



**ITU  
MUN**

# **GA1: DISEC**

## **STUDY GUIDE**

- Measures to take to combat gang violence and to install a stable government in Haiti
- Preventing and effectively combating illicit arms trades to terrorist organisations

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## 1. Letter from the Secretary-General

Most esteemed participants of ITUMUN24,

I, as the Secretary General of ITUMUN24, welcome you all to the 7th edition of Istanbul Technical University Model United Nations. It is an honor and a pleasure to be able to present to you what we have been preparing for months and dreaming for years. My team has worked tirelessly to bring the best you have ever seen, starting with our organization to our academics.

Our objective is to facilitate proficient and elevated diplomatic deliberations, fostering valuable and constructive solutions throughout the four-day duration of ITUMUN, enriched by the collective contributions of all participants. As a delegate, your journey begins here, with the study guide prepared by our dedicated members; your most honorable chairboard.

I advise you to read this study guide thoroughly and expand your research on different perspectives; focusing on your allocated country. It is essential to bear in mind that each nation and every perspective holds significance if you are adequately prepared to engage with the agenda at hand.

You have my best wishes for success and enriching discussions during these four days of enjoyment. I eagerly anticipate witnessing the valuable contributions you'll make to our conference.

Best regards,

Zehra Akçay

Secretary General of ITUMUN24



## 2. Letter from the Committee Board

Honorable delegates,

Welcome to the eleventh edition of ITU Model United Nations Conference! We are delighted to have you as esteemed participants in the Disarmament and International Security Committee. In this committee, we will collectively address two of the pressing issues of our time – the Haitian Gang Violence Crisis and Illicit Arms Trade.

Our committee's primary agenda item revolves around the complex and critical situation of gang violence in Haiti. The Caribbean nation has been grappling with escalating violence, leading to severe humanitarian, socio-economic, and political consequences. Delegates will play a crucial role in proposing sustainable solutions to restore peace and stability in Haiti.

We encourage you to actively participate, share diverse perspectives, and work collaboratively to formulate resolutions that address the challenges faced by the Haitian people.

We look forward to witnessing your contributions to a meaningful and impactful debate in DISEC.

Should you have any questions or need further clarification, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. You can contact us at your convenience via the provided e-mail address: [emirelhatip@gmail.com](mailto:emirelhatip@gmail.com).

Best regards,

Emir Elhatip & Irmak Orhan  
DISEC Chairs

### 3. Introduction to GA-1, the Disarmament and International Security Committee

The United Nations has six committees that gather annually to discuss and tackle both global and regional problems, which are mainly called “General Assembly” committees. The Disarmament and Security Committee is one of them, in fact, it is usually referred to as the *first* General Assembly, though the numbering does not convey any meaning. The committee, along with the rest of the General Assembly committees, plays a pivotal role in international policymaking, creating a guideline for arms control and nuclear weapons proliferation, resolving regional conflicts, and serves as an advisory board for the United Nations Security Council, which is tasked with safeguarding the stability of the international community.

The jurisdiction of the Disarmament and Security Committee, mostly referred to as its acronym DISEC, is quite extensive. Topics under its purview include the regulation of armaments, resolving regional conflicts, preventing an outer-space arms race, and fostering international peace through disarmament.

DISEC operates under the rules set in stone by the United Nations Charter, therefore participation in the committee is quite demanding, as delegates need to display a profound understanding of conflict-resolving, diplomatic finesse, and a commitment to the aforementioned principles, which are, again, tied to the United Nations Charter. Additionally, navigating the intricate web of international politics is quite tricky when themes like justice, equity, arms-race, and world peace are hanging in the balance, therefore a harmonious approach from delegates is most appreciated.



Figure 3.1, displaying the unofficial logo for the Disarmament and Security Committee.

## 4. Key Terminology and Definitions

- **Impunity:** This term refers to the exemption from punishment or consequences.
- **Human security:** This term refers to the protection and preservation of the basic rights and freedoms of individuals.
- **Interim president:** An interim president is a temporary leader appointed during a transitional period, typically between the removal of one leader and the election or appointment of a new one.
- **Erosion of State Authority:** This phrase refers to the weakening or gradual decline of the government's control and influence.
- **Regional Spillover:** This term indicates the extension or spread of a situation from one region to surrounding areas.
- **Skirmishes:** Skirmishes refer to small, brief conflicts or fights, often within a larger context.
- **Federalized rule:** Describing a system of governance where power is distributed between a central authority and regional entities.
- **Turf wars:** Referring to conflicts between rival groups over control of territory
- **Competing global crises:** Describing situations where multiple major problems are occurring simultaneously on a global scale
- **Blockaded:** To block or obstruct, in this context referring to impeding the movement of goods or people.
- **Coup attempt:** This phrase denotes an effort to overthrow a government, often involving force or illegal means.
- **Petrocaribe programme:** This term refers to an oil alliance in the Caribbean, and specifically in this context, the end of the Venezuelan Petrocaribe programme had economic implications for Haiti.
- **Cité Soleil:** This is a notorious neighborhood in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, known for high levels of poverty and gang activity.
- **Duvalier dynasty:** This term refers to the ruling family in Haiti, particularly the leadership of François Duvalier and his son Jean-Claude Duvalier.

## 5. Haitian Gang Violence Crisis: An Overview

### 5.1. Abstract

It's very important to note that the United Nations is obligated to the overthrown Haitian Government, as they represent Haiti diplomatically and are officially recognized by the United Nations and countries alike. The United Nations encountered similar happenings in the past, and strived to help keep peace between the sides, and more importantly, restore power to the governments whose authority had been in jeopardy. With that being said, the committee should focus on solutions that will serve to end the rule of organized gangs in Port-Au Prince and help the Haitian Government to return to being the solemn recognized authority in the country. However, even though that should be the main goal in the resolution, it is quite crucial for the committee to focus on the well-being of the Haitians, as they have suffered for far too long due to constant skirmishes, natural disasters, and decades of political instability. Additionally, it is very important for the committee to recognize that a federalized rule in the Port-Au Prince drastically altered the sociocultural scene of the capital and even the public has now turned against one another. This needs to be directly addressed, and possible implementations should aim to restore peace and bring harmony among the Haitian people once again.

### 5.2. Early Historical Background

The Saint-Domingue Revolution is a significant event in the history of the Caribbean and the Americas. Located on the western portion of the island Hispaniola, Saint-Domingue was colonized and it was under the rule of Imperial France. The land was famous for its sugar and coffee production.

In 1791, under the guidance of leading figures such as Toussaint Louverture, Jean-Jacques Dessalines, and Henri Christophe, a rebellion flared up, and its echoes were heard all across the island. There were two main contributing factors: The first one was relatively local, it was the working conditions of the enslaved Africans on the farms, and the second one was the French Revolution, a way of thinking and ideals that would go on to spark many more revolutions at its heights globally in the following century.

