

**National Human Rights Defense Network  
(RNDDH)**

Membre de la

**fidh**

**14 years after the earthquake of January 12, 2010 :  
The victims of the earthquake and insecurity are living side by side in the  
camps, while the state authorities remain indifferent.**

**January 12, 2024**

## Summary

	<b>Pages</b>
I. INTRODUCTION	2
II. METHODOLOGY	2
III. CONTEXT	3
IV. PRESENTATION OF SITES VISITED BY RNDDH	5
V. GENERAL CONDITIONS IN VICTIM SITES 12 JANUARY 2010	7
VI. GENERAL CONDITIONS IN THE REFUGEE CAMPS BECAUSE OF INSECURITY	9
1. Population	9
2. Organization of Security	10
3. Recorded Violence	11
4. Humanitarian Assistance	12
5. Water and Sanitation	14
6. Sanitary facilities, latrines and site lighting	15
7. Access to Health Care	16
VII. COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	17

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The victims of the earthquake and insecurity are living side by side in the camps, while the state authorities remain indifferent.

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## **I. INTRODUCTION**

1. On January 12, 2010, an earthquake measuring 7.3 on the Richter scale struck several municipalities in the departments of West, South-East and Nippes, causing enormous human and material losses. The population, devastated by this cataclysm, took refuge en masse in the streets, public places, churches and schools, as well as on empty lots, forming shelter camps.

2. Over the years, while streets, public squares, schools and churches have been emptied of their populations, many accommodation camps have been transformed into relocation sites, and the displaced, abandoned by the Haitian government, have settled permanently in the occupied spaces.

3. Today, fourteen (14) years after the earthquake, the catastrophic security situation has led to the creation of housing camps and relocation sites, alongside camps for the displaced, created as a result of the insecurity.

4. The National Human Rights Defense Network (RNDDH), concerned by this new situation, carried out a survey from December 5, 2023 to January 10, 2024 in the camps for displaced persons, and intends to share the results of its investigations with those interested in the issue.

## **II. METHODOLOGY**

5. To carry out this survey, RNDDH drew up a form containing fifteen (15) questions on the organization of the accommodation sites, their population, security management, the presence or absence of the police, the distribution of humanitarian aid, access to water and health care.

6. The list of sites to be monitored was compiled, and the RNDDH monitors deployed in the field visited forty-one (41) of them. They are located in the communes of Croix-des-Bouquets, Delmas, Léogane, Port-au-Prince and Tabarre.

7. Interviews were conducted with members of the management committees of the various sites visited, as well as with agents of the Directorate of Civil Protection. Some displaced people were also interviewed. And, for some sites, RNDDH deemed it necessary to organize additional interviews with committee leaders at its offices or by telephone.

## **III. CONTEXT**

8. The earthquake of January 12, 2010, which lasted thirty-five (35) seconds, caused the death of at least two hundred and twenty-two thousand five hundred and seventy-seven

(222,517) people and the disappearance of more than three hundred thousand (300,000) people. Thousands more were left with physical disabilities.<sup>1</sup>

9. In the years that followed, successive governments made numerous promises to the population to help them recover with dignity and respect for their fundamental rights. However, no effective measures have been adopted. Promises were quickly forgotten, particularly by those who ran for elected office, and citizens were left to fend for themselves, and their children, and building permanent shelters where they had been granted permission to live, changing temporary shelters into permanent housing wherever possible.

10. While the Haitian government was still struggling to address the situation of people displaced by the January 12, 2010 earthquake, on October 6, 2018, another earthquake measuring 5.9 on the Richter scale caused the death of fifteen (15) people in the Lapointe communal section, Port-de-Paix, in the Nord West department and in Gros-Morne, in the Artibonite department. At least three hundred (300) other people were injured. Seven thousand one hundred and twenty-four (7,124) houses were damaged and a total of one thousand two hundred and twenty-seven (1,227) others were totally destroyed.<sup>2</sup>

11. On August 14, 2021, a third earthquake measuring 7.2 on the Richter scale struck the departments of Nippes, South and Grand'Anse. At least two thousand two hundred and forty-eight (2,248) people died. Twelve thousand seven hundred and sixty-three (12,763) others were injured. Three hundred and twenty-nine (329) people are missing. Two (2) victims were also killed in Bassin Bleu, in the Nord West department. Around six hundred and ninety thousand (690,000) people, representing 40% of the total population of Grand'Anse, Nippes and South, were affected by this cataclysm<sup>3</sup>.

12. On December 21, 2021, an earthquake measuring 4.6 on the same scale struck the town of Les Cayes again. One hundred and fifty (150) people were injured<sup>4</sup>.

13. For each of these earthquakes, the state authorities promise to come to the aid of the victims. This aid, never formalized and often offered at the start of the disaster in a total lack of transparency, has never consisted of anything more than sporadic distribution of a few food kits and rare displacement allowances, followed by summonses to the victims to vacate the occupied spaces.

