



National Human Rights Defense Network (RNDDH)



**Sites for internally displaced persons:
The RNDDH urges the Haitian State to put an end to this situation**

I. Introduction

1. January 12, 2010 to January 12, 2026 marks sixteen (16) years since a devastating earthquake struck several cities across the country, causing enormous human and material losses and permanently altering the landscape of the Ouest Department, which was the area most severely affected by this catastrophe.

2. Since then, the shelter and relocation sites that were built at the time to accommodate people left homeless have never disappeared. However, those who lost everything as a result of the earthquake have since been replaced by internally displaced persons fleeing armed violence, with the exception of those from Petit Goâve who, for their part, were victims of Hurricane Melissa, which struck the commune on October 29, 2025.

3. Today, on the occasion of the sixteenth anniversary of the January 12, 2010 earthquake, the National Human Rights Defense Network (RNDDH) considers it necessary to draw attention to the conditions in which internally displaced persons are living within the country.

II. Census and distribution of sites for internally displaced persons

4. According to combined information from the Direction de la Protection Civile (DPC) – Ouest, the Direction de la Protection Civile – Centre, and the National Human Rights Defense Network (RNDDH), the country has at least two hundred seventeen (217) sites for internally displaced persons, distributed across twenty-five (25) municipalities located in three (3) geographic departments, namely Artibonite, Centre, and Ouest:

Departments	Municipalities	Number of IDP sites
Artibonite	Desdunes	3
	L'Estère	2

	Saint-Marc	11
	3 Municipalities	16 sites
Centre	Belladère	13
	Boucan Carré	16
	Hinche	24
	Lascahobas	8
	Maïssade	4
	Savanette	5
	Cerca Cavajal	1
	Thomassique	1
	Thomonde	8
	9 Municipalities	80 sites
Ouest	Arcahaie	2
	Cabaret	2
	Carrefour	4
	Cité Soleil	12
	Croix-des-Bouquets	1
	Delmas	18
	Ganthier	1
	Kenscoff	6
	Léogane	7
	Pétion-Ville	6
	Petit-Goâve	1
	Port-au-Prince	58
	Tabarre	3

	13 Municipalities	121 sites
Total	25 Municipalities	217 IDP sites

5. For the preparation of this report, the National Human Rights Defense Network (RNDDH) held discussions with several internally displaced persons and conducted focus groups with managers of forty (40) sites located in the three (3) departments concerned. These sites represent 18 percent of the sites identified and are distributed as follows:

Departments	Number of monitored sites
Artibonite	7
Centre	8
Ouest	25
Total	40

6. Fifteen (15) of these sites are educational institutions, and one (1) of them is a university. They represent 40 percent of the sites monitored as part of this work.

7. A total of sixty-nine thousand six hundred eighty-one (69,681) internally displaced persons are living in the monitored sites, including twenty-seven thousand two hundred forty-seven (27,247) women and nineteen thousand four hundred fifty-five (19,455) children.

8. Internally displaced persons living with disabilities were identified in thirty-six (36) of the forty (40) monitored sites, representing 90 percent of them. In total, there are three hundred sixty-three (363) persons with disabilities, including two hundred fifty-two (252) with physical disabilities, sixty-five (65) with cognitive disabilities, and forty-six (46) others living with sensory disabilities.

III. General living conditions in sites for internally displaced persons

9. Sites hosting internally displaced persons are overcrowded. The spaces are cramped, forcing residents to live in extreme proximity, which leads to unsanitary conditions and promotes the proliferation of insects and rodents, vectors of contagious diseases.

10. Pregnant and breastfeeding women endure these disastrous conditions. From birth, infants are directly exposed to these unsanitary environments. In addition, during the daytime, temperatures become so high, both inside tents and within common areas, that displaced persons are often forced to remain around the sites or seek shelter elsewhere.

a) Condition of shelters

11. In eight (8) sites, representing 20 percent of the monitored locations, shelters are in acceptable condition. This is the case at La Conquête Site Glori, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, also known as the Mormon site, the Bas 2nd Avenue site, the Jean Marie César site, the premises of the political party Konvansyon Inite Demokratik (KID), and the Club International de Frères, all located in the Ouest Department, as well as the Université du Bas-Artibonite and the Saint-Marc City Hall in the Artibonite Department.