After the initial rebellion, the situation was mostly under control, as Imperial France was mostly supported by the British and the Spanish. However, due to reasons unknown, there were some shifts in the power balance, as well as some alliances, and another uprising erupted. This time, in 1801, Toussaint Louverture emerged as a leader for the rebellion, and managed to navigate the troubled waters of the diplomatic scene at the time. Louverture then declared himself as the governor of the island for life. However, the island was still under French rule, in the sense that it still did not belong to its inhabitants, nor it was a proper state. So, the push for independence continued. This time, Jean-Jacques Dessalines, who was the direct successor of Louverture as the governor, along with the

support of his people, managed to finally cast off the imperial chains, and declared Haiti as an independent nation on the New Year's Day, 1804.

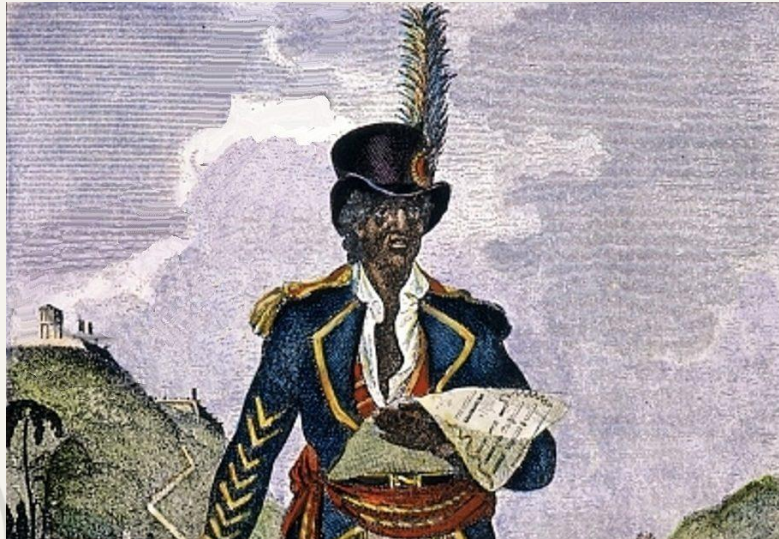
As Haiti was the first nation that had gained independence in Latin America, their story became the driving force for many other movements and inspired the idea of independent nation-states worldwide. Additionally, the act remains a very key point in the early history of human rights and equality movements in the world, as the resilience against imperial oppression demonstrated by Haitian people remains a beacon for those advocating for human rights.

### 5.3. Timeline of Recent Political Turmoil

As mentioned in the previous section, after an uprising against the Duvalier dynasty, and the exiling of the acting ruler, Jean-Claude Duvalier, the country experienced a short transition period. The period is marked by multiple government proposals and coups. However, despite that, towards the end of the transition period, Haiti managed to organize and hold a democratic election, and Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who happened to be a former Catholic priest, won the elections and was sworn in into the office as the official president of Haiti. Unfortunately, though, just one year after the initial election, another military coup broke out and ousted Aristide, which led to another period of political turmoil yet again. This time, the international community was not impressed, and pressured the country to re-elect a president. Eventually in 1994, the United States interfered and threatened the country with a military intervention if the situation persisted, and Aristide once again became the official president of the country.

In 2000, with the new millennium, Haiti held another election, and Aristide was re-elected, although there were many allegations of corruption and bribery. After four years, in 2004, Aristide's presidency came to an early end due to constant political unrest and protests, and he was exiled from the country. This situation led to the establishment of a peacekeeping mission by the United Nations. The following years were marked with national disasters, and humanitarian crises, and most elections during the time were considered to be controversial at best, and completely fraudulent at worst.





*Figure 5.1, displaying a depiction of Toussaint L'Ouverture*

#### 5.4. The Initial Surge of Gang Violence

When the Venezuelan Petrocaribe program ended, Haiti lost its main petroleum supplier. This led to the government subsidizing the remaining petroleum products and hiking fuel prices. In response to this, protests began in various cities, demanding the immediate resignation of the then-president, Jovenel Moïse. Protesters claimed to have the best interests of the country in mind, and intended to establish a new governmental structure, improve the socio-economic statuses of citizens, and weed out allegedly corrupt officials. In 2019, with the COVID-19 pandemic, the world steeply entered financial recession and developing countries were hit the hardest. Haiti was no different, and their economy was on the brink of collapse. This sparked many protests, and the protests persisted through the following years. In early 2021, the country had reached a breaking point, and there was a coup attempt. Following the attempt, on July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Jovenel Moïse was assassinated by alleged members of the opposition, though their claim is that he died at the hands of foreign mercenaries. Investigations are still ongoing regarding the assailants.

Following Moïse's assassination, the country fell victim to many power struggles, as the assassination led to a power vacuum, despite the fact that Ariel Henry, another Haitian diplomat, had assumed office as interim president. However tumultuous, Henry remained as the acting president until the government was overthrown. Towards the end of his short term, Henry announced that the government needed to discontinue the fuel subsidies and would hike the gas prices again, which caused an uproar and sparked many protests, including one in Port-Au Prince that later turned into a straight-up riot. Also, in response to the price-hiking, the prominent gangs in the capital city of Haiti united under the name "G9 an Fanmi", which roughly translates to "G9 Family and Allies", and blockaded the country's biggest fuel depot. This blockade, combined with the ongoing riot, halted social services in Haiti. Hospitals and schools closed down, and daily commutes became impossible due to fuel shortages. Towards the end of 2022, Henry's government admitted

defeat, and requested international assistance to help stop the riots. The United States, along with its neighbour Mexico, responded and sent military aid in the form of troops, vehicles, and equipment, which further escalated the situation into a full-out war.

## 5.5. Current Situation in Port-Au Prince and Surrounding Cities

Port-au-Prince, Haiti's capital, and its surrounding cities are currently battling with a complex web of challenges. The assassination of President Jovenel Moïse in July 2021 plunged the nation into political turmoil, with an opposing power vacuum fueling instability and violence. Gang activity remains uncontrolled, controlling territory and terrorizing residents with kidnappings, extortion, and clashes with security forces.

The economic situation is equally complicated within the foreseeable future. Inflation is rising, crippling purchasing power and increasing hunger. The August 2021 earthquake reshaped existing vulnerabilities, displacing thousands and damaging infrastructure, further setting back reconstruction efforts in the country.

Despite these obstacles, glimmers of hope flicker. Civil society organizations advocate for peace. The international community, including the United Nations, is engaged in supporting humanitarian relief, strengthening security, and initiating political dialogue.