14. At no time has the Haitian government been able to demonstrate its maturity in disaster management. While it can, in record time, provide information on the number of

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<sup>1</sup> RNDDH- Earthquakes in Haiti: The vulnerability of citizens must be a priority for authorities, January 12, 2022, p. 2, online: <https://web.rnddh.org/seismes-en-haiti-la-vulnerabilite-des-citizens-nes-doit-constituer-la-priorite-des-autorites/> 2-Rap-Seismes-12Jan2022-EN.pdf

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., p. 3.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid., p. 3.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid., p. 3.

people affected by earthquakes and the number of damaged houses, it has so far been unable to coordinate humanitarian aid and intervene in such a way as to effectively and efficiently help the victims to recover.

15. In the meantime, the insecurity that was then characterized by murders, robberies and rapes perpetrated against the Haitian population in general has taken on a new dimension, with the proliferation of armed gangs regrouping within two (2) major coalitions of armed gangs, namely the G-9 en Fanmi e Alye and the G-Pèp, led respectively by Jimmy CHERIZIER alias Barbecue and Gabriel JEAN PIERRE alias Ti Gabriel or Gabo and based in Delmas 6 and Cité Soleil, in the Nan Brooklyn zone.

16. These two (2) coalitions have very powerful armed gangs with links to members of both the current government and successive governments. They also rely on their other political and economic connections.

17. Armed gangs rob, rape and kill with impunity. They occupy at least 80% of the territory of the West department and are gradually moving into the country's other geographical departments, notably Artibonite and Centre. They control the main roads linking the various departments, considerably reducing the flow of goods and services throughout the country, while at the same time enclosing the West department.

18. Thus, since 2018, in the departments of West and Artibonite, at least twenty-five (25) massacres and large-scale armed attacks have been recorded, resulting in the murder of several hundred people, the gang rape of several hundred women and girls, the gunshot wounds of several hundred others and the burning of thousands of homes and vehicles.

19. Bel-Air, Canaan, Carrefour-Feuilles, Carrefour Peigne, Cité Soleil, Croix des Bouquets, Delmas, La Saline, Liancourt, Mariani, Martissant, Noailles, Onaville, Petite-Rivière de l'Artibonite, Plaine du Cul-de-sac, Savien, Source Matelas, etc.: these are just some of the areas under attack. These are just some of the areas regularly attacked by armed bandits.

20. The first consequence of all these sequences of violence is the massive displacement of the people who used to live in these areas. And, as in the aftermath of the earthquakes that struck the country, citizens have had to abandon their real and personal possessions to take refuge in schools, churches, public squares and vacant lots, forming numerous camps for the displaced. These camps, located in the West department, stand alongside the relocation sites for victims of the January 12, 2010 earthquake.

#### **IV. PRESENTATION OF SITES VISITED BY THE RNDDH**

21. According to information provided by the Directorate of Civil Protection, the number of camps for displaced persons has been exploding for over two (2) years. They are home to families who have had to flee armed attacks in their areas of residence.

22. At least forty-five (45) sites for people displaced by insecurity have sprung up during this period. Of these, only one, the Morne de Prière de Solino camp in Delmas 24, had existed since the earthquake of January 12, 2010. It was subsequently joined by hundreds of victims of insecurity. To date, over thirty-seven thousand three hundred (37,300) people representing seven thousand four hundred and sixty (7,460) families are living in these camps.

23. Still according to the Directorate of Civil Protection, thirty-eight (38) of the camps displaced by insecurity are located in the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area, and three (3) at the lower end of Delmas. The remaining four (4) camps are scattered in other areas affected by insecurity.

24. In addition, RNDDH has identified fifteen (15) housing camps and relocation sites for victims of the January 12, 2010 earthquake.

25. As part of this work, RNDDH has monitored forty-one (41) sites hosting the two (2) categories of victims:

- Camp Bénédiction, Delmas
- Camp Canaan, Carradeux, Tabarre
- Camp de Poste Marchand, Port-au-Prince
- Camp Le Messie, Port-au-Prince,
- Camp Morne de Prière de Solino, Delmas 24, Delmas
- Camp Village Toto, Delmas and Tabarre
- Center d'accueil de Delmas 3, Delmas
- Corail Cesselesse, Croix-des-Bouquets
- Ecole Dei Vitus, (former premises), Port-au-Prince
- Ecole Nationale Caroline Chauveau, Port-au-Prince,
- Ecole Nationale Colbert Lochard / Gran lakou, Port-au-Prince,
- Ecole Nationale Daguesso Lespinasse, Port-au-Prince
- Ecole Nationale Jean Marie Vincent, Tabarre,
- Ecole Nationale République du Brésil, Port-au-Prince,
- National School Republic of Chile, Port-au-Prince
- Ecole Nationale République du Paraguay, Port-au-Prince
- Ecole Nationale Virginie Sampeur, Port-au-Prince
- Ecole Nationale Don Direlan Dumerlin, Place Sainte Anne, Port-au-Prince
- Eglise Assemblée Chrétienne, Fort National, Port-au-Prince
- Eglise Internationale Primitive, Delmas 19, Delmas
- Gymnasium Vincent, Port-au-Prince
- Jerusalem, Croix-des-Bouquets
- Lycée Anténor Firmin, Port-au-Prince
- Lycée du Cent-cinquantaire (Lycée des Jeune Filles), Port-au-Prince
- Lycée du Cent-cinquantaire, (former premises) Port-au-Prince
- Lycée Fritz Pierre-Louis, Port-au-Prince

