



NEWS RELEASE

COMMUNIQUE DE PRESSE

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January 12, 2021: Spotlight on living conditions in accommodation camps and relocation sites

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On January 12, 2010 a devastating earthquake devastated several cities of the country, including the departments of West, South East and Nippes, causing the death of two hundred and twenty-two thousand five hundred and seventeen (222,517) people, the disappearance of three hundred thousand (300,000) and causing immeasurable financial damage. Eleven (11) years later, the indelible marks left by this cataclysm are still very vivid in the mind and flesh of all those who have lived it.
2. Since the earthquake, two (2) presidents have led the country. Each time, they campaigned for the improvement of the living conditions of displaced persons and for sustainable development for the benefit of the Haitian people in general.
3. Eleven (11) years later, what about the situation?

II. EXISTENCE OF ACCOMMODATION CAMPS AND RELOCATION SITES

4. In the aftermath of the earthquake, many shelter camps were created spontaneously. In the years following the earthquake, many were demolished either by force or on the basis of poor programmes set up by the state authorities. Then came the relocation sites which, according to the concept sold at the time, had to be prepared to allow the victims to live with dignity.
5. Today, twenty-six (26) accommodation camps and relocation sites are identified across the various areas that have been affected. Twenty-four (24) are located in the Western Department including Delmas, Léogane, Pétion-ville and Port au Prince. The other two (2) are located in the South-East department, especially in Jacmel.
6. Among these various reception areas, RNDDH was able to visit twenty-one (21) during 2020. These are the following accommodation camps and relocation sites:

- Camp Levêque, Cabaret
 - Jérusalem, Croix-des-Bouquets
 - Village Lumane Cazimir, Croix-des-Bouquets
 - Canaan Caradeux, Delmas
 - Saint-Louis, Delmas
 - Saint-Etienne 2, Damien, Tabarre
 - Terrain Toto, Tabarre
 - Modsol 1, Santo, Léogane
 - Modsol 3, Santo, Léogane
 - Voix des Sans Voix, Léogane
 - Bois-Bœuf Jacmel
- Corail Cesselesse, Croix-des-Bouquets
 - Onaville, Croix-des-Bouquets
 - Bénédiction, Delmas
 - Réfugiés, Delmas
 - Saint-Etienne 1, Damien, Tabarre
 - Tabarre Issa de Greffin, Tabarre et Pétiön-ville
 - Habitat, Léogane
 - Modsol 2, Santo, Léogane
 - Montpellier, Léogane
 - Beaudoin, Jacmel

III. ORGANIZATION OF LIFE IN ACCOMMODATION CAMPS AND RELOCATION SITES

7. Unlike previous years, these spaces no longer have a steering committee. And, if in rare cases, members of former committees were met, as in Modsol 1, Modsol 2, Modsol 3, Saint-Etienne 1, Saint-Etienne 2, Voix des Sans Voix, the latter said they were totally inactive. Consequently, the community management of these reception sites is abandoned in favour of the individual organization of life, by heads of families who try, as they can, to provide for their offspring and loved ones.

8. In addition to the general situation already very worrying, during these monitoring visits, the attention of the RNDDH was particularly drawn to infrastructure, the security situation, access to drinking water, electricity, education and health care. And, more specific issues were discussed with residents, on the management of Covid-19 within these sites visited.

a) Infrastructure

9. After eleven (11) years of service, temporary shelters that have become permanent, patched up, patched up, can no longer protect against the sun, wind and rain. In 72% of the sites visited, the shelters are in very poor condition. In 24% they are more or less passable and in 4% of cases they are in good condition. These are hard-built homes built by the residents themselves. Examples include:

- At Camp de Tabarre Issa de Greffin, Tabarre and Pétiön-ville, many temporary shelters are downright rotten and several residents have built concrete.
- In Onaville, Croix-des-Bouquets, Beaudoin, Jacmel, Modsol 1, Modsol 2, Modsol 3 and Voix des sans Voix, located in Léogane, the temporary shelters, damaged structures are gradually replaced by concrete blocks by families who have the financial means to make these new constructions.
- At Camp Montpellier, Léogane, residents live in structures built with pieces of sheet metal, most of which have holes and patched with tarpaulins, which are themselves dirty and in poor condition, easily allowing rainwater to pass through.