### 5.5.1. Extreme Violations of Human Rights

Port-au-Prince and its surrounding cities are not just headlines about political unrest and economic woes; the region is undergoing extreme human rights violations, a scary reality for countless Haitians. Beyond the political deadlock and economic despair, a dark shadow of brutal abuses engulfs the nation, leaving it stumbling on the edge.

- **Gang Warfare and Civilian Suffering:** Gangs are like kings of the streets, ruling with an iron fist. Kidnappings for ransom are a norm right now, with victims often tortured, beaten, even killed. Gang wars are constant notions on the streets, leaving innocent bystanders caught in the crossfire. In Cité Soleil, a notorious gang stronghold, residents live in constant fear, their basic right to feel safe ripped away.
- **Children Robbed of Innocence:** In this chaos, children are not spared. Gangs snatch them up, turning their childhoods into a nightmare of violence. Girls are especially vulnerable, often forced into sexual slavery, their bodies and spirits being controlled by some power-hungry violent men. Schools, wrecked by the earthquake and gang violence, fail to provide a safe haven and provide the



children the basic education they desperately need, leaving many of them easy prey for exploitation.

- **Vulnerable Communities Trapped:** Women, LGBTQ+ individuals, and people with disabilities face a double wave of suffering. Violence against women is everywhere and constant, with rape used as a weapon to control them because they are seen as less individuals. LGBTQ+ individuals are often the target for attacks. People with disabilities are pushed to the margins, denied basic services and support, further isolating them from an already fragile system.
- **Justice Under Blockage:** The justice system, crippled by corruption and understaffing, is no use for fixing this current turmoil. Impunity reigns, leaving victims with little hope and fueling the vicious acts of violence. Overcrowded prisons, lacking basic hygiene and healthcare, are themselves human rights violations waiting to happen again and again.

### 5.5.2. Steep Increase in Serious Crimes

The streets of Port-au-Prince and its surrounding cities, already reeling from political unrest and economic hardship, are now facing a new reality: a rise in serious crimes. Kidnappings, armed robberies, and violent assaults are no longer isolated incidents, but a daily threat that hangs over the capital. This surge in serious crimes is not only erasing people's sense of security, but also deepening the city's instability and hindering any hope for progress for this chaos to be over.

- **Kidnappings for Ransom:** This was once a tactic reserved for wealthy targets that had power that can be beneficial to the kidnappers, but kidnappings are now commonplace, preying on ordinary citizens, business owners, even children. The fear of being snatched from the street, held captive for days or weeks, and forced to pay ransoms has become a constant problem for Port-au-Prince residents.
- **Armed Robberies:** No place is safe. Businesses are targeted in broad daylight, homes ransacked, and commuters robbed at gunpoint. The frequency of these attacks leave victims traumatized and the city on edge, with the police often seeming overwhelmed or unable to intervene.
- **Violent Assaults:** Gang clashes are now being displayed on the streets, innocent bystanders caught in the crossfire. Domestic violence, fueled by poverty and stress, erupts behind closed doors. Hate crimes against LGBTQ+ individuals and vulnerable groups go unpunished. As residents never know when violence might strike, the violence holds them captive under its chaos.

**Roots of the Problem:** This surge in serious crimes is not a random phenomenon. It is the product of a complex web of factors, including:

- **Gang Power:** Gangs, resulted by political instability and weak law enforcement, are expanding their territory and influence. They extort businesses, control neighborhoods, and use violence as a tool in order to gain power and profit from wherever they can however.
- **Economic Desperation:** Poverty and unemployment push many to the edge of a life that is not actually being lived properly, making them vulnerable to crime as a means of survival. The lack of opportunities and hopelessness make way for criminal activity.
- **Impunity and Corruption:** A dysfunctional justice system, plagued by corruption and understaffed, struggles to investigate and prosecute crimes effectively. This lack of accountability allows criminals to act freely and leaves victims with little faith in seeking justice.

**Consequences and Call to Action:** The consequences of this crime wave are very deeply rooted now. Businesses close down, investment is no longer a factor, and people live in constant fear. This instability undermines any hope for economic recovery and social development. To address this crisis, urgent action is needed.

### 5.5.3. Food, Nutrition, and Fuel Crisis

The streets of Port-au-Prince and its surrounding cities, already going through political instability, economic challenges, and a rise in serious crimes, are now facing a new and devastating threat: a food, nutrition, and fuel crisis. This shortage is pushing families to the edge, worsening their health, intensifying poverty, and further jeopardizing the country's already fragile stability.

- **Empty Markets and Hungry Stomachs:** Supermarket shelves are increasingly empty and not sufficient for the citizens, replaced by skyrocketing prices for basic nutrients like rice, beans, and cooking oil. Farmers struggle to bring their produce to market due to gang violence and extortion, disrupting supply chains and leaving families facing the agonizing choice between skipping meals or spending a significant portion of their income on food.
- **Malnourished Children and Silent Suffering:** The most vulnerable, especially children, are feeling the effects of this crisis. Malnutrition rates are constantly going up, with stunted growth and weakened immune systems leaving them more inclined to illnesses and delays in their development. Mothers skip meals to feed their children, sacrificing their own health for their families' survival.
- **Fuel Scarcity:** Gas stations are often dry, forcing public transportation. Hospitals struggle to run generators, jeopardizing healthcare access. Farmers are unable to transport their crops, further causing food shortages. The lack of fuel grinds daily life to a halt.

### 5.5.4 Illegal Firearms Smuggling at an All-Time High



Haiti is experiencing an influx of illegal firearms, fueling violence, terrorizing residents, and undermining fragile stability. Smugglers exploit weak border controls, corruption in the state, and regional instability to bring in assault rifles, pistols, and even grenades. These weapons fall into the hands of gangs, empowering them to control territory, extort citizens, and engage in bloody turf wars.

### Key Issues:

- Impact on Human Security:
  - Increased homicides and injuries, particularly among civilians caught in crossfire who had no prior involvement.
  - Fear and intimidation, restricting movement and the general flow of daily life.
  - Increased risk of kidnappings and targeted attacks on the streets and other places.
- Erosion of State Authority:
  - Gangs, armed with weapons, challenge the authority of the Haitian government, delaying law enforcement efforts significantly.
  - Weakened state institutions struggle to control borders, combat smuggling, and protect the citizens.
- Regional Spillover:
  - Haiti's borders and firearms trafficking fuel violence in neighboring countries, creating a regional security threat.
  - Instability in Haiti attracts criminal networks and arms dealers, further destabilizing the region.