- Lycée Marie Jeanne, Port-au-Prince,
- Modsol 1, Léogane
- Modsol 2, Léogane
- Modsol 3, Léogane
- Montpellier, Léogane
- Nouveau Collège La Pléiade, Port-au-Prince
- Onaville, Croix-des-Bouquets
- Parc Celtic d'Haïti, Port-au-Prince
- Place Sapatann, Fort National, Port-au-Prince,
- Rex Théâtre, Port-au-Prince
- Saint Etienne 1, Damien, Tabarre
- Saint Etienne 2, Damien, Tabarre
- Village de la Grâce, former camp Le Refuge, Carradeux, Tabarre 52
- Village Lumane Casimir, Croix-des-Bouquets
- Voix des sans voix, Léogane

26. These sites were chosen for their accessibility, taking into account travel difficulties due to insecurity.

27. Only fifteen (15) of these sites were created after the earthquake of January 12, 2010. They represent 37% of the total number of sites monitored, the remaining twenty-six (26), or 63%, having been formed following sequences of violence.

28. The housing camps and relocation sites for victims of the January 12, 2010 earthquake that have been monitored by RNDDH are as follows:

- Camp Canaan, Carradeux, Tabarre
- Camp Bénédiction, Delmas
- Camp Morne de Prière de Solino, Delmas 24, Delmas
- Camp Village Toto, Delmas and Tabarre
- Corail Cesselesse, Croix-des-Bouquets
- Jerusalem, Croix-des-Bouquets
- Lumane Casimir, Croix-des-Bouquets
- Modsol 1, Léogane
- Modsol 2, Léogane
- Modsol 3, Léogane
- Montpellier, Léogane
- Saint Etienne 1, Tabarre
- Saint Etienne 2, Tabarre
- Village de la Grâce, former camp Le Refuge, Carradeux, Tabarre
- Voix des sans voix, Léogane

29. Generally speaking, the victims of insecurity are scattered throughout the camps. And the sites they go to are never too far from the places of conflict. However, this survey work

has enabled RNDDH to break down the camps according to the sequences of violence recorded. At least fifteen (15) camps, representing 37% of the total number of sites visited, are home to surviving victims of Carrefour-Feuilles. Five (5) others, representing 12%, are home to victims of the violence recorded in Bel-Air. These are Parc Celtic d'Haïti, Eglise Assemblée Chrétienne, Nouveau Collège la Pléiade, Poste Marchand camp and Place Sapatann.

30. At least one (1) camp serves as a refuge for displaced people from Corail Cesselesse, who are now victims of insecurity after the earthquake of January 12, 2010. This is the Eglise Internationale Primitive.

31. Two (2) other camps, or 5% of the total number of sites visited, are hosting victims of the armed attacks recorded in Bel-Air, Carrefour-Feuilles and Solino. These are Gymnasium Vincent and Lycée Anténor Firmin.

32. The Delmas Shelter Center is also receiving victims of insecurity from Canaan, Cité Soleil and Jerusalem. They were initially chased out of Place Hugo Chavez, then from another area near the Brasserie Nationale (BRANA) S.A. company. On November 28, 2022, they took refuge at the Delmas Shelter Center.

33. The Delmas Shelter Center and all other shelter sites for victims of insecurity were opened in 2023.

## **V. GENERAL CONDITIONS AT SHELTERS SITES FOR VICTIMS OF THE JANUARY 12, 2010 EARTHQUAKE**

34. It is difficult to say when the last census was taken in the accommodation camps and relocation sites recently visited by victims of the January 12, 2010 earthquake. However, thousands of victims of the January 12, 2010 earthquake who had rebuilt their lives and homes were forced to flee their areas of residence.

35. Tabarre Issa de Greffin, Corail Cesselesse, Jerusalem, Onaville and Village Casimir, which were home to victims of the January 12, 2010 earthquake, have been partially or totally emptied of their population, having been repeatedly attacked by armed bandits or caught up in a spiral of land disputes:

- Tabarre Issa de Greffin has been completely vacated. The camp's residents were driven out by armed bandits from Kraze Baryè, led by Vitelhomme INNOCENT. Most of them took refuge at the Ecole Nationale Jean Marie Vincent, Camp Toto and Camp Carradeux.
- On January 21, 2023, armed bandits nicknamed Les Talibans de Canaan, led by gang leader Jeff LAROSE, invaded the Jerusalem and Corail Cesselesse neighborhoods, forcing the families living there to flee their homes and all their belongings. Some of



them are now living at the Eglise Internationale Primitive camp in Delmas 19 and at the Delmas 3 Shelter Center . Others have returned home, despite the precarious security situation.

