Haiti: TPS Addendum
Last Updated: May 10, 2017

Country Conditions Update

Haiti is “regularly exposed to natural disasters, including hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, landslides, and droughts.”¹ Haiti has yet to fully recover from the impact of the 2010 earthquake; per an April 2017 article in the Miami Herald, “Billions of dollars in promised aid never materialized, and projects like a new $83 million State University Hospital that’s being financed by the United States and France are years behind schedule. More than 46,000 quake victims continue to live in tents and under tarps.”² Haiti also remains “extremely vulnerable to cholera,” with over 800,000 suspected cases reported since October 2010.³

Haiti has also yet to fully recover from the impact of Hurricane Matthew, which struck the country in October 2016 and affected 1.4 million people.⁴ Hurricane Matthew caused an estimated $2.8 billion worth of damage—equivalent to 1/3 of Haiti’s gross domestic product.⁵ After Hurricane Matthew, the United Nations requested “a $139 million emergency appeal for humanitarian aid of which only $86 million was funded” as of April 2017.⁶

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) reported in early March 2017 that “critical humanitarian needs” related to Hurricane Matthew remained in Haiti (particularly related to food security and shelter).⁷ According to a United Nations official, as of mid-April 2017, shelter and food remained scarce in Haiti’s southern peninsula.⁸ The official warned that the situation in these areas could get close to a famine “if nothing is done and the hurricane-ravaged areas miss another planting season.”⁹ In March 2017, an international non-governmental organization reported that at least 13 Haitians in Grand’Anse department had died

² Charles, Jacqueline, Senate Democrats to Trump administration: Let Haitians stay, Miami Herald, Apr. 27, 2017.
⁵ Charles, Jacqueline, Senate Democrats to Trump administration: Let Haitians stay, Miami Herald, Apr. 27, 2017; Charles, Jacqueline, Six months after Hurricane Matthew, food, shelter still scarce in Haiti, Miami Herald, Apr. 12, 2017.
⁶ Charles, Jacqueline, Six months after Hurricane Matthew, food, shelter still scarce in Haiti, Miami Herald, Apr. 12, 2017.
⁸ Charles, Jacqueline, Six months after Hurricane Matthew, food, shelter still scarce in Haiti, Miami Herald, Apr. 12, 2017.
⁹ Charles, Jacqueline, Six months after Hurricane Matthew, food, shelter still scarce in Haiti, Miami Herald, Apr. 12, 2017.
due to hurricane related food shortages in the region, and some Haitians were reportedly living in caves and eating poisonous plants to survive.  

From April 20 to 24, 2017, heavy rains caused flooding and landslides in South, South East, Grand'Anse and Nippes departments, with South department most impacted. At least four people were killed, nearly 10,000 homes may have been damaged, and at least 350,000 people may have been affected. According to a Haitian government official, an estimated 80% of the spring harvest in South department could have been destroyed.

**GDP Growth**

The World Bank has provided the following gross domestic product (GDP) growth rates for Haiti from 1997 to 2015:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>GDP growth (annual %)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>2.705</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>2.182</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>2.71</td>
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<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>0.87</td>
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<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>-1.044</td>
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<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>-0.251</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>0.364</td>
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<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>-3.523</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>1.805</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>2.249</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>3.343</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>0.844</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>3.083</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>-5.498</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>5.524</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>2.885</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>4.234</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>2.797</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>1.185</td>
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</tbody>
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MINUSTAH

The United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) was established in 2004 following a rebellion that led to the removal of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and subsequent violence, including armed clashes, killings, and kidnappings.\footnote{Haiti is Ready for UN Peacekeepers to Leave Soon, Associated Press, Mar. 9, 2017.} Per IHS Jane’s, 53 countries have deployed security or defense personnel to MINUSTAH, which has been led by Brazil.\footnote{Sanchez, Alejandro, UN mission in Haiti to be replaced in October, Jane's Defence Weekly, Apr. 18, 2017} According to a March 2017 Associated Press report, in the aftermath of the violence and the establishment of MINUSTAH, “uniformed U.N. troops provided the only real security” in Haiti for years; however, “these days, Haiti’s police do most of the heavy lifting and the mood has changed.”\footnote{Sanchez, Alejandro, UN mission in Haiti to be replaced in October, Jane's Defence Weekly, Apr. 18, 2017.} As of February 2017, MINUSTAH consisted of over 4,700 personnel, including police and contingent troops.\footnote{Sanchez, Alejandro, UN mission in Haiti to be replaced in October, Jane's Defence Weekly, Apr. 18, 2017.} In March 2017, the Associated Press reported that MINUSTAH consisted of “2,358 soldiers from 19 contributing countries” and approximately 2,200 foreign police officers.\footnote{Haiti is Ready for UN Peacekeepers to Leave Soon, Associated Press, Mar. 9, 2017.}

MINUSTAH’s tenure in Haiti has been controversial.\footnote{Simmons, Ann M., U.N. peacekeepers are leaving after more than two decades, but where does that leave Haiti?, Los Angeles Times, Apr. 17, 2017. Lederer, Edith, The U.N. Just Unanimously Voted to End Its Peacekeeping Mission in Haiti, Associated Press, Apr. 13, 2017.} The \textit{Los Angeles Times} has described the U.N. military presence in Haiti as “never really welcome,”\footnote{Simmons, Ann M., U.N. peacekeepers are leaving after more than two decades, but where does that leave Haiti?, Los Angeles Times, Apr. 17, 2017.} while some Haitians view the U.N. peacekeeping mission as “an occupying force,”\footnote{Haiti is Ready for UN Peacekeepers to Leave Soon, Associated Press, Mar. 9, 2017.} or as an incursion into Haiti’s sovereignty.\footnote{Haiti is Ready for UN Peacekeepers to Leave Soon, Associated Press, Mar. 9, 2017.} In March 2017, the Associated Press characterized the peacekeepers’ tenure as “rocky,” noting that they:

have earned praise for boosting security, paving the way to elections and providing crucial support after disasters, particularly the devastating 2010 earthquake. But some troops have also been accused of excessive force, rape and abandoning babies they fathered.\footnote{Haiti is Ready for UN Peacekeepers to Leave Soon, Associated Press, Mar. 9, 2017.}

In addition, U.N. troops from Nepal are “widely blamed for introducing cholera that has killed at least 9,500 people in Haiti since 2010”\footnote{Haiti is Ready for UN Peacekeepers to Leave Soon, Associated Press, Mar. 9, 2017.} and sickened over 800,000 Haitians.\footnote{Lederer, Edith, The U.N. Just Unanimously Voted to End Its Peacekeeping Mission in Haiti, Associated Press, Apr. 13, 2017.} The source of
cholera was reportedly traced by scientists to a U.N. base in Haiti.\textsuperscript{27} Moreover, some U.N. troops have reportedly been "implicated in a sexual abuse scandal, including a sex ring that exploited Haitian children."\textsuperscript{28}

Nevertheless, the \textit{Los Angeles Times} reported in April 2017 that, despite the aforementioned issues, U.N. officials:

praise the peacekeeping mission as a success. Accomplishments include training police personnel, creating a law enforcement office dedicated to addressing sexual and gender-based violence, reestablishing law and order in the capital, undertaking humanitarian work, helping to draft a law aimed at increasing judicial independence, strengthening the nation’s human rights institution and bolstering the renewal of democratic institutions.

"Just the presence of those troops kept the Haitian political scene in balance," said [Robert] Maguire, the professor, who in 2000 served as Haiti specialist in the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs. "There's always the chance and risk in Haiti that a coup d'etat can occur against the government in power, especially when the leader of the country is away. The U.N. effectively put an umbrella over Haiti and kept it a politically stable place."

The peacekeepers were also valuable in providing logistics and manpower during catastrophic emergencies in Haiti, which since 2000 has endured repeated natural disasters including mudslides, hurricanes and a 7.0 earthquake in 2010 that killed at least 220,000 people.\textsuperscript{29}

In recent months, various U.N. officials and other relevant actors have commented on MINUSTAH’s performance and future in Haiti. In February 2017, Hervé Ladsous, the U.N. Secretary General for Peacekeeping, told the \textit{Miami Herald} the following about MINUSTAH:

Definitely, the military component is not necessary anymore...Stability is essentially there. Look at the elections at the end of last year. There were incidents, yes, a few, but nothing really serious, and I think nothing that justifies the prolonged stay of regular troops.\textsuperscript{30}

In early March 2017, the Associated Press also reported that "Haitian lawmakers argue it is time for Haiti to finally manage all of its own security affairs," including Senator Patrice Dumont, who

\textsuperscript{27} Simmons, Ann M., \textit{U.N. peacekeepers are leaving after more than two decades, but where does that leave Haiti?}, Los Angeles Times, Apr. 17, 2017.
\textsuperscript{28} Simmons, Ann M., \textit{U.N. peacekeepers are leaving after more than two decades, but where does that leave Haiti?}, Los Angeles Times, Apr. 17, 2017.
\textsuperscript{29} Simmons, Ann M., \textit{U.N. peacekeepers are leaving after more than two decades, but where does that leave Haiti?}, Los Angeles Times, Apr. 17, 2017.
argued that the Haitian government “needs to negotiate MINUSTAH’s departure as soon as possible.”

On March 16, 2017, U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres submitted a report on MINUSTAH to U.N. Security Council. In the report, Guterres recommended that:

the mandate of MINUSTAH be extended for a final period of six months and that the Mission close by 15 October 2017. The military component should undergo a staggered but complete withdrawal of the 2,370 personnel within this time frame.

On March 17, 2017, the Miami Herald provided the following analysis of the aforementioned report and the context surrounding Guterres’ recommendation:

As part of the phasing out of MINUSTAH after more than a decade in Haiti, Guterres is recommending that the $346 million mission “be extended for a final period of six months” after its current mandate expires on April 15. The U.N. Security Council is expected to debate Guterres’ recommendations — including the future role of the United Nations in Haiti — on April 11.

While Security Council members all agree on the draw-down, there is disagreement on the future of the U.N.’s presence in Haiti. Guterres is recommending that a smaller mission replace MINUSTAH to focus on police development and the country’s dysfunctional judiciary.

The move had been expected since last month, when U.N. Undersecretary General for Peacekeeping Operations Hervé Ladsous visited Haiti and told the Miami Herald that “the military component is not necessary anymore.”

Guterres agrees.

But the last time the U.N. attempted to transition out of Haiti, an armed revolt forced the deployment of more than 6,000 troops. This time, Guterres said, the proposed withdrawal should be “gradual” in order to give the Haiti National Police time to take responsibility for the country’s security.

“Such a strategy would reduce the possibility of a repetition of the failures of past transitions, such as the rapid decline of HNP capacity, impartiality and credibility following the closing of the U.N. peacekeeping operation in Haiti in March 2000

31 Haiti is Ready for UN Peacekeepers to Leave Soon, Associated Press, Mar. 9, 2017.
which led to the ensuing electoral crisis and large-scale public unrest,” Guterres said in the report.

Guterres said the new mission also would be mandated to help strengthen human rights in Haiti. It would still maintain a political section, while the number of civilian employees would be reduced by 50 percent. Meanwhile, the U.N. foreign police presence also would be reduced, deployed only to five regions to provide back-up to Haiti National Police.

Overall, the number of foreign police officers in Haiti would be reduced from 1,001 to 295. They would be charged with mentoring and offering strategic advice to senior-level Haiti National Police officers.

Foreign diplomats acknowledge that the Haiti police force has made great strides — it was key in the recent arrest of alleged drug trafficking fugitive Guy Philippe — but Guterres said it “has yet to build adequate capacity to address all instability threats inside the country, independently of an international uniformed presence and in line with human rights standards.”

Haiti’s “longstanding risks of instability caused by a combination of a culture of zero-sum politics, deep-rooted political polarization and mistrust, poor socioeconomic and humanitarian conditions as well as weak rule of law institutions and serious human rights challenges,” suggests the need for continued support for the national police, Guterres said, especially in gang-ridden metropolitan Port-au-Prince, and in the southern and northern region where police presence remains low.

“Haiti is still in a delicate period of political transition, pending the formation of the new government and the definition of its governance priorities,” he said.34

On April 13, 2017, the United Nations Security Council decided that MINUSTAH “would gradually draw down its military component during the next six months, finally withdrawing from Haiti by 15 October 2017.”35 The Security Council also established the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH), a successor operation to MINUSTAH which would be “mandated to assist the Haitian Government to strengthen rule of law institutions; further support and develop the National Police; and engage in human rights monitoring, reporting, and analysis.”36 MINUJUSTH would be comprised of up to seven Formed Police Units (FPU) consisting of 980 personnel, and 295 Individual Police Officers for

35 Security Council decides UN Mission in Haiti will close by October; approves smaller follow-on operation, UN News Service, Apr. 13, 2017.
36 Security Council decides UN Mission in Haiti will close by October; approves smaller follow-on operation, UN News Service, Apr. 13, 2017.
an initial six month period from October 16, 2017 to April 15, 2018. According to UN News Service, MINUSTAH was also authorized to “protect civilians under imminent threat of physical violence, within its capabilities and areas of deployment, as needed.”

In an April 13, 2017 article, the Associated Press noted that the Security Council resolution ending MINUSTAH and establishing MINUJUSTH:

recognized the recent elections as a "major milestone towards stabilization." But it also said international support is needed to strengthen, professionalize and reform the police, promote economic development and face the "significant humanitarian challenges" following Hurricane Matthew, which struck in October.

Sandra Honoré, the U.N. special representative and head of MINUSTAH, “cautioned that Haiti would continue to need international assistance following the peacekeepers’ departure and U.N. humanitarian programs, such as those focused on development, education and children, would persist.”

The Associated Press reported that the Security Council’s decision “was met with conflicting emotions in Haiti.” Some Haitians expressed fears that the departure of U.N. personnel could lead to an increase in instability and a deterioration of the economy, while others provided views of the peacekeeping force as an “an occupying force and an affront to national sovereignty.” Moreover, analysts warned of other potential challenges, including the possible re-creation of the Haitian army (which was disbanded in the 1990s). According to Robert Maguire, a professor and specialist in Haiti:

“Now without any soldiers there from the U.N. this will undoubtedly give more push among those who want to create a Haitian army to do so,” Maguire said. “The presence of a Haitian army is a particularly problematic and dangerous thing. There is the long history of the Haitian army becoming directly involved in

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37 Security Council decides UN Mission in Haiti will close by October; approves smaller follow-on operation, UN News Service, Apr. 13, 2017.
38 Security Council decides UN Mission in Haiti will close by October; approves smaller follow-on operation, UN News Service, Apr. 13, 2017.
43 Simmons, Ann M., U.N. peacekeepers are leaving after more than two decades, but where does that leave Haiti?, Los Angeles Times, Apr. 17, 2017.
Reconstruction of the National Palace

Haiti’s National Palace—like a majority of public buildings in the country—was significantly damaged by the January 12, 2010 earthquake. According to Agence France-Presse, images of the damage caused by the earthquake to the building symbolized “the scale of the disaster suffered by the poorest country in the Americas.” In 2012, a controversial decision was made to demolish the National Palace, which was done for free by the J/P Haitian Relief Organization, a non-profit organization established by actor Sean Penn. At the site of the former National Palace, officials “conduct day-to-day operations in pre-fabricated buildings.”

On April 19, 2017, Haitian President Jovenel Moïse announced a project to rebuild the National Palace. At the announcement, Moïse stated that “For many, the post-earthquake reconstruction has not begun as long as the National Palace has not been rebuilt.” Moïse would like for construction to start before the end of 2017. While a commission of engineers, architects, and historians has been established to oversee the project, “the cost of the project is yet to be estimated” and “the government’s requests for proposals to choose the architects and companies involved have not yet been issued” as of April 20, 2017. The executive director of Haiti’s agency for public buildings claimed that the new National Palace “will ‘absolutely’ be completed before the close of 2020,” although he also noted that “it was too early to say precisely what will follow.” The project to reconstruct the National Palace is reportedly part of a larger plan for an “administrative city” that would cover 75 acres in downtown Port-au-Prince.

President Moïse also pledged that the Parliament and the Palace of Justice would be rebuilt during his five-year term in office.

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44 Simmons, Ann M., U.N. peacekeepers are leaving after more than two decades, but where does that leave Haiti?, Los Angeles Times, Apr. 17, 2017.

Contact Us: RAIOResearch@uscis.dhs.gov
TPS CONSIDERATIONS: HAITI (AUGUST 2017)
NATURAL DISASTER

BACKGROUND & OVERVIEW

The January 12, 2010 earthquake that struck Haiti caused extensive damage to the country’s physical infrastructure and public health, agricultural, housing, transportation, and educational facilities. Haitian government estimates of the death toll caused by the earthquake have ranged from 230,000 to as high as 316,000 people, though the accuracy of differing estimates is in dispute. Estimates of people internally displaced range from approximately 1.5 million to 2.3 million at the peak of displacement.

Although some progress regarding reconstruction and recovery has been made in a variety of sectors, billions of dollars in pledged foreign assistance never materialized, and the pace and scope of Haiti’s recovery has been uneven. Many of the conditions prompting the original January 2010 TPS designation persist, and the country remains vulnerable to external shocks and internal fragility. Haiti has also experienced various setbacks that have impeded its recovery, including a cholera epidemic and the impact of Hurricane Matthew—the latter of which struck Haiti in October 2016 and “severely worsened the pre-existing humanitarian situation” in the country. As of August 2017, Haiti “continues to be affected by a convergence of humanitarian needs,” including food insecurity, internal displacement, an influx of returnees from the Dominican Republic, the persistence of cholera, and the lingering impact of various natural disasters. Moreover, Haiti’s recovery has also been impacted by a series of other challenges related to housing, healthcare, economic growth, political instability, security, and environmental concerns.

3 Key Statistics. Office of the Secretary-General’s Special Adviser on Community-Based Medicine & Lessons from Haiti, United Nations, 2012.
HOUSING SHORTAGE & INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

Even before the 2010 earthquake, Haiti faced a substantial national housing deficit, estimated at 700,000 housing units. With an estimated $2.3 billion in damages—approximately 40% of the total—housing was the sector most impacted by the earthquake. The Haitian government estimated that 105,000 houses were destroyed and 188,383 houses collapsed or suffered considerable damage. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) claimed that 1.5 million Haitians were internally displaced and moved into internally displaced person (IDP) camps and other temporary sites following the disaster.

While the number of IDP camps/sites and displaced individuals from the 2010 earthquake have significantly declined, Haiti still faces considerable obstacles related to housing. According to data from the International Organization for Migration (IOM), from July 2010 to June 2017, there has been a net decrease in displacement by 97 percent, and 98 percent of sites have closed. However, as IOM reported in June 2017, “Camp closures, relocation and rental subsidy programs began decreasing substantially in March 2015, a trend which continues today.” According to Amnesty International, many individuals who have left the IDP camps/sites have reportedly “moved back to unsafe houses or started building or reconstructing their houses, in most cases with no assistance or guidance, and often in informal settlements located in hazardous areas.” Amnesty International has also claimed that over 60,000 IDPs have been forcibly evicted from camps since 2010 by private landowners, often with the assistance or implicit support of Haitian authorities.

As of June 2017, around 37,867 IDPs (9,347 households) were still living in 27 camps. According to IOM, the number of organizations providing assistance to IDPs has declined in recent years, and “living conditions in the camps are precarious and access to basic services

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10 Key Statistics, Office of the Secretary-General’s Special Adviser on Community-Based Medicine & Lessons from Haiti, United Nations, 2012.
remains a major challenge for the displaced population.\textsuperscript{17} A vast majority of the aforementioned individuals still living in camps/sites “are currently not targeted by partners for durable solutions.”\textsuperscript{18}

In October 2016, Hurricane Matthew impacted over 236,000 homes—“of which 44% were destroyed and 42% severely damaged”\textsuperscript{19}—and displaced approximately 175,000 people in Haiti.\textsuperscript{20} In areas most affected by the storm, approximately 90% of homes were destroyed.\textsuperscript{21} IOM reported in June 2017 that 3,597 individuals were living in 48 displacement sites due to the impact of Hurricane Matthew and spring flooding in Grande’ Anse and Sud departments.\textsuperscript{22, 23}

While post-earthquake IDP camps are closing, Haiti’s housing shortage remains far from resolved. The 2010 earthquake exacerbated the country’s pre-existing shortage of adequate and affordable housing.\textsuperscript{24} The Government of Haiti has estimated that the country will need as many as 500,000 additional housing units over the next 10 years to make up for its shortage prior to the earthquake, to replace housing lost as a result of damage from the disaster, and to accommodate projected urban growth.\textsuperscript{25}

**CHOLERA EPIDEMIC & HEALTHCARE**

Haiti’s longstanding public health challenges were exacerbated by the January 2010 earthquake and an ongoing cholera epidemic that started in October 2010.\textsuperscript{26} According to the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), “even before the 2010 earthquake, Haiti’s healthcare system was not able to respond to the needs for basic healthcare services.”\textsuperscript{27} The 2010 earthquake significantly impacted Haiti’s health sector, destroying 50 health centers, the Ministry of Health, and part of the country’s primary teaching hospital.\textsuperscript{28} Damages from both the 2010 earthquake and Hurricane Matthew in October 2016—the latter of which affected 99

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\textsuperscript{17} IOM Haiti – DTM Report – June 2017, International Organization for Migration, p.6, June 2017.


\textsuperscript{20} Thomas, Alice, Two Steps Back: Haiti Still Reeling from Hurricane Matthew, Refugees International, p.4, April 2017.


health facilities\textsuperscript{29}—"exacerbated an existing lack of adequate health infrastructure, such as health care and storage facilities, as well as access to electricity, clean water and sanitation systems."\textsuperscript{30}

In June 2017, the United Nations Economic and Social Council reported that "Haiti has some of the worst health indicators in the world, which continue to stymie economic development."\textsuperscript{31} Approximately 40 percent of the population lacks access to fundamental health and nutrition services.\textsuperscript{32} Maternal and infant mortality rates are respectively three and five times higher than the regional averages,\textsuperscript{33} and "only 45 percent of all children between the ages of 12 months and 23 months are fully vaccinated."\textsuperscript{34} Public spending in the health sector is low, and the country has a limited number of health professionals and a deficit of health infrastructure.\textsuperscript{35}

A cholera epidemic that began in October 2010—reportedly the largest such outbreak of cholera in recent history—remains ongoing and continues to place additional strains on Haiti’s beleaguered public health system.\textsuperscript{36} From October 2010 through June 2017, there have been an estimated 813,000 cases of cholera in Haiti, and 9,676 people have been killed by the disease (which was allegedly introduced by United Nations peacekeepers).\textsuperscript{37}

While progress has been made in combating cholera since the peak of the epidemic in 2011,\textsuperscript{38} cholera has become endemic in Haiti, "with seasonal peaks regularly triggering emergency interventions."\textsuperscript{39} In 2016, the number of suspected cholera cases increased, mainly due to a spike in suspected cases in areas affected by Hurricane Matthew in the aftermath of the storm.\textsuperscript{40}

\textsuperscript{38} Fact Sheet: Cholera situation in Haiti, 1 January/15 April 2017, United Nations Country Team in Haiti, Apr. 27, 2017.
While the number of suspected cases of cholera has declined since 2016, Haiti nevertheless remains “extremely vulnerable” to the disease. According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), cholera continues to impact Haiti due to a lack of funding for the country’s National Plan for the Elimination of Cholera (PNEC), weak water and sanitation infrastructure, the lack of access to quality medical care, and high population density and mobility to urban areas.

**ECONOMY**

Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, with poverty, vulnerability to natural disasters, corruption, and low levels of education serving as significant obstacles to sustained economic development. Haiti’s weak infrastructure and the difficulty of doing business limit investment, and the country remains vulnerable to damage from natural disasters and dependent on foreign aid or direct budget support for more than 20% of its annual budget. The 2010 earthquake caused $7.8 billion in damages and economic losses—“equivalent to more than 120 percent of Haiti’s 2009 gross domestic product (GDP)” —and destroyed an estimated 90 percent of buildings in Port-au-Prince, Haiti’s capital, including hospitals, schools, physical infrastructure, and transportation facilities. Although Haiti’s economy started to recover from the earthquake—with economic growth at 5.5% in 2011—GDP growth has slowed to 1.2% in 2015 and 1.4% in 2016 as a result of political uncertainty, drought, declining foreign aid, and currency depreciation. According to June 2017 data from the World Bank, Haiti’s GDP growth is forecasted to further decline to 0.5% in 2017.

While Haiti has made slight improvements in reducing poverty levels and increasing access to education and sanitation since 2000, a 2014 World Bank report noted that the “wealth generated in the country is largely inadequate to meet the needs of the people.” According to the World Bank, “more than 6 million out of 10.4 million (59%) Haitians live under the national poverty line of US$ 2.42 per day and over 2.5 million (24%) live under the national extreme poverty line.

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42 Fact Sheet: Cholera situation in Haiti. 1 January/15 April 2017, UN Country Team in Haiti, Apr. 27, 2017.
43 Haiti: Cholera figures (as of 30 June 2017), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), Jul. 24, 2017.
45 Key Statistics. Office of the Secretary-General’s Special Adviser on Community-Based Medicine & Lessons from Haiti, United Nations, 2012.
of US$1.23 per day.” An additional one million people are at risk of falling into poverty following an external shock, such as a natural disaster. An estimated 40% of Haitians are unemployed.

According to the United Nations Economic and Social Council, Haiti “is highly dependent on remittances from its diaspora.” Remittances—estimated at over $2 billion per year in 2015, including more than $1.3 billion from Haitians living in the United States—are Haiti’s “primary source of foreign exchange, equivalent to more than a quarter of GDP, and nearly double the combined value of Haitian exports and foreign direct investment.” Moreover, remittances have also “helped to support education, health and the subsistence requirements” of Haiti’s population.