### Possible Solutions:

- Strengthening Border Security:
  - Invest in technology, personnel, and training to monitor and secure borders.
  - Combat corruption among border officials enabling smuggling.
- Empowering Law Enforcement:
  - Provide adequate resources, equipment, and training to the police force for effective firearms trafficking investigations.

- Support community policing initiatives to build trust and gather information.
- Addressing Root Causes:
  - Poverty, lack of opportunities, and social exclusion that push individuals towards gangs and violence.
  - Invest in education, job opportunities , and social programs to promote stability in order to reduce gang recruitment.
- International Cooperation:
  - Foster regional collaboration and intelligence sharing to track smuggling routes and eradicate trafficking networks.
  - Provide financial and technical assistance to Haiti's government for border security, law enforcement, and social development programs.

#### 5.5.5. Lack of Humanitarian Relief Efforts

Haiti, a nation already going through political turmoil, economic collapse, and violence, is now facing a critical stage in humanitarian relief efforts. The aftermath of the devastating earthquake, coupled with the ongoing state of gang violence and food insecurity, has pushed millions of Haitians to the brink of survival. Despite the urgency of the situation, international aid budgets remain nearly non-existent due to competing global crises, leaving Haiti in a critical condition. The stark reality is that vital humanitarian aid is unfortunately inadequate and unequally distributed, failing to reach those who need it the most, particularly in remote areas that are out of reach and among vulnerable groups.

#### Key Issues:

The lack of adequate humanitarian assistance in Haiti has exposed a gaping hole in the country's safety net. This crisis is characterized by:

- Inadequate Distribution of Aid: Vital aid is not reaching those who need it most, leaving millions without essential support. Corruption, bureaucratic inefficiency, and a lack of aid delivery are putting the nation at risk . Remote areas and internally displaced populations are often overlooked, their needs are forgotten in the face of overwhelming challenges.
- Gaps in Essential Services: Haiti's healthcare system is on the verge of collapse, with hospitals lacking basic supplies and personnel, leaving many sick and injured without adequate care that they desperately need. Education systems are disrupted, depriving children of learning opportunities and safe spaces. The absence of mental health support compounds the trauma of

violence and displacement, leaving affected individuals without the care they need

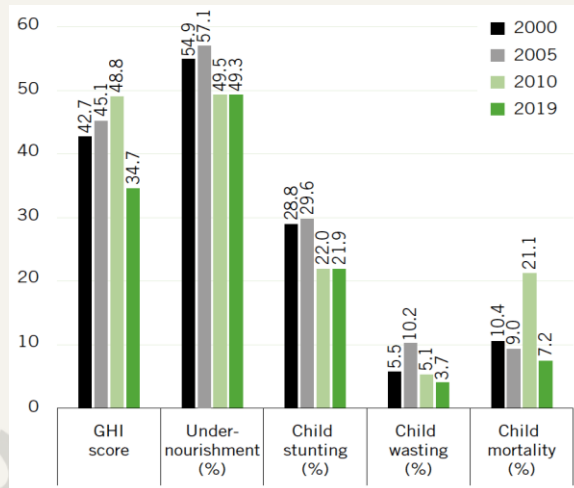


Figure 5.3, displaying statistics regarding the

## 5.6. Responses to the Crisis from the International Community

Haiti's diaspora, estimated at 4 million strong, pulsates with a deep connection to their homeland. These communities, scattered across the globe, carry the stories, traditions, culture and resilience of Haiti within their hearts. As the nation faces crises – political instability, economic hardship, gang violence, and humanitarian emergencies – the global Haitian community is rising to the challenge, harnessing their collective power to support their brothers and sisters back home.

### Key Initiatives:

- **Fundraising and Financial Support:** From minor initiatives to much larger organizations, the diaspora is channeling resources to support humanitarian relief efforts, rebuilding projects, and educational programs in Haiti. Remittances, crucial to Haiti's economy, are often redirected towards specific needs, bypassing corrupt systems and ensuring direct impact.
- **Advocacy and Awareness-Raising:** The diaspora is using its voice to amplify the Haitian narrative on the global stage and make the world aware of the problem currently terrorizing the citizens of Haiti. Lobbying governments, engaging in media outlets to better spread the situation, and organizing protests, they are shedding light on the challenges Haiti faces and emphasizing on the urgency for international intervention and support.
- **Skill-Sharing and Expertise:** Haitian professionals across various fields – medicine, engineering, education, law – are volunteering their expertise to contribute to Haiti's

development. This knowledge transfer empowers local communities and fosters sustainable solutions.

- **Cultural Exchange and Identity:** The diaspora is bridging the physical distance by keeping Haitian culture alive through festivals, music, art exhibitions, and language preservation initiatives. This strengthens the bond between generations and keeps the unique identity of Haitian people alive.

#### Challenges and Opportunities:

- **Coordination and Collaboration:** Despite the abundance of goodwill, fragmented efforts and lack of communication can lessen the effectiveness of initiatives. Collaboration among organizations, transparent funding mechanisms, and leveraging technology are crucial to maximizing the impact.
- **Sustainability and Long-Term Vision:** Moving beyond emergency relief, the diaspora is seeking to invest in Haiti's long-term development. This requires supporting local governance, promoting entrepreneurship and innovation, and addressing the root causes of instability and poverty.

#### 5.6.1. International and Intergovernmental Responses

The international community has acknowledged the urgent situation in Haiti, with numerous actors offering assistance. However, the response has not been that great, lacking coordination and struggling to address the existing challenges. While some initiatives have gotten positive results, others have fallen short or been shackled by bureaucratic complications, corruption, and political tensions.

#### Key Actors and Initiatives:

- **UN Organizations:** The UN, through its Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), has played a leading role in the management of aid delivery, providing emergency humanitarian relief, and supporting long-term development efforts. However, resource constraints and access challenges in gang-controlled areas limit their reach.
- **Regional Organizations:** The Organization of American States (OAS) and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) are actively involved in mediating political dialogue, promoting democratic governance, and providing security. Their regional understanding offers potential advantages, but their effectiveness depends on member states' political will and coordinated action.
- **Financial Institutions:** The World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) are offering financial support for infrastructure development, economic recovery, and social programs. However, their conditions and strict budgetary requirements often clash with Haiti's immediate needs and long-term development goals.



- **NGOs and Civil Society:** A network of international and Haitian NGOs critically serve to fill the gaps in healthcare, education, and social services. Their local knowledge and flexibility regarding actions allow them to reach marginalized communities, but their limited resources and dependence on donor funding restrict their impact.

