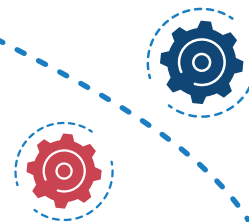




LABOR OBSERVATORY OF THE AMERICAS



Country Profile Haiti

2021



Total Area

27.750 km²



Population estimated in 2021:

According to the Haitian Institute of Statistics and Information (IHSI for its acronym in French), the population in Haiti in 2009 was estimated at 9,923,243 people¹.



Population estimated in 2021:

11,905,897
people

Population composition (2021)



5.906.934
women



5.998.963
men



Economically active population:

(2020)

4,972,457
people²



Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2020:

15.5 billion
US dollars³



GDP in second quarter 2021:

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) estimated a 1.3% annual decrease in Haiti's GDP.

¹ Some of the statistical information provided in this section come from the Haitian Institute of Statistics and Information (IHSI for its acronym in French).

² <https://datos.bancomundial.org/indicador/SL.TLF.TOTL.IN?locations=HT>

³ <https://statistics.cepal.org/portal/cepalstat/national-profile.html?theme=2&country=hti&lang=en>



Analysis of the socio-economic situation

Employment.

The employment rate in 2021 was estimated at 54.5%. ⁴

Informal employment.

In 2012, 91.5% of workers had informal employment conditions.⁷

Unemployment.

The unemployment rate for 2021 was estimated at 15.7%. ⁵

Poverty.

The World Bank estimates that in 2020, around 6.3 million people were poor; among these, 2.5 million people lived in extreme poverty. This situation is exacerbated by the country's profound inequality, as 64% of the wealth is concentrated in the richest 20% of the population, while the poorest 20% own just 1% of the wealth. ⁸

Inactive populations.

The 2021 rate for economic inactivity was estimated at 35.3%. ⁶

⁴ Source: ILO Modelled Estimates (November 2021): "Employment-to-population ratio" https://www.ilo.org/shinyapps/bulkexplorer57/?lang=es&segment=ref_area&id=HTL_A

⁵ Source: ILO Modelled Estimates (November 2021): "Unemployment rate" https://www.ilo.org/shinyapps/bulkexplorer57/?lang=es&segment=ref_area&id=HTL_A

⁶ Source: ILO Modelled Estimates (November 2021): "Inactivity rate" https://www.ilo.org/shinyapps/bulkexplorer57/?lang=es&segment=ref_area&id=HTL_A

⁷ Source: ILO Labor Force statistics: "Informal employment rate" https://www.ilo.org/shinyapps/bulkexplorer57/?lang=es&segment=ref_area&id=HTL_A

⁸ <https://www.banquemondiales.org/fr/country/haiti/overview#1>



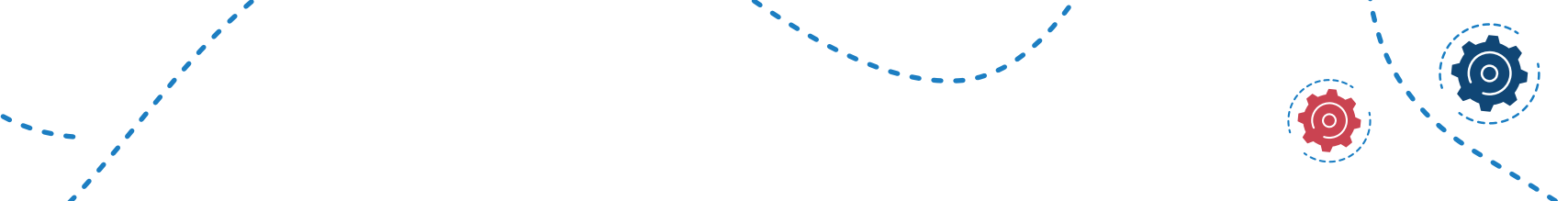
Context Highlights 2021

The year 2021 was marked by the political instability characteristic of the last decades, and by highly violent events. One of the most significant events was the assassination of former President Jovenel Moïse, which took place on 7 July at his residence while he was with his wife. The perpetrators consisted of 26 Colombian ex-military personnel, 15 of whom were captured along with two US citizens by the Haitian authorities. The motives are still unclear, but the investigation is progressing. Mario Antonio Palacios, who had managed to flee, was captured in Jamaica and is being prosecuted in the U.S. on two charges related to the assassination – kidnapping and murder. The ex-military officer has acknowledged to U.S. authorities the responsibility of the 26 Colombians in the assassination of the president.

Although the event shocked the country and the international community, the then-president had a high level of disapproval among the Haitian society. Social mobilizations that had been occurring periodically since 2019 intensified in the first half of 2021, as protesters sought the resignation of the president. One factor that influenced the mobilizations was the dispute between the opposition and the government over the end of the presidential mandate. Moïse maintained that his man-

date would end in 2022, but other sectors such as trade unions and human rights defenders stated his mandate would end in 2021, arguing the elections that were annulled in 2015 due to fraud were part of the same election process that brought the assassinated leader to power.