GOVERNANCE & POLITICAL INSTABILITY

Per IHS Jane’s, with its history of political instability, economic struggles, political violence, and pervasive human rights abuses, Haiti “has long been seen as a model of poor and corrupt governance.” Even before the earthquake, the Haitian government “could not or would not deliver core functions to the majority of its people.” The January 2010 earthquake had an immediate and significant impact on governance and the rule of law in Haiti, killing an estimated 18 percent of the country’s civil service and destroying key government infrastructure, including the National Palace, the Parliament, 28 of 29 government ministry buildings, the Haitian National Police’s headquarters, and various judicial facilities (including courts and correctional facilities).

On April 19, 2017, Haitian President Jovenel Moïse announced a project to rebuild the National Palace, which was significantly damaged in the 2010 earthquake and subsequently demolished.

Moïse stated that he would like for construction to start before the end of 2017. President Moïse also pledged that the Parliament and the Palace of Justice would be rebuilt during his five-year term in office. In August 2017, IHS Jane’s reported that, among the public buildings destroyed by the earthquake, only the Supreme Court of Justice had been reconstructed and was operational in 2017. Updates on the status of the proposed reconstruction of Haiti’s National Palace could not be found as of August 22, 2017.

In June 2016, the October 2015 presidential election results were annulled, and new elections were scheduled for October 2016—yet were subsequently postponed due to the impact of Hurricane Matthew. On November 20, 2016, Jovenel Moïse, a banana plantation owner, was elected president with enough votes to avoid a run-off. Moïse was officially declared the winner of Haiti’s presidential election on January 4, 2017, and was sworn in on February 7. On January 29, 2017, Haiti held elections for eight senators and one seat in the lower chamber of congress. Nationwide municipal elections were also held on this date for the first time since December 5, 2006.

While Haiti successfully completed its electoral process in February 2017 after two years of contested results and political crises, its new government faces various challenges to promote recovery and reconstruction. According to USAID, although Haiti possesses “the formal structures of a democracy, many of these have yet to become fully functional.” Haiti’s state institutions lack sufficient resources, and “provide limited services to only a small percentage of the population.” In late June 2017, the United Nations Economic and Social Council reported that, while Haiti’s new government has expressed a desire to improve the country’s political and socioeconomic situation, “it is also clear that the Government has limited capacity to ensure a public administration system that can effectively guarantee the rule of law and a functioning justice system, promote the fight against corruption and effectively protect human rights.”

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69 Low turnout in Haiti’s local elections. AFP, Jan. 29, 2017.
SECURITY

By creating new security vulnerabilities and stimulating an increase in crime, the 2010 earthquake had a deleterious impact on public security in Haiti. The escape of thousands of prisoners and the diffusion of gangs throughout Port-au-Prince in the aftermath of the earthquake overwhelmed Haiti’s historically weak justice system and police. An overall climate of insecurity in IDP camps left many IDPs vulnerable to violence and crime, including gender-based violence, theft, and domestic violence. Violence against women reportedly increased in the aftermath of the earthquake.

Crime rates in Haiti are high, and the general security situation is “unpredictable.” The U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Diplomatic Security has reported that homicide, armed robberies, and crimes against persons (including gender-based violence) are major concerns. Demonstrations, roadblocks, and political rallies regularly occur, and have at times led to violent incidents. Violence against women is reportedly widespread, and has been characterized as a chronic or systemic problem. Impunity levels are high, and the capacity of Haiti’s police force is “relatively low.” In general, Haitians “lack basic policing services,” and criminals are reportedly able to operate without fear of the police.

According to the U.S. Department of State, “rates of kidnapping, murder, and rape rose in 2016.” The Government of the United Kingdom has reported that “crime levels have continued to increase in 2017.” In July 2017, the United Nations Secretary General reported that, since his previous report in March 2017, “growing tensions linked to socioeconomic...

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grievances notwithstanding, key indicators, including crime and civil protests, remained within historically established statistical parameters.”

**MINUSTAH**

In 2004, the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) was established following a rebellion that led to the removal of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and subsequent violence, including armed clashes, killings, and kidnappings. In the aftermath of the violence and the establishment of MINUSTAH, “uniformed U.N. troops provided the only real security” in Haiti for years. However, the Associated Press reported in March 2017 that, “these days, Haiti’s police do most of the heavy lifting and the mood has changed.”

MINUSTAH’s tenure in Haiti has been controversial. The *Los Angeles Times* has described the U.N. military presence in Haiti as “never really welcome,” while some Haitians view the U.N. peacekeeping mission as “an occupying force,” or as an incursion into Haiti’s sovereignty. In March 2017, the Associated Press characterized the peacekeepers’ tenure as “rocky,” noting that they:

> have earned praise for boosting security, paving the way to elections and providing crucial support after disasters, particularly the devastating 2010 earthquake. But some troops have also been accused of excessive force, rape and abandoning babies they fathered.

In addition, U.N. troops from Nepal are “widely blamed” for introducing cholera to the country, with the source of cholera reportedly traced by scientists to a U.N. base. Moreover, some U.N.

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88 Haiti is Ready for UN Peacekeepers to Leave Soon, Associated Press, Mar. 9, 2017.
89 Haiti is Ready for UN Peacekeepers to Leave Soon, Associated Press, Mar. 9, 2017.
90 Haiti is Ready for UN Peacekeepers to Leave Soon, Associated Press, Mar. 9, 2017.
92 Simmons, Ann M., U.N. peacekeepers are leaving after more than two decades, but where does that leave Haiti?, Los Angeles Times, Apr. 17, 2017.
93 Haiti is Ready for UN Peacekeepers to Leave Soon, Associated Press, Mar. 9, 2017.
94 Simmons, Ann M., U.N. peacekeepers are leaving after more than two decades, but where does that leave Haiti?, Los Angeles Times, Apr. 17, 2017.
95 Haiti is Ready for UN Peacekeepers to Leave Soon, Associated Press, Mar. 9, 2017.
97 Simmons, Ann M., U.N. peacekeepers are leaving after more than two decades, but where does that leave Haiti?, Los Angeles Times, Apr. 17, 2017.
troops have reportedly been “implicated in a sexual abuse scandal, including a sex ring that exploited Haitian children.”

On April 13, 2017, the United Nations Security Council decided that MINUSTAH “would gradually draw down its military component during the next six months, finally withdrawing from Haiti by 15 October 2017.” MINUSTAH will be replaced by the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH), which will seek to “help the Haitian Government strengthen rule-of-law institutions, further develop and support the Haitian National Police and engage in human rights monitoring, reporting and analysis.” MINUJUSTH will comprise up to seven Formed Police Units (FPU) consisting of 980 personnel, and 295 Individual Police Officers for an initial six month period from October 16, 2017 to April 15, 2018. In July 2017, the United Nations Secretary General reported that “the ongoing withdrawal of the MINUSTAH military and police components...has not affected the overall security situation.”

**FOOD SECURITY**

Damage from the 2010 earthquake exacerbated Haiti’s historic food security challenges. The earthquake displaced over 600,000 people from urban to rural areas and caused significant damage to physical infrastructure; these factors contributed to a sharp decline in income and food availability, as well as an increase in the price of food in the aftermath of the earthquake. While the international community provided emergency food assistance and support for the agricultural sector to help avert a post-earthquake food crisis, food insecurity has remained a significant challenge for Haiti. Haiti depends on imports to meet more than 50 percent of its

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98 Simmons, Ann M., U.N. peacekeepers are leaving after more than two decades, but where does that leave Haiti?, Los Angeles Times, Apr. 17, 2017.
99 Security Council decides UN Mission in Haiti will close by October; approves smaller follow-on operation, UN News Service, Apr. 13, 2017.
100 In visit to Haiti, Security Council delegation to reaffirm support for country's stability and development, UN News Service, Jun. 23, 2017.
101 Security Council decides UN Mission in Haiti will close by October; approves smaller follow-on operation, UN News Service, Apr. 13, 2017.
food needs, and is extremely vulnerable to fluctuations in global food prices. Chronic malnutrition impacts approximately half of Haiti’s population.

In recent years, food and nutritional security in Haiti have gradually deteriorated due to the impact of Tropical Storm Isaac and Hurricane Sandy in 2012 and three consecutive years of severe drought (exacerbated by El Niño). Hurricane Matthew also exacerbated food insecurity in Haiti. The impact of the hurricane caused an estimated $580 million in damages to the country’s agricultural sector, and extensive damage to “crops, livestock and fisheries as well as to infrastructure such as irrigation – with the most affected areas having up to 100 percent crop damage or destruction.” Approximately “428,000 farmers were decapitalized” and food production infrastructure was significantly impacted by the storm. In August 2017, USAID reported that, “more than six months later, the storm’s impact continues to drive elevated levels of food insecurity in the worst-affected communities.” As of May 2017, approximately 5.82 million people were facing food insecurity in Haiti, including 2.35 million people who “were severely food-insecure and in need of immediate assistance.”

**NATURAL DISASTERS & ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS**

Due to its geographic location, weak infrastructure, and limited government resources, Haiti is particularly susceptible to natural disasters. Per the World Bank, Haiti has been impacted by natural disasters “almost every year since 1971, losing on average two percent of GDP every year due to hydrometeorological events.” An estimated 98 percent of the Haitian population

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110 Damages to agricultural sector in storm-hit Haiti estimated at $580 million – UN agency, UN News Centre, Nov. 23, 2016.
is exposed to two or more types of natural disasters.\textsuperscript{117} As a result of its exposure to natural hazards and the vulnerabilities of its population, Haiti “consistently ranks among the most vulnerable countries in the world to disasters and climate change.”\textsuperscript{118} According to the 2017 Global Climate Risk Index, Haiti ranked as the third most affected country in the world by extreme weather events from 1996 to 2015; during this time, Haiti averaged $222 million in damages per year—equivalent to 1.49% of GDP on average.\textsuperscript{119}

Located along the “hurricane belt,”\textsuperscript{120} Haiti is regularly impacted by tropical storms and floods.\textsuperscript{121} Haiti suffered severe flooding in 2002, 2003, 2006, and 2007.\textsuperscript{122} During the 2008 hurricane season, Haiti was impacted by four storms “which killed more than 800 people and devastated nearly three-quarters of its agricultural land.”\textsuperscript{123} In the fall of 2012, Hurricane Sandy affected 1.8 million Haitians; flooded, damaged, or destroyed 18,000 homes; damaged key infrastructure, including roads, hospitals, and schools; and killed 60 people.\textsuperscript{124}

More recently, Haiti has been “grappling with a heavy rainy season” in 2017.\textsuperscript{125} The rainy season, which began in April, has resulted in:

- floods and landslides, damage to homes and destruction of harvests, especially in the departments of South, Grand’Anse and Nippes, which were the most affected departments by Hurricane Matthew. Erosion of roads have impacted access to several communes, especially in the South department.\textsuperscript{126}

By late May, at least seven people had been killed and 15,000 households were in need of immediate humanitarian assistance.\textsuperscript{127} The rainy season coincides with hurricane season in Haiti, which typically lasts from June 1 to November 30.\textsuperscript{128} In June 2017, the United Nations

\textsuperscript{121} Jones, Sam, \textit{Why is Haiti vulnerable to natural hazards and disasters?}, The Guardian, Oct. 4, 2016.
\textsuperscript{122} Jones, Sam, \textit{Why is Haiti vulnerable to natural hazards and disasters?}, The Guardian, Oct. 4, 2016.
\textsuperscript{123} Jones, Sam, \textit{Why is Haiti vulnerable to natural hazards and disasters?}, The Guardian, Oct. 4, 2016.
\textsuperscript{124} UN relief agency estimates 1.8 million Haitians have been affected by Hurricane Sandy, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Nov. 2, 2012.
\textsuperscript{125} Five dead, 19 missing after Haiti rains, flooding – officials, Reuters, May 19, 2017.
Economic and Social Council reported that the Haitian government “has indicated that it does not have the capacity in terms of equipment and personnel to mitigate any disaster that may result” from the current hurricane season.\(^\text{129}\)

Located along several major fault lines, Haiti has also been impacted by powerful earthquakes.\(^\text{130}\) In 2016, Haiti suffered from its third consecutive year of drought, which was exacerbated by *El Niño*.\(^\text{131}\) Extensive deforestation exposes Haiti to and exacerbates flooding, mudslides, and soil erosion.\(^\text{132}\)

**HURRICANE MATTHEW**

The strongest hurricane to strike the country in more than 50 years and the third strongest ever recorded in Haiti, Hurricane Matthew made landfall in southwestern Haiti as a Category 4 hurricane on October 4, 2016.\(^\text{133}\) With 145-mile-an-hour winds and torrential rains,\(^\text{134}\) Hurricane Matthew “violently struck south-western Haiti…causing widespread damage, flooding and displacement.”\(^\text{135}\) Heavy flooding occurred in the most affected departments, including Grand’Anse, South, Nippes and South East departments.\(^\text{136}\) Per UNOCHA, the impact of the hurricane occurred at a time when Haiti was “already facing an increase in the number of cholera cases and severe food insecurity and malnutrition.”\(^\text{137}\)

According to UNOCHA, Hurricane Matthew caused the greatest humanitarian crisis in Haiti since the 2010 earthquake.\(^\text{138}\) Hurricane Matthew affected 2.1 million people in Haiti; of this amount, 1.4 million were estimated to be in need of humanitarian assistance in the aftermath of


the storm. An estimated 175,000 people were displaced, and 546 people were killed. Hurricane Matthew also caused “widespread damage to homes, roads, public infrastructure, hospitals, and schools.” Damages from Hurricane Matthew were estimated at nearly $2.8 billion—equivalent to 1/3 of Haiti’s gross domestic product—and were particularly severe in Haiti’s housing and food security sectors.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew, the international humanitarian community coordinated with the Government of Haiti to provide emergency humanitarian assistance to those affected by the storm. Humanitarian assistance was provided in a variety of fields, including emergency shelter, health, food security, protection, etc. In early March 2017, UNOCHA reported that over 1 million people had been reached with humanitarian assistance in the most affected regions of Grand’Anse, Sud and Nippes departments.

According to a United Nations official, as of mid-April 2017, shelter and food remained scarce in Haiti’s southern peninsula. In March 2017, an international non-governmental organization reported that at least 13 people in Grand’Anse department had died due to hurricane related food shortages in the region, and some Haitians were reportedly living in caves and eating poisonous plants to survive.

UNOCHA reported in May 2017 that “affected people continue to live in precarious conditions, particularly in hard-to-reach areas.”

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143 Charles, Jacqueline, Senate Democrats to Trump administration: Let Haitians stay, Miami Herald, Apr. 27, 2017; Charles, Jacqueline, Six months after Hurricane Matthew, food, shelter still scarce in Haiti, Miami Herald, Apr. 12, 2017.
149 Charles, Jacqueline, Six months after Hurricane Matthew, food, shelter still scarce in Haiti, Miami Herald, Apr. 12, 2017.
The Haitian government and the international community continued to support Haiti’s efforts to recover from Hurricane Matthew during the summer of 2017. On June 30, 2017, President Jovenel Moïse declared a state of emergency in areas hit by the storm. The World Bank announced grants of $100 million in June 2017 and an additional $100 million in July 2017 to support Haiti’s recovery from the impact of Hurricane Matthew. In addition, the Miami Herald reported in July 2017 that the Inter-American Development Bank would reroute $85 million in funding to support reconstruction efforts in southern Haiti.

Nevertheless, in June 2017, the World Bank reported that reconstruction needs from Hurricane Matthew “were assessed at US$2.2 billion or 25 percent of GDP.” In July 2017, the Miami Herald reported that residents of the areas most impacted by Hurricane Matthew in southern Haiti felt abandoned by international donors and the Haitian government. The Inter-American Development Bank’s representative for Haiti told the Miami Herald in July 2017 that, even with the additional funding from its organization for areas impacted by Hurricane Matthew:

“The situation is so dire that even if we fully disbursed the $85 million that we have committed to the South after the hurricane, there are still a lot of people in need, a lot of villages that were badly affected by the hurricane and need further investment,” he said. “We will need lots more resources.”

HAITIAN RETURNEES FROM THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

A crackdown on undocumented migrants in the Dominican Republic has contributed to an influx of returnees to Haiti in recent years. From July 2015 through July 2017, IOM recorded that 215,121 Haitian migrants spontaneously returned or were deported to Haiti. In June 2017,
IOM reported that the “total number of returnees has averaged between 6000 and 8000 individuals on a monthly basis” since August 2016. However, the total number of returnees may actually be higher, as IOM stated that it had only been able to monitor half of border crossings between the two countries since September 2016 due to budget constraints. Deportations from the Dominican Republic have drastically increased since April 2017; July 2017 had the highest number of official deportations since October 2015.

In July 2017, the United Nations Secretary-General reported that returnees from the Dominican Republic:

continue to find themselves in a situation of vulnerability owing to the insufficient reception capacity of the Haitian authorities and a lack of reintegration opportunities. This group will likely continue to need assistance in the foreseeable future, including with regard to the determination of their legal status.

Similarly, in August 2017, the Miami Herald commented on the Haitian government’s “inability to absorb the influx” of returnees from the Dominican Republic, also noting that “their arrival, mostly ignored by Haitian authorities, has burdened humanitarian organizations that have struggled to help amid deep budget cuts and indifference.” Many migrants reportedly “arrive in precarious conditions,” while some returnees reportedly live in “make-shift camps” along the border similar to those inhabited by IDPs from the 2010 earthquake.

**SUMMARY**

Haiti’s recovery has been hindered by subsequent natural disasters and various political, social, health, security, and economic conditions which have negatively impacted the country in recent years. Haiti remains vulnerable to external shocks, and its internal fragility has left it unable to
adequately respond to a wide range of persistent humanitarian needs. As UNOCHA and the United Nations Country Team in Haiti reported in January 2017:

With more than 98% of Haitians exposed to two or more types of disasters, the impact of recurring natural disasters is particularly severe, especially considering the already pre-existing protection, socio-economic and environmental vulnerabilities and disparities. Most Haitians remain vulnerable to natural hazards and disasters, such as floods, landslides, droughts, earthquakes and hurricanes. With more than a half of its total population living in extreme poverty, Hurricane Matthew has once more demonstrated Haiti’s weakened ability to cope, recover and adapt to shocks from natural disasters. Meanwhile, as a result of electoral-related tensions, politically motivated demonstrations and insecurity have affected the humanitarian operating environment since mid-2015 against the backdrop of a decreasing humanitarian presence in the field due to the lack of humanitarian funding.\footnote{Haiti: Humanitarian Response Plan January 2017 - December 2018, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA)/United Nations Country Team in Haiti, p.6, Jan. 2017.}

Due to the conditions outlined in this report, Haiti’s recovery from the 2010 earthquake could be characterized as falling into what one non-governmental organization recently described as “the country’s tragic pattern of ‘one step forward, two steps back.’”\footnote{Thomas, Alice, Two Steps Back: Haiti Still Reeling from Hurricane Matthew, Refugees International, p.17, April 2017.}
TPS CONSIDERATIONS: HAITI (OCTOBER 2017)
NATURAL DISASTER

BACKGROUND & OVERVIEW

The January 12, 2010 earthquake that struck Haiti caused extensive damage to the country’s physical infrastructure and public health, agricultural, housing, transportation, and educational facilities. Haitian government estimates of the death toll caused by the earthquake have ranged from 230,000 to as high as 316,000 people, though the accuracy of differing estimates is in dispute.\(^1\) Estimates of people internally displaced range from approximately 1.5 million\(^2\) to 2.3 million\(^3\) at the peak of displacement.

Although some progress regarding reconstruction and recovery has been made in a variety of sectors, billions of dollars in pledged foreign assistance never materialized, and the pace and scope of Haiti’s recovery has been uneven.\(^4\) Many of the conditions prompting the original January 2010 TPS designation persist, and the country remains vulnerable to external shocks and internal fragility. Haiti has also experienced various setbacks that have impeded its recovery, including a cholera epidemic and the impact of Hurricane Matthew—the latter of which struck Haiti in October 2016 and “severely worsened the pre-existing humanitarian situation” in the country.\(^5\) As of August 2017, Haiti “continues to be affected by a convergence of humanitarian needs,”\(^6\) including food insecurity, internal displacement, an influx of returnees from the Dominican Republic, the persistence of cholera, and the lingering impact of various natural disasters.\(^7\) Moreover, Haiti’s recovery has also been impacted by a series of other challenges related to housing, healthcare, economic growth, political instability, security, and environmental concerns.

\(^1\) O’Conner, Maura R., Two Years Later, Haitian Earthquake Death Toll in Dispute, Columbia Journalism Review, Jan. 12, 2012.
\(^3\) Key Statistics, Office of the Secretary-General’s Special Adviser on Community-Based Medicine & Lessons from Haiti, United Nations, 2012.
HOUSING SHORTAGE & INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

Even before the 2010 earthquake, Haiti faced a substantial national housing deficit, estimated at 700,000 housing units. With an estimated $2.3 billion in damages—approximately 40% of the total—housing was the sector most impacted by the earthquake. The Haitian government estimated that 105,000 houses were destroyed and 188,383 houses collapsed or suffered considerable damage. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) claimed that 1.5 million Haitians were internally displaced and moved into internally displaced person (IDP) camps and other temporary sites following the disaster.

While the number of IDP camps/sites and displaced individuals from the 2010 earthquake have significantly declined, Haiti still faces considerable obstacles related to housing. According to data from the International Organization for Migration (IOM), from July 2010 to June 2017, there has been a net decrease in displacement by 97 percent, and 98 percent of sites have closed. However, as IOM reported in June 2017, “Camp closures, relocation and rental subsidy programs began decreasing substantially in March 2015, a trend which continues today.” According to Amnesty International, many individuals who have left the IDP camps/sites have reportedly “moved back to unsafe houses or started building or reconstructing their houses, in most cases with no assistance or guidance, and often in informal settlements located in hazardous areas.” Amnesty International has also claimed that over 60,000 IDPs have been forcibly evicted from camps since 2010 by private landowners, often with the assistance or implicit support of Haitian authorities.

As of June 2017, around 37,867 IDPs (9,347 households) were still living in 27 camps. According to IOM, the number of organizations providing assistance to IDPs has declined in recent years, and “living conditions in the camps are precarious and access to basic services

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10 Key Statistics. Office of the Secretary-General’s Special Adviser on Community-Based Medicine & Lessons from Haiti, United Nations, 2012.
remains a major challenge for the displaced population."¹⁷ A vast majority of the aforementioned individuals still living in camps/sites “are currently not targeted by partners for durable solutions.”¹⁸

In October 2016, Hurricane Matthew impacted over 236,000 homes—“of which 44% were destroyed and 42% severely damaged”¹⁹—and displaced approximately 175,000 people in Haiti.²⁰ In areas most affected by the storm, approximately 90% of homes were destroyed.²¹ IOM reported in June 2017 that 3,597 individuals were living in 48 displacement sites due to the impact of Hurricane Matthew and spring flooding in Grande’ Anse and Sud departments²².²³

While post-earthquake IDP camps are closing, Haiti’s housing shortage remains far from resolved. The 2010 earthquake exacerbated the country’s pre-existing shortage of adequate and affordable housing.²⁴ The Government of Haiti has estimated that the country will need as many as 500,000 additional housing units over the next 10 years to make up for its shortage prior to the earthquake, to replace housing lost as a result of damage from the disaster, and to accommodate projected urban growth.²⁵

**CHOLERA EPIDEMIC & HEALTHCARE**

Haiti’s longstanding public health challenges were exacerbated by the January 2010 earthquake and an ongoing cholera epidemic that started in October 2010.²⁶ According to the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), “even before the 2010 earthquake, Haiti’s healthcare system was not able to respond to the needs for basic healthcare services.”²⁷ The 2010 earthquake significantly impacted Haiti’s health sector, destroying 50 health centers, the Ministry of Health, and part of the country’s primary teaching hospital.²⁸ Damages from both the 2010 earthquake and Hurricane Matthew in October 2016—the latter of which affected 99

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health facilities\textsuperscript{20}—“exacerbated an existing lack of adequate health infrastructure, such as health care and storage facilities, as well as access to electricity, clean water and sanitation systems.”\textsuperscript{30}

In June 2017, the United Nations Economic and Social Council reported that “Haiti has some of the worst health indicators in the world, which continue to stymie economic development.”\textsuperscript{31} Approximately 40 percent of the population lacks access to fundamental health and nutrition services.\textsuperscript{32} Maternal and infant mortality rates are respectively three and five times higher than the regional averages,\textsuperscript{33} and “only 45 percent of all children between the ages of 12 months and 23 months are fully vaccinated.”\textsuperscript{34} Public spending in the health sector is low, and the country has a limited number of health professionals and a deficit of health infrastructure.\textsuperscript{35}

A cholera epidemic that began in October 2010—reportedly the largest such outbreak of cholera in recent history—remains ongoing and continues to place additional strains on Haiti’s beleaguered public health system.\textsuperscript{36} From October 2010 through June 2017, there have been an estimated 813,000 cases of cholera in Haiti, and 9,676 people have been killed by the disease (which was allegedly introduced by United Nations peacekeepers).\textsuperscript{37}

While progress has been made in combatting cholera since the peak of the epidemic in 2011,\textsuperscript{38} cholera has become endemic in Haiti, “with seasonal peaks regularly triggering emergency interventions.”\textsuperscript{39} In 2016, the number of suspected cholera cases increased, mainly due to a spike in suspected cases in areas affected by Hurricane Matthew in the aftermath of the storm.\textsuperscript{40}

\textsuperscript{38} Fact Sheet: Cholera situation in Haiti, 1 January/15 April 2017, United Nations Country Team in Haiti, Apr. 27, 2017.
\textsuperscript{40} New approach to cholera in Haiti – Report of the Secretary General, United Nations General Assembly, p.4, May 3, 2017.
While the number of suspected cases of cholera has declined since 2016, Haiti nevertheless remains “extremely vulnerable” to the disease. According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), cholera continues to impact Haiti due to a lack of funding for the country’s National Plan for the Elimination of Cholera (PNEC), weak water and sanitation infrastructure, the lack of access to quality medical care, and high population density and mobility to urban areas.

