



## Haiti Country Cluster Security Welcome Brief JUL 2019

### Security Phase

The IFRC in Haiti uses the standard IFRC four-phase security classification system across all field operations. Present situation dictates: **Orange Phase**

The Federation operates a four colour phase system to distinguish the security situation.		
<b>White phase</b>	Situation normal	No major security concerns
<b>Yellow phase</b>	Situation of heightened tension	Some security concerns, heightened security awareness initiated
<b>Orange phase</b>	Emergency situation	Access to beneficiaries limited, risk to RCRC personnel severe, tight security management needed
<b>Red phase</b>	Relocation or hibernation	Conditions do not allow work, risk to RCRC personnel extreme

### **1. Context**

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#### **Criminal activities:**

Violent crime rates are high, particularly in the capital Port-au-Prince. Frequently reported crimes include car jackings, home invasions, shootings, armed robberies, residential theft and homicides, which occur even during daytime. Members should be cautious about who they allow to access their residence and be sure to vet all domestic employees.

Such crimes, which are fuelled by the dire economic situation, widespread poverty and the easy availability of firearms, present a significant security concern for business travellers, especially in Port-au-Prince. Other densely inhabited areas of cities such as Cap-Haïtien, Les Cayes and Gonaïves also experience high homicide rates; crime levels are higher in cities than in the countryside, with most killings taking place during attempted robberies.

Personnel visiting Haiti during the festival season, particularly around Christmas and Carnival, must exercise heightened caution as crime normally increases during this period; Carnival usually falls in the months of February and March. Members should avoid ostentatious display of wealth as it may draw unwanted attention. Violent homophobic

attacks are also a concern; lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) travellers should keep a low profile and avoid public displays of affection towards their partners.

### Gang activities and dangerous areas

“Traditional” hot areas hold by gangs:

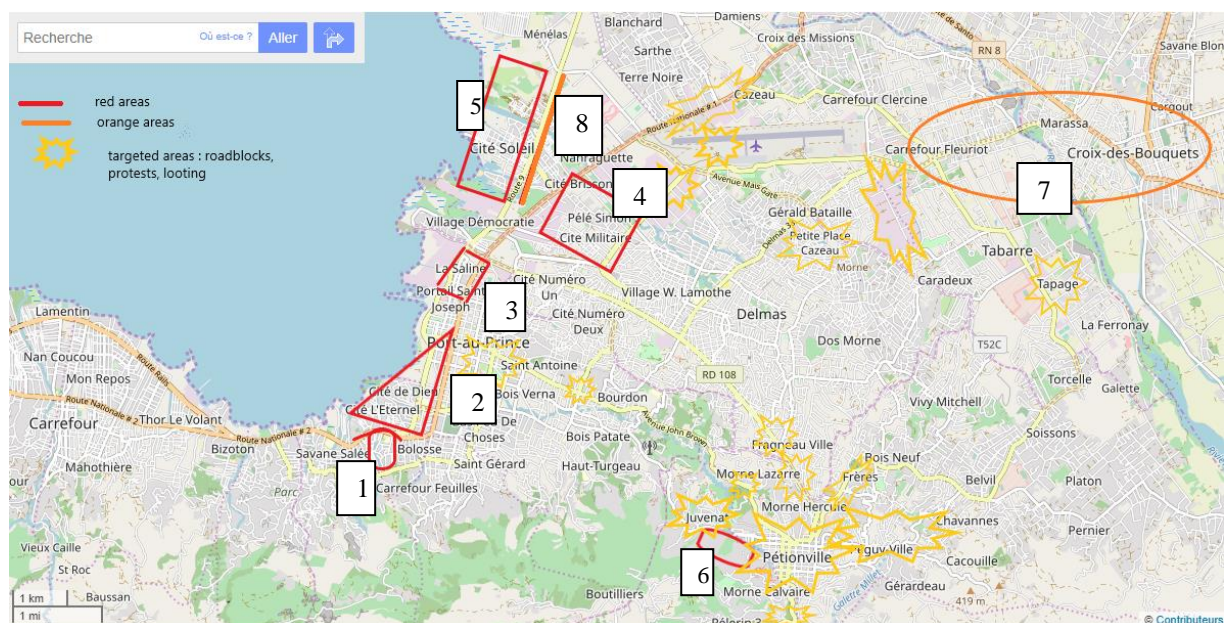
- **Martissant, (1)**
- **Downtown :**
  - **Bicentenaire, Cité de Dieu (2),**
  - **La Saline, Bel Air (3),**
- **Low Delmas ; Simon Pelé/Cité Militaire/Village Solidarité, (4)**
- **Cité soleil, (5)**
- **Jalousie (behind PV) (6)**

It is important to highlight that wars between different gangs to control areas (with would be supported by some politicians who are paying them, according to media and officials) have paralyzed some parts of the city and especially Martissant (which road is heading to South). Many casualties (hundreds of civilians being shot dead) have been reported (Martissant, Bicentenaire, Cité de dieu, La Saline) for the past months, but it’s impossible to have a precise count (gangs getting rid of dead bodies).