- Onaville was stormed on April 7, 2023 by armed bandits from Canaan led by Jeff LAROSE. The camp was partially emptied of its population. Some residents took refuge at the Ecole Nationale in Village Lumane Casimir.
- Village Lumane Casimir in Morne-à-cabris has also been partially emptied. However, the people still living there are in precarious security conditions. Not far from the village, the armed bandits who control the road to Onaville have set up a toll booth. And while the residents of Village Lumane Casimir still have access to water and can send their children to school, they have no electricity. They live in constant fear of being attacked by bandits.

36. In Corail Cesselesse, Jerusalem and Onaville, the police and state institutions are absent. Hospitals and public schools are no longer functioning. The Lycée René Garcia Préval, the Ecole Nationale de Corail Cesselesse, the Lycée Lesly François Manigat and the Ecole Nationale d'Onaville have been forced to move. The inhabitants of Corail Cesselesse, Jerusalem and Onaville have no access to drinking water or electricity.

37. In Léogane, the Modsol 1, Modsol 2, Modsol 3, Montpellier and Voix des Sans Voix camps are characterized by precariousness, their occupants having been abandoned by the state authorities. The management committees for these camps have disappeared over time, making it difficult for families living on these sites to access information.

38. Since the Haitian authorities abandoned the camps in Léogane, the displaced, as in other communes in the West department, have built their own concrete houses. More latrines have been built and, to have access to drinking and service water, they buy water in the surrounding area.

39. Furthermore, according to a member of the civil protection force in the commune of Léogane, several victims from Martissant and Mariani driven out by armed bandits have taken refuge in these camps located in Léogane, which had previously been built to house victims of the January 12, 2010 earthquake.

40. The former Le Refuge camp, now called Village de la Grâce, had previously housed people displaced by the January 12, 2010 earthquake. However, over the years, the number of displaced people in this camp has increased considerably, with many fleeing their homes because of attacks by armed bandits. The security situation at this site is very precarious. At least four (4) cases of rape of minors have been recorded. In addition, most of the houses in Village de la Grâce are built of concrete, although many people still live in shelters. Residents of the village have access to piped water, thanks to a donation from the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF). They also have public sanitary facilities and rely on a

private school for their children's education. They organize their own security. However, for matters relating to the use of illicit products, they seek the support of the Brigade of Fight against Drug Trafficking (BLTS), located not far from the camp. These residents live in difficult socio-economic conditions. They struggle to feed themselves, and at least 5% of the village's children do not attend school.

41. At first glance, Camp Toto was home to the victims of January 12, 2010. However, victims of insecurity have also taken refuge there. Today, more than twelve thousand (12,000) families live there. Camp Toto relies on a branch of the Delmas 33 police station for site security. Residents have no access to communal latrines. The children attend private schools and the residents have built their own concrete houses. They have organized themselves to gain access to electricity by purchasing private transformers. For service water, a reservoir not far from DINEPA has been set up, and the residents have installed their own supply pipes. They buy their own drinking water.

## **VI. GENERAL CONDITIONS IN CAMPS SET UP FOR DISPLACED PERSONS DUE TO INSECURITY**

42. The twenty-six (26) camps for displaced persons created as a result of insecurity recently visited by RNDDH each have a management committee. The latter have carried out population censuses, which facilitated the interviews and enabled us to gain a clear picture of the conditions in which families live in these sites.

### **1. Population**

43. Among the sites visited, RNDDH was able to count :

- Sixteen (16) schools,
- Two (2) churches,
- Two (2) sports facilities for young people,
- One (1) public square,
- One (1) private home,
- One (1) accommodation facility for Catholic priests,
- One (1) former cinema premises,
- One (1) former Cholera Treatment Center,
- One (1) shelter for destitute children.

44. According to information provided by the management committees of these twenty-six (26) insecurity camps, eleven thousand-four hundred and fourteen (11,414) men, thirteen thousand-three hundred and sixty-four (13,374) women, including four hundred and fifty-eight (458) pregnant women, eight thousand-two hundred and forty-nine (8,249) minors, both girls and boys, and four hundred and eighty-four (484) babies are living in these sites.

45. In twenty-two (22) host sites, or 85%, of these monitored insecurity camps, children attend school. In four (4) others, representing 15%, victims of insecurity stated that none of

their children attend school. However, as the reality is not the same for all families, not all children in the same camp attend school. While in some camps only 10% of children attend school, in others the figure is as high as 55%.

46. At least three hundred and fifty-seven (357) people living with disabilities were counted:

- In twenty-five (25) of the camps, representing 96% of the total number of IDP sites visited, people living with motor disabilities were counted;
- In fifteen (15) camps, representing 57%, people with sensory impairments were counted;
- In eighteen (18) camps, representing 69%, people showing signs of cognitive impairment were also counted.

47. The various spaces where the victims of insecurity have taken refuge are not sufficient to accommodate a population of this size. Consequently, victims are sleeping in classrooms, churchyards or courtyards, on sheets and blankets, on benches, on small mattresses or pieces of cardboard. Those who find themselves in the courtyards are exposed to the harsh weather. When it rains, for example, they are obliged to take shelter temporarily, waiting for the area to dry out before going back to bed.