ECONOMY

Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, with poverty, vulnerability to natural disasters, corruption, and low levels of education serving as significant obstacles to sustained economic development. Haiti’s weak infrastructure and the difficulty of doing business limit investment, and the country remains vulnerable to damage from natural disasters and dependent on foreign aid or direct budget support for more than 20% of its annual budget. The 2010 earthquake caused $7.8 billion in damages and economic losses—“equivalent to more than 120 percent of Haiti’s 2009 gross domestic product (GDP)” and destroyed an estimated 90 percent of buildings in Port-au-Prince, Haiti’s capital, including hospitals, schools, physical infrastructure, and transportation facilities. Although Haiti’s economy started to recover from the earthquake—with economic growth at 5.5% in 2011—GDP growth has slowed to 1.2% in 2015 and 1.4% in 2016 as a result of political uncertainty, drought, declining foreign aid, and currency depreciation. According to June 2017 data from the World Bank, Haiti’s GDP growth is forecasted to further decline to 0.5% in 2017.

While Haiti has made slight improvements in reducing poverty levels and increasing access to education and sanitation since 2000, a 2014 World Bank report noted that the “wealth generated in the country is largely inadequate to meet the needs of the people.” According to the World Bank, “more than 6 million out of 10.4 million (59%) Haitians live under the national poverty line of US$ 2.42 per day and over 2.5 million (24%) live under the national extreme poverty line.

42 Fact Sheet: Cholera situation in Haiti. 1 January/15 April 2017, UN Country Team in Haiti, Apr. 27, 2017.
43 Haiti: Cholera figures (as of 30 June 2017), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), Jul. 24, 2017.
46 Key Statistics. Office of the Secretary-General’s Special Adviser on Community-Based Medicine & Lessons from Haiti, United Nations, 2012.
of US$1.23 per day.\textsuperscript{51} An additional one million people are at risk of falling into poverty following an external shock, such as a natural disaster.\textsuperscript{52} An estimated 40\% of Haitians are unemployed.\textsuperscript{53}

According to the United Nations Economic and Social Council, Haiti “is highly dependent on remittances from its diaspora.”\textsuperscript{54} Remittances—estimated at over $2 billion per year in 2015, including more than $1.3 billion from Haitians living in the United States\textsuperscript{55}—are Haiti’s “primary source of foreign exchange, equivalent to more than a quarter of GDP, and nearly double the combined value of Haitian exports and foreign direct investment.”\textsuperscript{56} Moreover, remittances have also “helped to support education, health and the subsistence requirements” of Haiti’s population.\textsuperscript{57}

**GOVERNANCE & POLITICAL INSTABILITY**

Per IHS Jane’s, with its history of political instability, economic struggles, political violence, and pervasive human rights abuses, Haiti “has long been seen as a model of poor and corrupt governance.”\textsuperscript{58} Even before the earthquake, the Haitian government “could not or would not deliver core functions to the majority of its people.”\textsuperscript{59} The January 2010 earthquake had an immediate and significant impact on governance and the rule of law in Haiti, killing an estimated 18 percent of the country’s civil service and destroying key government infrastructure, including the National Palace, the Parliament, 28 of 29 government ministry buildings, the Haitian National Police’s headquarters, and various judicial facilities (including courts and correctional facilities).\textsuperscript{60}

On April 19, 2017, Haitian President Jovenel Moïse announced a project to rebuild the National Palace, which was significantly damaged in the 2010 earthquake and subsequently demolished.\textsuperscript{61}


\textsuperscript{52} Poverty and Inclusion in Haiti: Social gains at timid pace. The World Bank Group, p.4, 2014.


\textsuperscript{56} The World Factbook: Haiti. CIA, Jul. 27, 2017.


\textsuperscript{61} Haiti to rebuild National Palace toppled in 2010 quake. AFP, Apr. 20, 2017; McFadden, David, Haiti to rebuild National Palace smashed in 2010 earthquake. Associated Press, Apr. 19, 2017.
Moïse stated that he would like for construction to start before the end of 2017. President Moïse also pledged that the Parliament and the Palace of Justice would be rebuilt during his five-year term in office. In August 2017, IHS Jane’s reported that, among the public buildings destroyed by the earthquake, only the Supreme Court of Justice had been reconstructed and was operational in 2017. In October 2017, the Haitian government launched an international architecture competition for proposals to rebuild the National Palace.

In June 2016, the October 2015 presidential election results were annulled, and new elections were scheduled for October 2016—yet were subsequently postponed due to the impact of Hurricane Matthew. On November 20, 2016, Jovenel Moïse, a banana plantation owner, was elected president with enough votes to avoid a run-off. Moïse was officially declared the winner of Haiti’s presidential election on January 4, 2017, and was sworn in on February 7. On January 29, 2017, Haiti held elections for eight senators and one seat in the lower chamber of congress. Nationwide municipal elections were also held on this date for the first time since December 5, 2006.

While Haiti successfully completed its electoral process in February 2017 after two years of contested results and political crises, its new government faces various challenges to promote recovery and reconstruction. According to USAID, although Haiti possesses “the formal structures of a democracy, many of these have yet to become fully functional.” Haiti’s state institutions lack sufficient resources, and “provide limited services to only a small percentage of the population.” In late June 2017, the United Nations Economic and Social Council reported that, while Haiti’s new government has expressed a desire to improve the country’s political and socioeconomic situation, “it is also clear that the Government has limited capacity to ensure a

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66 Domonoske, Camila, 14 Months After Elections Began, Haiti Finally Has A President-Elect, NPR, Jan. 4, 2017.
67 Charles, Jacqueline, Banana farmer wins Haiti presidency, according to preliminary results, Miami Herald, Nov. 28, 2016.
70 Low turnout in Haiti’s local elections, AFP, Jan. 29, 2017.
71 McFadden, David, Haiti holds final round of election cycle started in 2015, Associated Press, Jan. 29, 2017; Charles, Jacqueline, Haiti election cycle nears end with Sunday vote and more than 5,000 seats up for grabs, Miami Herald, Jan. 27, 2017.
public administration system that can effectively guarantee the rule of law and a functioning justice system, promote the fight against corruption and effectively protect human rights.”

In early October 2017, the Miami Herald reported that, “in recent weeks, Haiti has been engulfed in protests over tax hikes, with massive and sometimes violent street demonstrations.” Anti-government protests erupted in mid-September after the Haitian parliament approved the government budget, which opponents have argued contains tax increases that would hurt impoverished families. Multiple demonstrations have occurred since mid-September, and the protests have spread from Port-au-Prince to other areas of the country. Some of the protests have become violent, with demonstrators reportedly throwing rocks, damaging property, blocking traffic, and burning cars and tires, and the Haitian police responding to the unrest by firing tear gas and water at protesters. At least two people have been killed and others have been injured during the demonstrations.

SECURITY

By creating new security vulnerabilities and stimulating an increase in crime, the 2010 earthquake had a deleterious impact on public security in Haiti. The escape of thousands of prisoners and the diffusion of gangs throughout Port-au-Prince in the aftermath of the earthquake overwhelmed Haiti’s historically weak justice system and police. An overall climate of insecurity in IDP camps left many IDPs vulnerable to violence and crime, including gender-based violence, theft, and domestic violence. Violence against women reportedly increased in the aftermath of the earthquake.

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84 Haiti: Violence against women, including sexual violence; state protection and support services (2012-June 2016), Canada: Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, Dec. 15, 2016.
Crime rates in Haiti are high, and the general security situation is “unpredictable.”\(^85\) The U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Diplomatic Security has reported that homicide, armed robberies, and crimes against persons (including gender-based violence) are major concerns.\(^86\) Demonstrations, roadblocks, and political rallies regularly occur, and have at times led to violent incidents.\(^87\) Violence against women is reportedly widespread, and has been characterized as a chronic or systemic problem.\(^88\) Impunity levels are high, and the capacity of Haiti’s police force is “relatively low.”\(^89\) In general, Haitians “lack basic policing services,” and criminals are reportedly able to operate without fear of the police.\(^90\)

According to the U.S. Department of State, “rates of kidnapping, murder, and rape rose in 2016.”\(^91\) The Government of the United Kingdom has reported that “crime levels have continued to increase in 2017.”\(^92\) In July 2017, the United Nations Secretary General reported that, since his previous report in March 2017, “growing tensions linked to socioeconomic grievances notwithstanding, key indicators, including crime and civil protests, remained within historically established statistical parameters.”\(^93\)

**MINUSTAH**

In 2004, the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) was established following a rebellion that led to the removal of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and subsequent violence, including armed clashes, killings, and kidnappings.\(^94\) In the aftermath of the violence and the establishment of MINUSTAH, “uniformed U.N. troops provided the only real security” in Haiti for years.\(^95\) However, the Associated Press reported in March 2017 that, “these days, Haiti’s police do most of the heavy lifting and the mood has changed.”\(^96\)

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\(^88\) Haiti: Violence against women, including sexual violence; state protection and support services (2012-June 2016), Canada: Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, Dec. 15, 2016.
\(^94\) Haiti is Ready for UN Peacekeepers to Leave Soon. Associated Press, Mar. 9, 2017.
\(^95\) Haiti is Ready for UN Peacekeepers to Leave Soon. Associated Press, Mar. 9, 2017.
\(^96\) Haiti is Ready for UN Peacekeepers to Leave Soon. Associated Press, Mar. 9, 2017.
MINUSTAH’s tenure in Haiti has been controversial. The Los Angeles Times has described the U.N. military presence in Haiti as “never really welcome,” while some Haitians view the U.N. peacekeeping mission as “an occupying force,” or as an incursion into Haiti’s sovereignty.

In March 2017, the Associated Press characterized the peacekeepers’ tenure as “rocky,” noting that they:

have earned praise for boosting security, paving the way to elections and providing crucial support after disasters, particularly the devastating 2010 earthquake. But some troops have also been accused of excessive force, rape and abandoning babies they fathered.

In addition, U.N. troops from Nepal are “widely blamed” for introducing cholera to the country, with the source of cholera reportedly traced by scientists to a U.N. base. Moreover, some U.N. troops have reportedly been “implicated in a sexual abuse scandal, including a sex ring that exploited Haitian children.”

On April 13, 2017, the United Nations Security Council decided that MINUSTAH “would gradually draw down its military component during the next six months, finally withdrawing from Haiti by 15 October 2017.” MINUSTAH will be replaced by the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH), which will seek to “help the Haitian Government strengthen rule-of-law institutions, further develop and support the Haitian National Police and engage in human rights monitoring, reporting and analysis.” MINUJUSTH will comprise up to seven Formed Police Units (FPU) consisting of 980 personnel, and 295 Individual Police Officers for an initial six month period from October 16, 2017 to April 15, 2018. In July 2017, the United Nations Secretary General reported that “the ongoing

98 Simmons, Ann M., U.N. peacekeepers are leaving after more than two decades, but where does that leave Haiti?, Los Angeles Times, Apr. 17, 2017.
99 Haiti is Ready for UN Peacekeepers to Leave Soon, Associated Press, Mar. 9, 2017.
100 Simmons, Ann M., U.N. peacekeepers are leaving after more than two decades, but where does that leave Haiti?, Los Angeles Times, Apr. 17, 2017.
101 Haiti is Ready for UN Peacekeepers to Leave Soon, Associated Press, Mar. 9, 2017.
103 Simmons, Ann M., U.N. peacekeepers are leaving after more than two decades, but where does that leave Haiti?, Los Angeles Times, Apr. 17, 2017.
104 Simmons, Ann M., U.N. peacekeepers are leaving after more than two decades, but where does that leave Haiti?, Los Angeles Times, Apr. 17, 2017.
105 Security Council decides UN Mission in Haiti will close by October; approves smaller follow-on operation, UN News Service, Apr. 13, 2017.
107 Security Council decides UN Mission in Haiti will close by October; approves smaller follow-on operation, UN News Service, Apr. 13, 2017.
withdrawal of the MINUSTAH military and police components...has not affected the overall security situation.”

**FOOD SECURITY**

Damage from the 2010 earthquake exacerbated Haiti’s historic food security challenges. The earthquake displaced over 600,000 people from urban to rural areas and caused significant damage to physical infrastructure; these factors contributed to a sharp decline in income and food availability, as well as an increase in the price of food in the aftermath of the earthquake.\(^\text{109}\)

While the international community provided emergency food assistance and support for the agricultural sector to help avert a post-earthquake food crisis, food insecurity has remained a significant challenge for Haiti.\(^\text{110}\) Haiti depends on imports to meet more than 50 percent of its food needs,\(^\text{111}\) and is extremely vulnerable to fluctuations in global food prices.\(^\text{112}\) Chronic malnutrition impacts approximately half of Haiti’s population.\(^\text{113}\)

In recent years, food and nutritional security in Haiti have gradually deteriorated due to the impact of Tropical Storm Isaac and Hurricane Sandy in 2012 and three consecutive years of severe drought (exacerbated by *El Niño*).\(^\text{114}\) Hurricane Matthew also exacerbated food insecurity in Haiti.\(^\text{115}\) The impact of the hurricane caused an estimated $580 million in damages to the country’s agricultural sector, and extensive damage to “crops, livestock and fisheries as well as infrastructure such as irrigation – with the most affected areas having up to 100 percent crop damage or destruction.”\(^\text{116}\) Approximately “428,000 farmers were decapitalized” and food

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\(^{116}\) Damages to agricultural sector in storm-hit Haiti estimated at $580 million – UN agency, UN News Centre, Nov. 23, 2016.
production infrastructure was significantly impacted by the storm. In August 2017, USAID reported that, “more than six months later, the storm’s impact continues to drive elevated levels of food insecurity in the worst-affected communities.” As of May 2017, approximately 5.82 million people were facing food insecurity in Haiti, including 2.35 million people who “were severely food-insecure and in need of immediate assistance.”

**NATURAL DISASTERS & ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS**

Due to its geographic location, weak infrastructure, and limited government resources, Haiti is particularly susceptible to natural disasters. Per the World Bank, Haiti has been impacted by natural disasters “almost every year since 1971, losing on average two percent of GDP every year due to hydrometeorological events.” An estimated 98 percent of the Haitian population is exposed to two or more types of natural disasters. As a result of its exposure to natural hazards and the vulnerabilities of its population, Haiti “consistently ranks among the most vulnerable countries in the world to disasters and climate change.” According to the 2017 Global Climate Risk Index, Haiti ranked as the third most affected country in the world by extreme weather events from 1996 to 2015; during this time, Haiti averaged $222 million in damages per year—equivalent to 1.49% of GDP on average.

Located along the “hurricane belt,” Haiti is regularly impacted by tropical storms and floods. Haiti suffered severe flooding in 2002, 2003, 2006, and 2007. During the 2008 hurricane season, Haiti was impacted by four storms “which killed more than 800 people and devastated nearly three-quarters of its agricultural land.” In the fall of 2012, Hurricane Sandy

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121 Five dead, 19 missing after Haiti rains, flooding – officials, Reuters, May 19, 2017.
affected 1.8 million Haitians; flooded, damaged, or destroyed 18,000 homes; damaged key infrastructure, including roads, hospitals, and schools; and killed 60 people.\textsuperscript{130}

More recently, Haiti has been “grappling with a heavy rainy season” in 2017.\textsuperscript{131} The rainy season, which began in April, has resulted in:

floods and landslides, damage to homes and destruction of harvests, especially in the departments of South, Grand’Anse and Nippes, which were the most affected departments by Hurricane Matthew. Erosion of roads have impacted access to several communes, especially in the South department.\textsuperscript{132}

By late May, at least seven people had been killed and 15,000 households were in need of immediate humanitarian assistance.\textsuperscript{133} The rainy season coincides with hurricane season in Haiti, which typically lasts from June 1 to November 30.\textsuperscript{134} In June 2017, the United Nations Economic and Social Council reported that the Haitian government “has indicated that it does not have the capacity in terms of equipment and personnel to mitigate any disaster that may result” from the current hurricane season.\textsuperscript{135}

On September 7, 2017, Hurricane Irma—a Category 5 hurricane—impacted northern Haiti (one of the poorest regions of the country),\textsuperscript{136} with heavy rains, wind, and flooding causing “significant damages in the Nord-Est, Nord-Ouest, Nord, Artibonite and Centre departments.”\textsuperscript{137} The impact of Hurricane Irma led to the evacuation of over 12,500 people, left one person dead and another missing, and injured more than a dozen others.\textsuperscript{138} In addition, 4,903 homes were flooded, 2,646 were damaged, and 466 were destroyed.\textsuperscript{139} Hurricane Irma also caused extensive

\textsuperscript{130} UN relief agency estimates 1.8 million Haitians have been affected by Hurricane Sandy, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Nov. 2, 2012.
\textsuperscript{131} Five dead, 19 missing after Haiti rains, flooding – officials, Reuters, May 19, 2017.
\textsuperscript{136} Charles, Jacqueline, Irma mostly spared Haiti. But for struggling farmers, the damages are devastating, The Miami Herald, Sep. 9, 2017.
damage to crops and livestock in affected areas, with an estimated 18,000 families in northern Haiti losing their food crops due to the impact of the storm.

Located along several major fault lines, Haiti has also been impacted by powerful earthquakes. In 2016, Haiti suffered from its third consecutive year of drought, which was exacerbated by El Niño. Extensive deforestation exposes Haiti to and exacerbates flooding, mudslides, and soil erosion.

**HURRICANE MATTHEW**

The strongest hurricane to strike the country in more than 50 years and the third strongest ever recorded in Haiti, Hurricane Matthew made landfall in southwestern Haiti as a Category 4 hurricane on October 4, 2016. With 145-mile-an-hour winds and torrential rains, Hurricane Matthew “violently struck south-western Haiti...causing widespread damage, flooding and displacement.” Heavy flooding occurred in the most affected departments, including Grand’Anse, South, Nippes and South East departments. Per UNOCHA, the impact of the hurricane occurred at a time when Haiti was “already facing an increase in the number of cholera cases and severe food insecurity and malnutrition.”

According to UNOCHA, Hurricane Matthew caused the greatest humanitarian crisis in Haiti since the 2010 earthquake. Hurricane Matthew affected 2.1 million people in Haiti; of this amount, 1.4 million were estimated to be in need of humanitarian assistance in the aftermath of

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140 After the Hurricane – an overview of the damage Irma and Maria left behind, International Federation of Red Cross And Red Crescent Societies, Sep. 22, 2017.
the storm. An estimated 175,000 people were displaced, and 546 people were killed. Hurricane Matthew also caused “widespread damage to homes, roads, public infrastructure, hospitals, and schools.” Damages from Hurricane Matthew were estimated at nearly $2.8 billion—equivalent to 1/3 of Haiti’s gross domestic product—and were particularly severe in Haiti’s housing and food security sectors.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew, the international humanitarian community coordinated with the Government of Haiti to provide emergency humanitarian assistance to those affected by the storm. Humanitarian assistance was provided in a variety of fields, including emergency shelter, health, food security, protection, etc. In early March 2017, UNOCHA reported that over 1 million people had been reached with humanitarian assistance in the most affected regions of Grand’Anse, Sud and Nippes departments. UNOCHA also noted that the emergency response was ending at this time, with the focus shifting to early recovery.

According to a United Nations official, as of mid-April 2017, shelter and food remained scarce in Haiti’s southern peninsula. In March 2017, an international non-governmental organization reported that at least 13 people in Grand’Anse department had died due to hurricane related food shortages in the region, and some Haitians were reportedly living in caves and eating poisonous plants to survive. UNOCHA reported in May 2017 that “affected people continue to live in precarious conditions, particularly in hard-to-reach areas.”

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155 Charles, Jacqueline, Senate Democrats to Trump administration: Let Haitians stay, Miami Herald, Apr. 27, 2017;
161 Charles, Jacqueline, Six months after Hurricane Matthew, food, shelter still scarce in Haiti, Miami Herald, Apr. 12, 2017.
The Haitian government and the international community continued to support Haiti’s efforts to recover from Hurricane Matthew during the summer of 2017. On June 30, 2017, President Jovenel Moïse declared a state of emergency in areas hit by the storm. The World Bank announced grants of $100 million in June 2017 and an additional $100 million in July 2017 to support Haiti’s recovery from the impact of Hurricane Matthew. In addition, the Miami Herald reported in July 2017 that the Inter-American Development Bank would reroute $85 million in funding to support reconstruction efforts in southern Haiti.

Nevertheless, in June 2017, the World Bank reported that reconstruction needs from Hurricane Matthew “were assessed at US$2.2 billion or 25 percent of GDP.” In July 2017, the Miami Herald reported that residents of the areas most impacted by Hurricane Matthew in southern Haiti felt abandoned by international donors and the Haitian government. The Inter-American Development Bank’s representative for Haiti told the Miami Herald in July 2017 that, even with the additional funding from its organization for areas impacted by Hurricane Matthew:

“The situation is so dire that even if we fully disbursed the $85 million that we have committed to the South after the hurricane, there are still a lot of people in need, a lot of villages that were badly affected by the hurricane and need further investment,” he said. “We will need lots more resources.”

In October 2017, Agence France-Presse reported that—one year after Hurricane Matthew—Haiti was still suffering from the consequences of the storm, and had yet to change “the way the country prepares for natural disasters.”

**HAITIAN RETURNEES FROM THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

A crackdown on undocumented migrants in the Dominican Republic has contributed to an influx of returnees to Haiti in recent years. From July 2015 through July 2017, IOM recorded that

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170 *A year after Hurricane Matthew, Haiti more vulnerable than ever*, Agence France-Presse (AFP), Oct. 4, 2017.
215,121 Haitian migrants spontaneously returned or were deported to Haiti.\(^{172}\) In June 2017, IOM reported that the “total number of returnees has averaged between 6000 and 8000 individuals on a monthly basis” since August 2016.\(^{173}\) However, the total number of returnees may actually be higher, as IOM stated that it had only been able to monitor half of border crossings between the two countries since September 2016 due to budget constraints.\(^{174}\) Deportations from the Dominican Republic have drastically increased since April 2017; July 2017 had the highest number of official deportations since October 2015.\(^{175}\)

In July 2017, the United Nations Secretary-General reported that returnees from the Dominican Republic:

continue to find themselves in a situation of vulnerability owing to the insufficient reception capacity of the Haitian authorities and a lack of reintegration opportunities. This group will likely continue to need assistance in the foreseeable future, including with regard to the determination of their legal status.\(^{176}\)

Similarly, in August 2017, the Miami Herald commented on the Haitian government’s “inability to absorb the influx” of returnees from the Dominican Republic, also noting that “their arrival, mostly ignored by Haitian authorities, has burdened humanitarian organizations that have struggled to help amid deep budget cuts and indifference.”\(^{177}\) Many migrants reportedly “arrive in precarious conditions,”\(^{178}\) while some returnees reportedly live in “makeshift camps” along the border similar to those inhabited by IDPs from the 2010 earthquake.\(^{179}\)

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\(^{177}\) Charles, Jacqueline, The countdown for Haitians with TPS has started. And that has many in Haiti worried., Miami Herald, Aug. 4, 2017.


SUMMARY

Haiti’s recovery has been hindered by subsequent natural disasters and various political, social, health, security, and economic conditions which have negatively impacted the country in recent years. Haiti remains vulnerable to external shocks, and its internal fragility has left it unable to adequately respond to a wide range of persistent humanitarian needs. As UNOCHA and the United Nations Country Team in Haiti reported in January 2017:

With more than 98% of Haitians exposed to two or more types of disasters, the impact of recurring natural disasters is particularly severe, especially considering the already pre-existing protection, socio-economic and environmental vulnerabilities and disparities. Most Haitians remain vulnerable to natural hazards and disasters, such as floods, landslides, droughts, earthquakes and hurricanes. With more than a half of its total population living in extreme poverty, Hurricane Matthew has once more demonstrated Haiti’s weakened ability to cope, recover and adapt to shocks from natural disasters. Meanwhile, as a result of electoral-related tensions, politically motivated demonstrations and insecurity have affected the humanitarian operating environment since mid-2015 against the backdrop of a decreasing humanitarian presence in the field due to the lack of humanitarian funding.\(^{180}\)

Due to the conditions outlined in this report, Haiti’s recovery from the 2010 earthquake could be characterized as falling into what one non-governmental organization recently described as “the country’s tragic pattern of ‘one step forward, two steps back.”\(^{181}\)


TPS CONSIDERATIONS: HAITI (OCTOBER 2017)
NATURAL DISASTER

BACKGROUND & OVERVIEW

The January 12, 2010 earthquake that struck Haiti caused extensive damage to the country’s physical infrastructure and public health, agricultural, housing, transportation, and educational facilities. Haitian government estimates of the death toll caused by the earthquake have ranged from 230,000 to as high as 316,000 people, though the accuracy of differing estimates is in dispute.\(^1\) Estimates of people internally displaced range from approximately 1.5 million\(^2\) to 2.3 million\(^3\) at the peak of displacement.

Although some progress regarding reconstruction and recovery has been made in a variety of sectors, billions of dollars in pledged foreign assistance never materialized, and the pace and scope of Haiti’s recovery has been uneven.\(^4\) Many of the conditions prompting the original January 2010 TPS designation persist, and the country remains vulnerable to external shocks and internal fragility. Haiti has also experienced various setbacks that have impeded its recovery, including a cholera epidemic and the impact of Hurricane Matthew—the latter of which struck Haiti in October 2016 and “severely worsened the pre-existing humanitarian situation” in the country.\(^5\) As of August 2017, Haiti “continues to be affected by a convergence of humanitarian needs,”\(^6\) including food insecurity, internal displacement, an influx of returnees from the Dominican Republic, the persistence of cholera, and the lingering impact of various natural disasters.\(^7\) Moreover, Haiti’s recovery has also been impacted by a series of other challenges related to housing, healthcare, economic growth, political instability, security, and environmental concerns.