12. In the remaining thirty-two (32) hosting sites, representing 80 percent of the monitored locations, shelters are, for the most part, dilapidated and of little or no real use to internally displaced persons. Specifically:

- At the premises of the political party Organisation du Peuple en Lutte (OPL), many shelters are riddled with stray bullet holes. Due to the lack of tents, several people sleep in the courtyard of the site. A similar situation exists at the Ministry of Communication, Bourdon annex, as well as at many other sites located across the three (3) departments of the country where, because of a lack of space or tents, thousands of people are forced to live in courtyards.
- As the roof of the Petit-Goâve City Hall is in poor condition and does not provide any waterproofing, displaced persons use tarpaulins in order to live in the courtyard.
- In certain sites, such as Nouvo Sit Kay Bedo and Camp Manjwa in the Ouest Department, shelters were erected haphazardly, using defective, dirty, and mismatched materials.
- In other sites, including the École Nationale République de l'Équateur, Camp Ciceron, Lycée Marie-Jeanne, the Bois-Verna Shelter Center, Collège Isidor Jean-Louis, and the École Nationale République de Colombie in the Ouest Department, as well as the Idaï site in Thomonde and the École Nationale Anténor Firmin in the Centre Department, shelters are torn, patched with dirty and perforated fabric, and extremely filthy. They are also infested with bedbugs, mosquitoes, flies, earthworms, and rodents. These spaces are unsanitary, with stagnant wastewater in the courtyard and surrounding areas. Displaced persons report that these conditions contribute to the emergence and spread of diseases such as scabies, which has been documented in particular at Lycée Marie-Jeanne.
- Some displaced persons at the Festi Délices site sleep near piles of garbage on which bags of human waste are discarded, making their living space even more foul-smelling.

b) Situation in the sites during rainfall

13. With the exception of the Club International, the premises of the political party KID, part of the Mormon site, and part of the Village de la Grâce in the Ouest Department, as well as the Université du Bas-Artibonite, rainfall generally represents a serious and distressing ordeal for internally displaced persons.

14. While recent works carried out at Jean Marie César and La Conquête Site Glori have helped improve these sites and better prepare them for rainfall, the situation in other sites for internally displaced persons remains catastrophic. A few examples include:

- When it rains, the Pierre Labitterie Municipal School and the École Nationale République de l'Équateur in the Ouest Department; the École Nationale Anténor Firmin, the École Fondamentale d'Application et Centre d'Appui (EFACAP-Centre), and the École Nationale Toussaint Louverture in the Centre Department; and the Cité des Fleurs in the Artibonite Department are flooded. Water often stagnates in the courtyards of these sites, making movement extremely difficult.
- At Festi Délices and at the Ministry of National Education, DDEO, Rue Duncombre, in the Ouest Department, tarpaulins are either insufficient, torn, or in poor condition, leaving displaced persons completely soaked when it rains.

15. In other sites, displaced persons organize themselves to shelter those living under tents, on rooftops, or in non-waterproof shelters. For example:

- At the Fanmi Etensèl Mormon site in the Centre Department, at the Isidor Jean Louis site in the Ouest Department, and at the semi-Lycée Antoinette Dessalines in Saint-Marc, Artibonite Department, displaced persons crowd inside buildings while waiting for the rain to stop. Similar situations were observed at the École Nationale de Marmot in the Centre Department, where some classrooms leak. Displaced persons therefore move into watertight rooms in order to stay dry.
- At Camp Manjwa and at the site of the former General Directorate of the Haitian National Police in the Ouest Department, displaced persons living under torn tents are taken in by others whose tents are in relatively better condition.

16. In some other sites, the time at which it rains is of critical importance. For example, during nighttime rainfall, displaced persons at the Petit-Goâve City Hall, the École Nationale République de Colombie, Nouvo Sit Kay Bedo, the Fusion des Sociaux-Démocrates site, the Camp Ciceron site, the Bas 2nd Avenue site, Lycée Marie-Jeanne, the Office de la Protection du Citoyen, Bourdon, the Bois-Verna Shelter Center, the Ministry of Communication, Bois-Verna, and Lycée Marie-Jeanne in the Ouest Department, on the one hand; and at the site located behind the École Nationale de l'Estère and the Maranatha de Terre-Noire site in the Artibonite Department, on the other hand, are forced to remain awake after stacking their belongings in a waterproof corner, when possible, or holding them in their hands, while waiting for the rain to stop.

