

# United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)



**3** GOOD HEALTH  
AND WELL-BEING



## Background Guide

# Providing Humanitarian Assistance to Children Displaced by the Gang War in Haiti

## *Table of Contents*

<b>Welcome Message From The DAIS .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Committee Introduction .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Topic Introduction .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Current Situation .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Bloc Positions .....</b>	<b>11</b>
The Dominican Republic .....	11
The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) .....	12
Organization of American States (OAS) .....	13
<b>Questions To Consider .....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Bibliography .....</b>	<b>16</b>

# Welcome Letter From The DAIS

Welcome to the Model United Nations of Xiamen (MUNOX) 2024! My name is Jun Ye, a grade 10 student studying in the Manila Xiamen International School, and I will be the dais head for this year's United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund Committee.

MUN is the Modeled United Nations which students are delegated to a representative country, and delegates could present their ideas about a particular global issue on the stage. Before becoming a DAIS member, I have joined MUN for few years already. At first, I'm scared of being standing on the stage but I found out that I need to do it, and I shared lots of my thoughts in front of other delegates. As years passed by, I found out that most of the delegates are refusing to go on the stage and share their opinions, which I strongly encourage delegates to stand on the stage and express your thoughts about this certain issue.

Good day, delegates, I'm Griffin Tang, I'm currently studying in Grade 12 at Shenzhen Nanshan Concord College of Sino — Canada, and in this year's MUNOX conference, I will be one of your Dais head in the UNICEF. It's my honor to meet you guys and become your dais head this year. I will do my best to be one of the dais members which I wish you guys will also do your best. See you delegates!

Greetings delegates, I'm Eric Li, from the Manila Xiamen international School, and I'm an 8 grader, which I will be your assistant director this year in the UNICEF committee. I wish you guys a good time during this significant and amazing event.

In this year's UNICEF Committee, we will debate about the survival crisis of children existing in Haiti. We, the Dais members of UNICEF encourage delegates to express their ideas freely and have a good time in this year's MUNOX.

As time passes, we are excited to meet you delegates and have a wonderful experience with us. Good luck delegates!

Sincerely yours,  
Jun Ye, Griffin Tang, Eric Li,  
UNICEF Dais Head and Assistant Director  
2337878753@qq.com  
junyi20071017@icloud.com  
1690892253@qq.com

# Committee Introduction

The United Nations Emergency Children's Fund (UNICEF) is mandated by the United Nations General Assembly to advocate for the protection of children's rights, to help meet their basic needs, and to expand their opportunities to reach their full potential. The committee is guided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child and strives to establish children's rights as enduring ethical principles and international standards of behaviour towards children. The insists that the survival, protection and development of children are universal development imperatives that are integral to human progress. UNICEF mobilizes political will and material resources to help countries, particularly developing countries, ensure a "first call for children" and to build their capacity to form appropriate policies and deliver services for children and their families.

UNICEF is committed to ensuring special protection for the most disadvantaged children – victims of war, disasters, extreme poverty, all forms of violence and exploitation, and those with disabilities. The committee responds in emergencies to protect the rights of children. In coordination with United Nations partners and humanitarian agencies, UNICEF makes its unique facilities for rapid response available to its partners to relieve the suffering of children and those who provide their care. The committee is non-partisan and its cooperation is free of discrimination. In everything it does, the most disadvantaged children and the countries in greatest need have priority. UNICEF aims, through its country programmes, to promote the equal rights of women and girls and to support their full participation in the political, social and economic development of their communities.

The committee is an acronym of the name United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, which was established in 1946. In 1953 the organization changed its name to United Nations Children's Fund to reflect its broader mission, but it retained the original acronym.