- At Corail Cesselesse, temporary shelters seem much more resistant. However, some families decided to rebuild their concrete house. It should also be noted that many families have sold their shelters for amounts ranging from two hundred thousand (200,000) to two hundred fifty (250,000) gourdes, Corail Cesselesse having become the eldorado for some.
- In Beaudoin and Bois-Boeuf, Jacmel, the shelters are in good condition in general, and many families have rebuilt in concrete.
- At the Village Lumane Casimir, Morne cabris, Croix-des-Bouquets, many houses are still unfinished. However, several others that had been completed are now in critical condition because maintenance and maintenance work is not being done. And the residents complained about the poor quality of the building materials that had been used.



A house in Voix des Sans Voix

b) Access to latrines

10. Access to latrines is a concern for individuals in accommodation camps and relocation sites. According to the information collected by the RNDDH, only in 24% of the sites, residents have community or family latrines. In 72% of sites, they must use bags or defecate on the ground. For 4%, no specific information is available. Here are some examples:

- In Onaville, Croix-des-Bouquets, some latrines are filled.
- At Saint Etienne 1, Saint Etienne 2, Damien, Tabarre, there are no longer latrines. The residents make their needs in bags which they then throw in the vicinity.
- At Village Lumane Casimir, Morne cabris, Croix-des-Bouquets, the toilets are functional but families do not have enough access to water to use it properly.
- In Montpellier, Léogane les résidents font leur besoins dans des sachets.
- In Modsol1, Modsol 2 and Modsol 3, Santo, Léogane, the latrines are filled for the most part. Some families living in these camps have arranged to search for new and lost graves. Others take care of themselves in their neighbours' homes or in bags.

c) Security situation

11. According to the information gathered on the ground, sub-police stations and police stations are located near 28% of the sites visited. These bodies play a deterrent role and residents of these sites complain less than others about acts of insecurity and banditry inside their reception sites.

12. In contrast, 72% of sites visited are remote from any police authority. As a result, the security situation

of those living there is of great concern. It is characterized by acts of violence and pressure to force some communities to abandon occupied areas, armed attacks by armed bandits living on the sites concerned, by the invasion of these sites by armed bandits from other areas, etc.

13. Indeed, if in the Village Lumane Casimir and Corail Cesselesse, Croix-des-Bouquets as well as in Beaudoin and Bois-Boeuf, Jacmel, the situation is more or less calm in terms of security, for the other accommodation camps and relocation sites visited, the security situation is very precarious and differs from one space to another. Here are some examples:

- In Tabarre Issa de Greffin, Tabarre and Pétion-ville, the residents claim to have been maintained for several years, under pressure to abandon space. As a result of ongoing attacks, five hundred and forty-four (544) families living in the camp contributed to erect a barrier around the site. Despite this, they continue to be the prey of armed bandits. In 2020 alone, five (5) armed attacks were recorded in Tabarre Issa de Greffin:
- On March 29, 2020, twenty-five (25) year old Ronald JOSEPH was shot in the stomach while inside the camp;
- On May 9, 2020, several houses were thrown with stones. Some residents who tried to flee, were severely beaten by the bandits who attacked them;
- On May 13, 2020, at least twenty-six (26) people were physically assaulted by armed individuals. They were inside the camp. Their mobile phones were taken away by their attackers;
- On May 15, 2020, on two (2) occasions, persons at the entrance of Tabarre Issa de Greffin were assaulted by armed individuals;
- In October 2020, the right hand of Pastor Bien-Aimé, who used to be an officer at the Mission Church of God Independent of Issa Village, was torn away. Since the attack, he abandoned the site.



