violence, Haiti has been stained by decades of weak leadership and susceptibility to social, political, environmental and economic insecurity. Haiti has had an extensive history with corrupt leadership; more notably, it can be traced back to a long history with French colonialism up to the infamous “Duvalier dictatorship” from 1957 to 1971.<sup>28</sup> Under the leadership of Francois Duvalier and his son, Jean-Claude Duvalier, Haiti underwent a period marked by extreme political isolation and debt from reckless spending and reparations owed to the French.<sup>29</sup> In the wake of these events, Haiti’s political scene has been characterized by recurring challenges to power and fighting back against coup d’états; this has weakened the ability to address increasing humanitarian challenges of poverty, food insecurity, and violence.

Following these developments, Haiti was also affected by a wave of unexpected natural disasters, the damages from which have affected the lives of millions of civilians. In the mid-2000s, Haiti faced a series of hurricanes and a food insecurity crisis which shed light on the inability for Haiti to address humanitarian struggles on its own. More significantly, the 2010 Haiti earthquake, regarded as one of the most terrible natural disasters in history, caused

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<sup>28</sup> Brunello, Anthony. “Duvalier Takes Power in Haiti | EBSCO.” EBSCO Information Services, Inc. | [www.ebsco.com](http://www.ebsco.com), 2023, [www.ebsco.com/research-starters/history/duvalier-takes-power-haiti](http://www.ebsco.com/research-starters/history/duvalier-takes-power-haiti).

<sup>29</sup> Bland, Archie. “Haiti Crisis: How Did It Get so Bad, What Is the Role of Gangs, and Is There a Way Out?” *The Guardian*, 12 Jan. 2023, [www.theguardian.com/world/2023/jan/12/haiti-crisis-jovenel-moise-gangs-water-way-out](http://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/jan/12/haiti-crisis-jovenel-moise-gangs-water-way-out).



irreversible damage to the economy.<sup>30</sup> This earthquake caused around three hundred thousand civilian casualties with over a hundred thousand people displaced, the destruction of buildings and infrastructure, and an immense shortage of humanitarian assistance.<sup>31</sup> Ultimately, these issues have created a lasting impact on the crisis that continues to intensify, while more complex conflicts emerge from further gang violence along with conflict over proper leadership and economic policy.

In addition to Haiti's complex history, recent events have caused further chaos and instability. In 2021, President Jovenel Moïse was assassinated by a group of Colombian mercenaries; the sudden loss of leadership increased Haiti's vulnerability and raised concern about a re-emerging spike in violence.<sup>32</sup> As a response to the replacement of Moïse with acting Prime Minister Ariel Henry, who was widely regarded by the general public as illegitimate, gang violence resurfaced in demand of Henry's resignation. This also escalated into the outbreak of a widespread gang turf war centered in Haiti's capital, Port-Au-Prince. A prime example of the escalating gang conflict in Haiti was the formation of the G9 Coalition, made up of nine influential Haitian gangs, which pushed for increased violence in protest against Henry's leadership.<sup>33</sup> The coalition had already facilitated two blockades of two major fuel terminals

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<sup>30</sup> Pallardy, Richard. "2010 Haiti Earthquake." *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 19 Feb. 2025, [www.britannica.com/event/2010-Haiti-earthquake](http://www.britannica.com/event/2010-Haiti-earthquake).

<sup>31</sup> "The Unrest in Haiti: Country in Crisis – UAB Institute for Human Rights Blog." *Uab.edu*, 26 Apr. 2024, [sites.uab.edu/humanrights/2024/04/26/the-unrest-in-haiti-country-in-crisis/](http://sites.uab.edu/humanrights/2024/04/26/the-unrest-in-haiti-country-in-crisis/).

<sup>32</sup> Center for Preventive Action. "Instability in Haiti." *Global Conflict Tracker*, 27 June 2024, [www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/instability-haiti](http://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/instability-haiti).