#### Challenges and Gaps:

- **Coordination and Duplication of Efforts:** The multitude of actors for one cause often leads to overlapping initiatives, competing priorities, and inefficient use of resources in many ways. Establishing a clear division of labor and enhancing communication is essential.
- **Corruption and Mismanagement:** Aid diversion and bureaucratic issues remain significant obstacles to effective assistance reaching those in need. Strengthening transparency, accountability mechanisms is crucial.
- **Short-term vs. Long-term Vision:** Many interventions focus on immediate crisis response, neglecting long-term development needs. Addressing the root causes of poverty, inequality, and gang violence requires sustained commitment and investment in education, job creation, and governance reforms.
- **Security Concerns and Gang Control:** Accessing vulnerable populations in gang-controlled areas remains a major challenge, jeopardizing the delivery of essential services and fostering a climate of fear and instability. Addressing this requires both security measures and community engagement strategies.

#### 5.6.2. UNICEF and Partners to Provide Humanitarian Aid

Amidst the turmoil in Haiti, the cries of children are the most vulnerable. UNICEF, along with its partners, stands as a beacon of hope, a protector for children's rights and a lifeline for their survival. With a deep understanding of the unique needs of children in conflict zones and humanitarian emergencies, UNICEF is tackling the immediate challenges while laying the groundwork for a brighter future.

#### Key Initiatives:

- **Emergency Relief:** UNICEF is on the frontlines, providing life-saving interventions like access to clean water, sanitation, and nutrition. They are setting up temporary learning spaces, offering psychosocial support, and vaccinating children against preventable diseases. In areas under the control of the gangs, UNICEF is working with local partners to negotiate safe passage and deliver essential supplies.

- **Child Protection:** Protecting children from violence, exploitation, and recruitment by armed groups is a top priority. UNICEF is establishing child protection centers, offering hotlines for people to report abuse, kidnapping and other kinds of crisis', and providing reunification services for the families that have been separated from each other. They are also advocating to free the children who have been detained in conflict with the law.
- **Education and Opportunity:** Education is a hope and very important for children in crisis. UNICEF is supporting the repair and reopening of schools that have been unusable due to the turmoil, providing learning materials, and offering learning programs for children who have missed out on the classes. They are also ensuring access to early childhood development programs, crucial for brain development.
- **Building Resilience and Empowering Communities:** UNICEF's long-term vision goes beyond just immediate actions. It enables the region to be chaos free in the future too because they are thinking ahead. They are working with communities to strengthen their capacity to respond to future crises, making sure the potential of the local healthcare systems are on good terms, and providing some training on disaster preparedness and risk reduction in order to further control some upcoming events. They are also empowering young minds to participate in decision-making processes, ensuring their voices are heard loud and clear, and their needs are met.

#### Challenges and Partnerships:

- **Funding Gaps:** UNICEF's efforts are disrupted by insufficient funding to meet the vast and growing needs. Securing sustained financial support from the international community and private donors is critical.
- **Access and Security:** To be able to reach and help the children in gang-controlled areas and conflict zones remains a constant challenge. Collaborative efforts with local partners, community leaders, and non-governmental organizations are crucial to overcome these situations.
- **Breaking the Cycle of Violence:** Addressing the root causes of violence, poverty, and inequality requires a different approach. UNICEF is advocating for long-term development initiatives, good governance reforms, and investments in social protection programs.

### **5.6.3. United Nations' Mission for Justice Support in Haiti**

The United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH) has been a fixture in the Haitian landscape for over 15 years. Originally deployed to stabilize the country after the 2004 coup d'état, its mandate has evolved over time, encompassing security sector reform, human rights protection, and support for the rule of law. However, MINUJUSTH's effectiveness regarding this topic has been a subject of debate, with questions surrounding its impact, cost, and future role in Haiti.

### Key Activities:

- **Security Sector Reform:** MINUJUSTH has trained and advised Haitian police forces, helped develop professional standards, and supported community policing initiatives. Despite progress, corruption, limited resources, and gang violence continue to plague the Haitian police.
- **Human Rights Protection:** MINUJUSTH has documented human rights abuses, advocated for accountability, and provided support to victims. However, concerns remain about its access to conflict zones and its ability to influence systemic change.
- **Rule of Law:** MINUJUSTH has assisted in judicial reform, including prison improvements and legal aid programs. Yet, Haiti is 132nd in the world for rule of law, and this explains the unrest still going on in there. Corruption and unethical behavior regarding the state are also key factors for this.

### Challenges and Controversies:

- **Limited Impact:** Critics argue that MINUJUSTH's impact has been minimal, giving examples from the still-existent insecurity, political instability regarding trust and motives, and ongoing human rights violations. They question the mission's effectiveness and cost-effectiveness, suggesting that limited resources could be better utilized elsewhere given the circumstances.
- **Neutrality Concerns:** MINUJUSTH's neutrality has been questioned, particularly during times of political crisis. Some accuse the mission of siding with certain political factions, eroding trust and not truly portraying its ability to act as a mediator.
- **Exit Strategy and Sustainability:** As MINUJUSTH prepares to withdraw in 2023, concerns remain about the sustainability of its achievements. Haiti's fragile institutions and lack of a firm solution regarding its problems raise fears of backsliding and a return to instability.

### **5.6.4. Resolution 2699 for a Kenyan-led Multinational Security Support Mission**

The international community, acknowledging the urgent need for action, has adopted Resolution 2699 authorizing a Kenyan-led Multinational Security Support Mission (MSSM) to deploy to the country. This resolution has sparked both hope and controversy, raising questions about its potential effectiveness, transparency, and long-term impact.

#### Key Points of Resolution 2699:

- **Mandate:** The MSSM's primary objective is to assist the Haitian National Police (HNP) in strengthening its capacity to combat gang violence, improve security, and protect civilians. This includes joint patrols, training, and support for investigations and intelligence gathering.

- **Composition:** The mission will be led by Kenya, with many contributions from other African and Caribbean nations. This regional focus aims to foster cultural understanding and build trust with the Haitian population.
- **Duration:** The initial deployment is authorized for one year, with the possibility of extension based on progress and evaluation.

#### Potential Advantages:

- **Experienced Leadership:** Kenya boasts a well-trained and disciplined military with experience in peacekeeping missions. This leadership could offer vital expertise and stability in the environment.
- **Regional Understanding:** The involvement of African and Caribbean nations familiar with Haiti's cultural context and historical ties can facilitate communication, collaboration, and a more nuanced approach to the crisis.
- **Building Local Capacity:** The focus on supporting and training the HNP aims to create solutions, empowering Haitian authorities to ultimately take over security responsibilities.

#### Potential Concerns:

- **Transparency and Accountability:** The potential for misusing force or lack of accountability regarding the actions raises some concerns about human rights violations overall and the topic of civilian harm.
- **Exit Strategy and Haitian Ownership:** Questions remain about the long-term sustainability of the MSSM. How will Haitian institutions be effectively empowered to take over security once the mission ends?