48. The more fortunate have prelates and set up their tents, in which they cannot spend the day because of the discomfort and heat.

49. It was also reported that at the Christian Assembly Church at Fort National, women and girls sleep indoors, while men and boys sleep outside on the courtyard. For many of those interviewed, this arrangement provides women and girls with relative protection from sexual assault.

## 2. Organization of security

50. In most of the camps visited by RNDDH, it is the camp committees, together with the displaced persons, who organize their security.

- In one (1) camp, representing 4% of the sites hosting people displaced by insecurity visited, the committee provided residents with an identification card. This is the only camp to have set up such a mechanism, as the other twenty-five (25) representing 96% of the insecurity sites monitored did not mention it.
- In eighteen (18) camps, representing 69% of the insecurity sites affected, gate opening and closing times - ranging from five (5) hours to twenty-two (22) hours - have been set. The other eight (8) camps, representing 31% of the total, did not mention that

they had established a schedule for opening and closing the gates. For some, their configuration would not allow it anyway.

- At least thirteen (13) camps, or 50% of the insecurity sites visited, have set up surveillance brigades that take turns. These brigades are made up of a maximum of twenty people, often young volunteers who control the area and whose authority is recognized by the residents. In seven (7) camps, or 27%, security is provided by the management committees, some of whom are assisted. For example, at least one (1) camp is assisted by the Directorate of Civil Protection, one (1) by police officers and one (1) by the Port-au-Prince police station. The remaining six (6) camps, representing 23% of the total, did not mention having organized surveillance or similar security mechanisms.

51. However, it should be pointed out that the organization of security in camps created following massacres and armed attacks is only effective in controlling movements within the sites themselves. It can in no way protect residents against attacks by armed bandits. Moreover, the camps are accessible to armed gangs, and victims often wake up in the middle of the night to the sound of automatic weapons.

52. There have also been cases where displaced people have been forced to flee. For example, after the attacks of November 10, 2022, victims from Carrefour-Feuilles took refuge in Collège Essentiel. They had to flee there in August 2023 to escape the fury of the armed gangs. They took refuge at the École Nationale Daguesso Lespinasse.

### 3. Violence recorded

53. In twenty-three (23) camps for people displaced by insecurity, representing 88% of the sites visited, cases of violence have been recorded, while in the remaining three (3), or 12%, there have been no cases of violence to date. These are Camp de Poste Marchand, Ecole Nationale Daguesso Lespinasse and Ecole Nationale Don Direlan Dumerlin.

54. For the 88% mentioned above, the most frequent forms of violence are:

- Verbal assaults recorded in the twenty-three (23) camps reporting violence, or 88%;
- Thefts recorded in sixteen (16) camps, or 61% of insecure sites monitored, compared with seven (7), or 27%, which have never recorded cases of theft;
- Physical assaults recorded in nineteen (19) of the camps created due to insecurity monitored. They represent 73% of them. For four (4) camps (15%), the committees stated that they had not recorded any cases of physical aggression to date;

55. All the committee leaders interviewed for this survey stated that they had not recorded any cases of rape in camps set up because of insecurity. However, at least one case of attempted rape was recorded at the Lycée Fritz Pierre Louis, where a young man armed with a knife attacked a young girl. He fell. The victim took advantage of the situation to snatch the knife and wound her attacker, who was arrested and spent three (3) days in police custody.

56. In three (3) other camps, or 12% of the sites created due to insecurity, other types of gender-based violence were recorded. These were the Ecole Nationale République du Chili, the Eglise Assemblée Chrétienne and the Lycée du Cent-cinquanteaire.

57. In thirteen (13) of these sites, representing 50%, the violence recorded is dealt with solely by the camp management committees. In the ten (10) other camps where violence was recorded, representing 38% of the total number of insecure sites visited, after an attempt at amicable conflict resolution, the committees refer the cases to the police, particularly when they are overwhelmed. Generally speaking, the police stations and sub-police stations of the Carrefour airport intersection road, Delmas 3, Fort National and Port-au-Prince areas come to their aid.

58. Without wishing to assert that the police ensure the security of the camps, twenty-two (22) camp committees set up because of insecurity, or 85%, admitted that, generally speaking, the police patrol the area around the camps and sometimes go there when they are asked to do so, either because of a case of violence, or to provide assistance with humanitarian distributions, for example.

#### 4. Humanitarian assistance

59. Twenty-four (24) camps, representing 92% of the insecure sites monitored, claim to receive humanitarian assistance, compared with two (2), or 8%, who stated that they had never received assistance. These two (2) camps are: the Eglise Assemblée Chrétienne located at Fort National and the Ecole Nationale République du Paraguay.

60. Of the twenty-four (24) camps receiving humanitarian aid, seven (7), or 27% of the total number of insecure sites monitored, are assisted by non-governmental organizations (NGOs), private companies and state institutions. These are Ecole Nationale Daguesso Lespinasse, Rex Théâtre, Ecole Dei Virtus, Lycée Fritz Pierre Louis, Gymnasium Vincent, Lycée Anténor Firmin and camp Le Messie.