<sup>33</sup> Le-Cour-Grandmaison, Romain. "Violence in Haiti: A Continuation of Politics by Other Means?" *Global Initiative*, 25 Mar. 2024, [globalinitiative.net/analysis/violence-in-haiti-politics-crime-gangs/](http://globalinitiative.net/analysis/violence-in-haiti-politics-crime-gangs/).



within a year of seizing control, leading to an intensification of food insecurity, lack of energy, and widespread famine across Haiti. As a result of this, over half of Haiti’s population—equivalent to around six million people—are in urgent need of assistance as a result of human rights violations, deprivation of necessary resources, and a chronic lack of access to medical help.<sup>34</sup> With an extremely weak central authority as well as an understaffed military and police force, violent gangs continued to gain power and expand membership, taking over major roads as well as power over the distribution of water and electricity. In addition to increased gang violence, another devastating earthquake hit Haiti in the same year as Moïse’s political assassination and caused around a thousand deaths and almost six-thousand near-fatal injuries.<sup>35</sup> This natural disaster further exacerbated the political and economic tensions with more humanitarian pressures, a need for foreign aid, and overall instability. This pattern of interplay between intensifying political, social, and humanitarian struggles demonstrates the urgency for efficient, productive solutions that address the overwhelming number of challenges that Haiti faces.

It is also immensely important to consider the financial and economic crisis that Haiti has been facing, which has been strongly rooted in weak leadership and its history of struggling to repay centuries of debt. Coupled with political instability and rampant gang clashes, increased

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<sup>34</sup> OCHA. “Haiti | OCHA.” [www.unocha.org](http://www.unocha.org), 5 Sept. 2023, [www.unocha.org/haiti](http://www.unocha.org/haiti).

<sup>35</sup> Guardian staff reporter. “At Least 1,297 Dead in Haiti Earthquake as Death Toll Climbs.” *The Guardian*, *The Guardian*, 15 Aug. 2021, [www.theguardian.com/world/2021/aug/15/dead-injured-haiti-earthquake-death-toll-climbs?utm\\_term=.63bfaeefac61506e4d4474705eee640&utm\\_campaign=FirstEdition&utm\\_source=esp&utm\\_medium=Email&CMP=firstedition\\_email](http://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/aug/15/dead-injured-haiti-earthquake-death-toll-climbs?utm_term=.63bfaeefac61506e4d4474705eee640&utm_campaign=FirstEdition&utm_source=esp&utm_medium=Email&CMP=firstedition_email). Accessed 6 Sept. 2025.



concerns over the welfare of Haiti's economy arose from severely stunted economic growth despite consistent population growth. According to the World Population Review, Haiti has the weakest economy and is considered the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. Currently, a disproportionate amount of civilians live in severe poverty and are at the brink of financial collapse without access to proper infrastructure or stable employment.<sup>36</sup> Furthermore, Haiti is still attempting to recover economically from the 2010 and 2019 earthquakes and an estimate of fourteen billion dollars is still needed for recovery.<sup>37</sup> These instabilities have forced Haiti to look to taking out loans and increasing reliance on foreign aid as means to remain afloat. The United Nations and other major donors like the United States and Canada have already donated over thirteen billion dollars to Haiti toward disaster relief, but there is still an urgent need for more money to support the economy as instability continues. In addition to this, Haiti's economy is heavily dependent on trade to support its major industries, since trade has made up an average of around forty-one percent of Haiti's global domestic product since 2010.<sup>38</sup> It has become increasingly apparent that Haiti's increased desperation for foreign intervention has created an even heavier burden on the country, making it considerably difficult to develop or improve in any areas of weakness.

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<sup>36</sup> "Poorest Countries in North America 2021." Worldpopulationreview.com, worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/poorest-countries-in-north-america.

<sup>37</sup> Silva, Mario. "Island in Distress: State Failure in Haiti." Florida Journal of International Law Florida Journal of International Law, vol. 23, 2011, scholarship.law.ufl.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1563&context=fjil.

<sup>38</sup> Labrador, Rocio Cara, and Diana Roy. "Haiti's Troubled Path to Development." Council on Foreign Relations, 25 June 2024, www.cfr.org/backgrounder/haitis-troubled-path-development.



Overall, the aspects of concern surrounding Haiti —whether focusing on the social, political, economic, or political aspect of their source of vulnerability— emphasizes the urgent need for the stabilization of the country; the multifaceted and complex nature of this issue exemplifies the need for more awareness and rapid assistance.