Compounding the unstable economic and social situation following Moïse's assassination were the consequences of the magnitude 7.2 earthquake that shook the country in August. More than 2,200 people are estimated to have been killed, at least 12,000 injured, and more than 650,000 people were affected. A few days after the earthquake, Tropical Storm Grace passed over Haiti, hampering rescue efforts and further aggravating the situation. These events slowed down the delayed vaccination process against COVID-19, which had begun in July.



The Caribbean country had not recovered from the earthquake, and within a few months faced a fuel shortage that affected public transportation as well as food, communications, and healthcare services, which were even more indispensable after an earthquake and in the midst of a pandemic. The lack of fuel is a consequence – among other factors – of the insecurity and violence facing the country following the assassination of the former president. In alliance with the G9 (a coalition of nine criminal gangs), former police officer and gang leader Jimmy Cherizier blocked fuel distribution for a month to demand the resignation of Prime Minister Ariel Henry, who was left in charge of the country after Moïse's assassination.

The Haitian population has mobilized massively against the security crisis created by the gangs – mass kidnappings, looting, extortion of merchants, control of fuel, systematic rape of women, and murders are part of everyday life. It is estimated that Haiti finished the year with 949 kidnappings, one of the highest numbers in the world. The international community raised alarms after a group of missionaries was abducted, among them, 16 U.S citizens and 1 Canadian citizen.



Actions and Denunciations (national and international) by Trade Unions and other social sectors

In the midst of the political instability that Haiti is experiencing due to years of mismanagement of power and human rights violations against the population, and in view of the worsening internal conflicts caused by the assassination of former president Jovenel Moïse, the country's social and trade union organizations made an urgent appeal to the Haitian authorities demanding the return of security for the people. Among their demands, the movements and organizations seek solutions to the forced displacement of some 19,000 people from the metropolitan area of the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince because of the violence caused by illegal armed gangs. In addition to the humanitarian crisis resulting from displacement, the criminal gangs' control of strategic areas in the capital has a strong impact on the economy and affects the possibility of ensuring services to meet people's basic needs.

The Haitian trade union movement has denounced the violation of constitutional provisions regarding the country's distribution of powers. After the assassination of former President Moïse, the executive branch, headed by Prime Minister Ariel Henry, has taken over powers that should be the domain of the legislative branch; this has led to dysfunction and imbalance in terms of the democratic procedures necessary to

guarantee the independence of powers and impartial decision-making. The trade union movement believes that these irregularities hamper the creation of solutions to the political, social, economic, and humanitarian crises facing the country.

Gender-based violence is another serious concern, possibly having increased by as much as 377% over the past year, with more than 6,500 people exposed to sexual violence. The United Nations has made an urgent call to address this terrible situation. It also estimated that nearly 5,000 internally displaced persons are at risk of contracting sexually transmitted diseases. Internal armed clashes have left women caught in the crossfire, facing risks to their health and safety due to the COVID-19 pandemic, finding themselves in precarious conditions at home or in temporary shelters, with no possibility of accessing help to improve their humanitarian situation. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) reports that they assisted 1,347 cases of survivors of sexual violence and 6,356 cases of physical violence in the first months of 2021.

Trade union proposals and initiatives

The Haitian trade union movement has made an urgent call for the Trade Union Confederation of the Americas (TUCA) and allied organizations in the region converging in the Continental Platform for Democracy and against Neoliberalism to prioritize the humanitarian crisis that the country is going through among the international solidarity actions they take. The trade union movement in Haiti has proposed that the country be taken up as a priority in TUCA's work-plan for the coming years, and for it to support key areas such as cooperation, formation, and actively mobilizing continental solidarity actions for the country's democratic recovery. They believe that such support is significant in view of the potential weaknesses of Haitian union organizing due to difficulties associated with repression, restrictions on mobility, layoffs, criminalization, and a whole series of rights violations that are on the rise in the Caribbean country. TUCA agrees with this proposal, and identifies Haiti as a priority for support and internationalist solidarity.

Furthermore, the Development Platform of the Americas (PLADA) is seen as a crucial tool to think about the future of Haiti, and to use its foundations and orientation for the construction of unity and of a model of sustainable development. PLADA can also help in the development of concrete alternatives for the reconstruction of the country with workers' active participation and the inclusion of youth and women.

Additionally, the textile sector unions proposed holding a social dialogue in the Industrial Development Company (Compagnie de Développement Industriel - CODEVI) free trade zone in Ouanaminthe. A meeting was held in September to present the union's draft proposals for a collective bargaining agreement to the Workers' Assembly, with the aim of strengthening union rights and building social dialogue. The draft collective bargaining agreement focuses on decent work and consists of ten chapters articulated around respect for the freedom to form unions, workplace health and safety, preventing sexual harassment, promoting social protection and social security, decent wages, and social benefits for workers.



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