*Figure 5.4, displaying the skirmishes during the execution of Resolution 2699*

## 6. Illicit Arms Trade: An Overview

Illicit arms trade is a global problem that paves the way for conflicts, destroys stability, and endangers people's lives. It's like a plague, with many different parts that work together to spread weapons illegally.

### 6.1. Methods of Illicit Arms Trade

Illicit arms trade thrives very far from the legal implementations, a labyrinthine network of routes enabling the violence to heighten, bypassing borders and fueling conflicts.

**1. The Classic Courier:** Think of a modern-day gunslinger, slinging rifles instead of six-shooters. This is the "direct transport" method, where weapons travel by land, air, or sea, often hidden in plain sight. Imagine assault rifles disguised as car parts, nestled in shipments of vegetables, or even strapped to the backs of unsuspecting travelers.

**2. Paper Trails and Red Tape:** Arms dealers today wield the power of paperwork. "End-user certificates," meant to ensure legal transfers, become passports for guns, allowing them to be shipped to war zones or criminal organizations. Fake companies, forged documents, and even bribes can grease the wheels of this smuggling operation.

**3. The Shipping Shuffle:** Cargo ships, the main way of global trade, can also be used for illicit arms trade. Hidden compartments within shipping containers, false documents listing harmless goods, or corrupt port officials turning a blind eye to suspicious cargo.

**4. The Digital Black Market:** Cyberspace is an easy way to smuggle for arms dealers, a virtual bazaar for weapons. Encrypted chats, online forums, and even social media platforms become the meeting grounds, where deals are negotiated, shipments are arranged, and connections made.

**5. Borrowing the Banner:** The line between legal and illegal can blur, especially when states become participants. Leaked military stocks, "lost" police equipment, or even diverted aid shipments can find their way into the hands of criminal gangs.

### 6.2. Key Actors and their Motivations

**1. The State Actors:** Governments, though sworn to uphold peace within the borders, can sometimes become involved in the demise of a nation. Rogue regimes may directly supply weapons to fuel wars. Corrupt officials might turn a blind eye to smuggling routes or even



divert military stocks for personal gain. Geopolitical ambitions, economic interests, and even personal agendas can push states into never-ending chaos.

**2. The Rebellious Network:** Insurgency groups, fighting against established powers, rely heavily on illicit weapons trades to wage their battles. They may purchase from arms dealers, capture enemy supplies, or even manufacture their own arsenals. Their motivations range from seeking independence and overthrowing oppressive regimes to establishing control over territory and exploiting resources.

**3. The Criminal Underworld:** Organized crime syndicates, gangs, and terrorist groups are major consumers in this illicit marketplace. They need weapons to protect their turf, intimidate rivals, and carry out their criminal activities. Profit, power, and control are their driving forces. They see weapons as tools for expansion, extortion, and establishing their own empires of violence.

**4. The Opportunistic Middlemen:** Arms brokers, finance people have an important role in this illegal trading. They connect buyers and sellers, arrange logistics, and launder money. Their motivations are purely financial and to their own gain; they are paving way for violence, profiting from human suffering without directly engaging in it.

**5. The Invisible Enablers:** Sometimes, the most dangerous enablers for chaos are the ones who remain unseen. Corrupt officials, lax border controls, and even legitimate businesses turning a blind eye can facilitate the flow of weapons. Their motivations may vary – fear, apathy, or simply self-preservation – but the consequences are the same: they create loopholes that smugglers exploit.

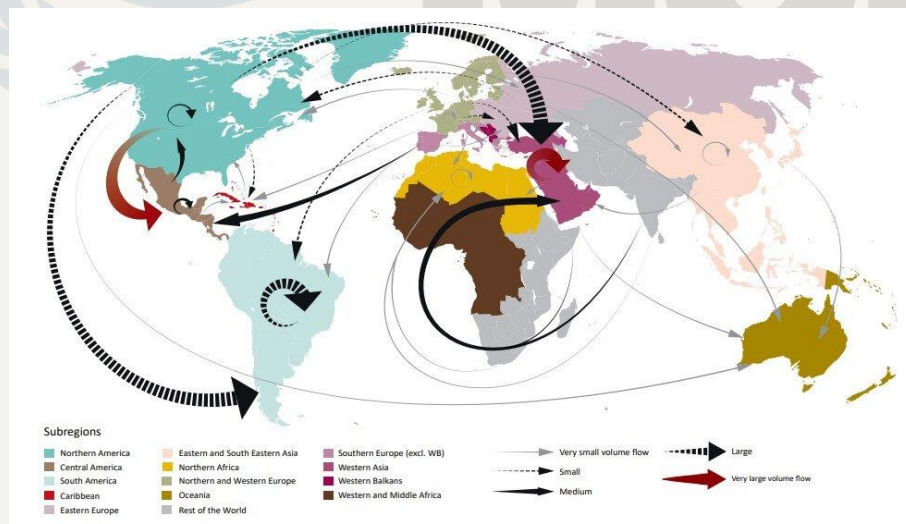


Figure 6.1, depicting common arms trade routes

### 6.3. Local and Global Impacts of Illicit Arms Trade

Illicit arms trade isn't a contained explosion; it's a tremor that sends shockwaves across continents, leaving scars on both local communities and the global landscape.

#### Local Wounds:

- **Fueling Conflict:** Easy access to weapons heightens existing tensions, ignites new conflicts, and traps communities in a cycle of violence.
- **Human Rights Erosion:** The rule of law crumbles as armed forces disrupt everything to contribute to their own agenda. Human rights abuses become common practice, with civilians caught in the crossfire, women and girls facing vulnerability, and basic freedoms eradicated.
- **Undermining Development:** Resources meant for education, healthcare, and infrastructure are diverted towards buying and using weapons.
- **Empowering Criminal Enterprises:** Gangs and criminal organizations thrive in environments submerged with weapons. They extort businesses, control markets, and traffic people, creating a climate of fear and impeding economic growth.

#### Global Ripples:

- **Destabilizing Regions:** The illicit arms trade fuels regional conflicts, creating ungoverned spaces and grounds for extremism.
- **Terrorism Breeding Grounds:** Easy access to weapons empowers terrorist groups, allowing them to expand their reach, carry out attacks, and destabilize entire nations.
- **Humanitarian Crises:** The ripple effect of conflict reaches far beyond battlefields. Food insecurity, and outbreaks of disease, putting immense strain on humanitarian resources and jeopardizing the lives of millions.
- **Eroding Global Governance:** The illicit arms trade exposes the cracks in international law and cooperation by existing. It undermines existing treaties, creates distrust between nations, and slows down collective action regarding global challenges.