# Topic Introduction

## • Providing Humanitarian Assistance to Children Displaced by the Gang War in Haiti

The Caribbean nation of Haiti, located beside the Dominican Republic, is currently facing a severe humanitarian crisis significantly impacting its most vulnerable population: children. The extreme gang violence targeting on children in Haiti, aligning with a significant increase in incidents involving killings, injuries, rapes, and kidnappings also highlighting that children are increasingly becoming targets of gang violence and are being recruited into armed groups. These are mostly locating particularly in the capital city of Port-au-Prince, contributing to large amounts of displacement of over 270,000 people during 2023, which includes a specific number of children who have been forced to leave their homes and seek refuge in other parts of the country. The crisis has been described as “catastrophic” by UNICEF due to a combination of extreme violence, unrest, poverty, and malnutrition that are threatening the well-being and future of Haiti’s children. The situation has been exacerbated by the proliferation of armed groups who are terrorizing families as they fight for territory and control, mainly in the capital Port-au-Prince and its neighboring Artibonite department, but increasingly in other regions as well. This brings 5.5 million people of Haiti, including 3 million children, in need of humanitarian assistance.

The crisis in Haiti is a result of deep-rooted and interconnected issues that have led to a dire humanitarian situation, particularly for children. At the core of this crisis is a combination of political instability, economic deprivation, and rampant gang violence. The assassination of President Jovenel Moïse in 2021 has left a power vacuum, further exacerbating the already fragile political landscape and leading to a surge in armed group activities. The assassination of Haitian President Jovenel Moïse on July 7, 2021, was a significant event that shocked the nation and the international community. This attack was carried out by a group of unidentified individuals who stormed his private residence in Petion-Ville, a suburb of Port-au-Prince. The aftermath of the assassination has led to a period of political instability and uncertainty in Haiti. The acting Prime Minister Claude Joseph assumed leadership of the country in the immediate aftermath of the attack and declared a “state of siege” in Haiti, closing the country’s borders and imposing martial law to prevent the nation from plunging into chaos.

There have been allegations and claims about the involvement of various political groups and individuals in the planning and execution of the assassination. One of the controversial figures mentioned in connection with the assassination is Haitian Prime Minister Ariel Henry. According to a CNN exclusive report, there were suspicions that Henry was involved in the planning of the assassination and a subsequent cover-up. However, it's important to note that the situation is complex and investigations are ongoing, with many details still emerging.

Moving on, economic hardship has been a persistent challenge in Haiti, with a large portion of the population living in poverty and lacking access to basic services. This has created an environment where desperation drives many into the hands of armed groups, who exploit the vulnerable for their own gain. The violence has not only threatened lives but has also severely disrupted educations of children in Haiti, with nearly 919 schools closed, affecting approximately 156,000 students. The corruption of schools, which schools are physically occupied by armed gangs, controlling significant areas of Port-au-Prince and other regions. The ongoing occupation makes schools impossible to function, and in some cases such as explosions and shootings, led to the devastation of schools destroy during the conflict. Additionally, the arrival of 100,000 displaced school-age children in the southern region have also put vast strain on education services in Haiti. This crisis is significant because it compromises the future of an entire generation; education is a fundamental right and key to breaking the cycle of poverty and violence.

UNICEF has been at the forefront of addressing the humanitarian crisis in Haiti, particularly focusing on the well-being of the country's children. In response to the disruption of education due to violence and natural disasters, UNICEF has collaborated with the Haitian government to rehabilitate schools and establish temporary learning spaces, ensuring that over 132,000 children have access to educational materials. The organization has also provided cash assistance to families to help cover school-related expenses, supporting thousands of children and teachers. Additionally, UNICEF has extended health and nutrition services to areas affected by cholera and has prioritized child protection by offering psychosocial support. In partnership with Education Cannot Wait, UNICEF has allocated a \$2.5 million Emergency Response grant to provide quality education for children affected by violence and displacement. Despite the

significant efforts, UNICEF requires \$87 million to fully address the educational needs arising from the crisis, having received only \$5.4 million as of August 1, 2024. These initiatives demonstrate UNICEF's commitment to alleviating the suffering of Haiti's children and supporting their recovery and healing amidst a challenging environment.



# Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)

## SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being

The Sustainable Development Goals are a set of global goals established by the United Nations to address pressing environmental, social, and economic challenges and promote sustainable development. The selected SDG for the topic is SDG 3: Good health and well-being. Gang wars' existence impact children's normal life in Haiti. They are also facing issues such as lack of education, basic supplies and low economy.



## Current Situation

Currently, children of Haiti are in the midst of a profound humanitarian crisis, with gang violence and political instability causing widespread displacement and fear. Over 700,000 people, a significant number of whom are children, have been forced to flee their homes due to escalating violence, particularly in Port-au-Prince. The influx of 100,000 displaced school-age children into the southern region has overwhelmed already strained education services. Hunger and malnutrition are also at alarming levels, with nearly five million people, including a record three million children, in need of humanitarian support.

The resurgence of cholera (a bacterial disease caused by the bacterium *Vibrio cholerae*) further exacerbates the health crisis, particularly for malnourished children who are more susceptible to the disease. This disease has made a devastating return to Haiti, causing a significant health crisis in the country. The outbreak, which began in October 2022, has rapidly spread throughout all parts of Haiti, exacerbating an already complex humanitarian situation marked by gang violence, socio-political conflicts, insecurity, fuel shortages, and economic instability. As of December 6, 2022, there have been a cumulative total of 13,672 suspected cholera cases, including 283 deaths, reported by the Haiti Ministry of Public Health and Population from all ten departments in the country. The disease is caused by the bacteria *Vibrio cholerae* and is often linked to inadequate sanitation and insufficient access to safe drinking water. The violence has not only threatened physical safety but also had a profound impact on mental health, with children exposed to extreme forms of violence and the constant threat of harm.

Gang violence in Haiti has reached unprecedented levels, with a significant impact on the population, particularly in the capital city of Port-au-Prince. As of the first quarter of 2024, around 2,500 people were killed or injured due to gang violence, marking a 53 percent increase from the previous period and making it the deadliest quarter since the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti started recording statistics in January 2022. This violence has led to a record number of displacements, with over 700,000 people, including a significant number of children, now displaced within the country. The gangs, estimated to be between 150 to 200 groups

operating across Haiti, have become increasingly well-armed, with some gangs controlling strategic locations such as ports and roads, making it difficult for authorities to prevent arms trafficking. The two main gang federations, the G9 and GPEP, have joined forces to attack key infrastructure, including prisons, which has led to the escape of more than 4,600 inmates, further exacerbating the security situation.

Gang activities are not limited to the capital, as they have expanded operations outside Port-au-Prince, attacking small boats and kidnapping personnel from cargo shipping companies, which has forced suspension of services to Haiti. The violence has also led to a surge in gender-based violence, with incidents of rape and other forms of sexual violence being reported. Access to basic services has become increasingly difficult due to insecurity, with many schools and health facilities either closed or inaccessible. This has left a large portion of the population, almost half of whom are children, in dire need of humanitarian assistance. The crisis has also led to a protection crisis, with children at risk of physical harm, social exclusion, gender-based violence, and recruitment by armed groups.

Moving to the economical assistance, UNICEF is leading a concerted effort alongside with partners such as the Haitian government, the World Food Programme (WFP), Education Cannot Wait (ECW), and various NGOs to provide vital services for the country's children. A key focus is on education, with initiatives to rehabilitate damaged schools and establish Temporary Learning Spaces, ensuring continuity in learning for displaced children. Over 13,600 children have received school kits, and UNICEF is facilitating cash transfers to families to cover school-related expenses, directly supporting around 11,000 displaced children. In collaboration with ECW and WFP, a \$2.5 million Emergency Response grant has been announced to provide quality education for children affected by violence and displacement, benefiting nearly 75,000 children and adolescents in the Ouest and Artibonite Departments. Health and nutrition services are also being bolstered, especially in cholera-affected areas, with the delivery of vaccines, therapeutic food, and access to safe water and sanitation. Child protection measures are being intensified, including psychosocial support and protection services for vulnerable children. The UN's collective support aims to alleviate the suffering of Haiti's children and support their recovery and healing during these challenging times.