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\(^3\) Key Statistics, Office of the Secretary-General’s Special Adviser on Community-Based Medicine & Lessons from Haiti, United Nations, 2012.
HOUSING SHORTAGE & INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

Even before the 2010 earthquake, Haiti faced a substantial national housing deficit, estimated at 700,000 housing units. 8 With an estimated $2.3 billion in damages—approximately 40% of the total—housing was the sector most impacted by the earthquake. 9 The Haitian government estimated that 105,000 houses were destroyed and 188,383 houses collapsed or suffered considerable damage. 10 The International Organization for Migration (IOM) claimed that 1.5 million Haitians were internally displaced and moved into internally displaced person (IDP) camps and other temporary sites following the disaster. 11

While the number of IDP camps/sites and displaced individuals from the 2010 earthquake have significantly declined, Haiti still faces considerable obstacles related to housing. According to data from the International Organization for Migration (IOM), from July 2010 to June 2017, there has been a net decrease in displacement by 97 percent, and 98 percent of sites have closed. 12 However, as IOM reported in June 2017, “Camp closures, relocation and rental subsidy programs began decreasing substantially in March 2015, a trend which continues today.” 13 According to Amnesty International, many individuals who have left the IDP camps/sites have reportedly “moved back to unsafe houses or started building or reconstructing their houses, in most cases with no assistance or guidance, and often in informal settlements located in hazardous areas.” 14 Amnesty International has also claimed that over 60,000 IDPs have been forcibly evicted from camps since 2010 by private landowners, often with the assistance or implicit support of Haitian authorities. 15

As of June 2017, around 37,867 IDPs (9,347 households) were still living in 27 camps. 16 According to IOM, the number of organizations providing assistance to IDPs has declined in recent years, and “living conditions in the camps are precarious and access to basic services

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10 Key Statistics, Office of the Secretary-General’s Special Adviser on Community-Based Medicine & Lessons from Haiti, United Nations, 2012.
remains a major challenge for the displaced population.”\textsuperscript{17} A vast majority of the aforementioned individuals still living in camps/sites “are currently not targeted by partners for durable solutions.”\textsuperscript{18}

In October 2016, Hurricane Matthew impacted over 236,000 homes—“of which 44% were destroyed and 42% severely damaged”\textsuperscript{19}—and displaced approximately 175,000 people in Haiti.\textsuperscript{20} In areas most affected by the storm, approximately 90% of homes were destroyed.\textsuperscript{21} IOM reported in June 2017 that 3,597 individuals were living in 48 displacement sites due to the impact of Hurricane Matthew and spring flooding in Grande’ Anse and Sud departments.\textsuperscript{22,23}

While post-earthquake IDP camps are closing, Haiti’s housing shortage remains far from resolved. The 2010 earthquake exacerbated the country’s pre-existing shortage of adequate and affordable housing.\textsuperscript{24} The Government of Haiti has estimated that the country will need as many as 500,000 additional housing units over the next 10 years to make up for its shortage prior to the earthquake, to replace housing lost as a result of damage from the disaster, and to accommodate projected urban growth.\textsuperscript{25}

**CHOLERA EPIDEMIC & HEALTHCARE**

Haiti’s longstanding public health challenges were exacerbated by the January 2010 earthquake and an ongoing cholera epidemic that started in October 2010.\textsuperscript{26} According to the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), “even before the 2010 earthquake, Haiti’s healthcare system was not able to respond to the needs for basic healthcare services.”\textsuperscript{27} The 2010 earthquake significantly impacted Haiti’s health sector, destroying 50 health centers, the Ministry of Health, and part of the country’s primary teaching hospital.\textsuperscript{28} Damages from both the 2010 earthquake and Hurricane Matthew in October 2016—the latter of which affected 99

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\textsuperscript{17} IOM Haiti – DTM Report – June 2017, International Organization for Migration, p.6, June 2017.
\textsuperscript{20} Thomas, Alice, Two Steps Back: Haiti Still Reeling from Hurricane Matthew, Refugees International, p.4, April 2017.
\end{flushleft}
health facilities\(^{29}\)—“exacerbated an existing lack of adequate health infrastructure, such as health care and storage facilities, as well as access to electricity, clean water and sanitation systems.”\(^{30}\)

In June 2017, the United Nations Economic and Social Council reported that “Haiti has some of the worst health indicators in the world, which continue to stymie economic development.”\(^{31}\) Approximately 40 percent of the population lacks access to fundamental health and nutrition services.\(^{32}\) Maternal and infant mortality rates are respectively three and five times higher than the regional averages,\(^{33}\) and “only 45 percent of all children between the ages of 12 months and 23 months are fully vaccinated.”\(^{34}\) Public spending in the health sector is low, and the country has a limited number of health professionals and a deficit of health infrastructure.\(^{35}\)

A cholera epidemic that began in October 2010—reportedly the largest such outbreak of cholera in recent history—remains ongoing and continues to place additional strains on Haiti’s beleaguered public health system.\(^{36}\) From October 2010 through June 2017, there have been an estimated 813,000 cases of cholera in Haiti, and 9,676 people have been killed by the disease (which was allegedly introduced by United Nations peacekeepers).\(^{37}\)

While progress has been made in combating cholera since the peak of the epidemic in 2011,\(^{38}\) cholera has become endemic in Haiti, “with seasonal peaks regularly triggering emergency interventions.”\(^{39}\) In 2016, the number of suspected cholera cases increased, mainly due to a spike in suspected cases in areas affected by Hurricane Matthew in the aftermath of the storm.\(^{40}\)

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While the number of suspected cases of cholera has declined since 2016, Haiti nevertheless remains “extremely vulnerable” to the disease. According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), cholera continues to impact Haiti due to a lack of funding for the country’s National Plan for the Elimination of Cholera (PNEC), weak water and sanitation infrastructure, the lack of access to quality medical care, and high population density and mobility to urban areas.

**ECONOMY**

Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, with poverty, vulnerability to natural disasters, corruption, and low levels of education serving as significant obstacles to sustained economic development. Haiti’s weak infrastructure and the difficulty of doing business limit investment, and the country remains vulnerable to damage from natural disasters and dependent on foreign aid or direct budget support for more than 20% of its annual budget. The 2010 earthquake caused $7.8 billion in damages and economic losses—“equivalent to more than 120 percent of Haiti’s 2009 gross domestic product (GDP)” and destroyed an estimated 90 percent of buildings in Port-au-Prince, Haiti’s capital, including hospitals, schools, physical infrastructure, and transportation facilities. Although Haiti’s economy started to recover from the earthquake—with economic growth at 5.5% in 2011—GDP growth has slowed to 1.2% in 2015 and 1.4% in 2016 as a result of political uncertainty, drought, declining foreign aid, and currency depreciation. According to June 2017 data from the World Bank, Haiti’s GDP growth is forecasted to further decline to 0.5% in 2017.

While Haiti has made slight improvements in reducing poverty levels and increasing access to education and sanitation since 2000, a 2014 World Bank report noted that the “wealth generated in the country is largely inadequate to meet the needs of the people.” According to the World Bank, “more than 6 million out of 10.4 million (59%) Haitians live under the national poverty line of US$ 2.42 per day and over 2.5 million (24%) live under the national extreme poverty line

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42 **Fact Sheet: Cholera situation in Haiti, 1 January/15 April 2017,** UN Country Team in Haiti, Apr. 27, 2017.
43 Haiti: Cholera figures (as of 30 June 2017), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), Jul. 24, 2017.
46 **Key Statistics,** Office of the Secretary-General’s Special Adviser on Community-Based Medicine & Lessons from Haiti, United Nations, 2012.
of US$1.23 per day.\textsuperscript{51} An additional one million people are at risk of falling into poverty following an external shock, such as a natural disaster.\textsuperscript{52} An estimated 40% of Haitians are unemployed.\textsuperscript{53}

According to the United Nations Economic and Social Council, Haiti “is highly dependent on remittances from its diaspora.”\textsuperscript{54} Remittances—estimated at over $2 billion per year in 2015, including more than $1.3 billion from Haitians living in the United States\textsuperscript{55}—are Haiti’s “primary source of foreign exchange, equivalent to more than a quarter of GDP, and nearly double the combined value of Haitian exports and foreign direct investment.”\textsuperscript{56} Moreover, remittances have also “helped to support education, health and the subsistence requirements” of Haiti’s population.\textsuperscript{57}

**GOVERNANCE & POLITICAL INSTABILITY**

Per IHS Jane’s, with its history of political instability, economic struggles, political violence, and pervasive human rights abuses, Haiti “has long been seen as a model of poor and corrupt governance.”\textsuperscript{58} Even before the earthquake, the Haitian government “could not or would not deliver core functions to the majority of its people.”\textsuperscript{59} The January 2010 earthquake had an immediate and significant impact on governance and the rule of law in Haiti, killing an estimated 18 percent of the country’s civil service and destroying key government infrastructure, including the National Palace, the Parliament, 28 of 29 government ministry buildings, the Haitian National Police’s headquarters, and various judicial facilities (including courts and correctional facilities).\textsuperscript{60}

On April 19, 2017, Haitian President Jovenel Moïse announced a project to rebuild the National Palace, which was significantly damaged in the 2010 earthquake and subsequently demolished.\textsuperscript{61}

\textsuperscript{52} Poverty and Inclusion in Haiti: Social gains at timid pace, The World Bank Group, p.4, 2014.
\textsuperscript{61} Haiti to rebuild National Palace toppled in 2010 quake, AFP, Apr. 20, 2017; McFadden, David, Haiti to rebuild National Palace smashed in 2010 earthquake, Associated Press, Apr. 19, 2017.
Moïse stated that he would like for construction to start before the end of 2017. President Moïse also pledged that the Parliament and the Palace of Justice would be rebuilt during his five-year term in office. In August 2017, IHS Jane’s reported that, among the public buildings destroyed by the earthquake, only the Supreme Court of Justice had been reconstructed and was operational in 2017. In October 2017, the Haitian government launched an international architecture competition for proposals to rebuild the National Palace.

In June 2016, the October 2015 presidential election results were annulled, and new elections were scheduled for October 2016—yet were subsequently postponed due to the impact of Hurricane Matthew. On November 20, 2016, Jovenel Moïse, a banana plantation owner, was elected president with enough votes to avoid a run-off. Moïse was officially declared the winner of Haiti’s presidential election on January 4, 2017, and was sworn in on February 7. On January 29, 2017, Haiti held elections for eight senators and one seat in the lower chamber of congress. Nationwide municipal elections were also held on this date for the first time since December 5, 2006.

While Haiti successfully completed its electoral process in February 2017 after two years of contested results and political crises, its new government faces various challenges to promote recovery and reconstruction. According to USAID, although Haiti possesses “the formal structures of a democracy, many of these have yet to become fully functional.” Haiti’s state institutions lack sufficient resources, and “provide limited services to only a small percentage of the population.” In late June 2017, the United Nations Economic and Social Council reported that, while Haiti’s new government has expressed a desire to improve the country’s political and socioeconomic situation, “it is also clear that the Government has limited capacity to ensure a

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66 Domonoske, Camila, 14 Months After Elections Began, Haiti Finally Has A President-Elect. NPR, Jan. 4, 2017.
67 Charles, Jacqueline, Banana farmer wins Haiti presidency, according to preliminary results. Miami Herald, Nov. 28, 2016.
70 Low turnout in Haiti’s local elections. AFP, Jan. 29, 2017.
71 McFadden, David, Haiti holds final round of election cycle started in 2015. Associated Press, Jan. 29, 2017; Charles, Jacqueline, Haiti election cycle nears end with Sunday vote and more than 5,000 seats up for grabs. Miami Herald, Jan. 27, 2017.
public administration system that can effectively guarantee the rule of law and a functioning justice system, promote the fight against corruption and effectively protect human rights.”

In early October 2017, the *Miami Herald* reported that, “in recent weeks, Haiti has been engulfed in protests over tax hikes, with massive and sometimes violent street demonstrations.” Anti-government protests erupted in mid-September after the Haitian parliament approved the government budget, which opponents have argued contains tax increases that would hurt impoverished families. Multiple demonstrations have occurred since mid-September, and the protests have spread from Port-au-Prince to other areas of the country. Some of the protests have become violent, with demonstrators reportedly throwing rocks, damaging property, blocking traffic, and burning cars and tires, and the Haitian police responding to the unrest by firing tear gas and water at protesters. At least two people have been killed and others have been injured during the demonstrations.

SECURITY

By creating new security vulnerabilities and stimulating an increase in crime, the 2010 earthquake had a deleterious impact on public security in Haiti. The escape of thousands of prisoners and the diffusion of gangs throughout Port-au-Prince in the aftermath of the earthquake overwhelmed Haiti’s historically weak justice system and police. An overall climate of insecurity in IDP camps left many IDPs vulnerable to violence and crime, including gender-based violence, theft, and domestic violence. Violence against women reportedly increased in the aftermath of the earthquake.

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84 Haiti: Violence against women, including sexual violence; state protection and support services (2012-June 2016), Canada: Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, Dec. 15, 2016.
Crime rates in Haiti are high, and the general security situation is “unpredictable.”\textsuperscript{85} The U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Diplomatic Security has reported that homicide, armed robberies, and crimes against persons (including gender-based violence) are major concerns.\textsuperscript{86} Demonstrations, roadblocks, and political rallies regularly occur, and have at times led to violent incidents.\textsuperscript{87} Violence against women is reportedly widespread, and has been characterized as a chronic or systemic problem.\textsuperscript{88} Impunity levels are high, and the capacity of Haiti’s police force is “relatively low.”\textsuperscript{89} In general, Haitians “lack basic policing services,” and criminals are reportedly able to operate without fear of the police.\textsuperscript{90}

According to the U.S. Department of State, “rates of kidnapping, murder, and rape rose in 2016.”\textsuperscript{91} The Government of the United Kingdom has reported that “crime levels have continued to increase in 2017.”\textsuperscript{92} In July 2017, the United Nations Secretary General reported that, since his previous report in March 2017, “growing tensions linked to socioeconomic grievances notwithstanding, key indicators, including crime and civil protests, remained within historically established statistical parameters.”\textsuperscript{93}

\textbf{MINUSTAH}

In 2004, the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) was established following a rebellion that led to the removal of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and subsequent violence, including armed clashes, killings, and kidnappings.\textsuperscript{94} In the aftermath of the violence and the establishment of MINUSTAH, “uniformed U.N. troops provided the only real security” in Haiti for years.\textsuperscript{95} However, the Associated Press reported in March 2017 that, “these days, Haiti’s police do most of the heavy lifting and the mood has changed.”\textsuperscript{96}

\textsuperscript{88} Haiti: Violence against women, including sexual violence; state protection and support services (2012-June 2016), Canada: Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, Dec. 15, 2016.
\textsuperscript{94} Haiti is Ready for UN Peacekeepers to Leave Soon, Associated Press, Mar. 9, 2017.
\textsuperscript{95} Haiti is Ready for UN Peacekeepers to Leave Soon, Associated Press, Mar. 9, 2017.
\textsuperscript{96} Haiti is Ready for UN Peacekeepers to Leave Soon, Associated Press, Mar. 9, 2017.
MINUSTAH’s tenure in Haiti has been controversial.\(^97\) The *Los Angeles Times* has described the U.N. military presence in Haiti as “never really welcome,”\(^98\) while some Haitians view the U.N. peacekeeping mission as “an occupying force,”\(^99\) or as an incursion into Haiti’s sovereignty.\(^100\) In March 2017, the Associated Press characterized the peacekeepers’ tenure as “rocky,” noting that they:

have earned praise for boosting security, paving the way to elections and providing crucial support after disasters, particularly the devastating 2010 earthquake. But some troops have also been accused of excessive force, rape and abandoning babies they fathered.\(^101\)

In addition, U.N. troops from Nepal are “widely blamed” for introducing cholera to the country,\(^102\) with the source of cholera reportedly traced by scientists to a U.N. base.\(^103\) Moreover, some U.N. troops have reportedly been “implicated in a sexual abuse scandal, including a sex ring that exploited Haitian children.”\(^104\)

On April 13, 2017, the United Nations Security Council decided that MINUSTAH “would gradually draw down its military component during the next six months, finally withdrawing from Haiti by 15 October 2017.”\(^105\) MINUSTAH will be replaced by the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH), which will seek to “help the Haitian Government strengthen rule-of-law institutions, further develop and support the Haitian National Police and engage in human rights monitoring, reporting and analysis.”\(^106\) MINUJUSTH will comprise up to seven Formed Police Units (FPU) consisting of 980 personnel, and 295 Individual Police Officers for an initial six month period from October 16, 2017 to April 15, 2018.\(^107\) In July 2017, the United Nations Secretary General reported that “the ongoing


\(^{98}\) Ann M., U.N. peacekeepers are leaving after more than two decades, but where does that leave Haiti?, *Los Angeles Times*, Apr. 17, 2017.

\(^{99}\) Haiti is Ready for UN Peacekeepers to Leave Soon, Associated Press, Mar. 9, 2017.

\(^{100}\) Simmons, Ann M., U.N. peacekeepers are leaving after more than two decades, but where does that leave Haiti?, *Los Angeles Times*, Apr. 17, 2017.

\(^{101}\) Haiti is Ready for UN Peacekeepers to Leave Soon, Associated Press, Mar. 9, 2017.


\(^{103}\) Simmons, Ann M., U.N. peacekeepers are leaving after more than two decades, but where does that leave Haiti?, *Los Angeles Times*, Apr. 17, 2017.

\(^{104}\) Simmons, Ann M., U.N. peacekeepers are leaving after more than two decades, but where does that leave Haiti?, *Los Angeles Times*, Apr. 17, 2017.

\(^{105}\) Security Council decides UN Mission in Haiti will close by October; approves smaller follow-on operation, UN News Service, Apr. 13, 2017.

\(^{106}\) In visit to Haiti, Security Council delegation to reaffirm support for country’s stability and development, UN News Service, Jun. 23, 2017.

\(^{107}\) Security Council decides UN Mission in Haiti will close by October; approves smaller follow-on operation, UN News Service, Apr. 13, 2017.
withdrawal of the MINUSTAH military and police components...has not affected the overall security situation.”

**FOOD SECURITY**

Damage from the 2010 earthquake exacerbated Haiti’s historic food security challenges. The earthquake displaced over 600,000 people from urban to rural areas and caused significant damage to physical infrastructure; these factors contributed to a sharp decline in income and food availability, as well as an increase in the price of food in the aftermath of the earthquake. While the international community provided emergency food assistance and support for the agricultural sector to help avert a post-earthquake food crisis, food insecurity has remained a significant challenge for Haiti. Haiti depends on imports to meet more than 50 percent of its food needs, and is extremely vulnerable to fluctuations in global food prices. Chronic malnutrition impacts approximately half of Haiti’s population.

In recent years, food and nutritional security in Haiti have gradually deteriorated due to the impact of Tropical Storm Isaac and Hurricane Sandy in 2012 and three consecutive years of severe drought (exacerbated by El Niño). Hurricane Matthew also exacerbated food insecurity in Haiti. The impact of the hurricane caused an estimated $580 million in damages to the country’s agricultural sector, and extensive damage to “crops, livestock and fisheries as well as infrastructure such as irrigation – with the most affected areas having up to 100 percent crop damage or destruction.” Approximately “428,000 farmers were decapitalized” and food

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117 Damages to agricultural sector in storm-hit Haiti estimated at $580 million – UN agency, UN News Centre, Nov. 23, 2016.
production infrastructure was significantly impacted by the storm.\textsuperscript{117} In August 2017, USAID reported that, “more than six months later, the storm's impact continues to drive elevated levels of food insecurity in the worst-affected communities.”\textsuperscript{118} As of May 2017, approximately 5.82 million people were facing food insecurity in Haiti,\textsuperscript{119} including 2.35 million people who “were severely food-insecure and in need of immediate assistance.”\textsuperscript{120}

**NATURAL DISASTERS & ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS**

Due to its geographic location, weak infrastructure, and limited government resources, Haiti is particularly susceptible to natural disasters.\textsuperscript{121} Per the World Bank, Haiti has been impacted by natural disasters “almost every year since 1971, losing on average two percent of GDP every year due to hydrometeorological events.”\textsuperscript{122} An estimated 98 percent of the Haitian population is exposed to two or more types of natural disasters.\textsuperscript{123} As a result of its exposure to natural hazards and the vulnerabilities of its population, Haiti “consistently ranks among the most vulnerable countries in the world to disasters and climate change.”\textsuperscript{124} According to the 2017 Global Climate Risk Index, Haiti ranked as the third most affected country in the world by extreme weather events from 1996 to 2015; during this time, Haiti averaged $222 million in damages per year—equivalent to 1.49% of GDP on average.\textsuperscript{125}

Located along the “hurricane belt,”\textsuperscript{126} Haiti is regularly impacted by tropical storms and floods.\textsuperscript{127} Haiti suffered severe flooding in 2002, 2003, 2006, and 2007.\textsuperscript{128} During the 2008 hurricane season, Haiti was impacted by four storms “which killed more than 800 people and devastated nearly three-quarters of its agricultural land.”\textsuperscript{129} In the fall of 2012, Hurricane Sandy

\textsuperscript{121} Five dead, 19 missing after Haiti rains, flooding – officials, Reuters, May 19, 2017.
\textsuperscript{123} Thomas, Alice, Two Steps Back: Haiti Still Reeling from Hurricane Matthew, Refugees International, p.4, April 2017.
\textsuperscript{124} Thomas, Alice, Two Steps Back: Haiti Still Reeling from Hurricane Matthew, Refugees International, p.4-5, April 2017.
\textsuperscript{125} Kreft, Sönke, Eckstein, David and Melchior, Inga, Global Climate Risk Index 2017, Germanwatch, p. 23, Nov. 2016.
\textsuperscript{126} Thomas, Alice, Two Steps Back: Haiti Still Reeling from Hurricane Matthew, Refugees International, p.4, April 2017.
\textsuperscript{127} Jones, Sam, Why is Haiti vulnerable to natural hazards and disasters?, The Guardian, Oct. 4, 2016.
\textsuperscript{128} Jones, Sam, Why is Haiti vulnerable to natural hazards and disasters?, The Guardian, Oct. 4, 2016.
\textsuperscript{129} Jones, Sam, Why is Haiti vulnerable to natural hazards and disasters?, The Guardian, Oct. 4, 2016.
affected 1.8 million Haitians; flooded, damaged, or destroyed 18,000 homes; damaged key infrastructure, including roads, hospitals, and schools; and killed 60 people.\textsuperscript{130}

More recently, Haiti has been “grappling with a heavy rainy season” in 2017.\textsuperscript{131} The rainy season, which began in April, has resulted in:

- floods and landslides, damage to homes and destruction of harvests, especially in the departments of South, Grand’Anse and Nippes, which were the most affected departments by Hurricane Matthew. Erosion of roads have impacted access to several communes, especially in the South department.\textsuperscript{132}

By late May, at least seven people had been killed and 15,000 households were in need of immediate humanitarian assistance.\textsuperscript{133} The rainy season coincides with hurricane season in Haiti, which typically lasts from June 1 to November 30.\textsuperscript{134} In June 2017, the United Nations Economic and Social Council reported that the Haitian government “has indicated that it does not have the capacity in terms of equipment and personnel to mitigate any disaster that may result” from the current hurricane season.\textsuperscript{135}

On September 7, 2017, Hurricane Irma—a Category 5 hurricane—impacted northern Haiti (one of the poorest regions of the country),\textsuperscript{136} with heavy rains, wind, and flooding causing “significant damages in the Nord-Est, Nord-Ouest, Nord, Artibonite and Centre departments.”\textsuperscript{137} The impact of Hurricane Irma led to the evacuation of over 12,500 people, left one person dead and another missing, and injured more than a dozen others.\textsuperscript{138} In addition, 4,903 homes were flooded, 2,646 were damaged, and 466 were destroyed.\textsuperscript{139} Hurricane Irma also caused extensive

\textsuperscript{130} UN relief agency estimates 1.8 million Haitians have been affected by Hurricane Sandy, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Nov. 2, 2012.
\textsuperscript{131} Five dead, 19 missing after Haiti rains, flooding – officials, Reuters, May 19, 2017.
\textsuperscript{136} Charles, Jacqueline, Irma mostly spared Haiti. But for struggling farmers, the damages are devastating, The Miami Herald, Sep. 9, 2017.
damage to crops and livestock in affected areas, with an estimated 18,000 families in northern Haiti losing their food crops due to the impact of the storm.

Located along several major fault lines, Haiti has also been impacted by powerful earthquakes. In 2016, Haiti suffered from its third consecutive year of drought, which was exacerbated by El Niño. Extensive deforestation exposes Haiti to and exacerbates flooding, mudslides, and soil erosion.

HURRICANE MATTHEW

The strongest hurricane to strike the country in more than 50 years and the third strongest ever recorded in Haiti, Hurricane Matthew made landfall in southwestern Haiti as a Category 4 hurricane on October 4, 2016. With 145-mile-an-hour winds and torrential rains, Hurricane Matthew “violently struck south-western Haiti…causing widespread damage, flooding and displacement.” Heavy flooding occurred in the most affected departments, including Grand’Anse, South, Nippes and South East departments. Per UNOCHA, the impact of the hurricane occurred at a time when Haiti was “already facing an increase in the number of cholera cases and severe food insecurity and malnutrition.”

According to UNOCHA, Hurricane Matthew caused the greatest humanitarian crisis in Haiti since the 2010 earthquake. Hurricane Matthew affected 2.1 million people in Haiti; of this amount, 1.4 million were estimated to be in need of humanitarian assistance in the aftermath of

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140 After the Hurricane – an overview of the damage Irma and Maria left behind, International Federation of Red Cross And Red Crescent Societies, Sep. 22, 2017.
the storm. An estimated 175,000 people were displaced, and 546 people were killed. Hurricane Matthew also caused “widespread damage to homes, roads, public infrastructure, hospitals, and schools.” Damages from Hurricane Matthew were estimated at nearly $2.8 billion—equivalent to 1/3 of Haiti’s gross domestic product—and were particularly severe in Haiti’s housing and food security sectors.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew, the international humanitarian community coordinated with the Government of Haiti to provide emergency humanitarian assistance to those affected by the storm. Humanitarian assistance was provided in a variety of fields, including emergency shelter, health, food security, protection, etc. In early March 2017, UNOCHA reported that over 1 million people had been reached with humanitarian assistance in the most affected regions of Grand’Anse, Sud and Nippes departments. UNOCHA also noted that the emergency response was ending at this time, with the focus shifting to early recovery.