17. Moreover, while rainfall allows some displaced persons, such as those at the Idaï site in Thomonde in the Centre Department and those at the Village de la Grâce in the Ouest Department, to store water, many others in the Artibonite and Centre Departments report lacking blankets and having to sleep directly on the ground. This situation is particularly catastrophic for older persons who suffer from rheumatic pain, which tends to worsen during periods of rainfall.

c) Sanitation in sites for internally displaced persons

18. Given that sites for internally displaced persons were not built or prepared to accommodate large numbers of people, ensuring proper sanitation remains very challenging. Nevertheless, this monitoring effort enabled the RNDDH to identify certain sites where the level of cleanliness, while not ideal, is acceptable. For example:

- At La Conquête Site Glori, in the Ouest Department, the non-governmental organization ACTED assists with the regular cleaning of the hangar used as a shelter for displaced persons by providing cleaning supplies to a committee established for this purpose.
- At the Mormon site, Solidarité Internationale provides sanitation assistance.
- At the Jean Marie César camp, the Red Cross and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) support sanitation efforts.
- At the premises of the political party KID, at the Office de la Protection du Citoyen (OPC), Bourdon, and at the Bas 2nd Avenue site, WASH committees have been established.

19. To assess more specifically the level of cleanliness in sites for internally displaced persons, questions relating to the availability of latrines and waste management were put to the committee representatives interviewed during the focus groups.

➤ ***Availability of latrines***

20. According to committee representatives, thirty-one (31) sites have latrines, representing 77.5 percent of the monitored locations. However, latrines are clean in only eight (8) sites, or just 20 percent. These include La Conquête Site Glori, the Club International, the Manjwa site, the Mormon site, the École Nationale République de l'Équateur, the Bas 2nd Avenue site, and Jean Marie César in the Ouest Department, as well as the Université du Bas-Artibonite in the Artibonite Department.

21.Latrines in twenty-three (23) of the monitored sites, or 57.5 percent, are unsanitary and foul-smelling. This is the case at the Ciceron site, Lycée Marie-Jeanne, and the Bois-Verna Shelter Center in the Ouest Department; at the École Nationale Toussaint Louverture, the Idaï site in Thomonde, the École Nationale de Marmot, the École Fanmi Etensèl, EFACAP-Centre, and the École Nationale Anténor Firmin in the Centre Department; and at the Saint-Marc City Hall and the semi-Lycée Antoinette Dessalines in the Artibonite Department.

22.Latrines are also frequently clogged, as observed at the École Nationale République de Colombie, the premises of the political party Fusion des Sociaux-Démocrates, and two (2) of the three (3) latrines at the Ministry of Communication, Bourdon annex, in the Ouest Department. They are also rarely cleaned or emptied, as is the case at Collège Isidor Jean-Louis and at the Office de la Protection du Citoyen (OPC), Bourdon, also in the Ouest Department.

23.In addition, at the premises of the political parties Organisation du Peuple en Lutte (OPL) and Konvansyon Inite Demokratik (KID), as well as at the Pierre Labitterrie Municipal School in the Ouest Department, toilets were installed by the sanitation company JEDCO to serve the population. These toilets are not regularly emptied. As a result, some displaced persons, particularly those at the OPL site who can afford it, resort to using toilets in nearby homes in exchange for payment.

24.Consequently, nine (9) sites for internally displaced persons, representing 22.5 percent of the monitored locations, have no latrines at all, causing significant hardship for displaced persons. For example:

- In the Ouest Department, at Festi Délices and at the site of the former premises of the General Directorate of the Haitian National Police (PNH), Pacot, displaced persons use plastic bags for their physiological needs and dispose of them on nearby piles of garbage. At Nouvo Sit Kay Bedo, it is the owner of the premises who has made a toilet available to displaced persons.
- In the Artibonite Department, displaced persons at the Cité des Fleurs relieve themselves in plastic bags or buckets and throw them into the river. Those at the camp located behind the École Nationale de l'Estère relieve themselves along the riverbank or in plastic bags that are also discarded there.
- In the Centre Department, displaced persons at the Rue Charlemagne Péralte site use nearby homes for their physiological needs when permission is granted.

➤ ***Waste management***

25.In the majority of sites, internally displaced persons often manage waste themselves with the support of non-governmental organizations. This was reported at the OPL site, the Mormon Church site, and the Bas 2nd Avenue site in the Ouest Department.

26. In other sites, waste is collected with the assistance of municipal authorities. This is the case at the Pierre Labittrie Municipal School, the Ministry of Communication, Bois-Verna, La Conquête Site Glori, the KID site, and the Manjwa site, where waste is collected weekly, every three (3) days, or upon request by site managers.

