

HAITI

SOCIAL PROTEST

STARTING DATE: 2 SEPTEMBER 2019

- TRIGGERS**
- Fuel and food scarcity.
 - Situation already very tense because of structural and conjunctural issues : rampant inflation (20% in August), poverty and unemployment, corruption scandals involving the government, and insecurity.

- GOALS**
- Ouster of President Jovenel Moise, allegedly involved in a corruption scandal over the misuse of PetroCaribe funds.
 - Greater government transparency.

STATE OF PLAY

- Rallies have taken place on average every week, mainly in Port-au-Prince (e.g. in front of the presidential palace, US and Canadian embassies, road leading to the airport) but also in Pétion Ville and Delmas. Nationwide strikes or strikes by the public sector have also been held.
- Demonstrations have often turned violent, due to the police crackdown on the protests, involving direct clashes with demonstrators, the use of teargas and live gunshots to disperse the crowds.
- Criminal activity has soared, with gangs taking advantage of the instability to spread chaos in the streets (lootings, arson attacks, targeted killings, kidnapping for ransom). Some radicalized protesters have picked up guns.
- On 10 November, opposition parties and civil society associations drafted an agreement on a transitional government, which will be submitted to the President as an incentive to prepare him to resign.

IMPACTS: IMPORTANT



- At least 42 dead including 19 killed by the police, 86 people injured.
- Worrying humanitarian situation: 1/3 of the population in situation of "serious" food insecurity.



- Numerous shops, banks, public administrations and schools temporarily shut down due to violent unrest (lootings) and strikes.
- Scarcity in cash money and other commodities and public services.

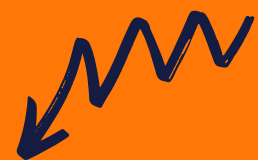


- Traffic heavily disrupted on main roads and access to the international airport Toussaint-Louverture blocked with little notice because of roadblocks, barricades and marches.
- Public transport services temporarily suspended.



POTENTIAL TRIGGERS FOR ESCALATION

- Continued police crackdown on the demonstrators.
- Increase gang violence, widespread circulation of firearms despite the embargo, and growing criminalization of protesters.
- Further food and fuel shortages.
- Further allegations confirming the government implication in corruption scandals.



POTENTIAL TRIGGERS FOR DE-ESCALATION

- Government funds allocated to public services.
- International funds or humanitarian aid providing commodities to respond to the food and fuel crisis.
- Resignation of President Jovenel Moise.
- Effective formation of a transitional government.
- Anticipated and fair elections to be held.