According to a United Nations official, as of mid-April 2017, shelter and food remained scarce in Haiti’s southern peninsula. In March 2017, an international non-governmental organization reported that at least 13 people in Grand’Anse department had died due to hurricane related food shortages in the region, and some Haitians were reportedly living in caves and eating poisonous plants to survive. UNOCHA reported in May 2017 that “affected people continue to live in precarious conditions, particularly in hard-to-reach areas.”

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155 Charles, Jacqueline, Senate Democrats to Trump administration: Let Haitians stay, Miami Herald, Apr. 27, 2017;
Charles, Jacqueline, Six months after Hurricane Matthew, food, shelter still scarce in Haiti, Miami Herald, Apr. 12, 2017.
161 Charles, Jacqueline, Six months after Hurricane Matthew, food, shelter still scarce in Haiti, Miami Herald, Apr. 12, 2017.
The Haitian government and the international community continued to support Haiti’s efforts to recover from Hurricane Matthew during the summer of 2017. On June 30, 2017, President Jovenel Moïse declared a state of emergency in areas hit by the storm. The World Bank announced grants of $100 million in June 2017 and an additional $100 million in July 2017 to support Haiti’s recovery from the impact of Hurricane Matthew. In addition, the Miami Herald reported in July 2017 that the Inter-American Development Bank would reroute $85 million in funding to support reconstruction efforts in southern Haiti.

Nevertheless, in June 2017, the World Bank reported that reconstruction needs from Hurricane Matthew “were assessed at US$2.2 billion or 25 percent of GDP.” In July 2017, the Miami Herald reported that residents of the areas most impacted by Hurricane Matthew in southern Haiti felt abandoned by international donors and the Haitian government. The Inter-American Development Bank’s representative for Haiti told the Miami Herald in July 2017 that, even with the additional funding from its organization for areas impacted by Hurricane Matthew:

“The situation is so dire that even if we fully disbursed the $85 million that we have committed to the South after the hurricane, there are still a lot of people in need, a lot of villages that were badly affected by the hurricane and need further investment,” he said. “We will need lots more resources.”

In October 2017, Agence France-Presse reported that—one year after Hurricane Matthew—Haiti was still suffering from the consequences of the storm, and had yet to change “the way the country prepares for natural disasters.”

**HAITIAN RETURNEES FROM THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

A crackdown on undocumented migrants in the Dominican Republic has contributed to an influx of returnees to Haiti in recent years. From July 2015 through July 2017, IOM recorded that...

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170 *A year after Hurricane Matthew, Haiti more vulnerable than ever*, Agence France-Presse (AFP), Oct. 4, 2017.

215,121 Haitian migrants spontaneously returned or were deported to Haiti.\textsuperscript{172} In June 2017, IOM reported that the “total number of returnees has averaged between 6000 and 8000 individuals on a monthly basis” since August 2016.\textsuperscript{173} However, the total number of returnees may actually be higher, as IOM stated that it had only been able to monitor half of border crossings between the two countries since September 2016 due to budget constraints.\textsuperscript{174} Deportations from the Dominican Republic have drastically increased since April 2017; July 2017 had the highest number of official deportations since October 2015.\textsuperscript{175}

In July 2017, the United Nations Secretary-General reported that returnees from the Dominican Republic:

continue to find themselves in a situation of vulnerability owing to the insufficient reception capacity of the Haitian authorities and a lack of reintegration opportunities. This group will likely continue to need assistance in the foreseeable future, including with regard to the determination of their legal status.\textsuperscript{176}

Similarly, in August 2017, the Miami Herald commented on the Haitian government’s “inability to absorb the influx” of returnees from the Dominican Republic, also noting that “their arrival, mostly ignored by Haitian authorities, has burdened humanitarian organizations that have struggled to help amid deep budget cuts and indifference.”\textsuperscript{177} Many migrants reportedly “arrive in precarious conditions,”\textsuperscript{178} while some returnees reportedly live in “makeshift camps” along the border similar to those inhabited by IDPs from the 2010 earthquake.\textsuperscript{179}
SUMMARY

Haiti’s recovery has been hindered by subsequent natural disasters and various political, social, health, security, and economic conditions which have negatively impacted the country in recent years. Haiti remains vulnerable to external shocks, and its internal fragility has left it unable to adequately respond to a wide range of persistent humanitarian needs. As UNOCHA and the United Nations Country Team in Haiti reported in January 2017:

With more than 98% of Haitians exposed to two or more types of disasters, the impact of recurring natural disasters is particularly severe, especially considering the already pre-existing protection, socio-economic and environmental vulnerabilities and disparities. Most Haitians remain vulnerable to natural hazards and disasters, such as floods, landslides, droughts, earthquakes and hurricanes. With more than a half of its total population living in extreme poverty, Hurricane Matthew has once more demonstrated Haiti’s weakened ability to cope, recover and adapt to shocks from natural disasters. Meanwhile, as a result of electoral-related tensions, politically motivated demonstrations and insecurity have affected the humanitarian operating environment since mid-2015 against the backdrop of a decreasing humanitarian presence in the field due to the lack of humanitarian funding.\footnote{Haiti: Humanitarian Response Plan January 2017 - December 2018, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA)/United Nations Country Team in Haiti, p.6, Jan. 2017.}

Due to the conditions outlined in this report, Haiti’s recovery from the 2010 earthquake could be characterized as falling into what one non-governmental organization recently described as “the country’s tragic pattern of ‘one step forward, two steps back.’”\footnote{Thomas, Alice, Two Steps Back: Haiti Still Reeling from Hurricane Matthew, Refugees International, p.17, April 2017.}
Talking Points

(b)(5)

May 22, 2017
Hello everyone,

Temporary Protected Status for Haiti has been extended for six months.

Documents:
- **News Release** (English) – Temporary Protected Status for Haiti Extended for Six Months
  (Spanish version is in process—will send separately)
- **PAG** – Temporary Protected Status
- **Talking Points and Q and A** —Temporary Protected Status for Haiti Extended for Six Months

Guidance:
- Public Affairs Officers – News release **for immediate release** to your contacts
  - **RAOs may retweet HQ tweets on this subject**
  - **TV and radio interviews (on-air or taped) are not authorized. You may use the attached news release, PAG, and talking points to answer media questions regarding USCIS’ announcement on-the-record. Questions focused on S1’s decision should be forwarded to DHS OPA. (Note: the Q and A section of the talking points focuses largely on S1’s decision-making process—questions of that nature need to be referred to DHS OPA.)**
- CSPE, OLA – For your information, distribute news release to contacts as appropriate
- ECE – For your information and action as appropriate
- ECOMM – For your information and action as appropriate
Public Affairs Officer
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

(Office); (Cell)  (b)(6)

Twitter: @USCISMediaFLA
Just keeping you in the loop. It looks like I would be better for Don Neufeld to attend than for me, since a [redacted] can not attend. Please see below messages from [redacted] and DHS as I am trying to get to the bottom of this to ensure we are best staffed.

Should I reach out to Don?

[redacted]

Chief, International Operations
USCIS Refugee, Asylum and International Operations Directorate

Ok, we will share with [redacted] and see what she thinks re: participation. On next steps, as noted, not much we can say just yet as the FRN is still in the works. Operationally, SCOPS, Don Neufeld's shop, is best suited to address questions about and explain the reregistration process as a general matter, though. Our shop is best positioned to explain the decision process, but we are, of course, past that now.

[Referred to Department of Homeland Security]
Reflected to Department of Homeland Security

(b)(6)

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Friday, December 8, 2017 1:00 PM
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]

Subject: RE: *Confirmed* Meeting w/ Haitian AMB, Paul Altidor

Hey,

For your awareness, [Redacted] and, thus, wouldn’t be able to join this meeting next Wednesday with Ambassador Altidor. On TPS, there’s not really anything new to report since the announcement of termination (the Fed Reg notice is still in the works, so details regarding reregistration are still TBD/not public). However, attaching the final TPS PAG and a document we put together that provides a litany of actions Haiti and USCIS have taken (to date, that is) to help prepare for the repatriation of Haitian TPS beneficiaries. For USCIS’ part, going forward, we’ll continue to use our comms and public engagement channels to apprise Haitian TPSers of the need to prepare for their departure should they not have another status that allows them to remain in the United States upon termination of their TPS benefits. We will be interested to hear what other actions the Haitian government is taking to prepare for returns, and what else the Department may have in mind to help facilitate them.

We’ll let [Redacted] know of the meeting, too, and look forward to any further clarity from you, as you’re able to get it, on the purpose and scope of the meeting. All best,

(b)(6)

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Friday, December 08, 2017 12:25 PM
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]

Subject: RE: *Confirmed* Meeting w/ Haitian AMB, Paul Altidor

Thanks. Adding [Redacted] Would indeed appreciate briefing materials. I would not know what to say about TPS and want to be sure I can support Ambassador Nealon as best I can.
Hi (b)(6). Thanks for the loop on this. Agree with your call on participation if it’s about TPS, as (b)(6) suspects, and which would be consistent with past meetings Altidor has requested. Please feel free to loop us in, and/or we can reach out to (b)(6) directly.

Wednesday, unfortunately, so won’t be able to make the meeting. Happy to help with briefing material, however.

If this meeting is focused on TPS, I think it would’ve much better to have someone from policy there, not RAIO. Thoughts?

Referred to Department of Homeland Security
asked me to participate in this meeting with the Haitian Ambassador. Unfortunately, I have zero background info on what this is about and what type of materials need to be prepared. Can you let me know what is needed or are you free for a quick chat later today?

Thanks,
Please send briefing material to [redacted] by 4pm on Tues. Dec. 12.

(b)(6)
Please see thoughts below. Let me know if you have questions.

Chief, International Operations
USCIS Refugee, Asylum and International Operations Directorate

- the concern that GOH had when Secretary Kelly made the last announcement was whether there would be mass deportations. I see that’s addressed in the FAQs but fleshing it out more (if possible) and getting that message to the stakeholders in Haiti would be one area of outreach for PAP.

**Q: Will DHS prioritize them for deportation?**

**A: The Administration’s immigration enforcement priorities have been clearly articulated. DHS will continue to focus on criminal aliens, those with final orders of removal, and those who otherwise pose a threat to public safety and/or national security. However, DHS will not exempt entire categories or classes of people from potential immigration enforcement actions.**

PAP can meet with Office of National Migration and also the Ministry of Social Affairs to be sure that they understand what the decision means. The Ministry of Social Affairs is in charge of providing stipends to those repatriated so they have equities in knowing if there will be mass removals.

PAP can also offer to join DOS Public Affairs in doing radio campaigns to explain the decision locally. Have the language skills and helped translate material to creole for past campaigns on illegal migration.
Brett,

What are your thoughts? (b)(6)

Chief, International Operations Division
USCIS Refugee, Asylum and International Operations Directorate

Is there anything we can say re outreach by our staff with counterparts at post?

Referred to Department of Homeland Security

(b)(6)
Hi,
The attached is with our front office for final review. But here is a preview as I know we are a bit behind on this one.

(b)(6)
FYI

Chief, International Operations Division
USCIS Refugee, Asylum and International Operations Directorate

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2017 10:07 AM
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: RE: Haiti Outreach

attended the weekly reporting meeting this morning with Post’s acting DCM. (The acting DCM’s regular position is lead Officer in the Political Section) [Redacted] conveyed the points below and the acting DCM indicated that she will relay the information to the Chargé for his meeting tomorrow with the Minister. Ginette will let us know the outcome of the meeting and forward any relevant cables.

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2017 12:15 PM
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: RE: Haiti Outreach

Please be sure that [Redacted] discusses with Political the importance of ensuring that the GoH is working with TPS holders in the States to facilitate their smooth return in the near future. It would also be helpful if they could get from the GoH information related to concrete actions they plan on taking and timelines. Let me know if you have any questions.

Chief, International Operations Division
USCIS Refugee, Asylum and International Operations Directorate
what do you think of and I going to Haiti to meet with embassy officers, NGOs, to prepare our TPS paper? I would be happy to discuss this further with you.

Chief, Research
Refugee, Asylum and International Operations directorate
DHS/USCIS
20 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20529

Visit the RAIO RU homepage on USCIS Connect!

Hey, We were thinking a full report would be best since this is a new review (of course, pulling heavily from existing content where still relevant). Might be easiest just to chat about specific content or material to be updated. Any chance you're free to touch base tomorrow between 2:30 and 4:30?

Always happy to help. Do you want us to draft and update a full TPS report (like we submitted in December 2016), or another addendum (covering just the period from the last addendum in May 2017 until Aug. 2017)? Are there any specific topics we should cover or you would want updates on? Here is what we have pulled together in the past year for Haiti:

- Haiti: Hurricane Matthew (October 11, 2016) – covers impact of Hurricane Matthew in Haiti
- TPS Considerations Haiti: Natural Disaster (Dec. 2016) – focuses on earthquake impact and recovery, and includes info on housing, cholera, economic damages, political instability, security risks, environmental risks, and Hurricane Matthew (this is the full report)
- Haiti: TPS Addendum (February 7, 2017) – includes info on Hurricane Matthew and recent
elections
- Haiti: TPS Addendum (May 10, 2017) – includes general country conditions update (about a page on the earthquake, cholera, Hurricane Matthew, etc.), plus specific questions posed to us (GDP growth, MINUSTAH, reconstruction of national palace)

Thanks,

(b)(6)

From: 
Sent: Monday, August 07, 2017 11:22 AM
To: 
Cc: 
Subject: Haiti TPS Country Conditions Report

As much as it pains us to write this, so close on the heels of the most recent Haiti TPS decision and all, because it was just a 6-month extension, we’re already initiating the formal review process. We’ve asked State to get us their assessment and rec by August 22. Would RU be able to put together its report by September 1? We know this is a shorter turnaround then normal, but the review period is condensed b/c of the limited, 6-month extension. We were thinking it would be helpful to highlight in the Summary section what, if anything, has changed (for better or worse) since the last decision in May. Let us know if you’d like to discuss, and thanks, as always, for your contribution to our TPS process.

Chief, International and Humanitarian Affairs Division
Department of Homeland Security/U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Office of Policy and Strategy

(b)(6)
EX, OCOMM and OP&S colleagues,

Our acting FOD in Port-au-Prince has been asked to participate with the Charge at post in a press conference on TPS that will take place next Monday, November 27, at 10 a.m. ET. Does she have clearance to participate, and if so, are there materials that she can use in French and/or Creole?

Thanks,

Good morning. I'm seeking HQ's assistance as I may need to appear at a press conference with the Charge. Please let us know the best way to handle this.

I will forward the reply from Public Affairs when I indicated that the language had to be cleared by my HQ.

Best,

I know you're away but we need an HQ contact and feedback.
Please assist.

Thanks.

Hi again,

Please note the all language involving our office must be cleared by our HQ.

Thanks,

Referred to U.S. Department of State
Hey Team RAIO & CSPED – (b)(6)

As you are likely already aware, the TPS Haiti announcement is moving tonight (see attached cleared PAG). DHS is asking who has the lead on notifying Haitian community leaders. If that something one of your offices is doing?

Thanks so much!

Referred to Department of Homeland Security
(b)(6)
Hi

I hope this message finds you well. [Redacted], the Senior Liaison Officer posted in Ottawa, received a series of questions from the Domestic Network at IRCC specific to Haitian TPS. Given the high profile nature of this issue in Canada and other related sensitivities, we thought it might be more appropriate to pass the questions along to you for coordination with DHS Policy. I’ve copied [Redacted] on this email in case you have any follow up questions. Please do let us know if USCIS can be of further assistance. Thank you.

Regards,

[Redacted], Senior Advisor, USCIS Refugee, Asylum and International Operations Directorate

Office - (b)(6)

Questions from IRCC:

Q: Our internet research indicates that to qualify for TPS, you must have been continuously residing in the US and have been continuously physically present in the US with the exception of “brief, casual and innocent departures”. We are wondering exactly what constitutes “brief, casual and innocent departures” give that many of our claimants are the holders of multi-entry US visas and have exhibited frequent travel outside of the US.

Q: To be eligible, one must have been “continuously physically present (CPP) in the United States since the effective date of the most recent designation date of your country”. This means that for Haitians, unless they resided in the US continuously since Jan. 12, 2011, they would not qualify for TPS unless they were successful in the submission of a late application. So, what grounds would warrant a successful late TPS application? Would people issued multi-entry travel post Jan. 12, 2011 visas not qualify for TPS?

Q: What sort of things are US immigration officials reviewing when issuing Haitians, post 2011, multi-entry US travel visas? Ties to Haiti?

Q: All designated countries, with the exception of Haiti, benefit from automatic renewal of their Employment Authorization Document (EAD) when they re-register. For Haitians only, this is a separate application. Why?

Q: How do we know if a person was issued TPS, refused TPS, or had TPS revoked? Is this info available through FCC?
Q: If so, what is the code?

Q: What are the documents issued to confirm TPS status?
FYI, let us know DHS assigned the response letter today to USCIS, so we should see it coming through for clearance this week.

For awareness and to share with the FO, as appropriate, in the event you haven’t already received this (apologies if you have, but I wanted to make sure). This is a letter from the Haitian Ambassador to AS1 seeking an additional 18 month extension of TPS. I have shared with Brandon and in OP&S.

FYI,

Good afternoon,

I was sent these attachments to be shared with the embassy staff. I am sending them to you for your information.

Regards,

Acting Field Office Director
Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
American Embassy Port-au-Prince, Haiti
E-Mail
Tel: (b)(6)
Referred to Department of Homeland Security
Hope this message finds you well. Attached is a formal letter from the Haitian government addressed to the Honorable Elaine Duke, Acting Secretary at DHS. I am reaching out to seek your support to ensure that the Acting Secretary receives this letter.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any question.

Can you please acknowledge reception of this message?

I thank you for following up.

Regards,

Ambassador Altidor

--

Paul G Altidor
Ambassador of Haiti to the US
Washington, DC
Press Release

May 22, 2017

Contact: DHS Press Office, (202) 282-8010

SECRETARY KELLY STATEMENT ON THE LIMITED EXTENSION OF HAITI’S DESIGNATION FOR TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS

WASHINGTON—Secretary of Homeland Security John F. Kelly today announced his decision to extend—for an additional six months—the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designation for Haiti. This extension is effective July 23, 2017 through January 22, 2018.

“After careful review of the current conditions in Haiti and conversations with the Haitian government, I have decided to extend the designation of Haiti for Temporary Protected Status for a limited period of six-months,” said Secretary Kelly. “Haiti has made progress across several fronts since the devastating earthquake in 2010, and I’m proud of the role the United States has played during this time in helping our Haitian friends. The Haitian economy continues to recover and grow, and 96 percent of people displaced by the earthquake and living in internally displaced person camps have left those camps. Even more encouraging is that over 98 percent of these camps have closed. Also indicative of Haiti’s success in recovering from the earthquake seven years ago is the Haitian government’s stated plans to rebuild the Haitian President’s residence at the National Palace in Port-au-Prince, and the
withdrawal of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti.”

Secretary Kelly was particularly encouraged by representations made to him directly by the Haitian government regarding their desire to welcome the safe repatriation of Haitian TPS recipients in the near future. “This six-month extension should allow Haitian TPS recipients living in the United States time to attain travel documents and make other necessary arrangements for their ultimate departure from the United States, and should also provide the Haitian government with the time it needs to prepare for the future repatriation of all current TPS recipients. We plan to continue to work closely with the Haitian government, including assisting the government in proactively providing travel documents for its citizens.”

Prior to the expiration of this limited six-month period, Secretary Kelly will re-evaluate the designation for Haiti and decide anew whether extension, re-designation, or termination is warranted. The Department of Homeland Security urges Haitian TPS recipients who do not have another immigration status to use the time before Jan. 22, 2018 to prepare for and arrange their departure from the United States—including proactively seeking travel documentation—or to apply for other immigration benefits for which they may be eligible. “I believe there are indications that Haiti – if its recovery from the 2010 earthquake continues at pace - may not warrant further TPS extension past January 2018. TPS as enacted in law is inherently temporary in nature, and beneficiaries should plan accordingly that this status may finally end after the extension announced today.”

Further details about this extension of TPS for Haiti, including the application requirements and procedures, will appear in a Federal Register notice later this week.

# # #

Unsubscribe

Office of Public Affairs • 202-282-8010 • mediaInquiry@hs.dhs.gov

U.S. Department of Homeland Security • Washington, DC 20520
Will you see if you can find out where the Haiti TPS FRN is within the FO? It should have been a fairly simple review, but it has already been a couple of weeks. With all the other FRNs hitting right now, we would just like to take this one out of the mix.

Thanks

The USCIS FO suspense date for Haiti was 6/5/15. Would it be possible to advise where at the FO it is currently pending clearance? Thank you.

Yes, this is with the Front Office.

Please send all official actions to USCIS-Exec-Sec@uscis.dhs.gov
From: [Redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, June 02, 2015 3:15 PM
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]

Thank you,

[Redacted]  
Project Manager  
Regulatory Coordination Division, Office of Policy & Strategy, USCIS, DHS

*Telework on Mondays and Fridays, and may be reached at

This email, along with any attachments, is intended solely for the use of the addressee(s) and may contain information that is sensitive or protected by applicable law. Unauthorized use or dissemination of this email and any attachments is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, notify the sender and delete or destroy all copies.

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, June 02, 2015 3:13 PM
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]

Thanks (b)(6)

I am doing well. Per the attached email, it looks like our office delivered this package to the FO on 5/27. I am copying Jennifer to confirm. She will be back in the office tomorrow.

We will follow up and keep you posted on any updates.

Best regards,

[Redacted]  
Office of the Executive Secretariat  
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services  

[Redacted] Mobile  
EXSO Connect Page  
EXSO ECN Page  
Please send all official actions to USCIS-Exec-Sec@uscis.dhs.gov

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, June 02, 2015 3:01 PM
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]

Hi (b)(6)
Hope all is well. Following up to see how far along this package may be at the FO? Thank you.

---

**From:**

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 02, 2015 1:13 PM

**To:**

**Subject:** RE: URGENT- DUE 6/5/15, FO Review, Haiti TPS Federal Register Notice and Recommendation Memorandum

Hi, I know that the FO is working on Nepal – but did we ever here back about the Haiti FRN. Just checking.

Thanks,

---

**From:**

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 26, 2015 4:03 PM

**To:** USCIS Exec Sec

**Cc:** USCIS Regs;

**Subject:** RE: URGENT- DUE 6/5/15, FO Review, Haiti TPS Federal Register Notice and Recommendation Memorandum

Hi,

Please find our response to the edits to the FRN in the attached.

We accept all edits to the Memo, TPS Legal Authority, and the RAIO CC Report. Thank you.

---

**From:** USCIS Exec Sec

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 26, 2015 1:27 PM

**To:**

**Cc:**

**Subject:** RE: URGENT- DUE 6/5/15, FO Review, Haiti TPS Federal Register Notice and Recommendation Memorandum

Good afternoon,

EXSO reviewed the Haiti TPS Extension materials for formatting and consistency and made the attached edits and comments.
Please let us know if you are okay with these edits. Also, please respond to the comments in the comment bubble and make any additional changes in redline and return the documents to us with the redlines intact.

. Thank you.

Office of the Executive Secretariat
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

EXSO Connect Page
EXSO ECN Page

Please send all official actions to USCIS-Exec-Sec@uscis.dhs.gov

From
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2015 12:45 PM
To: USCIS Exec Sec
Cc:

Subject: URGENT- DUE 6/5/15, FO Review, Haiti TPS Federal Register Notice and Recommendation Memorandum

Hello EXSO,

For FO review and clearance, please find attached:

- The Federal Register Notice, Extension of the Designation of Haiti for Temporary Protected Status; and
- The USCIS Recommendation Memorandum for Haiti Temporary Protected Status (TPS).

Summary
The Notice announces that the Secretary is extending the designation of Haiti for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for 18 months, from January 23, 2016, through July 22, 2017. The extension allows currently eligible TPS beneficiaries to retain TPS through July 22, 2017, so long as they otherwise continue to meet the eligibility requirements for TPS. The Secretary has determined that an extension is warranted because the conditions in Haiti that prompted the TPS designation continue to be met. There continue to be extraordinary and temporary conditions in that country that prevent Haitian nationals (or aliens having no nationality who last habitually resided in Haiti) from returning to Haiti in safety. In the USCIS Recommendation Memorandum, USCIS recommends to the Secretary that the designation of TPS for Haiti be extended for the same period.

Timeline
We respectfully request clearance no later than COB June 5, 2015, as USCIS must timely publish the Notice by August 2015, following DHS OG, DHS FO and OMB clearance. Please note the FO is expecting to receive this package today or as soon as possible.

- Notice: OCC, ESD, MGT (CFO, OIDP), P&S, RAIO, and CSPE have cleared.
- Recommendation Memorandum: OCC, ESD, MGT (CFO, OIDP), RAIO, SCOPS, and CSPE
have cleared.

Contacts

OP&S-RCD), (SCOPS, Notice), and (OP&S-IHAD, Recommendation Memo).

Attachments

- 2015 TPS Haiti Federal Register Notice
- TPS Somalia Recommendation Memorandum with Attachments A (Legal Authority), B (RAIO Report), and C (DOS Report).

Please let us know if you have any questions. Thank you.

Project Manager

Regulatory Coordination Division, Office of Policy & Strategy, USCIS, DHS

*Telework on Mondays and Fridays, and may be reached at

(b)(6)

This email, along with any attachments, is intended solely for the use of the addressee(s) and may contain information that is sensitive or protected by applicable law. Unauthorized use or dissemination of this email and any attachments is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, notify the sender and delete or destroy all copies.
I'm forwarding to you the Haiti addendum prepared by [redacted] for the TPS decision memo. Please let us know if anything else is needed.

Thanks,

[Redacted]
Chief, Research
Refugee, Asylum and International Operations directorate
DHS/USCIS
20 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20529

Visit the RAIO RU [homepage](#) on USCIS Connect!
All

I just wanted to let you know that our Field Office Director (FOD) in Haiti serves as the DHS dual hat attaché and is being asked by State at Post for any information she can provide about the USCIS recommendation regarding Haiti TPS. Do we have any talking points on this that would be useful for talking to State at Post regarding the USCIS position?