## II. UN and International Involvement

The United Nations has maintained itself as a firm supporter of the Haitian crisis; it has already contributed billions of dollars in aid to support relief missions toward Haiti’s reconstruction and recovery. In June of 2004, the Security Council established the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, or MINUSTUH.<sup>39</sup> The goal of MINUSTUH was to re-establish political stability, a fair and stable government, and to prevent the violation of human rights. Peacekeepers were later deployed to provide support to the understaffed Haitian National Police, especially with the escalation of civilian attacks and gang violence.<sup>40</sup> Despite its multiple renewals, MINUSTUH was ultimately deemed ineffective because of its inability to prevent and properly investigate abuse of civilians by peacekeepers.<sup>41</sup> The United States, who is one of the biggest financial contributors of the UN’s peacekeeping missions, has condemned these actions and has pushed toward a focus on different methods of providing humanitarian support.<sup>42</sup> The

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<sup>39</sup> United Nations. “MINUSTAH Fact Sheet.” United Nations Peacekeeping, 2017, [peacekeeping.un.org/en/mission/minustah](https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/mission/minustah).

<sup>40</sup> Maguire, Robert. WHAT ROLE for the UNITED NATIONS in HAITI? AUTHOR USIPeace Briefing: What Role for the United Nations in Haiti? 2009, [www.usip.org/sites/default/files/haiti\\_united\\_nations\\_pb\\_0.pdf](http://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/haiti_united_nations_pb_0.pdf).

<sup>41</sup> Wheeler, Skye. “UN Peacekeeping Has a Sexual Abuse Problem.” Human Rights Watch, The Hill, 11 Jan. 2020, [www.hrw.org/news/2020/01/11/un-peacekeeping-has-sexual-abuse-problem](https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/01/11/un-peacekeeping-has-sexual-abuse-problem).

<sup>42</sup> “Peacekeeping in Haiti: Successes and Failures | the Pardee Atlas Journal of Global Affairs.” Bu.edu, 2024, [sites.bu.edu/pardeeatlas/research-and-policy/back2school/peacekeeping-in-haiti-successes-and-failures/](https://sites.bu.edu/pardeeatlas/research-and-policy/back2school/peacekeeping-in-haiti-successes-and-failures/). Accessed 6 Sept. 2025.



overarching controversy around peacekeeping missions are an example of the overall struggle to implement effective and ethical rescue missions in areas of conflict.

Taking these developments into consideration, the United Nations has also been a part of an overall support campaign composed of non-profit organizations and supporting countries; these parties have been investing more resources and attention to launching smaller scale relief initiatives in Haiti. In 2023, the Security Council authorized the launch of the Multinational Security Support Mission (MSS)—a joint collaboration backed by the United Nations and led by Kenya—which aimed to address the more recent escalations of gang violence, as well as the increased poverty and inequalities experienced by Haitians.<sup>43</sup> The MSS has been able to achieve measurable degrees of success since its establishment; several media sources have reported that this mission has helped minimize gang influence in Haiti by re-establishing control over neighborhoods in Port-Au Prince.<sup>44</sup> This project has since been renewed and is a prime example of international efforts to provide stability for Haiti, and the United Nations continues to hold consistent meetings toward improving the mission’s effectiveness.

In effort to re honor commitment to providing sustainable support, the Security Council affirmed the establishment of the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti, or BINUH, adopted

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<sup>43</sup> Schmidt, Annie. “Emerging Practices in New Mission Models: The Multinational Security Support Mission in Haiti - International Peace Institute.” International Peace Institute, 5 Dec. 2024, [www.ipinst.org/2024/12/emerging-practices-in-new-mission-models-the-multinational-security-support-mission-in-haiti](http://www.ipinst.org/2024/12/emerging-practices-in-new-mission-models-the-multinational-security-support-mission-in-haiti).

<sup>44</sup> Vote, Haiti. “Haiti: Vote to Renew the Authorisation of the Multinational Security Support Mission\*.” Security Council Report, 2024, [www.securitycouncilreport.org/whatsinblue/2024/09/haiti-vote-to-renew-the-authorisation-of-the-multinational-security-support-mission.php](http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/whatsinblue/2024/09/haiti-vote-to-renew-the-authorisation-of-the-multinational-security-support-mission.php).



from Resolution 2476 (2019).<sup>45</sup> BINUH has a unique political mission because it leans away from traditional peacekeeping missions, instead, it is based in Port-Au-Prince and helps advise the Haitian government in how to maintain proper governance and political stability. It also contributes to addressing humanitarian struggles, focusing on preventing the violation of human rights. This can be seen through the passing of Security Council Resolution 2645 in 2022, calling for an end to gang violence and rampant criminal activity, as well as Resolution 2692 in 2023, which specifically tackles gender-based violence and the unjust killings of Haitian children.<sup>46</sup> Thus, BINUH has overall contributed greatly toward Security Council involvement through raising financial support for relief missions. This demonstrates the United Nation’s continued commitment toward establishing sustainable solutions.<sup>47</sup> Overall, the United Nations has been proactive in its actions and commitment toward resolving the complex challenges occurring in Haiti, supporting the country both politically and socioeconomically.