Other places such as Croix des Bouquets (7) and Road 9 (8) are put at risk

#### - **Petionville and surroundings**

In addition to these above-mentioned areas and their surroundings, armed bandits are now attacking people everywhere. As a result, Delmas, Route Frère and Petionville (and sometimes Montagne Noire and Kenscoff road), are at risk of robberies at gunpoint and shootings during the day.





## **Anti-government protests**

Anti-government demonstrations have been occurring regularly, particularly in the capital Port-au-Prince.

They have become a major concern since April 2018 and have turned into city lock and major roadblocks since July 2018.

Demonstrations in the capital often take place the vicinity of government buildings such as the parliament, National Palace, and Provisional Electoral Council (CEP) office. Neighborhoods susceptible to protests include Champ de Mars (city center), Delmas, Saint-Martin, Petionville and Bel Air. Anti-government mobilization also include strike (no transport for national staff) and road blocks preventing movements in PaP / Petionville and between main cities.

Protests can also take place in other urban centers, such as Cap-Haitien (Nord department), Gonaïves, Petit Goave, Chalon, Miragoane, Jacmel and Port-de-Paix (Nord-Ouest department). Outside major cities, protesters may also set up roadblocks on major axes such as Route National 1, particularly in the vicinity of Arcahaie (Ouest department), Route National 2 (Leogane, Petit Goave, Chalon, Miragoane), Route National 3 (Mirebalais).

Anti-government protests frequently degenerate into clashes between protesters and the security forces, or between rival activists. The police may use tear gas and, occasionally, live ammunition to disperse demonstrators. Activists have also been known to use live ammunition during protests. Such crowd-control and retaliatory measures pose significant incidental risks to bystanders.

*Cf contingency plan for more information*

## **Kidnappings**

There is a constant risk of kidnap-for-ransom, particularly in the capital Port-au-Prince and surrounding areas in Ouest department. The majority of victims are local nationals with lower levels of personal security than foreigners or more affluent locals, though foreigners have been targeted.

## **Militant Extremism**

Some international militant extremist groups have been reported in Haiti since 2012; the threat from terrorism must be monitored.

## **Conflict**

Haiti witnessed a major conflict in 2004 with the ousting of President Jean-Baptiste Aristide in an armed rebellion involving former members of the armed forces. The rebels took over several towns and cities including Cap Haitian and related violence ensued in slums. Law and order were restored by the UN Stabilization Mission (MINUSTAH), which remained stationed in the country until October 2017. A smaller peacekeeping mission known as the United



Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH) was left behind for an 18-month period to support the government in strengthening their internal law structure, as well as to support and protect human rights.

### **Political Situation:**

Haiti is a presidential and parliamentary democracy. The bicameral National Assembly consists of a 30-seat Senate (upper house) and a Chamber of Deputies (lower house). The president serves a five-year term and shares power with the prime minister, who is nominated by the president and approved by the assembly. The country has a long history of civil unrest and political instability, and electoral periods are particularly volatile.

Jovenel Moise, the current Haitian president, assumed office on 7 February 2017. Since September 2017, the socioeconomic crisis (constant and out of control inflation, increase in primary need goods) has turned into a major political crisis and instability. Anti-government protests have been increasingly dangerous and have led to big lockdown of Port au Prince and major national roads (1, 2 and 3).

### **Rule of Law**

The judicial system is not sufficiently independent from the executive branch. It lacks resources and professionalism and suffers from a scarcity of judicial officials and corruption among existing ones. Although there have been some efforts by donor countries to improve the judicial system, it remains weak and inefficient.

The Haitian National Police (HNP), which is tasked with law enforcement and the maintenance of order, lack the resources to respond effectively, and continue to rely on UN troops. The police regularly face allegations of co-operation with criminals. The deployment of UN peacekeepers had improved the overall security environment (even with some criminal elements continuing to operate), but since the change in the mandate of the UN mission in Haiti, MINUJUSTH took over MINUSTAH and is mainly dedicated to support institutions rather than doing law enforcement. They don't have means anymore to intervene or provide assistance in case of evacuation for instance.