Thanks,

Chief, International Operations Division
USCIS Refugee, Asylum and International Operations Directorate
Good evening. I’m writing to give you an update on Haiti and TPS. In the Office of Policy and Strategy informed me that he has been asked to draft a FRN notice that will notify Haitian TPS beneficiaries of a 6 month extension. This provides the Secretary with another option on top of the three he has before him, i.e. extend, terminate, or re-designate TPS.

Also, DHS HQ is still waiting on a decision from the Department of State regarding its position on TPS for Haiti, according to Secretary Tillerson was given a memo which recommended a 12 month extension of TPS for Haitians, but said there has been no word from State on where the memo is or when State will communicate its position to DHS.

Sincerely,

Chief, Research
Refugee, Asylum and International Operations directorate
DHS/USCIS
20 Massachusetts Ave, NW, Washington, DC 20529

Visit the RAIO RU [homepage](https://uscis.gov) on USCIS Connect!
Response to Information Request

Date: 27 March 2013

Subject: Haiti: Information on detention of criminal deportees, conditions of release, and prison conditions.

From: USCIS, Refugee, Asylum & Int’l Operations Research Unit, Washington, D.C.

Query:

1. Whether the government of Haiti has a policy or practice of detaining criminal deportees upon their arrival in Haiti?
   a. If not, whether this is a change in policy/practice and when the change occurred?
   b. If so, information on the average length of detention, procedures for release, and whether deportees without family in Haiti may be released from detention?

Current Practice on Detention of Deportees

According to the U.S. Department of State, the Haitian government has not detained returning deportees since August 2012. This current practice, just like prior detainment, is not an official government of Haiti policy. The U.S. Embassy in Haiti is currently working with the Secretary of State for Public Security in Haiti to formulate an official “no detention” policy. Open source information available to the RAIO Research Unit neither corroborates, nor refutes the information provided by the Department of State.

Past Practices Regarding Detention of Deportees

Publicly available sources indicate that criminal deportees, prior to August 2012, were detained upon arrival in Haiti. For example, in 1997, Christian Science Monitor reported that Haitian

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2 Id.
3 Id.
deportees are released from detention only after they are retrieved by a family member.4 Louis Joseph, a spokesman for the Haitian Embassy in Washington, D.C. corroborated this report in November 2000, stating that criminal deportees are temporarily detained until a family member can be located.5 According to a report by the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (IRB), Michelle Karshan, director of Alternative Chance, an advocacy group for criminal deportees in Haiti, indicated that deportees are detained upon arrival if they are considered “serious” criminals by the authorities.6 “Serious” may include drug-related offenses and assaults.7

The duration of detention reportedly varies. According to the IRB report, Michelle Karshan further noted that detention, for those with family members in Haiti, ranges from two days to two weeks.8 However, a 2009 report by Christian Science Monitor indicated that most deportees are released within days, if not hours of arrival.9 For individuals without family members in Haiti, detention is reportedly indefinite.10

Deportees without family members in Haiti may be released from detention with the assistance of local NGOs. For example, in 1997 a criminal deportee identified as “Frank” stated, “If it wasn’t for Chans Alternativ, I’d be really messed up, even dead. Chans Alternativ found me in jail, and it was like a mission sent from heaven. They managed to get me out and teach me the ropes.”11 In subsequent years, deportees have also been released to the Support Center for the Rehabilitation of Haitian Deportees (CARDH) and the Haitian Foundation of Returnees’ Families (FONHFARA).12 The RAIO Research Unit, however, could not find information relating to the rate of release of criminal deportees without family members in Haiti.

**Conditions in Haitian Prisons**

According to international observers, Haitian prisons are unsanitary, lack running water, and suffer from food scarcity.13 In September 2000, a 44-year-old woman died of diarrhea after drinking contaminated water.14 Michelle Karshan of Alternative Chance reported in January 2011 that, “Cholera has already killed more than 58 detainees [emphasis added] and sickened

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6 IMMIGRATION & REFUGEE BOARD OF CANADA, Haiti: Whether Haitians who have lived abroad for a long time are at risk if they return to their homeland; the kinds of risks they might face: whether their return could represent a threat to members of their families and, if so, what kind of threat their families would face and from whom (2010-2012), May 29, 2012, available at http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/4fecd262.html (last visited Mar. 25, 2013).
7 Id.
8 Id.
9 Amy Bracken, *For Haitians deported from the US, an unlikely welcome-home committee,* CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, June 25, 2009.
11 Klarreich, supra note 4.
12 Bracken, supra note 9.
14 Benjamin, supra note 5.
405 more. The Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada adds that, “Detainees are also reportedly not provided with food, water, or medical care, and depend on family members, if they have any, to bring them such necessities.”

Inmates may also be exposed to abuses during detention. Family members of deportees living in the United States have stated that they have been pressured to pay as much as $5,000 to have a deportee released from Haitian jail. Commenting on these allegations, Louis Joseph, a spokesman for the Embassy of Haiti in Washington, D.C. indicated that this is not the policy of the Haitian government, but that he “cannot deny that a corrupt person may try to make money out of [their detention].” Nevertheless, in 2009, FONHFARA reported that unjustified arrests of deportees are common because corrupt police see it as an opportunity to make money.

This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the RAIO Research Unit within time constraints. This response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum.

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15 The RAIO Research Unit could not ascertain whether “detainees” refers to criminal deportees, individuals in detention on account of crimes committed in Haiti, or a mix of both. See Michelle Karshan, Continue to suspend deportation to Haiti, SUN SENTINEL, Jan. 19, 2011. In February 2011, reports indicated that the cholera outbreak in Haiti had killed at least 4,000 people and sickened 200,000 more since October 2010. Group wants Haitian deportations of sick to stop, ASSOCIATED PRESS, Feb. 4, 2011.

16 IMMIGRATION & REFUGEE BOARD OF CANADA, supra note 6.

17 Benjamin, supra note 5.

18 Id.

19 Bracken, supra note 9.
Hey

I know you just chatted with [ ] I’m on the hook for getting the PAG through the FO and back to DHS OPA before our coordination call with DHS leadership tomorrow morning. So, if you could send me your edits when they’re ready, I’m standing by to run this through the rest of the traps 😊

Thanks so much!

[ ]

Senior Advisor
Office of External Affairs
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)

[ ] (work mobile)
[ ] (personal mobile)
HAITI TPS – REPATRIATION OF FORMER TPS BENEFICIARIES

Objective:
- To outline what actions have been taken by the Haitian government and USCIS to prepare for the repatriation of Haitian TPS beneficiaries who are removed from the United States or who choose to return to Haiti in the event Haiti’s TPS designation is terminated, and to suggest future U.S. government actions that could be taken to enhance Haiti’s capacity to adequately handle the return of such persons during a period of orderly transition.

Haitian Government Efforts to Date:
- Former Secretary Kelly requested that the Government of Haiti take steps to prepare for the eventual end of its TPS designation. Specific steps Haiti has taken to prepare include:
  - **Establishing a Working Group:** The Government of Haiti established a minister-level working group focused on efforts to mitigate factors which cause Haitians to migrate illegally. A sub-group was created in order to focus specifically on preparations for the possible termination of TPS, understanding the need to ensure employment opportunities exist for TPS beneficiaries when they return to Haiti.
  - **Conducting Outreach to Diaspora Leaders:** Haiti’s Ambassador in Washington has worked to raise awareness amongst influential diaspora leaders, so they can effectively share information with the Haitian community in the United States on how the termination of TPS will affect them.
  - **Providing Legal Assistance:** The Haitian Mission in the U.S. established a hotline to provide legal assistance for Haitian nationals from immigration attorneys.
  - **New Equipment to Produce Travel Documents:** Haiti has recently acquired an additional travel document (passport) printer. Haitian government officials have assured DHS and State that Haitians seeking travel documents have no difficulty getting them, and that wait times to receive a passport have dropped and production rates increased.
  - **Haitian Government Will Build 2,000 Homes:** On November 3, 2017, the Government of Haiti implemented a $15 million program to build social housing for the victims of Hurricane Matthew. Construction has already begun in Fond Rouge. This project will ensure that those directly affected by Hurricane Matthew are taken care of, thus allowing the government to focus its attention on integration efforts of TPS beneficiaries ahead of their potential return.
  - **Staff-Monitored Program for Development:** On October 12, 2017, a delegation of the Republic of Haiti and the Governor of the Central Bank held discussions with leaders of multilateral and bilateral institutions involved in development efforts in Haiti. The Government of Haiti and the International Monetary Fund committed to a six-month Staff-Monitored Program, under which fiscal policy will focus on mobilizing domestic revenue to accommodate needed increases in public investment. These efforts also include implementation of key reforms in the energy sector; health, education, and social services; and infrastructure. While not exclusively being done for TPS reintegration efforts, it is an example of the efforts and resources they’re putting into their economy that will inevitably help the population. More information about this initiative can be found here: https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2017/10/12/pr17398-meeting-of-the-government-of-haiti-with-development-partners
USCIS Efforts to Date:
- USCIS has also taken actions to remind Haitian TPS beneficiaries of the need to prepare for their departure in the event Haiti’s designation is terminated.
  - Providing instruction (see below) on obtaining nationality/travel documents individually to re-registrants upon their filing;
  - Issuing a Web Alert that included this same instruction;
  - Disseminating the same language through USCIS’ stakeholder list; and
  - Including the instruction about getting nationality/travel documents on live Haitian radio shows in certain localities with a large Haitian diaspora.

MESSAGE: “Haiti TPS beneficiaries with no other immigration status are encouraged to prepare for their return to Haiti in the event Haiti’s designation is not extended again. This preparation includes TPS beneficiaries ensuring they have current, valid Haitian nationality documentation issued by the Government of Haiti (such as a passport) that will allow them to return to Haiti. Beneficiaries are encouraged to contact a Haitian consulate to assist in obtaining updated nationality documentation.”
Good afternoon all,

DHS issued the Haiti TPS Extension release (attached and language below). Attached you will find the word documents of the extension release as well as the INTERNAL draft talking points and Q&A. If you have any questions, need clarification, or more information, please do not hesitate to ask. If there are questions you receive that are not included in the Q&A, please feel free to send them up and we will assist in getting you the correct information.

Thank you all,

(b)(6)

SECRETARY KELLY STATEMENT ON THE LIMITED EXTENSION OF HAITI’S DESIGNATION FOR TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS

WASHINGTON—Secretary of Homeland Security John F. Kelly today announced his decision to extend—for an additional six months—the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designation for Haiti. This extension is effective July 23, 2017 through January 22, 2018.

“No careful review of the current conditions in Haiti and conversations with the Haitian government, I have decided to extend the designation of Haiti for Temporary Protected Status for a limited period of six-months,” said Secretary Kelly. “Haiti has made progress across several fronts since the devastating earthquake in 2010, and I’m proud of the role the United States has played during this time in helping our Haitian friends. The Haitian economy continues to recover and grow, and 96 percent of people displaced by the earthquake and living in internally displaced person camps have left those camps. Even more encouraging is that over 98 percent of these camps have closed. Also indicative of Haiti’s success in recovering from the earthquake seven years ago is the Haitian government’s stated plans to rebuild the Haitian President’s residence at the National Palace in Port-au-Prince, and the withdrawal of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti.”

Secretary Kelly was particularly encouraged by representations made to him directly by the Haitian government regarding their desire to welcome the safe repatriation of Haitian TPS recipients in the near future. “This six-month extension should allow Haitian TPS recipients living in the United States time to attain travel documents and make other necessary arrangements for their ultimate departure from the United States, and should also provide the Haitian government with the time it needs to prepare for the future repatriation of all current TPS recipients. We plan to continue to work closely with the Haitian government, including assisting the government in proactively providing travel documents for its citizens.”
Prior to the expiration of this limited six-month period, Secretary Kelly will re-evaluate the designation for Haiti and decide anew whether extension, re-designation, or termination is warranted. The Department of Homeland Security urges Haitian TPS recipients who do not have another immigration status to use the time before Jan. 22, 2018 to prepare for and arrange their departure from the United States—including proactively seeking travel documentation—or to apply for other immigration benefits for which they may be eligible. “I believe there are indications that Haiti – if its recovery from the 2010 earthquake continues at pace - may not warrant further TPS extension past January 2018. TPS as enacted in law is inherently temporary in nature, and beneficiaries should plan accordingly that this status may finally end after the extension announced today.”

Further details about this extension of TPS for Haiti, including the application requirements and procedures, will appear in a Federal Register notice later this week.
and others—we’ll need to confirm whether our acting FOD in PAP can participate by 11 a.m. today. Welcome your assistance in obtaining a decision and, if approved, in connecting us with the right folks to do a prep briefing with

Thanks!

Just flagging that we need an answer by 11:00. Please forward to anyone I left off who needs this.

Good morning,

Please find the attached from Public Affairs.

We'll need to confirm attendance by 11 am. Should we confirm and afterwards, we can internally work on approve language for her.

I'm certain the press will ask about mass deportation and legalization.

Thanks,
Please see the attached country conditions report on Haiti, which was drafted by [name redacted]. Let us know if we can provide any additional information on the situation in Haiti.

Thanks,

[Name redacted]

Chief, Research
Refugee, Asylum and International Operations directorate
DHS/USCIS
20 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20529

Visit the RAIO RU [homepage] on USCIS Connect!
October 4, 2017

The Honorable Elaine C. Duke
Acting Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Duke,

Please accept this correspondence in response to the letter from your Department dated September 8, 2017. I want to thank you for your Department’s continued collaboration with the Haitian Government in addressing Haiti’s Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designation. The Haitian Government is committed to working with the United States to reach a mutually beneficial resolution on this very important issue. Towards that end, the Haitian Government is of the sincere opinion that an extension for an additional eighteen (18) months or a TPS re-designation will serve the shared national interests of both Haiti and the United States.

As the two oldest republics in the Western Hemisphere, we have a long history of collaborating to further our shared values and national interests. Our request for an extension of the TPS designation for an additional eighteen (18) months is meant to ensure that Haiti is able to adequately move forward with its recovery and redevelopment plan and will not have to rely, over the long term, on the United States for temporary residence for its citizens.

We believe that the best way for us to convey our reasoning behind our request for an additional eighteen (18) months extension of the TPS designation is to show you the facts on the ground. Therefore, my Government is extending an invitation to host you in Haiti so that you can personally see the efforts underway to address the issues that warranted TPS designation for Haiti in the first place. Moreover, a visit to Haiti would offer you insight on the challenges that we continue to face. We sincerely believe that once you see the conditions on the ground, it will become clear that an additional eighteen (18) months extension or re-designation is in the shared national interests of both Haiti and the United States. We respectfully suggest that the visit occur no later than the first week of November so that you have sufficient time to assess the situation on the ground before making a decision on TPS for Haitians.

Haiti has undergone a catastrophic and unprecedented series of natural disasters during the last seven years. As you know, the TPS designation for Haiti originated in the aftermath of the January 2010 earthquake that devastated the country, leaving at least 300,000 people dead and more than one million of our citizens internally-displaced. Subsequently, United Nations soldiers introduced a cholera epidemic that killed thousands of people, sickened over 800,000
and that continues to pose a healthcare risk to our citizenry. Valuable resources initially earmarked for addressing critical earthquake recovery issues had to be re-appropriated to eradicate this epidemic, with limited support from the United Nations, the entity that brought the disease to Haiti in the first place. To add to the devastation, on October 4, 2016, Hurricane Matthew, a Category 4 with 145 mph winds and the worst to strike our nation in 52 years, raged through Haiti, destroying over 200,000 homes, wiping out towns, entire villages, and destroying valuable crops. This caused a severe food crisis of unparalleled magnitude in Haiti’s history. The economic loss from Hurricane Matthew alone was estimated at 2.8 billion dollars. As a result of these three extraordinary recent catastrophes, in May 2017, we requested an extension of the TPS designation for an additional eighteen (18) months to allow the Haitian Government more time to implement its ongoing recovery and redevelopment plan.

When former Secretary John Kelly announced a six-month extension of Haiti’s TPS designation through January 22, 2018, he stated that, “if Haiti is able to continue its pace of recovery from the 2010 earthquake, then a TPS extension past January 2018 may not be warranted.” However, despite best efforts and tangible progress, unforeseen natural disasters, including Hurricanes Irma and Maria, have significantly delayed the Government’s ability to adequately maintain the pace of recovery from the 2010 earthquake. Therefore, the Haitian Government contends an 18-month extension or a TPS re-designation is necessary for Haiti to continue on the path of progress.

Since our last request, our ongoing efforts to continue to recover from the earthquake and from the ravages of the cholera epidemic and Hurricane Matthew have been hampered by significant setbacks, as Haiti continued to face unforeseeable and daunting challenges. In the past month, both Hurricanes Irma and Maria have caused serious damage in Haiti. A substantial amount of agricultural crops have been destroyed and communities have been flooded, which has resulted in the further displacement of local communities. Additionally, the impact of the most recent hurricanes on neighboring island countries, such as Turks and Caicos, has caused significant harm to the Haitian economy. As you may know, Haiti’s economy relies heavily on the contribution of its Diaspora. A substantial proportion of the labor force in many neighboring islands that were affected by Hurricanes Irma and Maria is of Haitian descent. As many of these countries struggle to rebound from these hurricanes, Haitians expatriates working there have found themselves unable to support their families back home, further complicating Haiti’s recovery process and delaying the ability of the country to place itself back in the position that it was in prior to the 2010 earthquake.

As noted in your Department’s letter, a statutory basis required to designate a country for TPS is that “there has been an environmental disaster resulting in a substantial, but temporary, disruption of the living conditions in the area affected, the country is temporarily unable to handle adequately the return of its nationals, and the country has officially requested TPS designation.” Unfortunately, Haiti has had three such major blows since 2010. The detrimental impacts of the recent hurricanes have complicated our ability to recover from the 2010 earthquake, cholera, and Hurricane Matthew within the projected timeline and have exacerbated the situation on the ground, resulting in major disruptions of living conditions in the short-term. Given the current circumstances on the ground and based on the statutory
guidelines, an extension or re-designation of TPS for Haitians is fully warranted and would serve the mutual national interests of both countries.

Back in May, your Department’s TPS determination stated that “permitting Haitian nationals to continue residing temporarily in the U.S. is not contrary to the national interest of the United States”. Since then, we have not received any subsequent communication from the USG that these conditions changed. Our research, as well as our conversations with U.S. law enforcement and elected officials representing districts and states where Haitian TPS recipients reside, has shown that our nationals have been exemplary law-abiding residents and pose no threat to the security of the United States or its people. Moreover, Haitian TPS recipients have not constituted a financial burden on U.S. taxpayers. Rather, Haitian TPS recipients have made significant economic contributions to their communities here in the United States as acknowledged publicly by Congressional Leaders, from the Democratic and Republican side, as well as Mayors, Governors and business leaders.

At this precarious juncture, an 18-month extension or a TPS re-designation beyond January 2018 is a necessity. Not extending TPS beyond January 2018 would force the Government of Haiti not only to halt its ongoing, short-term redevelopment efforts, but also to focus its limited resources on receiving an influx of citizens. Under these circumstances, we fear that a non-renewal may cause TPS beneficiaries to find alternative, and ill-advised, ways to remain in the United States, and would also embolden trans-national human traffickers and cartels to prey upon this group of vulnerable individuals; such an outcome would not be in the best interests of either of our governments.

In the interim, the Haitian Government is diligently working to put the country back on a trajectory towards a swift recovery. The current leadership in Haiti is in the process of implementing a robust and expansive recovery and redevelopment plan. The plan includes enhancing our infrastructure, increasing private investment and incentivizing economic growth. The redevelopment plan is meant not only to significantly improve the lives of Haitians at home, but also to encourage the return of those living overseas to contribute in the long-term sustainability and economic prosperity of our country.

In the spirit of the long shared-history of our two nations, I thank your Department for the continued dialogue with the Government of Haiti on this important matter. I look forward to hearing back from you regarding a suitable date to host you in Haiti.

Sincerely,

Paul G. Altidor
Ambassador
From: [name]  
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2015 2:28 PM  
To: [name]  
Subject: FW: Haiti TPS Federal Register Notice and Recommendation Memorandum - Signed and Approved

FYSA

Regards,

Special Assistant | Office of the Director  
Office of the Director and Deputy Director  
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services  
Department of Homeland Security

Direct: [number]  
Blackberry: [number]  
Main: [number]

From: USCIS Exec Sec  
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2015 3:23 PM  
To: [name]  
Cc: USCIS Exec Sec; [name]

Subject: Haiti TPS Federal Register Notice and Recommendation Memorandum - Signed and Approved

Good afternoon,

Director Rodriguez signed the subject Decision Memo and approved the Federal Register Notice.

Please let us know how we can be of further assistance.
Thank you.
Below are some good thoughts from [redacted] I see from a follow up that you need to provide something tomorrow. Do you want us to take a stab at editing the attachment or just provide our thoughts below, given the time pressure?

Chief, International Operations
USCIS Refugee, Asylum and International Operations Directorate

[redacted]

The concern that GOH had when Secretary Kelly made the last announcement was whether there would be mass deportations. I see that’s addressed in the FAQs but fleshing it out more (if possible) and getting that message to the stakeholders in Haiti would be one area of outreach for PAP.

**Q: Will DHS prioritize them for deportation?**

**A:** The Administration’s immigration enforcement priorities have been clearly articulated. DHS will continue to focus on criminal aliens, those with final orders of removal, and those who otherwise pose a threat to public safety and/or national security. However, DHS will not exempt entire categories or classes of people from potential immigration enforcement actions.

PAP can meet with Office of National Migration and also the Ministry of Social Affairs to be sure that they understand what the decision means. The Ministry of Social Affairs is in charge of providing stipends to those repatriated so they have equities in knowing if there will be mass removals.

PAP can also offer to join DOS Public Affairs in doing radio campaigns to explain the decision locally. Marguerette and Ginette have the language skills and helped translate material to creole for past campaigns on illegal migration.
From: [Redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, November 14, 2017 12:08 PM
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: FW: Haiti
Importance: High

What are your thoughts?

Chief, International Operations Division
USCIS Refugee, Asylum and International Operations Directorate

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, November 14, 2017 12:45 PM
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: FW: Haiti

Is there anything we can say re outreach by our staff with counterparts at post?

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, November 14, 2017 4:13:41 PM
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: FW: Haiti

[Redacted] please send us any materials you have re transition. Kathy, you mentioned a one-pager. Is that ready to go?

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, November 14, 2017 9:21 AM
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: RE: Haiti

Thank you for this! I added in a couple things for you all to help us flesh out. Specifically, we are trying to show that we have a plan for this to be an orderly transition.

Would love to get this to Jonathan today if possible. Thanks for the help!
Hi,

The attached is with our front office for final review. But here is a preview as I know we are a bit behind on this one.
Kathy – please send us any materials you have re transition. Kathy, you mentioned a one-pager. Is that ready to go?

Thank you for this! I added in a couple things for you all to help us flesh out. Specifically, we are trying to show that we have a plan for this to be an orderly transition.

Would love to get this to Jonathan today if possible. Thanks for the help!

Hi,
The attached is with our front office for final review. But here is a preview as I know we are a bit behind on this one.
Kathy – please send us any materials you have re transition. Kathy, you mentioned a one-pager. Is that ready to go?

Thank you for this! I added in a couple things for you all to help us flesh out. Specifically, we are trying to show that we have a plan for this to be an orderly transition.

Would love to get this to you today if possible. Thanks for the help!

Hi,
The attached is with our front office for final review. But here is a preview as I know we are a bit behind on this one.
Terrific. Glad [Redacted] can attend for USCIS. I am assuming that means I am not needed, but please let me know if I am wrong. I am happy to support if needed.

Thanks

Chief, International Operations
USCIS Refugee, Asylum and International Operations Directorate

Adding [Redacted] to this chain. She can attend on behalf of USCIS, schedule permitting. Can you get her added to the invite, please, and confirm the below information stands for meeting details?

Subject: *Confirmed* Meeting w/ Haitian AMB, Paul Altidor
When: Wednesday, December 13, 2017 3:00 PM-4:00 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).
Where: NAC 01-045

Thanks, and enjoy the rest of your weekend!
Ok, we will share with [redacted] and see what she thinks re: participation. On next steps, as noted, not much we can say just yet as the FRN is still in the works. Operationally, SCOPS, Don Neufeld’s shop, is best suited to address questions about and explain the rerelation process as a general matter, though. Our shop is best positioned to explain the decision process, but we are, of course, past that now.

Referred to Department of Homeland Security

Hey [redacted]

For your awareness [redacted] and, thus, wouldn’t be able to join this meeting next Wednesday with Ambassador Altidor. On TPS, there’s not really anything new to
report since the announcement of termination (the Fed Reg notice is still in the works, so details regarding reregistration are still TBD/not public). However, attaching the final TPS PAG and a document we put together that provides a litany of actions Haiti and USCIS have taken (to date, that is) to help prepare for the repatriation of Haitian TPS beneficiaries. For USCIS’ part, going forward, we’ll continue to use our comms and public engagement channels to apprise Haitian TPSers of the need to prepare for their departure should they not have another status that allows them to remain in the United States upon termination of their TPS benefits. We will be interested to hear what other actions the Haitian government is taking to prepare for returns, and what else the Department may have in mind to help facilitate them.

We’ll let [Box] know of the meeting, too, and look forward to any further clarity from you, as you’re able to get it, on the purpose and scope of the meeting. All best,

[Box]

From: [Box]
Sent: Friday, December 08, 2017 12:25 PM
To: [Box]
Cc: [Box]
Subject: RE: *Confirmed* Meeting w/ Haitian AMB, Paul Altidor

Thanks. Adding [Box] Would indeed appreciate briefing materials. I would not know what to say about TPS and want to be sure I can support Ambassador Nealon as best I can.