27. Often, due to a lack of resources, displaced persons clean the sites and dispose of waste in ravines, rivers, or adjacent streets. This is the case at the Jean Marie César site, the École Nationale République de Colombie, the Ministry of National Education, DDEO, Rue Duncombre, and the premises of the political party Fusion in the Ouest Department, as well as at the site located behind the École Nationale de l'Estère and at the Cité des Fleurs in the Artibonite Department.

28. In some other sites, waste is burned. This is the case, for example, at Festi Délices in the Ouest Department; at the Idaï site in Thomonde and the École Fanmi Etensèl in the Centre Department; and at the Maranatha de Terre-Noire site, the Université du Bas-Artibonite, the Saint-Marc City Hall, and the semi-Lycée Antoinette Dessalines in the Artibonite Department.

29. Finally, some displaced persons pay out of pocket for waste to be collected and transported outside the sites. This was reported at the Petit-Goâve City Hall in the Ouest Department, as well as at the École Nationale Anténor Firmin, the Rue Charlemagne Péralte site, and the École Nationale Toussaint Louverture in the Centre Department.

IV. Protection of vulnerable persons in sites for internally displaced persons

30. Site committee leaders were questioned about the mechanisms put in place to protect vulnerable persons such as women, girls, and persons living with disabilities.

a) Women and girls

31. According to the information collected, in sites for internally displaced persons, women and girls do not benefit from any specific protection measures that take their vulnerability into account. However, during their interventions, such as at the OPL site, some partners register women and girls and provide them with emergency kits. It was also reported to the RNDDH that at the KID site, a women and girls unit has been established within the site management committee. This unit organizes activities with women and girls living at the site. In addition, at the Jean Marie César camp, also in the Ouest Department, awareness-raising activities for women and girls are conducted on a regular basis.

32. At the Université du Bas-Artibonite and at the École Nationale de Marmot in the Centre Department, parents themselves make arrangements to ensure that their daughters are always in their presence.

33. However, women and girls remain exposed to all forms of violence, even despite these arrangements. Indeed, many site managers reported that cases of sexual violence, gender-based violence, harassment, as well as physical violence against women and girls are regularly recorded.

34. In this regard, during the year 2025, rapes were committed in at least seven (7) of the monitored sites, representing 17.5 percent of them. These cases were reported at the Idaï site in Thomonde and at the École Nationale Anténor Firmin in the Centre Department; at the École Nationale République de Colombie, Collège Isidor Jean-Louis, Village de la Grâce, and the KID premises in the Ouest Department; and at the Université du Bas-Artibonite in the Artibonite Department.

b) Internally displaced persons living with disabilities

35. As mentioned above, in thirty-six (36) of the monitored sites, representing 90 percent of them, internally displaced persons living with physical, sensory, or cognitive disabilities were identified. It was reported that at the premises of the political party KID, therapy sessions are offered to some displaced persons with disabilities. In addition, in certain sites such as the OPL site or the Jean Marie César camp, during the distribution of emergency kits, non-governmental organizations provide hygiene and food kits to persons with disabilities.

36. Aside from these examples, internally displaced persons with disabilities, neglected by State authorities and further marginalized by their situation, suffer greatly. They have no access to health care, education, or adequate food. Most of them have no family and rely on members of the site management committees who attempt, as best they can, to assist them. Otherwise, they can only depend on the goodwill of their neighbors. This situation was reported at the École Nationale République de Colombie, the Ministry of National Education, DDEO, Rue Duncombre, Nouvo Sit Kay Bedo, the political party Fusion site, Lycée Marie-Jeanne, and the Jean Marie César site in the Ouest Department; at the École Nationale Anténor Firmin in the Centre Department; and at the Saint-Marc City Hall in the Artibonite Department.

37. Finally, it should be noted that at the Idaï site in Thomonde, internally displaced persons with disabilities who have burns on their feet are at risk of infection due to the lack of access to health care.

V. Comments and Recommendations

38. Sixteen (16) years after the January 12, 2010 earthquake, the general conditions in sites for internally displaced persons are appalling. With the exception of the Petit-Goâve City Hall, which hosts persons affected by Hurricane Melissa, all sites monitored by the RNDDH for the preparation of this report are sheltering people who fled the violence of armed terrorist gangs against whom the Haitian State has chosen not to take decisive action.

