# Haiti Faces Escalating Crisis as Gang Violence Displaces 580,000 People: UN Report



### Gang Violence in Haiti Displaces Nearly 580,000 People: UN Report

Surging violence in Haiti, attributed to ongoing clashes with armed gangs since March, has displaced nearly 580,000 people, per a new report from the UN migration agency. This stark figure highlights the escalating crisis in the Caribbean nation.

In late February, coordinated attacks by gangs saw gunmen seize police stations, fire on the main international airport—forcing its closure for nearly three months—and raid Haiti’s two largest prisons. The violence has primarily displaced residents from the capital, Port-au-Prince, who have fled to provinces lacking adequate support resources.

The International Organization for Migration noted a sharp rise in displaced individuals, with the March figure of 362,000 soaring to nearly 580,000. The southern region, still recovering from a 2021 earthquake, saw displacement numbers more than double from 116,000 to 270,000.

Internally displaced persons are largely being accommodated by already strained communities with insufficient social services and infrastructure, raising concerns about potential further violence. The report also indicated that over 2,500 people were killed or injured in the first three months of the year.

With 80% of Port-au-Prince and critical roads controlled by gangs, many displaced individuals are living in makeshift shelters, including schools now housing over 60,000 people. Gangs also extort road users, demanding fees or ransom for hijacked trucks, amid a scarce police presence.

Garry Conille, Haiti's newly appointed acting prime minister, emphasized the crucial role of police officers in combating the insecurity during a ceremony for over 400 police academy graduates. Meanwhile, violence is not confined to Port-au-Prince, as evidenced by a recent gang attack in the northern village of Terre-Neuve, which forced over 1,000 residents to flee.

These developments underscore the severe and ongoing humanitarian crisis facing Haiti.