[Box]

Chief, International Operations Division
USCIS Refugee, Asylum and International Operations Directorate

From: [Box]
Sent: Friday, December 08, 2017 11:33 AM
To: [Box]
Cc: [Box]
Subject: RE: *Confirmed* Meeting w/ Haitian AMB, Paul Altidor

Hi, [Box] Thanks for the loop on this. Agree with your call on participation if it’s about TPS, as [Box] suspects, and which would be consistent with past meetings Altidor has requested. Please feel free to loop us in, and/or we can reach out to [Box] directly.

[Box] and I are on travel next Wednesday, unfortunately, so won’t be able to make the meeting. Happy to help with briefing material, however.

From: [Box]
Sent: Friday, December 08, 2017 10:44:52 AM
To: [Box]

(b)(6)
Subject: FW: *Confirmed* Meeting w/ Haitian AMB, Paul Altidor

(b)(6)

If this meeting is focused on TPS, I think it would've much better to have someone from policy there, not RAIO. Thoughts?

Chief, International Operations
USCIS Refugee, Asylum and International Operations Directorate

Referred to Department of Homeland Security

From:
Sent: Friday, December 8, 2017 9:41 AM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: 
Subject: RE: *Confirmed* Meeting w/ Haitian AMB, Paul Altidor
Importance: High
Here’s some info on repatriation and reintegration efforts by GoH.

Kathy – please send us any materials you have re transition. Kathy, you mentioned a one-pager. Is that ready to go?

Thank you for this! I added in a couple things for you all to help us flesh out. Specifically, we are trying to show that we have a plan for this to be an orderly transition.

Would love to get this to Jonathan today if possible. Thanks for the help!

Hi,
The attached is with our front office for final review. But here is a preview as I know we are a bit behind on this one.
Thanks, all. Info has been related.

Chief, International Operations Division
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Our DHS OPA approved talker is: “As noted in the story, Secretary Kelly hasn’t yet made a decision and we don’t discuss pre-decision documents.”

Thanks,

Chief, Media Relations Division
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Please visit www.uscis.gov for news and information.

Hello James,
Your recommended talking point hits the mark and aligns with what we have been telling the press concerning this issue. Adding [insert] for awareness. And thanks for flagging, [insert] (b)(6)

From: McCament, James W  
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2017 7:02:36 PM  
To: [insert]  
Cc: [insert]  
Subject: RE: Haiti and TPS

Hi, [insert]  

Thanks for flagging this question and I can definitely appreciate the inquiry and level of concern. I’ll defer to OCOMM as to our specific talking points. However, I believe they would be along the lines of “I have no further updates to add other than that this matter remains in the decision-making process based upon recommendations made by USCIS to the Department.” OCOMM, please advise if there is further or different talking points requested to be used? [insert], please keep us posted if additional or different is needed.

Thanks very much, (b)(6)  

James  

James W. McCament  
Director (Acting) | Deputy Director  
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services  
Department of Homeland Security  
[insert] Deputy Director’s Office  

DHS ICON  

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I just wanted to let you know that our Field Office Director (FOD) in Haiti serves as the DHS dual hat attaché and is being asked by State at Post for any information she can provide about the USCIS recommendation regarding Haiti TPS. Do we have any talking points on this that would be useful for talking to State at Post regarding the USCIS position?

Thanks,

(b)(6)

Chief, International Operations Division
USCIS Refugee, Asylum and International Operations Directorate
Great – thanks so much!

I cannot speak to whether USCIS is doing anything domestically to assist, but I will forward to you some thoughts about what we could do in Haiti, in partnership with State. I am out and on my phone, which makes it tough to edit, but will forward what our staff abroad suggested.

Chief, International Operations
USCIS Refugee, Asylum and International Operations Directorate

Also – Is USCIS NOT doing anything specific to facilitate an orderly transition? If we as an agency are taking an specific steps, I want to be able to communicate that to DHS OPA separately so then are not under the impression that we have some sort of plan in place.

Hi [name],

Apologies for the delay. Were you able to track down anything we can add to the PAG re helping support a smooth transition? I think the strongest point is probably DOS assistance. State has the following on their website:
U.S. Assistance to Haiti

Since the earthquake, the United States has made available over $4.7 billion for assistance to Haiti to support life-saving post-disaster relief as well as longer-term recovery, reconstruction, and development programs. Even before the earthquake, Haiti was among the least developed nations and faced chronic challenges to meaningful poverty reduction. Against this background, the country’s reconstruction and development will continue for many years. Also, U.S. security and rule of law assistance in Haiti is grounded in supporting the Haitian National Police to achieve its development goals to improve the force’s capacity and grow its ranks in order to better serve and protect the Haitian people. Since the 2010 earthquake, U.S. assistance to the police school and HNP leadership helped increase the HNP force to 15,000 officers in FY 2017, and helped enhance the capacity of the HNP's special units.

To advance Haiti’s long term development needs, the United States advanced a comprehensive strategy in consultation with the Haitian Government. U.S. programs focus on three geographic development corridors: a) Port-au-Prince, b) Saint Marc, and c) Cap Haitien. The St. Marc and Cap Haitien corridors support an important Government of Haiti objective – to create centers of economic activity outside the overcrowded capital of Port-au-Prince. U.S. assistance also invests in four sectorial pillars: 1) Infrastructure and Energy, 2) Food and Economic Security, 3) Health and Other Basic Services, and 4) Governance and Rule of Law. Highlights of results of U.S. assistance to Haiti following the earthquake include:

Some 328,000 displaced Haitians housed.
The U.S. Government funded the removal of more than 2.7 million cubic meters of rubble, approximately 36 percent of all rubble removed. Over 10,000 jobs created at the Caracol Industrial Park in Haiti’s north.
Approximately 80,000 farmers have more than doubled their incomes as beneficiaries of U.S. assistance. A 10-megawatt power plant is providing electricity in the north.
The Haitian National Police is stronger with the addition of more than 5,732 new officers, as of March 2017.
More Haitians have access to police services as a result of new police commissariats built in areas not previously serviced by the police.
Provided more than 23,000 children and 770 teachers with innovative reading curricula that meet international standards for literacy instruction.
Many basic health indicators, including child nutrition and mortality and HIV/AIDS continue to improve.

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, November 14, 2017 11:17:53 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Haiti PAG

[Redacted] (b)(6)

I know you just chatted with [redacted] I’m on the hook for getting the PAG through the FO and back to DHS OPA before our coordination call with DHS leadership tomorrow morning. So, if you could send
me your edits when they’re ready, I’m standing by to run this through the rest of the traps 😊

Thanks so much!

Senior Advisor
Office of External Affairs
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)

(work mobile)
(personal mobile)
Thank you all for your patience on this press conference. I just heard from OPA the presser for Monday has been cancelled.

There were exceptional points made on this chain about the importance of communicating, supporting our partners at State and helping our foreign government stakeholders understand the next steps. As there are other similar decisions to come, I will pass along those instructive comments for DHS consideration.

Thank you, again. I hope you all have a Happy Thanksgiving!

Best regards,

Acting Chief, Media Relations Division
Office of Communications | U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Office
Mobile

Recieved: McCament, James W
Sent: Wednesday, November 22, 2017 11:05:54 AM
To:
Cc: Nuebel Kovarik, Kathy
Subject: RE: Haiti TPS Press Conference

Great, thank you Much appreciated.

James W. McCament
Deputy Director
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Department of Homeland Security
(Deputy Director’s Office) (b)(6)
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From: [Redacted]  
To: McCament, James W; Nuebel Kovarik, Kathy  
Cc:  
Subject: RE: Haiti TPS Press Conference

Thank you, and James! There is continuing dialogue with OPA as their coordination with State continues to develop on this. I understand the issue and will represent that with Please standby.

Best regards,

Acting Chief, Media Relations Division  
Office of Communications | U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Office:  
Mobile: [Redacted]

From: McCament, James W  
To: [Redacted]  
Cc: Nuebel Kovarik, Kathy  
Subject: RE: Haiti TPS Press Conference

All,

As I understand from RAIO, this press conference call is not occurring until next Monday correct? Given that, and appreciating the concerns with timing, this is yet 2 business days away right? Understanding DOS is asking for our confirmation by 11:00 today but that is, I assume, an internal DOS deadline?

given this I’d like DHS OPA to take a fresh look at participation with the following points in

(b)(6)
mind. (Unless they’ve already been presented of course).

First, our (acting) FOD also speaks as the DHS attache. Accordingly, for DHS to be silent while DOS speaks on behalf of DHS decisions and implementation seems concerning. Second, this will not be the only discussion on TPS at our partner posts right? However the decisions on future TPS are rendered, there is always local interest at Post and with our partner governments.

If there is reconsideration, I’d appreciate RAIO providing any further updates to the core PAG as needed so DHS can review as well?

Thanks all, please advise if I’m missing a communications/Policy point on the best next steps?

James

James W. McCament
Deputy Director
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Department of Homeland Security
Deputy Director’s Office

DHS ICON

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From
Sent: Wednesday, November 22, 2017 10:19 AM
To: Nuebel Kovarik, Kathy McCament, James W;

Subject: RE: Haiti TPS Press Conference

I understand and share the concerns about last-minute requests to speak with the press. Could you please let us know as soon as DHS has notified State Public Affairs of the DHS position and also let us know who was notified, so that we can provide this information to our Acting FOD to support her in her discussions with Embassy leadership.
Perhaps we can also regroup when not in fire-drill mode to establish clear protocols regarding process that we can share with State and our international staff to manage expectations for the future.

Thanks,

(b)(6)

Chief, International Operations Division
USCIS Refugee, Asylum and International Operations Directorate

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, November 22, 2017 10:16 AM
To: [Redacted]
Cc: Nuebel Kovarik, Kathy McCament, James W.
Subject: RE: Haiti TPS Press Conference

Thank you. You certainly make good points and a solid argument for participating. However, the concern is that this is an 11th hour opportunity and appears to lack essential coordination with the deciding official. A successful media relations posture is guided by preparation and coordination to ensure that we mitigate risks. We did not have the time or opportunity to do that with this press conference.

I am glad to discuss further how we can work together for an agreeable outcome in the future, but pop-up press conferences will continue to be cause for alarm.

Best regards,

(b)(6)

Acting Chief, Media Relations Division
Office of Communications | U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, November 22, 2017 10:04 AM
To: [Redacted]
All,

Just jumping in here to flag what we see as the upside to USCIS participation and potential downside of not participating. USCIS staff posted abroad work under the authority of the Chief of Mission and are part of the Embassy community. As such, there is an expectation that USCIS staff provide support to the Embassy front office in furthering the Mission goals, which includes participating in public outreach, particularly where USCIS subject matter expertise may be warranted. In Haiti, there is even greater expectation of USCIS support, because the USCIS Field Office Director serves in the role of dual-hatted attaché for DHS – representing DHS, as well as USCIS. Failure to meet these expectations have the down side of 1) incorrect information being provided by State speaking to DHS equities; and 2) erosion of State support for USCIS at Post.

We of course will defer to and follow the guidance of DHS OPA and USCIS OCOMM, but want to be sure that these equities are taken into account when the decision is made.

Thank you all for your patience, as I work through this with OPA. From OPA’s perspective, the initial announcement and coverage has been exceptional.

At this point, our FOD should not participate and OPA is working now on back-end coordination with State.
Again, thank you for your patience.

Best regards,

(b)(6)

Acting Chief, Media Relations Division
Office of Communications | U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Office: 
Mobile: 

From: 
Sent: Wednesday, November 22, 2017 9:11 AM
To: Nuebel Koyarik, Kathy
Cc: ; McCament, James W
Subject: RE: Haiti TPS Press Conference

Thanks, that works.

USCIS External Affairs
(mobile) (b)(6)

From: 
Sent: Wednesday, November 22, 2017 2:09:53 PM
To: Nuebel Koyarik, Kathy
Cc: ; McCament, James W
Subject: RE: Haiti TPS Press Conference

Thanks I suggest we wait to hear back from DHS OPA on this one, given the sensitivities and any additional guidance they may have for us. will circle back shortly.

From: 
Sent: Wednesday, November 22, 2017 9:05:58 AM
To: Nuebel Koyarik, Kathy
Cc: McCament, James W
Subject: RE: Haiti TPS Press Conference (b)(6)
Hi all – I just spoke to [redacted] if the FOD is comfortable just speaking about the mechanics of it (i.e., that it’s terminated and goes for 18 months) that’s fine. The FOD shouldn’t discuss any of the policy decisions behind it.

(b)(6)

Senior Advisor
External Affairs Directorate
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Department of Homeland Security

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From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, November 22, 2017 9:01 AM
To: [redacted]
Cc: McCament, James W
Subject: RE: Haiti TPS Press Conference

Much appreciated.

As an aside, if our acting FOD is not authorized to participate in a press conference, would we be able to make an appropriate person from DHS available to provide remote support to the event?

From: Nuebel Koverik, Kathy
Sent: Wednesday, November 22, 2017 9:01 AM
To: [redacted]
Cc: McCament, James W
Subject: RE: Haiti TPS Press Conference

[b](6)

[b](6)

is 7 hours removed from this discussion, so will speak with [redacted] at OPA soonest.

(b)(5)

Will circle back to this chain following that discussion.

Best regards,

(b)(6)
From: [Redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, November 22, 2017 8:55:48 AM
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: RE: Haiti TPS Press Conference

Hi [Redacted],

Thank you for making us aware of the time sensitivity here. This is an EXA/FO call as my recommendation has been provided. Pinging [Redacted] again since [Redacted] is out of the office, and adding [Redacted] + James for awareness.

Thanks,

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, November 22, 2017 8:50:10 AM
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: Haiti TPS Press Conference

...and others – we’ll need to confirm whether our acting FOD in PAP can participate by 11 a.m. today. Welcome your assistance in obtaining a decision and, if approved, in connecting us with the right folks to do a prep briefing with...

Thanks!

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, November 22, 2017 8:13 AM
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: FW: New Time Attendance Sheet

Just flagging that we need an answer by 11:00. Please forward to anyone I left off who needs this.
James and [Redacted]

Thanks again for coming down to chat with us. We realized after you left, that we wanted to make sure we understood next steps. Here’s a quick write up below of the state of play – can you confirm whether you’d like to send this as a response to the chain below or have us do so and you weigh in after that? Feel free to edit at will!

++++

[Redacted]

[Redacted] can you please relay to DHS OPA and see if such arrangements can be made?

Thank you,

James

[Redacted]

Thank you. [Redacted] You certainly make good points and a solid argument for participating. However, the concern is that this is an 11th hour opportunity and appears to lack essential coordination with the deciding official. A successful media relations posture is guided by preparation and coordination to ensure that we mitigate risks. We did not have the time or opportunity to do that with this press conference.
Thank you for the timely update. That seems, on balance, to be probably for the best. Thanks as well for passing along all of the points to DHS OPA for the consideration in future efforts.

Happy Thanksgiving all,

James W. McCament
Deputy Director
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Department of Homeland Security
(Deputy Director’s Office)

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Thank you all for your patience on this press conference. I just heard from OPA the presser for Monday has been cancelled.

There were exceptional points made on this chain about the importance of communicating, supporting our partners at State and helping our foreign government stakeholders understand the next steps. As there are other similar decisions to come, I will pass along those instructive comments for DHS consideration.

Thank you, again. I hope you all have a Happy Thanksgiving!
Best regards,

(b)(6)

Acting Chief, Media Relations Division
Office of Communications | U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Office:
Mobile:

From: McCament, James W
Sent: Wednesday, November 22, 2017 11:05:54 AM
To: [Redacted]
Cc: Nuebel Kvarik, Kathy
Subject: RE: Haiti TPS Press Conference

Great, thank you Much appreciated.

James W. McCament
Deputy Director
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Department of Homeland Security
(Deputy Director's Office)

DHS ICON
(b)(6)

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From: [Redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, November 22, 2017 11:00 AM
To: McCament, James W
Cc: Nuebel Kvarik, Kathy
Subject: RE: Haiti TPS Press Conference

Thank you and James! There is continuing dialogue with OPA as their coordination with State continues to develop on this. I understand the issue and will represent that with Please standby.

Best regards,

(b)(6)
Per your request, please find attached an updated country conditions report on Haiti. Updates from the last report we submitted are included in the following sections:

- Governance and Political Instability (update on National Palace reconstruction and the recent protests)
- Natural Disasters & Environmental Concerns (update on the impact of Hurricane Irma)
- Hurricane Matthew (update on recovery)

Please let me know if you have any questions or need anything else. I will be out of the office today but you can reach me on my cell if you need anything.

Thanks,

---

That would be terrific. Thank you.

Ok, I will do my best to get you something by OOB on Friday.
Thank you! The earlier the better, but we’ll take it whenever you can get it to us. D1 is going to meet with AS1 around 4 and it would be good to be able to give him and Kathy the updated report before the meeting, if at all possible.

From: (b) (6) 
Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 2:53 PM 
To: (b) (6) 
Cc: 
Subject: RE: Haiti Update - Protests, National Palace Reconstruction, and Hurricane Matthew Anniversary

Sure...I can add some information from the articles below and send you an updated report. Is there a specific time you would need it on Friday?

From: 
Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 12:17 PM 
To: (b) (6) 
Cc: 
Subject: RE: Haiti Update - Protests, National Palace Reconstruction, and Hurricane Matthew Anniversary

Hi, [redacted] We’re working on the Haiti D1/AS1 memo now (with a deadline of Friday to have a draft completed) and wondered whether it would be possible for you to update the country conditions report with some of these more recent developments that you’ve sent? We’d like to be able to refer to them in the memo, but will need them included in the report in order to do so. Thanks for any help you can provide!

From: (b) (6) 
Sent: Friday, October 06, 2017 2:49 PM 
To: [redacted] 
Subject: RE: Haiti Update - Protests, National Palace Reconstruction, and Hurricane Matthew Anniversary

No problem. Same to you!

From: [redacted] 
Sent: Friday, October 06, 2017 1:48 PM 
To: (b) (6) 
Cc: 
Subject: RE: Haiti Update - Protests, National Palace Reconstruction, and Hurricane Matthew Anniversary

Great. Thank you. And have a wonderful long weekend!

From: [redacted] 
Sent: Thursday, October 05, 2017 6:06:15 PM 
To: (b) (6) 
Cc: 
Subject: RE: Haiti Update - Protests, National Palace Reconstruction, and Hurricane Matthew Anniversary
No problem – here are a few more...

UN ending 13-year military peacekeeping mission in Haiti – Associated Press, Oct. 5, 2017

One year on from Hurricane Matthew, Haiti's children still incredibly vulnerable to disasters – UNICEF – UN News Centre, Oct. 5, 2017


From: [b] [6]
Sent: Thursday, October 05, 2017 8:13 AM
To: [b] [6]
Cc: [b] [6]
Subject: RE: Haiti Update - Protests, National Palace Reconstruction, and Hurricane Matthew Anniversary

Thank you! Very much appreciate the updates.

From: [b] [6]
Sent: Wednesday, October 04, 2017 7:04:43 PM
To: [b] [6]
Cc: [b] [6]
Subject: Haiti Update - Protests, National Palace Reconstruction, and Hurricane Matthew Anniversary

There have been violent protests in Haiti against the government’s budget in recent weeks:

- Violence erupts at budget opposition protest in Haiti – AFP, Sep. 30, 2017
- Violent protest erupt in Haiti over budget passed on the eve of Hurricane Irma – Miami Herald, Sep. 12, 2017

Also, there has been some news on the proposed National Palace reconstruction (the government announced an architecture competition for the rebuild):


And here is an article on Haiti one year after the impact of Hurricane Matthew:

- A year after Hurricane Matthew, Haiti more vulnerable than ever – AFP, Oct. 4, 2017
Here’s some info on repatriation and reintegration efforts by GoH.

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, November 14, 2017 11:14 AM
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: FW: Haiti

[b] (b) (6) Kathy – please send us any materials you have re transition. Kathy, you mentioned a one-pager. Is that ready to go?

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, November 14, 2017 9:21 AM
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: RE: Haiti

Thank you for this! I added in a couple things for you all to help us flesh out. Specifically, we are trying to show that we have a plan for this to be an orderly transition.

Would love to get this to [Redacted] today if possible. Thanks for the help!

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, November 14, 2017 5:20 AM
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: Haiti

Hi,
The attached is with our front office for final review. But here is a preview as I know we are a bit behind on this one.
Angie
Thanks, Kathy. Do you anticipate an auto-extension of current cards beyond January 22? This would seem to be needed for any decision other than immediate termination.

Today, Director Cissna signed and is planning to deliver a decision/recommendation memo to Acting Secretary Duke related to Haiti’s TPS designation. We expect a decision could be made on Haiti with the other Central American countries in advance of the 60 days required.

Attached is a signed copy of the memo, along with relevant attachments. If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know.

Kathy Nuebel Kovarik
Chief, Office of Policy and Strategy
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
I do, although anything could happen.

Thanks, Kathy. Do you anticipate an auto-extension of current cards beyond January 22? This would seem to be needed for any decision other than immediate termination.

Today, Director Cisna signed and is planning to deliver a decision/recommendation memo to Acting Secretary Duke related to Haiti’s TPS designation. We expect a decision could be made on Haiti with the other Central American countries in advance of the 60 days required.

Attached is a signed copy of the memo, along with relevant attachments. If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know.
Thanks for sharing the concern. We just had a call last week regarding DOS-DHS coordination on the rollout for the decisions on Central America, and DHS/OPA is working with State counterparts to ensure they have the opportunity (Post) to notify government counterparts prior to public announcement. We support doing the same with Haiti’s TPS decision and believe that should be worked into the comms plan once that is fleshed out in the weeks to come.

It appears from the below that Embassy PaP is concerned a decision on Haiti’s TPS may be announced contemporaneous with a decision on the Central American countries. The Secretary is reviewing the designations for the latter now, and will need to make a determination on Nicaragua’s and Honduras’ designations by November 6. Haiti’s decision cut-off date is November 23. We have not received State’s assessment and rec for Haiti, and, internally, our Haiti-related decision material is lagging that of the material for the Central American TPS countries. Although we expect a decision soon on the Central Americans (or at least Nicaragua and Honduras, given the upcoming statutory deadline), we do not expect a decision on Haiti until later in November.

I’m looping in [Name] from USCIS OP&S for their awareness.
I’m not sure what the comma rollout plan entails, but is a coordination call with post possible?

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2017 3:48:04 PM
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: Upcoming TPS Announcement

Good afternoon all,

The Front Office reached out to me as the Acting DHS Attaché, to discuss the upcoming TPS announcement. They indicated that they are aware that the announcement is imminent and would like to be notified immediately as soon as it is made. They are calling on DHS to keep them updated on any news regarding TPS. The Acting DCM stated that it is very important for the Charge D’Affaires to have first-hand information regarding the TPS announcement as she would like to be the one to share it with the President, Jovenel Moïse. [Redacted] explained that is in a very delicate situation at this time. The next two days (Wednesday, November 1st and Thursday, November 2nd) are local holidays. She has been invited to join President Moïse on a helicopter ride to the northern part of Haiti on Thursday November 2nd. Charge [Redacted] would not like for any news on TPS to leak to the president while they are spending the day together, as she would be put in a very awkward position; specially, if President Moïse would find out about the announcement through the social media.

The Front Office requested to be informed as soon as DHS makes a TPS decision. As they related the sensitivity of the situation to me, I assured them that I would share their concern with the leadership at DHS. Please let me know if you can assist with this matter.

Your consideration is appreciated.

Regards,

[Redacted]

(b)(6)

Acting Field Office Director
Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
American Embassy Port-au-Prince, Haiti

E-Mail: [Redacted]
Tel: [Redacted]
Cell Phone: [Redacted]
Thank you.

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2015 1:08 PM
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]

had a few minor edits the Exec Sec made; it cleared [Redacted] and is on its way to D1. Should be signed soon!

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2015 5:59:14 PM
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]

(b)(6)

Will you see if you can find out where the Haiti TPS FRN is within the FO? It should have been a fairly simple review, but it has already been a couple of weeks. With all the other FRNs hitting right now, we would just like to take this one out of the mix.

Thanks,

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2015 12:00 PM
To: [Redacted]
Cc: Exec Sec

Hi [Redacted],

The USCIS FO suspense date for Haiti was 6/5/15. Would it be possible to advise where at the FO it is currently pending clearance? Thank you.

Project Manager
Regulatory Coordination Division, Office of Policy & Strategy, USCIS, DHS
Teledweller (Mon-Thurs)
*Telework on Mondays and Fridays, and may be reached at [Redacted]
Hi, Yes, this is with the Front Office.

From: 

Sent: Wednesday, June 03, 2015 9:17 AM

To: 

Cc: (b)(6)


Thank you,

, Project Manager

Regulatory Coordination Division, Office of Policy & Strategy, USCIS, DHS

*Telework on Mondays and Fridays, and may be reached at

From: 

Sent: Tuesday, June 02, 2015 3:15 PM

To: 

Cc: (b)(6)


I am doing well. Per the attached email, it looks like our office delivered this package to the FO on 5/27. I am copying to confirm. She will be back in the office tomorrow.

We will follow up and keep you posted on any updates.

Best regards,
Office of the Executive Secretariat
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Mobile
EXSO Connect Page
EXSO ECN Page

Please send all official actions to USCIS-Exec-Sec@uscis.dhs.gov

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, June 02, 2015 3:01 PM
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]

Hi [Redacted]

Hope all is well. Following up to see how far along this package may be at the FO? Thank you.

Project Manager
Regulatory Coordination Division, Office of Policy & Strategy, USCIS, DHS
Tel: [Redacted] *Telework on Mondays and Fridays, and may be reached at [Redacted]

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From: [Redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, June 02, 2015 1:13 PM
To: [Redacted]

Hi [Redacted] know that the FO is working on Nepal – but did we ever here back about the Haiti FRN. Just checking.

Thanks, [Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2015 4:03 PM
To: USCIS Exec Sec
Cc: [Redacted]

Hi [Redacted]

Please find our response to the edits to the FRN in the attached.

We accept all edits to the Memo, TPS Legal Authority, and the RAIO CC Report. Thank you.
Good afternoon,

EXSO reviewed the Haiti TPS Extension materials for formatting and consistency and made the attached edits and comments.