## 6.4. Challenges to be Faced to Combat Illicit Arms Trade

Illicit arms trade plays a huge role in the devastating violence in Haiti. There are many people, organizations, and corporations that enable the destruction both from within and outside. Combating this and ensuring effective disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) for gang members is crucial to the topic.

### 1. Many Heads of the Organization:

- **State Actors:** As it is known, Haiti has a long history of disloyalty from its government officials. This makes it difficult to trust them during these times. Disrupting the smuggling routes requires international oversight and anti-corruption measures.
- **Non-State Actors:** Gangs are complex and a diverse compilation of motives. Research of these motives are important for stopping them.
- **Middlemen and Facilitators:** A big network of brokers, smugglers and financiers sustains the illicit arms trade. Information sharing, financial tracking equipment, and cooperation with neighboring countries are important to take them out.

### 2. On Legality

- **Penetrable Borders:** Haiti's long coastline and non-efficient border control creates easy access to illegal acts like smuggling weapons. Strengthening border-patrol, investing in infrastructure, and engaging in local communities are important.
- **Loopholes in International Law:** Existing treaties like the Arms Trade Treaty have its limitations. Addressing loopholes regarding small arms and ammunition, ensuring legal arms transfers are crucial.

### 3. The Routes

- **Classic Couriers:** Direct transportation methods, like hiding weapons in vehicles disguised as cargo, require X-ray technologies, intelligence-based profiling and controls within and near the borders.
- **The Digital Black Market:** Many platforms on the internet are used to communicate for these illegal acts in the context of recruitment and weapon sales. Working with tech-companies would be beneficial for eradicating the problem.

### 4. Financing

- **Money Tracing:** The gang do their money laundering through different channels, this enables them to work freely without being traced by the authorities. Their funds remain



anonymous this way. Working with financial institutions, freezing assets, and targeting many illicit businesses are essential.

- **Bribery and Corruption:** The corrupt officers within the country control the flow of money and weapons. So, anti-corruption measures, transparency in public finances are important.

## 5. DDR

- **Root Causes:** Poverty, inequality, lack of access to education and healthcare are some of the motives of what drives the individuals to partake in the acts of gangs all over the country. Investing in development of livelihood, jobs and social programs are some of the long-term solutions.

### 6.5. Previous Implementations Regarding Illicit Arms Trade

#### Local Initiatives:

- **Police Strengthening:** UN missions like MINUSTAH and BINUH have trained and equipped Haitian police to combat gang violence and arms trafficking. However, concerns linger about corruption and limited reach in gang-controlled territories.
- **Community-Based Disarmament:** Programs like "Désarmement, Démantèlement et Réinsertion" (DDR) collect weapons in exchange for basic goods or social services. These initiatives have yielded some success, but sustainability remains a challenge due to limited resources and post-disarmament support.
- **Public Awareness Campaigns:** Local organizations like Fondation Je Klere and 3D-Cible use radio, street art, and community dialogues to raise awareness about the dangers of guns and promote peaceful conflict resolution. Despite their impact, reaching deeply entrenched gang members and changing societal attitudes towards violence remains an uphill battle.

### International Implementations:

- **Arms Trade Treaty (ATT):** Haiti ratified the ATT in 2014, committing to regulate arms imports and exports. While this signaled a positive step, enforcement remains weak, with porous borders and limited capacity to track weapon flows.
- **UN Sanctions:** The UN Security Council imposed sanctions on gang leaders and their financiers in 2022, aiming to disrupt their access to weapons and finances. However, implementation challenges and concerns about unintended consequences on the civilian population remain.
- **Regional Cooperation:** Initiatives like the Caribbean Security Basin Initiative (CSBI) aim to strengthen border security and intelligence sharing among Haiti's neighbors. While progress is seen, coordinating diverse national interests and tackling corruption within border agencies remain hurdles.

### Frustrations and Challenges:

- **Limited Impact on Gangs:** Despite efforts, the flow of weapons to gangs continues, often through diversion from state arsenals, corrupt officials, and smuggling routes across the Dominican Republic.
- **Weak Governance and Corruption:** Endemic corruption within Haitian institutions hampers effective arms control and fuels distrust in government initiatives.
- **Root Causes Untouched:** Poverty, inequality, and lack of opportunities remain drivers of gang recruitment and violence. Addressing these underlying issues requires long-term commitment to development and social justice alongside immediate security measures.
- **Lack of Sustained Funding:** International support for local initiatives often wanes, hindering their long-term effectiveness and community ownership.

### Moving Forward:

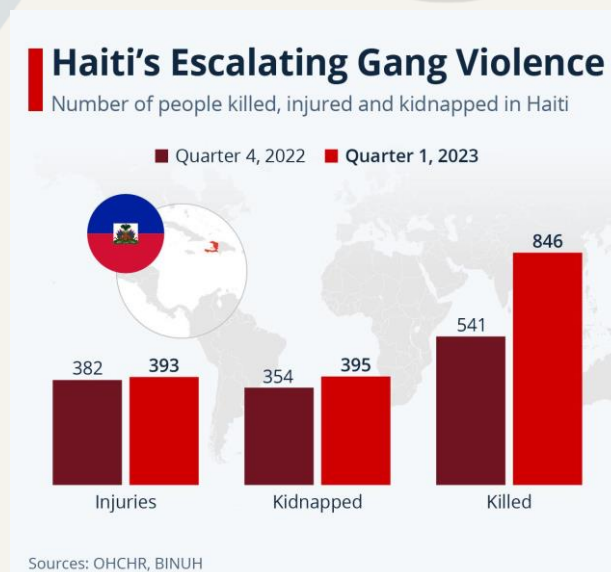
- **Strengthening Law Enforcement:** Investing in Haitian police training, equipment, and professionalization is crucial for tackling arms trafficking and building trust with communities.
- **Financial Tracking and Asset Seizure:** International cooperation in tracing illicit funds and freezing assets of gang leaders and facilitators can cripple their operations and deter weapons purchases.
- **Community-Driven Solutions:** Empowering local communities through increased resources, participation in disarmament programs, and non-violent conflict resolution training is essential for sustainable change.

- **Addressing Root Causes:** Investing in development, education, and job creation opportunities can provide alternatives to violence and reduce the appeal of gangs.
- **Accountability and Transparency:** Both international actors and Haitian authorities must be held accountable for their actions, ensuring transparent implementation of initiatives and addressing corruption within institutions.

Haiti's battle against illicit arms trade and gang violence is a long and arduous one. While past implementations have shown promise, a renewed commitment to addressing both immediate security concerns and underlying social issues is crucial. By fostering international cooperation, empowering local communities, and prioritizing long-term development alongside immediate interventions, Haiti can pave the way for a future free from the scourge of gun violence and build a lasting peace based on justice and opportunity for all.