the right hand of Pastor Bien-Aimé

It should be noted that unlike the other camps, in Tabarre Issa de Greffin, these ongoing attacks are perpetrated by armed individuals who want to control and manage the space considered to be profitable. This has already led many families to flee

- Armed individuals belonging to the Chen Mechan gang often circulate around and inside Saint-Etienne 1 and Saint Etienne 2, Damien, Tabarre, sowing terror among the population.
- Armed bandits settled in Onaville, Croix-des-Bouquets and sowed terror. For example, in October 2020, in a clash between two (2) gang leaders, several temporary shelters in Block 1 were set on fire.
- At Voix des Sans Voix, Léogane, the residents claim to be constantly threatened and assaulted by members of the Lambert family who claim that the thirty-two (32) earth tiles on which they are installed belong to them. Armed individuals, in their pay, sow terror, roam the camp and write «A

demolition» on the walls of houses. For their part, the residents maintain that the land they occupy belongs to the Haitian State. The case is, according to the people met by the RNDDH, pending before the Justice.

d) Access to water

14. 19% of the sites visited are supplied by the National Directorate of Drinking Water (DINEPA). Such is the case, for example, of Tabarre Issa de Greffin, Tabarre, Saint_Louis, Tabarre and Delmas, of Beaudoin and Bois-Boeuf, Jacmel, where residents receive water, even if the distribution is not regular.

15. In 77% of the sites visited, residents are obliged to buy the bucket of five (5) gallons of water at a price that varies between five (5) gourdes (Corail Cesselesse, Modsol 1, Modsol 2, Modsol 3, Voix des Sans Voix, Montpellier, Habitat), eight (8) gourdes (Lumane Casimir, Onaville) and ten (10) gourdes (Saint Etienne 1 and Saint-Etienne 2).

16. Only in 4% of the sites visited, residents say they have the capacity to store water, which greatly improves their access.

17. In addition to drinking water, families who can afford it also obtain drinking water. The container of five (5) gallons of drinking water costs between twenty five (25) gourdes (Corail Cesselesse), thirty-five (35) gourdes (Tabarre Issa de Greffin) and forty (40) gourdes (Onaville, Saint-Etienne 1, Saint-Etienne 2).

18. It should also be noted that some residents treat service water purchased with chlorine to make it potable (Modsol 1, Modsol 2, Modsol 3, Voix des Sans Voix, Montpellier, Habitat, located in Léogane) while others prefer to buy packages of water bags at seventy-five (75) gourdes, the drinking water dispensers being located too far, which makes the journey difficult for them.

e) Access to electricity

19. Electrical power is available at 62% of sites visited by RNDDH. For example, Tabarre Issa de Greffin is powered by three (3) transformers. Lumane Casimir Village has a generator with a capacity of forty (40) kilowatts, which serves the population. Corail Cesselesse and Beaudoin are powered by the city current. However, many catches are illegally connected and the anarchic connections of some visited sites represent a great danger for the population living there.

20. In 38% of sites visited, residents have no access to electrical power at all. For example, for more than a year, the camps located in Léogane namely Modsol 1, Modsol 2, Modsol 3, Voix des Sans Voix, Habitat and Montpellier are not powered by electric power. The relocation site of Beaudoin, Jacmel, is also not powered by electric power.

f) Access to health care

21. Residents of 14% of the sites visited say that they have access to health care, on payment, since a health centre or health care centre is located inside or not far from their sites. For example, in Corail Cesselesse, Croix-des-Bouquets and Beaudoin, Jacmel, there is respectively a health center and a hospital.