Please let us know if you are okay with these edits. Also, please respond to the comments in the comment bubble and make any additional changes in redline and return the documents to us with the redlines intact.

Thank you.

Office of the Executive Secretariat
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Please send all official actions to USCIS-Exec-Sec@uscis.dhs.gov

Hello EXSO,

For FO review and clearance, please find attached:

- The Federal Register Notice, *Extension of the Designation of Haiti for Temporary Protected Status*; and
- The USCIS Recommendation Memorandum for Haiti Temporary Protected Status (TPS).
Summary
The Notice announces that the Secretary is extending the designation of Haiti for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for 18 months, from January 23, 2016, through July 22, 2017. The extension allows currently eligible TPS beneficiaries to retain TPS through July 22, 2017, so long as they otherwise continue to meet the eligibility requirements for TPS. The Secretary has determined that an extension is warranted because the conditions in Haiti that prompted the TPS designation continue to be met. There continue to be extraordinary and temporary conditions in that country that prevent Haitian nationals (or aliens having no nationality who last habitually resided in Haiti) from returning to Haiti in safety. In the USCIS Recommendation Memorandum, USCIS recommends to the Secretary that the designation of TPS for Haiti be extended for the same period.

Timeline
We respectfully request clearance no later than COB June 5, 2015, as USCIS must timely publish the Notice by August 2015, following DHS OG, DHS FO and OMB clearance. Please note the FO is expecting to receive this package today or as soon as possible.

- Notice: OCC, ESD, MGT (CFO, OIDP), P&S, RAIO, and CSPE have cleared.
- Recommendation Memorandum: OCC, ESD, MGT (CFO, OIDP), RAIO, SCOPS, and CSPE have cleared.

Contacts
(OP&S-RCD), (SCOPS, Notice), and (OP&S-IHAD, Recommendation Memo).

Attachments
- 2015 TPS Haiti Federal Register Notice
- TPS Somalia Recommendation Memorandum with Attachments A (Legal Authority), B (RAIO Report), and C (DOS Report).

Please let us know if you have any questions. Thank you.

Project Manager
Regulatory Coordination Division, Office of Policy & Strategy, USCIS, DHS
Tel: *Telework on Mondays and Fridays, and may be reached at

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Adding, I have no objection to pulling together the meeting with the Haitian consulates as long as we aren’t replicating anything that the Department is doing.

Tracy L. Renaud
Acting Deputy Director
US Citizenship & Immigration Services
Department of Homeland Security

Tracy,

Political at post has told us that, to their knowledge, the GOH hasn’t taken any action at this point. However, the Charge d’Affaires will meet with the Minister of Foreign Affairs on Tuesday, July 18th, and, TPS-related actions is on the agenda for discussion. We’ve asked our FOD to relay the importance that the Charge reiterate the need for the GOH to work with TPS holders in the States to facilitate their smooth return in the near future. We’ve also asked DOS to ask the GOH for specific concrete actions they plan on taking and timelines.

Given the inaction on their end to date, I recommend we consider pulling together a meeting with Haitian consulates in the US (who would be doing the outreach based on Port-au-Prince’s direction) to ensure they are taking the appropriate steps.

We can work with OP&S and CSPE to do so if you agree.

Let me know if you have questions.

Best,
Thank you both.

From: [Redacted]  
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2017 9:58:04 AM  
To: Nuebel Kovarik, Kathy; Renaud, Tracy L  
Cc: McCament, James W  
Subject: RE: VTel w/S1 & Haiti

Checking now....

From: Nuebel Kovarik, Kathy  
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2017 9:57 AM  
To: Renaud, Tracy L; [Redacted]  
Cc: McCament, James W  
Subject: RE: VTel w/S1 & Haiti

Yes, apologies. Will do.

Kathy Nuebel Kovarik  
Chief, Office of Policy and Strategy  
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services  
Direct: [Redacted]  
Cell: [Redacted]

From: Renaud, Tracy L  
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2017 9:50 AM  
To: [Redacted]  
Cc: McCament, James W  
Subject: VTel w/S1 & Haiti

Kathy—

On the VTel with S1 this morning he expressed interest again in knowing whether the Government of Haiti was working with those here on TPS to prepare them to return to Haiti as he told them to. He indicated that we (a general “we” not necessarily directed to USCIS) should reach out to the US Embassy in Haiti if that was the best source. Perhaps you guys can reach out to our FOD in Haiti to see if they know of any such efforts. Kathy, I think James had asked you guys to reach out to your DOS TPS POCs as well. Can you ask them to try again today? James fully expects that S1 will raise this again on Monday so anything we can find out today would be helpful.

(b)(6)

Tracy L. Renaud  
Acting Deputy Director  
US Citizenship & Immigration Services  
Department of Homeland Security  
(desk)

(b)(6)
thanks for checking and confirming where things are and what has not been shared. Kathy, tying in from your other email, I'm happy to call next week to Main State to press this thing. (Adding Carl).

I'd suggest we can set this up as both a discussion from our Secretary's request and state of play on the Haitians response and provision of documents as well as to discuss next steps on TPS papers/analyses due over these next couple of months. I think Jennifer's idea of outreach to the consulates is perfect. Given there appears to be a perception from the Haitians of business as usual. Let's pull together on Monday and map a plan to execute over these next weeks.

Thanks all,

James

James W. McCament
Director (Acting) | Deputy Director
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Department of Homeland Security

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Tracy,

Political at post has told us that, to their knowledge, the GOH hasn't taken any action at this point. However, the Charge d'Affaires will meet with the Minister of Foreign Affairs on Tuesday, July 18th, and, TPS-related actions is on the agenda for discussion. We've asked our FOD to relay the importance that the Charge reiterate the need for the GOH to work with TPS holders in the States to facilitate their smooth return in the near future. We've also asked DOS to ask the GOH for specific concrete actions they plan on taking and timelines.

Given the inaction on their end to date, I recommend we consider pulling together a meeting with
DECISION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

FROM: L. Francis Cissna
Director

SUBJECT: Haiti's Designation for Temporary Protected Status

INTERNAL PRE-DECISIONAL RECOMMENDATION
Public Affairs Guidance

ISSUE
Temporary Protected Status (TPS) & Deferred Enforced Departure (DED)

LAST MODIFIED
May 22, 2017
(b)(5)
Questions and Answers
(b)(5)
(1) **UNLAWFUL STATUS:**

(2)

(3)

(4) **COUNTRY CONDITIONS:** Can we describe what has changed in Haiti warranting the recommended change (this may be in the memo but I have not seen it yet)- would include if verified items such as rebuild of palace, build of army, change in UN list, 4-5% growth in GDP. *This information is pulled straight from the Secretary’s decision memo, which are bulleted here for ease:*

- Haiti is the poorest country in the western hemisphere, and it had enormous problems long before the 2010 earthquake. Even before the earthquake, the Haitian government could not or would not deliver core functions to the majority of its people.

- Haiti’s economy continues to recover and grow (2% growth in 2015).

- 96% of people displaced by the earthquake and living in internally displaced person (IDP) camps have left those camps. Over 98% of the IDP camps have closed. While those persons who have left have not necessarily moved into ideal housing, Haiti had a substantial housing deficit long before the 2010 earthquake.
In March 2017, the United Nations announced that the mandate of the United Nations peacekeeping mission in Haiti will end in October 2017. The withdrawal is meant to be gradual to allow time for the Haitian Government to resume control.

In September 2016, an estimated 3.2 million people (approximately 30 percent of the population) suffered from food insecurity. However, Haiti has historic food security challenges, and the international community has provided emergency food assistance and support for the agricultural sector to help avert a post-earthquake food crisis. Currently, Haiti’s food insecurity problems seem related to tropical storms in 2012 and a drought rather than from lingering effects of the 2010 earthquake.

Progress has been made in combatting cholera (whose inception was traced to U.N. peacekeepers assisting with earthquake recovery). Nearly 800,000 have contracted cholera and nearly 10,000 have died. The World Health Organization sent one million cholera vaccine does to Haiti in October 2016.

Hurricane Matthew made landfall in Haiti on October 4, 2016, causing extensive damage to crops, housing, livestock, and infrastructure across Haiti’s southwest peninsula, circumstances in the country overall have continued on an upward trajectory since the 2010 earthquake. The most significant impact from the storm was concentrated in 3 of Haiti’s 10 departments—Nippes, Grand’Anse, and Sud. Minimal damage was inflicted on the rest of the country, sparing the capital, Port-au-Prince, and the second largest city, Cap-Haïtien.

Remittances
According to the World Bank, Haiti received an estimated $2.19 billion in remittances in 2015. Of this amount, an estimated $1.34 billion were from the United States. Total remittances to Haiti accounted for approximately 25% of Haiti’s GDP in 2015 (Total GDP = $8.77 billion). Remittances from the United States accounted for approximately 15% of Haiti’s GDP in 2015.

How often TPS holders travel back and forth to the island
CBP provided the following preliminary numbers for Haitian national entries (not persons, but entries) for the admission code “DA” (advanced parole). Note, this includes any Haitian who entered under advance parole, not just Haitian TPS beneficiaries, but it’s a better proxy than the USCIS Advance Parole Document grant data:
- FY 2015 - 1,548
- FY 2016 - 1,293
- FY 2017 - 620

Demographic Data: Most of those with Haiti TPS are between ages of 33-49. Also, many of those with TPS are located in Florida, California, Maryland, New York, Texas and Virginia. Demographic Charts below.
Demographic data, including how many with TPS are school aged kids

- This table shows TPS beneficiaries as of December 31, 2016 by Petitioner States.

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<th>Receipt Count</th>
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1) The report reflects the most up-to-date data available at the time the report is generated.
2) Duplicates were removed based on receipt number, A-Number, SSN, and Name-DOB combination.

Database Queried: January 6, 2017
Report Created: April 10, 2017
System: C3 Consolidated via SAS
Office of Performance and Quality (OPQ), Performance Analysis and External Reporting (PAER), CC

Parameters
Form(s): I-821
Time Frame: All time till 12/31/2016
This table shows TPS beneficiaries as of December 31, 2016 by Beneficiary Age at Approval.

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**Grand Total** | **439,625**

1) The report reflects the most up-to-date data available at the time the report is generated.
2) Duplicates were removed based on receipt number, A-Number, SSN, and Name-DOB combination.
3) Age at approval is calculated by taking the difference between the approval date and the beneficiary’s date of birth.
There are 11,849 TPS beneficiaries as of December 31, 2016 with beneficiary ages at approval between 6-18 years old.

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<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
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1) The report reflects the most up-to-date data available at the time the report is generated.
2) Duplicates were removed based on receipt number, A-Number, SSN, and Name-DOB combination.
3) Age at approval is calculated by taking the difference between the approval date and the beneficiary's date of birth.

Database Queried: January 6, 2017
Parameters

Form(s): I-821

Time Frame: All time till 12/31/2016

Beneficiary Country of Citizenship: El Salvador, Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, Liberia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Yemen

Data Type(s): Approvals
Haiti: Request for Temporary Protected Status

ISSUE
Recent natural disasters in the Caribbean have caused severe damage to the nation of Haiti. As a result, the Government of Haiti, some members of the U.S. Congress, and some non-governmental organizations have requested that the Secretary of Homeland Security grant Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to Haitian nationals currently present in the United States.

BACKGROUND
On February 12, 2008, President René Préval of Haiti sent a letter to President Bush requesting Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Haitian nationals residing in the United States. The Secretary of Homeland Security has authority to designate a country for TPS due to destruction from a natural disaster, an on-going armed conflict, or other extraordinary and temporary circumstances. Only nationals of the country (or aliens with no nationality who last habitually resided in the country) who have been physically present in the United States since the effective date, and who have continuously resided in the United States since a date determined by the Secretary, are eligible for TPS. The alien must also register for TPS under procedures established by DHS during specified registration periods, be admissible, and not barred on grounds related to terrorism, national security, certain serious criminal convictions, or pose a danger to the community or a persecutor of others. Beneficiaries of TPS have a temporary immigration status and may work in the United States during the period of designation. USCIS administers the TPS program and makes policy recommendations to the Secretary on initial designation, extension, and termination.

President Préval cited several natural disasters in the past few years as reasons for Haiti’s inability to accept repatriation of Haitians illegally present in the United States. As a result of this letter, USCIS consulted with the Department of State (DOS) and conducted a review of the conditions in Haiti. Both DOS and USCIS concluded that a TPS designation for Haiti was not justified at that time.

In August and September of 2008, Haiti suffered four consecutive tropical storms and hurricanes (Fay, Gustav, Hanna and Ike). The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) reported that, as a result of recent flooding in Haiti following Tropical Storms Gustav and Hanna, humanitarian conditions continued to deteriorate. Flooding affected populations in 9 out of 10 of the country's departments and displaced 82,600 people to temporary shelters. USAID’s Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance noted dire humanitarian conditions and has pledged additional funding to assist those affected by the recent storms.

Opinion pieces from some major media outlets argued that TPS should be granted in this instance. Additionally, some members of Congress, especially those from South Florida, requested that Haiti receive a TPS designation. Others have compared the TPS designations for Honduras, Nicaragua, and El Salvador as an argument for granting TPS to Haiti.

On December 19, 2008, the Secretary of Homeland Security responded to Haitian President René Préval’s letter and stated that Haiti would not be designated for TPS at this time. USCIS consulted with the Department of State (DOS) and conducted a review of the conditions in Haiti. Both DOS and USCIS concluded that a TPS designation for Haiti is not currently justified.
CURRENT STATUS
USCIS is not currently in a formal review process to designate Haiti for TPS. However, USCIS monitors country conditions in Haiti and continues to receive letters from members of Congress and other advocates seeking TPS for Haiti.

USCIS updated its country conditions report to reflect the impact of the 2008 storms on Haiti. While the situation is extremely dire, there are other concerns that may be contrary to the national interest of the U.S. and prevent the Secretary from designating TPS for Haiti. Furthermore, the U.S. has already provided humanitarian relief to Haiti and has been a leader in supporting Haiti’s recovery.

As of September 10, 2008, USAID provided $19.5 million in humanitarian relief and the USS Kearsage was dispatched to assist in transporting supplies to flooded areas inaccessible by road. Non-governmental organizations such as the Red Cross have also provided direct relief to those Haitians affected by the storms. Upon consideration of these factors, as well as safety concerns stemming from the possibility of triggering a massive exodus of Haitian nationals in make-shift boats, DHS determined that it is more appropriate to assist Haiti through economic and humanitarian aid from USAID and other international organizations rather than grant TPS to Haitian nationals residing in the United States.

CHALLENGES
Safety Concerns: When considering TPS for Haiti, one issue is of particular concern to the U.S. government. If TPS were granted, some Haitians may erroneously believe that a legal immigration opportunity is available upon arrival in the U.S. This could result in Haitians taking extreme risks to travel by sea to the U.S. coast. For example, in the 1990s, a misunderstood campaign remark by then-presidential candidate Bill Clinton prompted many Haitians to take to the high seas in make-shift boats in an attempt to reach the U.S. despite the extreme danger. Many of these Haitian nationals died in the attempt and others suffered severe dehydration, starvation, and other conditions. To prevent more tragic loss of lives, the U.S. Coast Guard intercepted many of the boats and returned them to Haiti. Therefore, it is important to recognize that any decision to designate Haiti for TPS may unintentionally trigger a repeat of the dangerous situation of the 1990s.

Options Other Than TPS: USCIS has the authority to provide a variety of other types of temporary relief to lawfully present foreign visitors who cannot travel home due to natural disasters. These options are available to Haitian nationals, lawfully present in the United States, who have been affected by the storms in their home country. USCIS issued a press release in September 2008 to reiterate these flexibilities. They include the following: extension and/or change of status for non-immigrant tourists and business visitors; extensions of certain types of parole; foreign student employment authorization; and expedited processing for certain form types.

MILESTONES
No upcoming milestones have been defined for this issue.

KEY STAKEHOLDERS
• The TPS decision-making process and program implementation at USCIS is generally coordinated by a headquarters working group with representatives from all three Operational Directorates as well as the Offices of Chief Counsel, Communications, Congressional Relations, the Executive Secretariat and Policy and Strategy.
• The DHS Policy Directorate coordinates the TPS decision-making process for the Secretary.
• The Department of State generates a country conditions report for all upcoming expirations and for new designation requests.
• Some Members of Congress have expressed interest in a TPS designation for Haiti.
• The Government of Haiti has requested TPS for its nationals.
• Some non-governmental organizations (NGOs) support a TPS designation for Haiti.

POINTS OF CONTACT

Pearl Chang, Deputy Chief, Office of Policy and Strategy, pearl.chang@dhs.gov
Attachment A - Temporary Protected Status (TPS) Legal Authority

Pursuant to section 244(b)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), 8 U.S.C. § 1254a(b)(1), the Secretary of Homeland Security (Secretary), after consultation with appropriate agencies of the Government, may designate a foreign State (or part thereof) for TPS. The Secretary may then grant TPS to eligible nationals of that foreign State (or aliens having no nationality who last habitually resided in that State).

At least 60 days before the expiration of a TPS designation, the Secretary, after consultations with appropriate agencies of the Government, must review the conditions in a foreign State designated for TPS to determine whether the conditions for the TPS designation continue to be met and, if so, the length of an extension of the TPS designation. See INA § 244(b)(3)(A); 8 U.S.C. § 1254a(b)(3)(A)-(C). If the Secretary determines that the foreign State no longer meets the conditions for the TPS designation, he must terminate the designation. See INA § 244(b)(3)(B); 8 U.S.C. § 1254a(b)(3)(B).

Although the Secretary must make his determination on extension or termination at least 60 days before the expiration of the TPS designation, publication of the required Federal Register notice announcing his decision must be “on a timely basis.” See INA § 244(b)(3)(A). There is also an automatic, minimum six-month extension of a country’s TPS designation if the Secretary does not make a decision under INA § 244(b)(3)(A); 8 U.S.C. § 1254a(b)(3)(A) that the foreign state no longer meets the conditions for designation. See INA § 244(b)(3)(C); 8 U.S.C. § 1254a(b)(3)(C).

After the Secretary designates a country for TPS, nationals of the country (and persons without nationality who last habitually resided in the country) may apply for TPS, but they must individually demonstrate their eligibility pursuant to the criteria established in INA § 244(c) and the TPS regulations at 8 C.F.R. § 244.1 et seq. These criteria include, but are not limited to, requirements that the applicant show continuous physical presence in the United States since the effective date of the country designation and continuous residence since such date as the Secretary determines; admissibility as an immigrant (with limited exceptions); that the applicant is not ineligible under certain mandatory criminal history, terrorism, and national security bars as specified in INA § 244(c)(2)(A-B); and that the applicant is registering for TPS in accordance with regulatory procedures in 8 C.F.R. §§ 244.2 – 244.9.

If granted TPS, the individual receives employment authorization and an Employment Authorization Document, if requested, that is valid for the period that he or she holds TPS. TPS is a temporary benefit that does not lead to lawful permanent residence or confer any other immigration status. When a TPS country designation ends, TPS beneficiaries maintain the same immigration status, if any, that they held prior to TPS (unless that status has expired or been terminated) or any other status they may have acquired while registered for TPS.
His Excellency Paul G. Altidor  
Ambassador of Haiti  
Washington, DC 20008

Excellency:

Thank you for your May 4, 2017 letter. Acting Secretary Duke asked that I respond on her behalf.

I appreciate your interest in Haiti’s Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designation and your continued dialogue with the Department of Homeland Security on the issue. In particular, I appreciated the opportunity to join your most recent call with Assistant Secretary Nealon on August 25 and to hear your updates on the Haitian government’s efforts and ability to provide travel documentation to nationals of Haiti in the United States.

Under federal law, in order for the Secretary to designate a country for TPS, the Secretary must find that one or more of the following three statutory bases are met: (1) there is an ongoing armed conflict within the country that would pose a serious threat to the personal safety of the country’s nationals if they were returned; (2) there has been an environmental disaster resulting in a substantial, but temporary, disruption of the living conditions in the area affected, the country is temporarily unable to handle adequately the return of its nationals, and the country has officially requested TPS designation; or (3) there exist extraordinary and temporary conditions in the country that prevent nationals from returning in safety, and the Secretary does not find that permitting the country’s nationals to remain temporarily in the United States would be contrary to the national interest of the United States. As long as the statutory conditions for designation continue to be met, the designation must be extended. Conversely, when the conditions are no longer met, the Secretary is required to terminate the designation. See Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) § 244(b)(1) and (3); 8 U.S.C. § 1254a(b)(1) and (3).

TPS, as enacted in law, is inherently temporary in nature. It is not intended to be a vehicle to provide long-term immigration benefits to foreign nationals. The Secretary has no authority to make the designation permanent. Only the U.S. Congress can deal with this issue by changing the law.

Initial designation periods are limited to 6-18 months, with required periodic reviews before the end of an initial period of designation and any extended period of designation. Additionally, the period of extension of a designation is limited to 6, 12, or 18 months at a time. See INA § 244(b)(2) and (3), 8 U.S.C. § 1254a(b)(2) and (3).
His Excellency Paul G. Altidor

Page 2

Haiti was initially designated for TPS on January 21, 2010, with almost 60,000 Haitians in the United States currently receiving protection under Haiti’s designation. On May 22, 2017, former Secretary Kelly announced a limited 6-month extension of Haiti’s TPS designation through January 22, 2018. He determined that, although Haiti has made significant progress in recovering from the January 2010 earthquake that prompted its designation, conditions in Haiti supporting its designation continue to be met at this time. He also noted, however, his belief that “Haiti — if its recovery from the 2010 earthquake continues at pace — may not warrant further TPS extension past January 2018…and beneficiaries should plan accordingly that this status may finally end after the extension announced today.”

As former Secretary Kelly noted in his announcement of Haiti’s TPS extension, he was particularly encouraged by your government’s willingness and desire to welcome the safe repatriation of Haitian TPS recipients in the near future. To that end, Haitian government efforts to help Haitian TPS recipients living in the United States attain travel documents and make other necessary arrangements for their departure from the United States, as well as to prepare for their arrival in Haiti, are appreciated.

At least 60 days before January 22, 2018, the Secretary will re-evaluate Haiti’s TPS designation and will determine whether another extension, a redesignation, or a termination is warranted, in full compliance with the INA. The Secretary will fully re-evaluate the country conditions and any other factors necessary to determine whether Haiti’s TPS designation should continue.

Thank you again for your letter and continued updates. Should you wish to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

James W. McCament
Acting Director
Temporary Protected Status for Haiti Extended for Six Months
DHS Secretary will Re-Evaluate Designation Later This Year

WASHINGTON— Secretary of Homeland Security John F. Kelly has extended Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for eligible nationals of Haiti (and eligible individuals without nationality who last habitually resided in Haiti) through Jan. 22, 2018. After consulting with the appropriate U.S. government agencies and reviewing country conditions, Secretary Kelly has determined that a limited, six-month extension is warranted. Although Haiti has made significant progress in recovering from the January 2010 earthquake that prompted its designation, conditions in Haiti supporting its designation continue to be met at this time.

Current beneficiaries of Haiti’s TPS designation seeking to extend their TPS must re-register by July 24, 2017. TPS beneficiaries who re-register may request a new Employment Authorization Document (EAD). Those who re-register and request a new EAD during the 60-day re-registration period may receive an automatic extension of their expiring EAD for up to 180 days from the date their current EAD expires. Current EADs will not be automatically extended without a new EAD request. If a beneficiary’s EAD request is approved, they will receive a new EAD with an expiration date of Jan. 22, 2018. TPS beneficiaries are strongly encouraged to re-register and file their EAD applications as early as possible to avoid lapses in documentation of employment authorization.

During this six-month extension, beneficiaries are encouraged to prepare for their return to Haiti in the event Haiti’s designation is not extended again, including requesting updated travel documents from the government of Haiti. At least 60 days before Jan. 22, 2018, Secretary Kelly will re-evaluate the designation for Haiti and will determine whether another extension, a redesignation, or a termination is warranted, in full compliance with the Immigration and Nationality Act. The designation of TPS was intended by Congress to be temporary, and the Secretary will fully re-evaluate the country conditions to determine whether Haiti’s TPS designation should continue.

To re-register, current TPS beneficiaries must submit:

- Form I-821, Application for Temporary Protected Status (re-registrants do not need to pay the Form I-821 application fee).
- The biometric services fee (or a fee-waiver request) if they are 14 years old or older.
- Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization, regardless of whether they want an EAD.
- The Form I-765 application fee or a fee-waiver request, but only if they want an EAD. If the re-registrant does not want an EAD, no Form I-765 application fee is required.
Applicants may request that USCIS waive the Form I-765 application fee and/or biometric services fee based on an inability to pay. To do so, applicants must file Form I-912, Request for Fee Waiver, or submit a written request. Fee-waiver requests must be accompanied by supporting documentation. USCIS will reject the TPS application of any applicant who fails to submit the required filing fees or a properly documented fee-waiver request.

Additional information about TPS for Haiti, including guidance on eligibility, the application process and where to file, is available online at uscis.gov/tps. Further details about this extension of TPS for Haiti, including the application requirements and procedures, appear in a Federal Register notice published today.

For more information about USCIS and its programs, please visit www.uscis.gov or follow us on Twitter (@uscis), YouTube (/uscis), and Facebook (/uscis).

- USCIS -
News Release  May 24, 2017

Temporary Protected Status for Haiti Extended for Six Months
DHS Secretary will Re-Evaluate Designation Later This Year

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Applicants may request that USCIS waive the Form I-765 application fee and/or biometric services fee based on an inability to pay. To do so, applicants must file Form I-912, Request for Fee Waiver, or submit a written request. Fee-waiver requests must be accompanied by supporting documentation. USCIS will reject the TPS application of any applicant who fails to submit the required filing fees or a properly documented fee-waiver request.

Additional information about TPS for Haiti, including guidance on eligibility, the application process and where to file, is available online at uscis.gov/tps. Further details about this extension of TPS for Haiti, including the application requirements and procedures, appear in a Federal Register notice published today.

For more information about USCIS and its programs, please visit www.uscis.gov or follow us on Twitter (@uscis), YouTube (/uscis), and Facebook (/uscis).

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