### **III. Topics to Consider**

#### **A. Internal Displacement and Migration Pressures**

As a result of Haiti’s political vulnerability and the increased prevalence of criminal activity, it is reported that over 1.3 million Haitians have been internally displaced since July of 2025. This is approximately three-quarters of all global crime-caused displacement in 2024,

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<sup>45</sup> “Document Viewer.” Un.org, 2025, docs.un.org/en/S/RES/2476(2019).

<sup>46</sup> S/RES/2692. “S/RES/2692.” Security Council Report, 2023, www.securitycouncilreport.org/un-documents/document/s-res-2692.php. Accessed 6 Sept. 2025.

<sup>47</sup> “Document Viewer.” Un.org, 2025, docs.un.org/en/S/RES/2645(2022). Accessed 6 Sept. 2025.



highlighting the urgent need for external intervention into organized crime.<sup>48</sup> Thousands of families have been forcibly and unexpectedly displaced from Haiti, and this has allowed criminal groups to seize further control over the politics and economics of Haiti. Furthermore, this has put displaced people at a concerning disadvantage. It has given criminal enterprises the opportunity to prey on vulnerable women and children, with a notable increase in exploitation and recruitment as well as a spike in sexual and gender based violence. Putting this issue into a closer perspective, a majority of internally displaced Haitians are from Port-Au-Prince and the dominance of criminal activity there has made it immensely difficult for Haiti's government to regain control.

In addition to the issue of internal displacement, hundreds of thousands of Haitians have also attempted to seek refuge by fleeing the country. Migration is not a relatively new development, Haiti has been experiencing several waves of emigration tracing back to the 2010 earthquake and other threats to political and economic security. However, the more recent influx of migrants attempting to free themselves from the violence in Haiti has escalated tensions with neighboring countries, posing possible threats to Haiti's political relationship with other countries like the United States, the Dominican Republic, Brazil, and Canada.<sup>49</sup> This has given criminal groups an advantage in gaining more territorial control. Recently, criminal groups have been attempting to expand attacks close to the borders of Haiti's neighbors. In July of 2025,

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<sup>48</sup> "The Weaponization of Displacement by Gangs in Haiti." Global Initiative, 17 July 2025, [globalinitiative.net/analysis/the-weaponization-of-displacement-by-gangs-in-haiti/](https://globalinitiative.net/analysis/the-weaponization-of-displacement-by-gangs-in-haiti/).

<sup>49</sup> Douyon, Emmanuela. "Haitians Flee a Nation Nearing Collapse." Migrationpolicy.org, 3 July 2023, [www.migrationpolicy.org/article/haitians-flee-collapse](https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/haitians-flee-collapse).



Haitian gangs attacked an area around 19 miles near the border of the Dominican Republic, leading to the displacement of thirty thousand people and highlighting further threats to border security.

#### B. Enabling Healthcare Access and Disease Control

Haiti's increased criminal activity has led to a widespread health crisis from the unprecedented number of attacks and ensuing violence. In areas that are dominated by criminal activity and violence, civilians are at a much higher risk of being attacked or wounded; however, it is almost impossible for them to access any form of medical care because of the shortage of healthcare workers and medical supply. It is important to consider that the issues surrounding Haiti's crisis are interwoven together; the displacement of hundreds of thousands of people, including healthcare workers, has also contributed to the lack of availability to medical resources.<sup>50</sup> In regards to why there has been a heightened need for sufficient healthcare, around five million people, or forty-eight percent of the population, is being affected by the food crisis, where six thousand are at immense risk of food insecurity and malnutrition.<sup>51</sup> The presence of criminal groups and gang violence has also threatened the safety of infrastructure, leading to a widespread water crisis.

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<sup>50</sup> "Haiti: Under Chronic Stress and in Constant Fear, Health Workers Strive to Save Lives." International Committee of the Red Cross, 6 Sept. 2024, [www.icrc.org/en/article/haiti-under-chronic-stress-and-constant-fear-health-workers-strive-save-lives](http://www.icrc.org/en/article/haiti-under-chronic-stress-and-constant-fear-health-workers-strive-save-lives).