## 7. Additional Data, Points, and Statistics to Consider

The gang violence in Haiti has claimed the lives of many innocent people. The figure to the left displays the statistics regarding the injuries, kidnappings, and deaths related to gang violence during a 6-month period starting from October 2022 and ending in March 2023. Unfortunately, as of December 2023, the situation is still extremely bleak and more and more people are succumbing to gang violence, especially in Port-Au Prince.



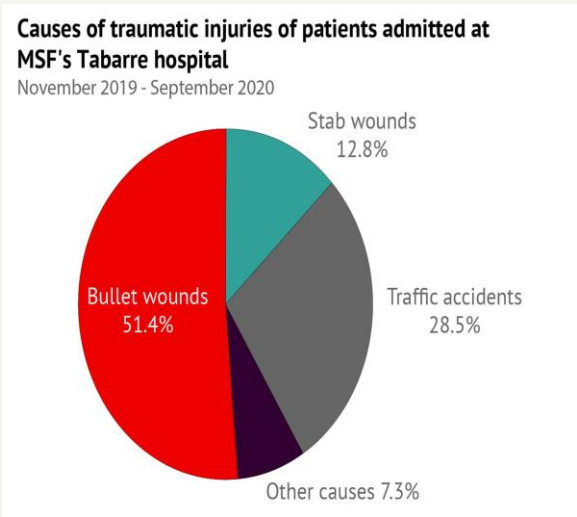


Figure 7.2, displaying a hospital's admission cause statistics in

Most hospitals in Port-Au Prince tend to mostly admit patients that were injured due to the ongoing gang war in the capital. The figure to the left displays the actual statistics regarding the matter from November 2019 to September 2020. This data suggests that the problem of violence has long existed before the initial surge of gangs and the ongoing gang war and needs to be addressed both within the Haitian Government once they return to power and in international organizations like the United Nations, in order to thoroughly evaluate the situation after a ceasefire and start working towards permanent solutions.

The figures below display the criminal federalization of Port-Au Prince. It is evident that the federalization has reached the outskirts of the city, which means that the entirety of the capital is under gang occupation. This is no different than a country being wrongfully occupied by another, and needs to be treated as such. However, the one thing that is of utmost priority is the necessity of protecting innocent citizens from the dire consequences of possible interventions and implementations as they have already suffered far too long under the gang regime.

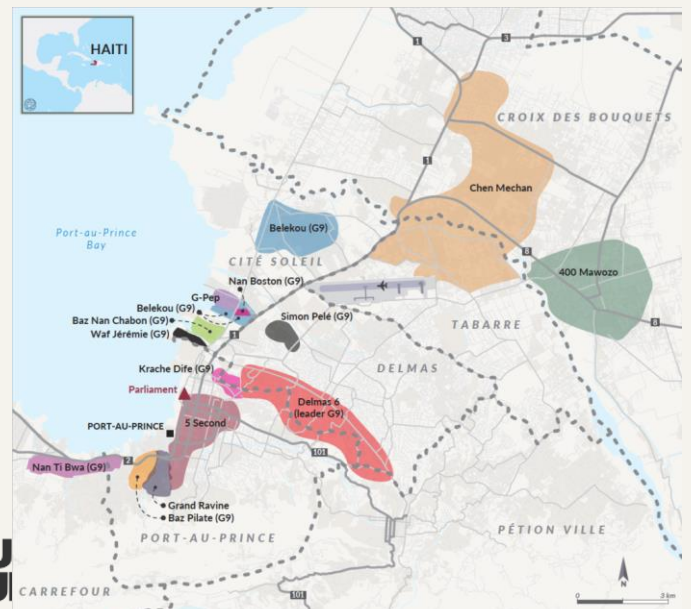
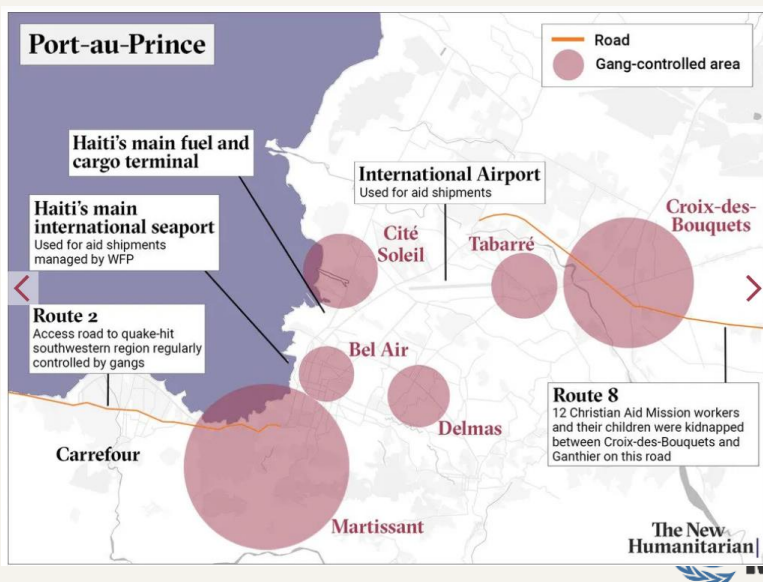


Figure 7.4. Distribution map of "Gangland"

## 8. Questions to be Answered

- What are the responsibilities of the United Nations towards the elected government of Haiti and how can we fulfill them?
- What are the immediate and long-term needs of Haitian people?
- How can we better provide much-needed humanitarian aid to Haiti?
- How can the fairness of the utilization of the humanitarian relief efforts towards Haiti be ensured?
- What is the current situation in Port-Au Prince and what problems need to be prioritized when it comes to solutions?
- What main gangs are in control of Port-Au Prince and what can be done to reach a ceasefire between them?
- What are the consequences of Resolution 2699 for Haiti and how can we build upon it to facilitate both better results and relatively-harmless consequences for affected Haitians?
- Who are the main actors of illicit arms trade in Haiti?
- What can be done to combat illicit arms trade in Haiti?
- How can the past implementations related to illicit arms trade be linked to the situation in Haiti?
- What should a proper legal framework consist of regarding illicit arms trade across the globe?

## 9. Further Reading and References

This section is a mere list of sources pertaining to this study guide, and some additional articles/infomercials for you to read to gain valuable insight regarding the agenda item. However, since all of these articles/infomercials are extremely relevant and informative, we have taken the liberty to not list which is which in order to facilitate better chances of them being studied. Any article that is quoted in this study guide, though, is indeed accessible as a separate, Chicago-style citation list for individuals interested upon requesting.

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