### **Corruption**

Corruption is widespread and a persistent problem in the political, social and economic spheres. While it is most prevalent among judicial officials, law enforcement bodies and political parties, instances of corruption, involving misappropriation of funds and other malfeasance, on the part of both government officials and private sector workers have also been reported. However, humanitarians are not likely to be directly affected.

**Hurricanes:** Hurricane Matthew (October 2017) left behind approximately 500 deaths plus hundreds of families in need and are still vulnerable to the upcoming hurricane period which starts from 1<sup>st</sup> of June to end on 30<sup>th</sup> of November in Haiti.

**Cost of living:** At the moment 1 USD = 85.00 HTG. In April 2017 it was 1 USD = 69.00 HTG. Some measures were taken by the government to stop having the rate increasing. Food and



all basic needs continue to be more expensive every day to a population that already have no resources at all. Now another problem shows up and may have a big impact on security. This concern the price of the fuel which will be increased of nearly 50%.



## 2. Security rules and instructions

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### a. Primary Risk and threats to RC/RC personnel

- Car accident
- Theft
- Car jacking
- Confrontation/ shooting between gangs, gangs and HNP/UN forces
- Demonstration
- Looting on the National 2
- Road Banditry
- Mudslides and over flow river
- Kidnaping

### b. Basic security measures

- **It is forbidden to walk even in Petionville** (specific exception in areas of activities),
- **Respect the curfew:** 10 pm in Petionville; 9.00 pm for Servotel / Visa Lodge areas.
- **Do not expose your value assets such as passport, cash credit card.**  
It is recommended to avoid carrying your passport (only a copy) and other personal assets of value (credit card) if you don't intend to use them.
- **In case of attack: don't resist, don't try to talk or negotiate, give everything.**  
Always have your bag or value assets ready to be given with minimum of 50 USD / 2500 Gourdes; phones are usually requested by thieves.
- **It is strictly forbidden to go to the bank for IFRC delegates** or to use ATM in the street.
- **You can use ATM in PV but only in Supermarkets** (Caribbean, Giant, Big star...), and at Oasis Hotel, Karibe hotel; near base camp : at Delta Base, or Log base in PaP (Port au Prince).
- Since ATM are regularly dysfunctional, it is recommended to bring USD, and these can be changed at Caribbean Market and few other places (check with the security focal point).
- **While in the car:** doors must be lock and windows rolled to within two inches of the top (listening for trouble outside). Exercise situational awareness when in a stationary position or in slow-moving traffic, avoid using your phone. Keep all value assets and bags hidden. Vehicle theft is a concern. Make sure your driver doesn't leave you in the car, with the motor on and doors unlocked.
- **Any movement must be submitted as in advance as possible to the security focal point for approval / clearance.** He/she may provide specific instructions when need be.
- While going to restaurant in Petionville:
  - Prefer places with inside parking;
  - If no parking: make sure the driver leaves you in front of the entrance.  
Often, in addition to security, they are young men who welcome you from the street to the entrance: be nice with them and leave them a tip while leaving (usually 50 to 100 gourdes / 1 or 2 USD). They ensure your security. If



someone proposes service to look after the car, speak with your driver and leave a tip when you leave (100 gourdes minimum).

**c. Curfew**

• **Port-au-Prince**

22:00 hour AM – until daylight on weekdays and weekend. Only Petion-Ville is allowed place at night time.

• **Saint Marc**

17.00 hours until daylight – Week days and weekends

**d. Travelling inside the country, Petionville and PaP**

 **Clearance**

**Clearance before moving is required** to move at night and to cross red and orange areas listed below (allowed only at daylight after clearance):

- Red areas:
  - Martissant,
  - Downtown : Bicentenaire, Cité de Dieu, La Saline, Bel Air,
  - Low Delmas ;
  -

Please note the following area are forbidden unless specific activity planned:

- Cité soleil,
- Jalousie,
- Simon Pelé/Cité Militaire/Village Solidarité

- Orange areas (that can turn into red area at any time):

- Croix des Bouquets,
- Carries-Montrouis,
- Road 9

Ensure staff is respecting security clearance procedures and organize them to be back at their base before dark (they should cancel trips if they are leaving BC too late). In this case, security focal point may not give clearance and may leave SMT takes the responsibility.

 **Driving Safety**

- Driving in Haiti is hazardous and dangerous; all RC/RC personnel must use an approved driver.
- DELEGATES DO NOT DRIVE THEMSELVES.
- NO driving outside Petionville / Servotel- Visa Lodge area at night.
- RC/RC personnel are to use only RC/RC vehicles, which are clearly marked as per Fleet regulations.
- Car windows must remain rolled to within two inches of the top (listening for trouble outside) and all doors locked.