61. With the help of the management committees, RNDDH has been able to identify twenty-five (25) of the organizations, companies or government structures involved in the camps that have been set up because of insecurity:

- Agence d'Aide à la Coopération Technique et au Développement (ACTED)
- Action Pastorale pour le Développement Humain (APADEH)

- Aurore du Bel-Air
- Center for Peasant Animation and Community Action (CAPAC)
- Center Hospitalier de Fontaine (CHF)
- Red Cross
- Groupe pour l'Inclusion, la Recherche et l'Appui au Développement d'Haïti (GIRADEL / Haiti)
- Goal
- Directorate General of Civil Protection (DGPC)
- National Directorate of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DINEPA)
- Handicap International
- Citizen Initiative for Human Rights (CIHR)
- La Main divine
- Eau Nationale
- Port-au-Prince City Hall
- Médecins Sans Frontière - Belgium (MSF - Belgium)
- Médecins Sans Frontière - France (MSF - France)
- Médecins Sans Frontière - Holland (MSF - Holland)
- Ministry of Public Health and Population (MSPP)
- Organisation des Cœurs pour le Changement des Enfants Démunis d'Haïti (OCCED'H)
- International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- Organisation de Rapprochement - Aide Humanitaire (ORRAH)
- World Food Program (WFP)
- Solidarités International
- Mental Health Unit (USM)

62. The assistance provided to the displaced varies. While some receive hot meals, cash, food and hygiene kits, others receive mattresses, bedding and blankets, service water, drinking water and alternative sources of electricity. Some others receive health care or psychological assistance.

63. During distributions in some camps, priority is given to the most vulnerable. Beneficiaries are often invited to line up. In other camps, committees set up cells to organize the smooth running of distributions. Cards are sometimes distributed to beneficiaries. Finally, some camps call on the Haitian National Police (PNH) to ensure the security of distributions.

64. However, many of the victims interviewed for this study stated that aid is distributed with a lack of transparency, making it easier for dishonest people to receive it in the name of other victims.

65. In any case, humanitarian aid is never sufficient, as the above-mentioned organizations, private companies and state institutions are unable to cover all the needs of displaced families, or even those living in a single camp.

66. Moreover, according to reports received by RNDDH, aid has not been arriving as frequently as it used to for several months now. For some camps, such as Le Messie, Place Sapatann, Eglise Internationale Primitve de Delmas 19, Parc Celtic d'Haïti, Ecole Nationale République du Chili, Lycée Marie Jeanne, etc., the last distribution of humanitarian aid dates back three (3) months or more.

## 5. Water & Sanitation

67. Twelve (12) camps, representing 46% of the twenty-six (26) insecure sites visited, are (or were in the past) supplied with water by the National Directorate of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DINEPA).

68. According to residents and camp management committees, at Eglise Internationale Primitve, Gymnasium Vincent, Ecole Nationale République du Brésil, Ecole Nationale Daguesso Lespinasse, Ecole Nationale Caroline Chauveau and Lycée Fritz Pierre Louis, where victims complain that the water is salty and itchy, distributions are regular.

69. However, at Ecole Nationale Virginie Sampeur, Eglise Assemblée Chrétienne, Rex Théâtre, Ecole Dei Virtus, Lycée Fritz Pierre Louis and camp Le Messie, water distribution by DINEPA is not regular. For example, at Eglise Assemblée Chrétienne, the displaced people have only received water once from DINEPA.

70. In five (5) camps, or 19%, water is supplied to victims by organizations and a private company. In most cases, these are Solidarités International, Médecins Sans Frontière Hollande (MSF Holland), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), La Main Divine, the Red Cross, APADEH and Eau Nationale.

71. Two (2) camps, representing 8% of the sites created due to insecurity, rely on local individuals for their water supply. These are Ecole Nationale République du Paraguay and Ecole Nationale République Don Direlan Dumerlin.

72. In one (1) camp (4%), residents collect rainwater. This is Celtic Park in Haiti.

73. The residents of the remaining six (6) camps, representing 23% of the sites created due to insecurity, must regularly obtain their own water, which can be bought for up to fifty (50) gourdes for a five (5) gallon bucket. The same applies to camps where water is not regularly distributed by DINEPA or other organizations.

74. In general, residents are required to obtain drinking water. However, at the Lycée Anténor Firmin, treated water is supplied by MSF Holland in partnership with Eau Nationale, while service water is supplied by DINEPA. At the Poste Marchand camp, Solidarités International supplies the drinking water, which is also used for daily family

services. At the Ecole Nationale Jean Marie Vincent, a treated water blader has been installed by DINEPA.

75. Three (3) residents of the Eglise Internationale Primitive de Delmas 19 were hired by DINEPA to sanitize the area for a period of three (3) months. Apart from this example, the sites are not regularly cleaned. Latrines are not emptied. Nor are there dumps for the garbage that often remains on the sites for days on end. These are appalling sanitary conditions that provide a breeding ground for contagious diseases.