However, talking about the fundings, the 2024 Haiti Humanitarian Response Plan requires \$674 million to address the urgent needs of 5.5 million Haitians who are highly vulnerable, including 3 million children affected by gang violence, political instability, natural disasters, and epidemics such as cholera. The plan aims to provide a multi-sectoral emergency response to 2.2 million people in areas affected by these shocks and to strengthen the resilience of 3.6 million people through activities that promote sustainable solutions and emergency preparedness. The funding is critical due to the escalating gang violence, which has led to a record 578,074 people being displaced this year, making Haiti the country with the largest number of displacements due to crime-related violence. The violence has resulted in severe food insecurity, with nearly half of the population suffering from acute hunger and 18 percent at the “emergency” level of food insecurity. The crisis has also disrupted basic services, leading to a lack of access to food, water, shelter, and medical care for the displaced.

Children and women have been disproportionately impacted, with more than 310,000 women and girls and 180,000 children among the displaced. Over half a million children live in neighborhoods controlled by armed groups, at heightened risk of violence and child recruitment. The violence has also forced the closure of nearly 900 schools, affecting almost 200,000 children. Despite the urgent need, the funding for the Haitian humanitarian response remains a significant challenge, with only 41.94% of the required funds secured as of October 2024, leaving a funding gap of \$391.2 million. This underfunding hampers the ability to provide adequate assistance and support to the affected population, emphasizing the need for increased international support and contributions.

Unfortunately, the food security situation in Haiti remains dire, with nearly half of the population facing acute food insecurity. As of August 2024 to February 2025, 48 percent of Haitians are experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity, classified in Crisis or worse conditions (IPC Phase 3 or above). This includes 6,000 people experiencing catastrophic levels of hunger and a collapse of their livelihoods, classified in IPC Phase 5 (Catastrophe), and another 2 million people (18 percent of the population analyzed) are facing critical levels of acute food insecurity, classified as IPC Phase 4 (Emergency). There has been a 4 percent increase (1.2 million people) in the prevalence of populations in IPC Phase 3 or above compared to the previous

analysis conducted for the same period in August 2023.

The escalation of violence, particularly in Port-au-Prince, has resulted in serious difficulties in supplying basic foodstuffs to the regions, limiting households' physical and financial access to food. Inflation remains high, and food expenditure now accounts for up to 70 percent of total household expenditure. Gangs control key routes to farming areas, disrupting the supply of goods, including food, and have even blocked transportation routes and levied unofficial taxes on vehicles attempting to pass between the capital and productive agricultural areas. The situation is expected to worsen during the projected period from March to June 2025, as humanitarian food assistance is not expected to meet the needs of the population. The violence has increased sharply, affecting the supply chain and intensifying population displacement. Nearly 2 million people (17 percent of the population analyzed) are projected to be in Phase 4, while 3.5 million are projected to be in Phase 3. This means that 49 percent of the population will need urgent action.

Children are particularly impacted, with an alarming 19 percent increase in the number estimated to suffer from severe acute malnutrition in 2024. The UN is working to provide food assistance, including hot meals to displaced people, food and cash to those in need, and lunches for school children. However, the humanitarian response is underfunded, with a shortage of \$230 million needed to implement programs until the end of the year. The UN aims to reduce import dependency on food and link humanitarian responses with long-term action on food security.

Lastly, UN is advocating for increased funding and support to address this multidimensional crisis effectively.