<sup>51</sup> Pan American Health Organization. "Haiti Humanitarian Crisis - Grade 3 - PAHO/WHO | Pan American Health Organization." [www.paho.org](http://www.paho.org), 15 Jan. 2024, [www.paho.org/en/haiti-humanitarian-crisis-grade-3](http://www.paho.org/en/haiti-humanitarian-crisis-grade-3).



In addition to an overall lack of access to healthcare, Haiti has been affected by a widespread disease outbreak of cholera and other threatening diseases. The Haitian government, also dealing with gang violence, political instability, and socioeconomic concerns, has struggled to address critical health concerns which have caused an outbreak of diseases. The destruction of infrastructure has created issues of sanitation and hygiene amongst civilians. This has caused Haiti to grow reliant on international aid to be able to maintain access to healthcare resources. More notably, the CDC Foundation has been heavily involved in providing access to crucial medical supplies like vaccines and increasing awareness about the importance of containing disease. Therefore, it is vital to promote better hygienic practices to prevent the further spread of infectious diseases.<sup>52</sup>

### C. Environmental Vulnerability

Amongst the plethora of issues that Haiti already faces, there has been an increasing concern for the country's increasing environmental vulnerability which has led to economic hardship and repeated exposure to devastating natural disasters. The devastation of land and crops has had a negative impact on the agricultural sector of the economy, placing a financial strain on households already struggling to maintain stable sources of income.<sup>53</sup> There has been a notable decrease in agricultural yields and an increase in overall pollution of natural resources,

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<sup>52</sup> "Protecting Health in Haiti amid Crisis | CDC Foundation." [www.cdcfoundation.org](http://www.cdcfoundation.org), [www.cdcfoundation.org/stories/protecting-health-amid-crisis](http://www.cdcfoundation.org/stories/protecting-health-amid-crisis).

<sup>53</sup> Montuma, Martini. "Haiti Facing the Challenge of Climate Change | UNICEF." [www.unicef.org](http://www.unicef.org), 10 Oct. 2023, [www.unicef.org/haiti/en/stories/haiti-facing-challenge-climate-change](http://www.unicef.org/haiti/en/stories/haiti-facing-challenge-climate-change).



and the advent of frequent natural disasters like floods and droughts have made recovery immensely difficult.

Haiti's resources have already been consumed by the recent escalation of violence, but threats to the environment and climate degradation have been an issue for decades. The environmental crisis has been severely neglected because of the overarching issues and instability that the government still faces. The primary issues that threaten Haiti's environmental welfare are water scarcity and pollution, deforestation, and increased vulnerability to natural disasters.<sup>54</sup> Haiti is considered as one of the top five countries that is at the highest risk of receiving frequent environmental disasters, which has heightened the risk for further economic strain and the displacement of citizens. Additionally, the damage has decreased economic productivity with the decrease in mining and agricultural productivity. Without sufficient infrastructure or access to better solutions to the degradation of the environment, Haiti is put at a significant disadvantage in being able to recover from disasters.<sup>55</sup>

#### **IV. Case Study: Violence and Agricultural Vulnerability in Bas-Artibonite**

Bas-Artibonite is one of ten central administrative districts that serves as one of the most important regions in the entire country, encompassing the capital of Port-Au-Prince. This division is considered the nation's breadbasket as it is Haiti's main source of rice agriculture, but

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<sup>54</sup> Fox, Conrad. "Haiti: An Island Nation Whose Environmental Troubles Only Begin with Water." *Mongabay Environmental News*, 28 Sept. 2022, [news.mongabay.com/2022/09/haiti-an-island-nation-whose-environmental-troubles-only-begin-with-water/](https://news.mongabay.com/2022/09/haiti-an-island-nation-whose-environmental-troubles-only-begin-with-water/).

<sup>55</sup> Free, Mining. "Mining Free Haiti." *Mining Free Haiti*, 2015, [en.ayitikanpemin.org/issues/environmental-risks/climate-disaster](https://en.ayitikanpemin.org/issues/environmental-risks/climate-disaster).



it has also become a primary target by the criminal groups and gangs inhabiting Port-Au-Prince. The strain on agricultural resources in this region has been exacerbated by the temporary closure of Haiti's northern border with the Dominican Republic, cutting off access to food and agricultural supplies.<sup>56</sup> The closing off of Bas-Artibonite is representative of the smaller-scale crises, such as gang kidnappings and the shortage of fuel and food supplies, occurring in Haitian neighborhoods that significantly impact the ability to implement cohesive solutions. Bas-Artibonite's current situation is a reflection of Haiti's increasing struggles to address these issues and has had a detrimental impact on Haiti as a whole, contributing to higher prices of food and other important commodities; this has significantly escalated food insecurity. Since, Bas-Artibonite's overall productivity has been significantly affected by the heightened presence of violence and its inability to support Haiti's economy.