22. In 82% of cases, residents of accommodation camps and relocation sites must travel to access health

care. This is the case, for example, with:

- Saint-Etienne 1 and Saint-Etienne 2, Damien, Tabarre, which are not provided with health centres. Residents must go to the Croix-des-Missions to be examined by health personnel;
- Residents of Modsol 1, Modsol 2, Modsol 3, Santo, Léogane should visit a health centre in Darbone, about a 30-minute walk away;
- Residents of Tabarre Issa de Greffin must go to Pernier;

23. For 4% of sites visited, accurate information on residents' access to health care is not available.

g) Managing Covid-19 in Shelter Camps and Relocation Sites

24. At some of the sites visited, the population was prepared and accompanied for Covid-19. For example:

- In Corail Cesselesse, an awareness campaign was conducted by the Haitian Red Cross. Two (2) mandatory hand wash points have been installed. In addition, some families living on the site also told RNDDH that they had received protective masks made of tissue.
- In Onaville, two (2) separate hand washing points were installed and protective masks were distributed to some families.
- In Saint-Etienne 1, in March 2020, the Town Hall of Tabarre installed a water tank, one (1) barrel and three (3) mandatory hand washing points. In addition, the Town Hall distributed four hundred (400) protective cloth masks and some food kits.

25. Apart from these three (3) host sites, no other accompanying action by the authorities, of people living in the spaces visited, has been reported to the RNDDH. On the contrary, the communities they met complained about the total abandonment of which they are the object. For example, residents of Tabarre Issa de Greffin, Saint-Etienne 2, and Modsol 1, Modsol 2, and Modsol 3 did not receive any visits from state authorities. No hand washing points were also installed. Similarly, these populations have not received hygiene kits or protective masks to protect themselves from Covid-19.

h) Access to Education

26. There are private and public schools in the vicinity or within some of the reception sites. Indeed, 19% of the sites visited by the RNDDH have a national school and 15% have a high school. This is the case for example:

- Leslie François Manigat High School and a national school that serves the children of Onaville;
- a community school that serves students in Modsol 1, Modsol 2 and Modsol 3;
- the Lycée René Préval and a national school that serves the children of Corail Cesselesse;

- a national school located in the Village Lumane Casimir, Corail Cesselesse



Lycée René Préval,

27. In 66% of other cases, children of school age are enrolled by their parents, in public or private institutions located in cities close to reception sites. For example, the children of Saint-Etienne 1 and Saint Etienne 2 attend the schools of the Croix des Missions or go to the Lycée Guy Malary in Damien.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

28. Eleven (11) years after the earthquake that struck the country on January 12, 2010, residents of camps and relocation sites live in denial of their fundamental rights. It is in fact about fifty thousand (50,000) citizens of the country who are constantly facing insecurity because of the armed attacks they are subjected to by individuals who try to expel them or who simply want to have control over the spaces they occupy.

29. Moreover, these citizens, forgotten by the state authorities, do not have a minimum of access to basic services: no latrine, no health centers, no access to daily service water and even less to drinking water. Electricity, distributed on certain sites in an anarchic manner, endangers the lives of residents and, the majority of children of school age attend private establishments which are often far from the sites, This increases the costs for parents and therefore the risk of dropping out of school, for children.

30. Over the past eleven (11) years, there have been two (2) presidents from the same political movement at the head of the country. The first, Michel Joseph MARTELLY had intensely led campaign around the accompaniment of victims of the earthquake, in order to allow them to live in dignity. For his part, Jovenel MOÏSE had promised all to work for the development of the country with the objective of allowing each citizen to eat to his hunger.

31. However, the situation is clear: On sight, residents of accommodation camps and relocation sites are constantly floundering in misery, in unsanitary conditions and in an environment likely to make them sick. It is therefore under the indifferent gaze of the state authorities that they are subjected to the law of armed individuals and live in total disrespect for articles 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and 11 of the International Covenant on Economic Rights, Social and Cultural, devoting to all, the right to an adequate standard of living including health, well-being, food, education, clothing, housing, access to the necessary social services as well as to a constant improvement of living conditions.

32. Faced with this situation, the RNDDH invites the Haitian population in general and that of the camps and relocation sites in particular to organize to demand the respect of their rights to security, the dignity, assistance and social protection of the Haitian State.

Port-au-Prince, January 11, 2021