

Statement of the Cadre de Liaison Inter-Organisation (CLIO) on the humanitarian crisis in Haiti Port-Au-Prince, March 19, 2024

For many years now, the Haitian people have been living in a state of fear as a result of the protracted deterioration of their rights and living conditions. Chronic socio-political instability, amplified by the current insecurity has led to the collapse of public institutions, as well as contributed to the absence of rule of law. This crisis has plunged the population into widespread uncertainty with increased insecurity, marked by kidnappings, murders, and physical and sexual gender-based violence. According to the United Nations, more than [5.5 million](#) Haitians are in desperate need of humanitarian assistance and protection. Of these, [4.35 million](#) are facing acute food insecurity.

CLIO stands by in deep solidarity with the Haitians and expresses its concern over the intensification of violence since 29 February 2024. CLIO has witnessed an upsurge in violence which is once again disrupting the lives of Haitian, particularly communities in and around Port-au-Prince. More than 15,000 people, the majority of whom were already living in makeshift sites, had to abandon their shelters due to the insecurity in the neighborhood. This sustained violence has prevented schools from opening, preventing hundreds of children from getting an education, and forced hospitals in the capital to close or reduce their services due to a lack of supplies and staff. The [International Organisation for Migration \(IOM\)](#) estimates that there are 362,000 internally displaced people in the country, including 180,000 children. More than [150,000](#) of the displaced are women forced to abandon their homes to live in precarious conditions. CLIO members organizations are saddened by the level of suffering and risks people face to survive.

The latest episodes of violence further compromised the humanitarian space, forcing some organizations to continue operation under precarious and risky security conditions. CLIO's national and international member organizations continue to respond to the humanitarian needs as best they can to communities affected by the crisis in Port-au-Prince and across the country.

In view of this and the continued deterioration of the security situation, CLIO calls for safe, immediate, and unhindered access to the affected populations. Such access is essential to address protection risks and meet the basic needs of those most at risk.

We ask state actors to work urgently to restore order and in putting an end to the suffering of the population. CLIO urges the following:

1. **Tackle the root causes of the crisis:** International funding must be directed in such a way as to put the triple nexus (Humanitarian-Development-Peace) at the heart of operations, thereby contributing to long-term stability. For example, we need to ensure that aid intended to respond to the crisis does not further weaken local agriculture production and encourages innovation and adaptability by promoting approaches and technologies for more equitable partnerships.

Established in 2005, the Cadre de Liaison Inter-Organisations (CLIO) is a collaborative alliance, uniting 80 national and international organizations in Haiti. As a non-profit, non-political, and non-denominational entity, CLIO advocates for solidarity, equity, transparency, and efficiency in resource management. Rooted in autonomy, CLIO envisions an empowered Haitian civil society actively engaged in equitable and sustainable development alongside governmental and private stakeholders.

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2. **Guarantee and protect the humanitarian space:** Prioritizing safe, as well as immediate and unhindered access to affected populations is essential to address protection risks and in meeting the basic needs of those most at risk. Humanitarian Principles of independence and neutrality must be upheld in the context of the Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus in Haiti in working to protect all Haitians, particularly women and girls, from further violence and forced displacement.
3. **Valorize the local resources:** It is important to ensure Haitian civil society organizations gain greater access to funding and are actively involved in meeting the humanitarian and development needs of the country. We need to capitalize on local skills, grassroots community structures, and decentralized public bodies. For example, we need to advocate for the efficient localization of funds where procedures for accessing funding are flexible and adapted to the needs of local organizations, including women's and youth organizations.
4. **Strengthen coordination:** It is essential to strengthen the coordination mechanisms between all actors, including inter-agency groups such as the United Nations, donors, NGOs, and state services, in order to better respond to the needs of the population. For example, local structures need to be better represented in decision-making spaces to give affected communities greater voice and ensuring their inclusion and participation in the response.

At this time of great economic, financial, security, and social volatility for Haiti, CLIO renews its unwavering solidarity with the Haitian people.

We remain determined to continue our efforts, in close coordination with all stakeholders, to provide the vital humanitarian assistance in meeting the needs of the affected population.

Haiti and its resilient people deserve a life of dignity with peace and security.



Angeline Annesteus
Président, CLIO

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