39. At least two hundred seventeen (217) sites for internally displaced persons are spread across twenty-five (25) communes in the Artibonite, Centre, and Ouest Departments, three (3) geographic departments currently controlled by armed gangs. These gangs, grouped since 2024 under the criminal coalition **Viv Ansanm**, spread terror throughout the country, forcing the population to abandon their neighborhoods and homes and to take refuge in the streets, in educational institutions, on private properties, or in State-owned facilities, where they live in overcrowded and unsanitary conditions, exposed to contagious diseases.

40. In addition to all of this, displaced persons who have taken refuge in private spaces, such as the Club International, are also exposed to the constant stress of being forcibly evicted by property owners.

41. While shelters are acceptable in 20 percent of the monitored sites, in 80 percent of them they are dirty, dilapidated, patched, and filthy and, for the most part, do not provide any protection from rain. Some sites are also located near piles of garbage, further worsening the living conditions of the people residing there.

42. During rainfall, many sites are flooded. In several others, water does not drain and stagnates in courtyards, making movement difficult for residents. During nighttime rainfall, displaced persons living in courtyards, on rooftops, or under torn and non-waterproof tents and shelters are forced to crowd together, often holding their personal belongings in their hands, while waiting for the rain to stop.

43. Only 20 percent of the sites monitored for this report have latrines whose level of cleanliness is acceptable. In 57.5 percent of the sites, latrines are unsanitary, clogged, and not emptied. In addition, 22.5 percent of the sites have no latrines at all. To meet their physiological needs, displaced persons relieve themselves on the ground or in plastic bags and buckets, which are then discarded on garbage piles or into nearby rivers. When they can afford it, they pay to use toilets in neighboring homes.

44. Although some international non-governmental organizations and a few municipal authorities assist with sanitation in certain sites, in general, the sites are dirty and waste is poorly managed. Piles of garbage are visible both inside and around many sites. In others, waste is collected only to be dumped into rivers, ravines, or adjacent streets. In still others, it is burned indiscriminately. It is therefore not surprising that many displaced persons and site committee members report infestations of bedbugs, mosquitoes, flies, earthworms, and rodents.

45. Women and girls, whose vulnerability is further exacerbated by conditions in the displacement sites, are exposed to physical, sexual, and psychological violence. During the year 2025, cases of rape were recorded in 17.5 percent of the monitored sites.

46. Persons living with physical, sensory, or cognitive disabilities, identified in 90 percent of the monitored sites, live in conditions of indignity and in total denial of their most basic rights. They lack crutches or wheelchairs for those with physical disabilities and have no support or specialized equipment for persons with cognitive or sensory disabilities. Without assistance or appropriate equipment, these individuals rely mostly on humanitarian interventions, site management committees, or the goodwill of their neighbors.

47. Many school-age children are not attending school, as their parents have been completely impoverished and the State has shown no concern for their situation. Moreover, the fact that 40 percent of the monitored sites are educational institutions or universities raises serious concerns about school dropout rates, as not all children and young people who previously attended these institutions have been relocated elsewhere.

48. The RNDDH reminds State authorities that restoring security, with a view to enabling displaced persons to return home, is non-negotiable, as no distribution of food or hygiene kits can permanently resolve the many problems faced by displaced persons in the sites. However, the RNDDH expresses deep concern over the ultimatum issued by State and police authorities to people still living in downtown Port-au-Prince, particularly in Bel-Air and La Saline, ordering them to vacate their neighborhoods due to operations aimed at dislodging armed terrorist gangs, which have been ongoing since the end of December 2025. As no alternatives have been offered to these mostly destitute populations, they risk further increasing the number of displaced persons already living in sites under the inhumane and degrading conditions detailed in this report.

49. Thus, displaced persons, left to fend for themselves without financial or psychological assistance, exposed to the elements, surrounded by piles of garbage, without latrines, and subjected to all forms of physical, sexual, and psychological violence, suffer greatly in the sites. It is therefore unsurprising that many of them experience depression and exhibit suicidal behavior. For example, during the year 2025, at least three (3) suicides and seven (7) suicide attempts were recorded at the site of the former premises of the General Directorate of the Haitian National Police.

50. Today, the RNDDH considers that the Haitian State has an imperative obligation to put an end to this unacceptable situation in sites for internally displaced persons. For this reason, the organization recommends that the State:

- Track down, arrest, prosecute, and convict all terrorists, as well as all those who benefit from the chaos established in Haiti.
- Restore security conditions in order to enable displaced families to return home.
- Provide financial assistance to impoverished families, either to rent housing or to return to their region of origin, according to their preferences.

- Provide psychological assistance to displaced persons.
- Implement a protection plan for women, girls, and persons living with disabilities.