- Make sure your driver maintains a distance from vehicle in front to allow turning or movement in case of emergency
- Don't leave vehicles unattended or unlocked.
- If in doubt in a situation, ask your driver to turn around and immediately notify base radio room

#### **Road/Traffic Accidents**

- Anyone involved in an accident proceed directly to a safe place (e.g. Police station, IFRC or UN Base) to resolve the situation. **Remaining at the scene of a traffic accident is considered to be a hazard to RC/RC personnel safety.** In case of a minor accident, ensure you have picture documentation of the damages, and all contact details of the counterpart.
- If vehicle immobilised immediately use radio or telecommunications and contact Radio Base for assistance.

**Always inform the Cluster Chief and/or security focal point / administration ASAP (*Security Focal Point Amandine Stolfi +509-3484-9801*) for advice and direct assistance. If the security focal point is not available he / she will provide a backup contact.**

#### **Being stopped at a police check point**

Normally the Police do not check Red Cross vehicle but in case this happen there are few things that you will have to follow as a reminder:

1. Your driver will slow down and observe from a distance to understand what is going on
2. Prepare yourself, take off sunglasses, turn off radio, headlight and turn on interior light if need be,
3. Let your driver speak,
4. Greet the police officer, be kind (make sure the driver is polite and kind) and make sure you understand what they are asking for. Bad communication can be a problem
5. Do not appear in a rush to leave
6. Inform radio room if any kind of issue.

#### **Overnight stays/ week end trips**

Few hotels have been assessed and approved, among them:

1. Moulin sur mer, Decameron, Wahoo Bay, are authorised on the national road #1;
2. Hotel Taina & Restaurant Lakay Taina between Grand & Petit Goave

Other places must be approved by the security focal point.

#### **e. Access Procedures and Office Hours**





1. **Weapons are not allowed in the compound.**
2. **Office Hours:**
  - Weekdays – Monday through Friday 0800 HRS to 1700 HRS
  - Weekends and Holidays – Closed UNLESS emergency, disaster, or crisis operation is ongoing.
3. **Office Address:** The IFRC Office is within the Haitian Red Cross Headquarters at the Basecamp. The Office Address is: Avenue Mais Gate, Port-au-Prince, Haiti 6110, Haiti.

**f. Telecommunications**

- All RC/RC personnel must carry functioning communication equipment and be contactable at all times (24/7). No travel to any areas without secure communication capacity must take place.
  - All RC-RC personnel must follow up security information and updates shared on the dedicated *Whatsapp* group and must have an internet plan.
  - If no radio network, a cell-phone and/or Sat Phone must be carried.
- All RC/RC personnel must be provided with a list of essential emergency contact information.

**g. Reporting Security Incidents**

All security related incidents including vehicle accidents, theft, break-in, carjacking, threats to RC/RC personnel, personal injury or death and any other incident which caused harm or potential harm to team members, Federation assets or operations must be immediately reported to the SFP.

Observed security related incidents that do not directly impact RC/RC staff or assets should also be immediately reported to the Security Focal Point (SFP) and CCST Chief. This can be communicated informally telephone / *Whatsapp*.

**h. Medical**

**First Aid Kits:** ALL IFRC offices are mandated to have complete first aid kits available for any medical emergency that may arise. The location of the main first aid kit in Port au Prince Haiti is in the main office adjacent to the HoCC Desk.

**PEP Kits:** The IFRC Haiti office also has a Proliferation Exposure Preparedness (PEP) Kit that is kept in a dry cool area of the HoCC's Desk. PEP Kits will be administered by a physician and strict control and chain of custody is always kept.

**4. Security contact**

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**Security Focal Points PaP: *Amandine Stolfi +509 3484-9801* - If the security focal point is not available, he / she will provide a backup contact.**



**Head of Cluster: +50931707809**

**Head of Operation: +50934017552**

**Dispatch: +50948902807**

**Radio Room: +50936700309**

**IT & Telecom: +50938729254**

**Police: 114**

**HRC ambulance: 118**

**Acknowledgement attached for Signatory:**



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT  
OF  
FEDERATION SECURITY RULES & REGULATIONS  
Port Au Prince 2019

I \_\_\_\_\_, declare that I have received, read and understood the Federation Security Rules & Regulations for the IFRC Cluster in Haiti and agree to abide by them.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Place: IFRC CCST in Port Au Prince, Haiti

Date: \_\_\_\_\_