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COHAFA 18  
COJUR 19  
COLAC 26  
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#### COVER NOTE

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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Protection of humanitarian workers – challenges from different fields - presentation by the International Rescue Committee

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Following the meeting of the Working Party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid (COHAFA) on 26 February 2025, delegations will find in Annex the presentation by the International Rescue Committee<sup>12</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> International Rescue Committee Inc, identification number in the EU Transparency Register: 336765244362-96.

<sup>2</sup> This document contains a presentation by an external stakeholder and the views expressed therein are solely those of the third party it originates from. This document cannot be regarded as stating an official position of the Council. It does not reflect the views of the Council or of its members.



## 2025 Emergency Watchlist Country Focus – HAITI (#8)

From Harm to Home | Rescue.org

# Context

- **11.9 million population**
- **6 million** people in Haiti in humanitarian need (50% of total population)
- **1 million+** Internally displaced population
- **5.5 million** people facing crisis (IPC 3+) or worse levels of food insecurity between March and June 2025
- **85%** of Haiti's capital and its metropolitan area controlled by criminal gangs

## Political instability

- Crisis since the assassination of President
- Transitional Presidential Council formed in April 2024
- Multinational Security Support (MSS) mission in place since June 2024
- Formation of National Security Council in December 2024

## Criminal gang violence

- Longstanding challenge
- Becoming stronger and more united and increasing in scale

## Natural shocks

- Country still recovering from its last major earthquake in 2021 mainly due to poor infrastructure and conflict weakened capacity
- Criminal violence will reduce communities' ability to withstand any new shock.



# Operational Presence

- IRC started supporting Haiti in 2010, working with civil organizations to respond to the needs of communities
- In December 2022, IRC launched a new emergency response
- IRC focuses on health, WASH and protection (child protection, gender-based violence awareness, prevention and response.
- Partnership with 6 national NGOs



Integrated Health, WASH and Protection Services for Violence-Affected Communities in Ouest and Artibonite Departments



# Operational and Security Challenges

- Airport closure with gangs controlling key ports and supply routes
- Repeated attacks on humanitarian staff
- Increased cost of operations

IRC working to address these challenges through

- Partnership with local NGOs
- Closely monitoring the security situation in coordination with other humanitarian actors

# Key Asks

## **Call for increased protection and assistance to affected populations and host communities**

- Increased funding to NGOs including to local partners
- Focus on most vulnerable and at risk
- Expand humanitarian assistance outside Port au Prince Metropolitan Zone
- Addressing effects of climate change

## **Call for immediate and sustained international engagement to address the security crisis**

- Strengthening the Haitian National Police (HNP)
- Expanding the MSS mission by providing additional human, logistical and financial resources
- Deploying a full-scale U.N. peacekeeping operation

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