## **6. Sanitary facilities, latrines and site lighting**

76. Twenty-one (21) camps representing 81% of the sites created due to insecurity visited have latrines or toilet units. Of these, only six (6) camps, or 23%, claim that the sanitary facilities and/or latrines are clean and functional. These are Ecole Nationale Caroline Chauveau, Lycée du Cent-cinquantaire, Ecole Dei Virtus, Ecole Nationale Colbert Lochard / Gran lakou, Gymnasium Vincent and Ecole Nationale République du Brésil. The remaining fifteen (15), representing 57% of the insecurity sites monitored, are partially operational.

77. The remaining five (5) camps, representing 19%, have never had latrines or sanitary facilities. These are Nouveau Collège La Pléiade, Rex Théâtre, Poste Marchand camp, Place Sapatann and Morne de Prière de Solino.

78. The Ecole Nationale Virginie Sampeur had sanitary facilities that no longer function, forcing victims to relieve themselves in buckets before flushing them down the toilet. The latrines at Eglise Internationale Primitive, Ecole Nationale Don Direlan Dumerlin and the Delmas 3 Shelter Center are completely full, while the latrines at Parc Celtic d'Haïti, Lycée Anténor Firmin and Ecole Nationale République du Chili are partially clogged.

79. Residents of these sites struggle to use the facilities: some relieve themselves in bags, on the floor or perched on walls. Others pay up to fifty (50) gourdes to local individuals to use their toilets.

80. Showers are generally inadequate. Consequently, victims are often obliged to bathe in the streets, near parked vehicles used as screens, in the yards of sites, etc.

81. In addition, six (6) sites, or 23% of the camps for people displaced by insecurity that were monitored, have lighting thanks to donations from organizations such as IOM, ICDH and ACTED. Three (3) other sites, representing 12%, are supplied with mains electricity during the day. Fifteen (15) camps, representing 57%, have no lighting at all. In the evening, victims use their cell phones, rechargeable lamps or whalebone. Information is not available for two (2) of the camps monitored, representing 8%.

## **7. Access to healthcare**



82. Generally speaking, the displaced have no access to health care.

83. For example, agents of the Ministry of Public Health and Population (MSPP) are deployed in at least twelve (12) of the displaced camps. These are: Ecole Nationale République du Chili, Ecole Nationale Daguesso Lespinasse, Ecole Nationale Colbert Lochard/Grand Lakou, Ecole Nationale Don Direlan Dumerlain, Ecole Nationale Jean Marie Vincent, Lycée du Cent-cinquantaire, Lycée Anténor Firmin, Lycée Marie Jeanne, Gymnasium Vincent, Place Sapatann, Camp Le Messie and Camp Morne de Prière de Solino. However, these agents are only equipped to take the blood pressure of displaced persons, campaign to encourage families to adopt behaviours to avoid catching cholera, and invite families to have their babies vaccinated.

84. At the Ecole Nationale Jean Marie Vincent, the Centre Hospitalier Fontaine and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) organize regular mobile clinics.

85. At the Ecole Nationale Daguesso Lespinasse, displaced persons also receive psychological assistance.

86. Meanwhile, access to healthcare is a concern:

- Cases of cholera have been reported in the camps. For example, at the Delmas 3 shelter center and the Morne de Prière camp in Solino, at least two (2) people died of cholera in 2023. An adult died on February 26, 2023, and a minor died in November 2023.
- At least two (2) women living respectively at the Ecole Nationale Daguesso Lespinasse and the Lycée du Cent-cinquantaire lost their babies a few days after birth. Another woman living at Ecole Nationale Colbert Lochard / Gran Lakou suffered a miscarriage.
- Cases of itchy skin and other skin infections have also been reported in the camps.
- People living with HIV/AIDS do not benefit from any special support taking into account their serological status.

## VII. COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

87. The National Human Rights Defense Network (RNDDH) has identified at least sixty (60) sites hosting displaced persons in the West department. Of these, 25% are hosting victims of the January 12, 2010 earthquake and 75% are hosting victims who have fled their areas of residence due to insecurity.

88. From December 5, 2023 to January 10, 2024, RNDDH monitored general living conditions in forty-one (41) of the above-mentioned displaced persons sites.

89. Some of the camps and relocation sites created in the aftermath of the January 12, 2010 earthquake, namely Tabarre Issa de Greffin, Canaan, Onaville, Village Lumane Casimir and Corail Cesselesse, have been partially or totally emptied of their populations. These victims, fleeing insecurity this time, had to move to other sites for the displaced. So today, inside the camps created on January 12, 2010, there are victims of insecurity. And, in the camps created following sequences of violence, earthquake victims are also housed.

90. While the emergency phase was provided by humanitarian organizations in the aftermath of the January 12, 2010 earthquake, the Haitian government has never kept the promises it made to the victims to help them get back on their feet. The most blatant example of the State's failure is the Corail Cesselesse camp, now the country's largest shantytown. So, in total anarchy, housing camps that should have been temporary have become relocation sites, often renamed by the residents who have built their own homes and rebuilt their lives. In these spaces, life is characterized by promiscuity, insalubrity and the absence of state structures.