# Bloc Positions

## The Dominican Republic

The Dominican Republic, Haiti's neighboring island nation, is confronting significant challenges stemming from the crisis in Haiti. The escalating gang violence and political instability have led to a surge in migration, prompting the Dominican government to implement strict immigration controls, including the construction of a border wall and temporary border closures. These measures are aimed at mitigating the potential spillover of violence and managing the influence of migrants seeking refuge. Economic ties between the two countries have also been affected, with the border closures impacting trade that is vital for both nations. The Dominican Republic has historically been a significant trading partner for Haiti, and the disruptions have economic ramifications for both sides. Diplomatic tensions have risen, particularly over disputes such as the construction of a canal in Haiti that the Dominican Republic claims violate historical treaties and could impact shared water resources.

Despite these challenges, the Dominican Republic has shown some levels of humanitarian support, including facilitating the evacuation of personnel from international organizations. On March 9, 2024, the Dominican president, Luis Abinadel announced a statement: "Because neighboring Haiti is experiencing a serious security crisis, for Dominican's own safety, the country Dominican does not welcome the prime minister of Haiti transitional government to enter and stay in the country." However, the country has also emphasized its limitations and called for greater international support to address the crisis. The Dominican Republic has been an advocate for international action, including the implementation of sanctions against those financing the violence in Haiti and the deployment of a multinational security force to help restore order.

Concluding, the Dominican government is giving assistance to help solve Haiti's crisis. However, this support is based on keeping the country safe, having enough money for the country, and not letting the Dominican to be affected by this certain crisis. Also the Dominican government is attending organizations that could really help Haiti to solve the problem. The

Dominican government notices the importance of that place but also knowing that it is a risk, challenge for their country to support Haiti.

### The Caribbean Community (CARICOM)

CARICOM, or the Caribbean Community is a regional economic cooperation organization for developing countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. It was established in August 1973, with 15 member countries. Headquartered in Georgetown, the capital of Guyana. Its purpose is to develop industrial and agricultural production in the region, strengthen cooperation in economic and trade, coordinate the foreign policies of member countries, and accelerate the process of regional integration.

The Caribbean Community's president together with the president of Guyana call upon international organizations, charity organizations, people, to help Haitian children in the case of displacement, poverty, health issue, etc. The security situation in Haiti is recently becoming worse, it's very close to becoming a disaster.

In 2006, one of the major communique or letter presented by the CARICOM, the CARICOM is willing to send a professional team to let Haiti give full play based on their advantages, goods. In this communique, it has mentioned that 3/4 of Haiti's citizens are in poverty, 50% of school age children can't go to school, 850 Haiti citizen's average life time is 51 year old, and the amount of malnourished children increases by 19%. After having meetings with Haiti governments, they promise that they will help Haiti to save health issues, mostly on infectious diseases and AIDS. In fact, after this healthcare assistance, most Haitians became healthier.

According to the CARICOM's announcement in March 6, 2023. CARICOM heads of government are determined to continue their efforts to encourage dialog among Haitian stakeholders and support efforts to find a solution to this crisis in Haiti. On March 5, leaders in charge of Haitian affairs met under the chairmanship. They received a report that the prime minister of Jamaica has lead a CARICOM delegation to Haiti. The leaders agreed to have

meetings. They also supported the Haitian national police and planned to provide training due to Haiti's difficult situation. As one of the CARICOM countries close to Haiti, Jamaica is willing to adopt 50 orphans from Haiti and put them in a personal orphan house named the mustard seed community.

As mentioned, the CARICOM is willing to help and provide assistance to Haiti development as soon as possible to bring the whole Latin America to a higher economy level.

### Organization of American States (OAS)

The Organizations of America is an organization set up by the United States and Latin America. It contains 33 members in this organization. This Organization's official location is located at Washington D.C. Haiti as one of the member country in the OAS, the crisis in Haiti is also been discussed in meetings.