According to the International Organization for Migration, eighty-five percent of Port-au-Prince is controlled by gangs, where violent attacks on civilians have only been escalating.<sup>57</sup> As a result, over ninety-two thousand people have been forcibly displaced from the Bas-Artibonite region, making a significant percentage of the total number of internally displaced people in Haiti. Even with foreign efforts to increase the presence of security relief missions in Port-au-Prince, violence has continued at an all time high; this has ultimately led to the destruction of vital infrastructure. Specifically, criminal groups have blocked access to other

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<sup>56</sup> Nagpal, Tanvi. "No Easy Solutions: Understanding the Scale of the Humanitarian Crisis in Haiti." [www.csis.org](http://www.csis.org), Dec. 2023, [www.csis.org/analysis/no-easy-solutions-understanding-scale-humanitarian-crisis-haiti](http://www.csis.org/analysis/no-easy-solutions-understanding-scale-humanitarian-crisis-haiti).

<sup>57</sup> "Gang Violence Displaces a Record 1.3 Million Haitians." UN News, 11 June 2025, [news.un.org/en/story/2025/06/1164286](https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/06/1164286).



neighborhoods of Haiti from Route Nationale 1, a significant highway that facilitates productive trade and transportation, by taking control of important roads, bridges, and digging trenches.<sup>58</sup> As well as the blockage of transportation, two out of three of the most significant water treatment plants in the region have been shut down due to the increase in criminal activity and gang violence in the area. This has posed a significant threat to water access and food insecurity in Bas-Artibonite and its surrounding neighborhoods. As a result, Bas-Artibonite has been deprived of access to a proper sewage system, cutting off access to nearby areas like Cap-Haitien, which is Haiti's second largest city. This has impacted thousands of people and has increased the severity of the situation, since many Haitians already struggle to access proper hygiene and sanitation. According to UNICEF, Haiti has risen to among one of the highest ranked countries in disease outbreaks, with the highest recorded cases of cholera, displaying the urgent need to address the healthcare crisis in the country as a whole.<sup>59</sup> Bas-Artibonite serves as a major hotspot of the cholera epidemic because of its lack of proper sanitation services and the prominent influence of powerful criminal groups in the area. Ultimately, Bas-Artibonite is a prime example of how neighborhoods and cities in Haiti have been impacted in a variety of ways, displaying the need for a more comprehensive framework of solutions to address these issues. The combination of all

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<sup>58</sup> "Haiti: Armed Attacks and Displacement in Bas Artibonite - Flash Update #3 (as of 17 October 2024)." Unocha.org, 17 Oct. 2024, [www.unocha.org/publications/report/haiti/haiti-armed-attacks-and-displacement-bas-artibonite-flash-update-3-17-october-2024](http://www.unocha.org/publications/report/haiti/haiti-armed-attacks-and-displacement-bas-artibonite-flash-update-3-17-october-2024). Accessed 6 Sept. 2025.

<sup>59</sup> "Armed Violence Takes Root in Haiti's 'Rice Basket.'" Unicef.org, 2023, [www.unicef.org/lac/en/press-releases/armed-violence-takes-root-haitis-rice-basket](http://www.unicef.org/lac/en/press-releases/armed-violence-takes-root-haitis-rice-basket).



of these struggles has created an immense threat for the population of Haitians living in Bas-Artibonite and requires immediate attention.



## V. Questions to Consider

1. How can Haiti develop a temporary system of governance or a set of policies that can be used to stabilize the country's current political instability until other prominent issues are also under control?
2. Considering the urgent need to coordinate better safety and security for refugees attempting to flee violence, how can Haiti's neighboring countries help coordinate more efficient refugee transportation?
3. How can the United Nations increase investigative awareness about human rights abuse in peacekeeping missions, specifically in light of the failure of these missions in Haiti?
4. How can the Haitian government establish stronger policies that hold criminal gangs accountable for crimes and recorded attacks?
5. What methods can international organizations use to provide the secure delivery of humanitarian aid and other resources in Haiti?
6. Amidst its current state, how can Haiti establish better emergency response plans to better mitigate the destructive impacts of natural disasters?



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