91. RNDDH, having paid particular attention to the sites created in 2022 and 2023 due to the insecurity resulting from the gangsterization of the country, can affirm that living conditions in these areas are no different.

- In 15% of the twenty-six (26) camps created due to insecurity that have been monitored, children do not attend school. In the other camps, the percentage of children attending school varies from 10% to 55%.
- In 96% of the insecurity camps, people living with motor disabilities were identified. In 57% of them, people living with sensory impairments were counted, and in 69% of camps, people showing signs of cognitive impairment were counted.
- Site management committees organize their own security by distributing membership cards, setting up surveillance brigades or requesting assistance from either the Civil Protection Department or the Haitian National Police (PNH). However, in either case, these mechanisms only serve to control access to the sites. They in no way protect these spaces, whose residents remain vulnerable to armed gangs.
- In 88% of camps created because of insecurity, violence is recorded: verbal aggression (in 88% of them), physical aggression (in 73% of them), theft (in 61% of them) and gender-based violence (in 12% of them).

92. In addition, the residents of 92% of the sites created as a result of insecurity received humanitarian aid in 2023, compared with 8% who were never assisted. Of those who received humanitarian aid, 27% were assisted by non-governmental organizations, private companies and state institutions. However, the assistance offered in the form of hot meals, food kits,

hygiene kits, health care, alternative sources of electricity and psychological follow-up cannot cover all the needs of the displaced. The following data prove this:

- 46% of camps are or have been supplied with water by DINEPA, compared with 19% who have received water from non-governmental organizations or private companies. 8% rely on private individuals to receive water, 4% collect rainwater. Residents of 23% of camps have to buy water, which can cost up to fifty (50) gourdes per five (5)-gallon bucket.
- 81% of camps have latrines, while 19% have none at all. Latrines are neither emptied nor cleaned.
- 23% of camps have been provided with alternative sources of electricity, compared with 12% that are supplied by Electricité d'Haïti. 57% have no lighting at all.
- Residents have no garbage disposal sites.

93. In these conditions, it is not surprising that skin infections and cholera cases are recorded in the shelter center sites.

94. Today, like everyone else, RNDDH notes that fourteen (14) years after the earthquake of January 12, 2010, earthquake victims and victims of insecurity are living side by side in the camps, with total indifference on the part of the state authorities.

95. RNDDH considers it unacceptable that there should be more people in the camps because of insecurity than because of natural disasters. It is also unacceptable that the general living conditions in the sites monitored as part of this work do not prompt the state authorities to take any action.

96. RNDDH recalls that the rights to life, security, physical and psychological integrity, personal safety and an adequate standard of living are fundamental rights enshrined in the Haitian Constitution and in UN and American instruments ratified by Haiti. In addition, the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, published on February 11, 1998 by the United Nations Refugee Agency and applicable to all UN member countries, enshrine respect for and realization of the aforementioned fundamental rights, while stressing that it is up to the government to organize itself to ensure that these rights are respected and realized.

97. Indeed, guiding principle 18 states that "All internally displaced persons have the right to an adequate standard of living. And, echoing the provisions of Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, this principle affirms that: "At the very least, regardless of the circumstances and without discrimination of any kind, the competent authorities shall ensure and provide internally displaced persons with secure access to the following services: basic foodstuffs and clean drinking water; shelter and housing; decent clothing; and essential medical services and sanitation...".

98. In addition, special attention must be paid to the injured, to people living with disabilities whether physical, sensory or cognitive, as well as to women and girls, especially those who are pregnant or victims of sexual assault.

99. According to Guideline 19, psychological and social assistance services must be available to internally displaced people. It is also the responsibility of state authorities to prevent the spread of contagious and infectious diseases among internally displaced people in shelter sites.

100 Finally, it should be emphasized that guiding principle 21 enshrines and protects private property and the possessions of victims, against looting, destruction, direct, indiscriminate attacks or other acts of violence, as well as against illegal occupation.

101. Today, in the face of this security fiasco orchestrated by the negligence and imperiousness of the state authorities and their connivance with armed bandits, RNDDH recommends that they :

- Carry out a census of the population living in the camps created following the earthquake of January 12, 2010 and as a result of the insecurity;
- Provide humanitarian, financial and psychological assistance to all displaced persons in the camps, without distinction and taking into account their specific needs;
- Ensure the schooling of thousands of children in the camps who have never attended school since the start of the 2023-2024 academic year;
- Ensure the cleaning of sites and the regular emptying of latrines, to prevent the spread of disease;
- Encourage the police to secure shelter sites by increasing patrols in and around all camps, without distinction;
- Provide decent temporary housing for victims of insecurity, particularly those living in schools, until they can return home;
- Create adequate conditions of safety and dignity to enable victims to return to their areas of residence, while respecting their fundamental rights;
- Compensate all victims who lost their property during the armed attacks and massacres recorded in the country since 2018;
- Put an end to the gangsterization of the country.