The United States of America is one of the major and well known country in the OAS. 2016, the US embassy in Haiti had received reports that a shooting and occurred near the Haitian Capitol, and the demonstration had obviously escalated into violence. The embassy reminds citizens in Haiti to take necessary security measures. March 18, 2024, USA embassy in Haiti has mentioned that the US prepared airplanes to let US citizens living in Haiti faster leave the place, the embassy has also reminds people to be careful because of violence existing in Haiti. Concluding, the USA is protecting citizens from Haiti's crisis but focusing mainly on USA citizens leaving Haiti. It provides assistance toward Haitians but based on USA citizen's safety.

Canada, also a well known country in OAS. 2011, November 12, the Canada government had announced that Canada government will temporarily withdraw non-essential personnel from the embassy in Haiti due to the security situation in Haiti is rapidly deteriorating. Since October 15, 2022, the US and Canada have supported armored vehicles and other supplies using military aircraft to the Haiti police to aid in counter-terrorism.

In conclusion, the OAS supports Haiti by producing and supporting military assistance to

help them defeat gangs and terrorist and develop the country, however before doing these, countries will make sure no citizens from their country will be affected by sending them out from Haiti first to keep them safe and secured.



## Questions To Consider

1. How does gang control of key routes to farming areas affect the Haitian population's access to nutrition?
2. How can the international community best support Haiti in addressing its food security crisis, and what role can partnerships with local stakeholders play in ensuring effective and sustainable solutions?
3. What measures can be taken to ensure safe access to education for children living in areas controlled by armed groups, where violence and insecurity are high?
4. What other supports are needed for the education of the over 700,000 internally displaced persons, including children, who may have limited or no access to educational facilities?
5. How can local communities be engaged in developing and implementing educational and food security solutions that are sustainable and context-specific?

# Bibliography

klaus. "Cuba - Country Profile - Nations Online Project." Nationsonline.org, 2014, [www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/cuba.htm](http://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/cuba.htm).

Who We Are." Unicef.org, 2024, [www.unicef.org/who-we-are](http://www.unicef.org/who-we-are).

UNICEF. "UNICEF." Unicef.org, UNICEF, 2023, [www.unicef.org/](http://www.unicef.org/).

"UNICEF Cuba Recognizes the Harmony between the Draft of the Code of Families and the Convention on the Rights of the Child." Unicef.org, 2021, [www.unicef.org/cuba/en/press-releases/unicef-cuba-recognizes-harmony-between-draft-code-families-and-convention-rights](http://www.unicef.org/cuba/en/press-releases/unicef-cuba-recognizes-harmony-between-draft-code-families-and-convention-rights). Accessed 6 Oct. 2024.

Ferguson, James A., and Clinton V. Black. "Jamaica | History, Geography, & Points of Interest." Encyclopædia Britannica, 16 Jan. 2019, [www.britannica.com/place/Jamaica](http://www.britannica.com/place/Jamaica).

"Haiti's Bordering Countries: A Quick Guide - TheFlags.org." TheFlags.org, 2 Feb. 2024, [theflags.org/haitis-bordering-countries-a-quick-guide/](http://theflags.org/haitis-bordering-countries-a-quick-guide/). Accessed 6 Oct. 2024.

Linton, Latonya. "Jamaica to Accommodate Orphans from Haiti." Jamaica Information Service, [jis.gov.jm/jamaica-to-accommodate-orphans-from-haiti/](http://jis.gov.jm/jamaica-to-accommodate-orphans-from-haiti/). Accessed 15 Oct. 2024.

CARICOM Secretariat. "Caribbean Community (CARICOM) — Caribbean Community (CARICOM)." Caricom.org, 2015, [caricom.org/](http://caricom.org/).

"U.S. Embassy in Haiti: Violence in Haiti Has Escalated. U.S. Citizens Should Pay Attention to Safety." Global Network, 2024, [m.huanqiu.com/article/9CaKrnJTlIM?webview\\_progress\\_bar=1&show\\_loading=0](http://m.huanqiu.com/article/9CaKrnJTlIM?webview_progress_bar=1&show_loading=0). Accessed 25 Oct. 2024.