Situation Overview

Since Monday 12th March, an increase in hostilities against Haitians in DR and alleged increased deportations / expulsions as well as spontaneous returns from DR have been reported. According to preliminary reports, this situation follows the lynching of a Dominican citizen and the assault on his wife, both farmers in Pedernales, a crime for which the Dominican authorities hold three men of Haitian origin responsible. On 12th March, residents from Pedernales marched in the streets of the small town issuing an ultimatum of 24 hours for all Haitians to leave the city.

Several hundreds of Haitian nationals, inclusive of children, pregnant women, elderly and wounded, fled the Dominican Republic on Monday night fearing for their lives, and took shelter in the bordering town of Anse-à-Pitres. According to the first information collected by the local authorities and the Civil protection with the support of IOM team, a large part of the returned population have dispersed and are sheltered within the host community. It has also been observed that former IDP sites created in June 2015 following the expiry date of the naturalization plan (PNRE) and cleared since, have received newly displaced population.

In response to the incident, both the Dominican and Haitian governments have deployed additional military and police troops to contain and prevent further violence. In total, the Haitian government has deployed 30 crowd control special units supported by 30 MINUSTH FPUs while the Dominican authorities have reinforced their presence with 60 CESFRONTs and 30 crowd control units.

While the units in charge of ensuring the security of the migrant populations present in the area have seen their numbers increase, it has been observed on social networks, an upsurge of hateful messages.

The Dominican authorities have asked the Haitian authorities to look at the possibility of extraditing one of the presumed suspects, presently in detention in Jacmel. However, in the absence of extradition agreement between Haiti and the Dominican Republic, Haiti has not yet agreed to extradite the alleged criminal.

The authorities of Pedernales have given an ultimatum of 10 days to the Haitian authorities for the extradition of the presumed suspect. As this deadline for the requested extradition is set on the 21st of March, we can expect a reaction from the Dominican side in the coming days.

A delegation from the Haitian government visited Anse-à-Pitres on the 15th March. This delegation was composed of the Minister of Justice and Public Security, Mr. Heidi Fortuné, the Minister of the Interior and Territorial Communities, Dr. Max Rudolph Saint-Albin, the Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of Haitians Living Abroad, Dr. Stéphanie Auguste, the Minister of Sports and Civic Action, Mrs. Régine Lamur, a representative of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cults, the Director of the Office National de Migration, Mr. Eudes Lajoie and the Director General of the Ministry of Communication, Mr. Calvin Cadet. This was the opportunity for the delegation to reaffirm the commitment of the Haitian government to identify a solution to the ongoing crisis while providing immediate support to the affected population.

The special commission of inquiry composed of seven (7) deputies with mission to investigate the situation visited Anse-à-Pitres this weekend.

The Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of Haitians Living Abroad, Dr. Stéphanie Auguste, participated on Sunday 18th March at a NFI distribution coordinated by IOM with the Civil Protection and the Haitian Red Cross.
IOM RESPONSE

IOM is present in Anse-à-Pitres through its activities at the Border Resource Center (BRC) and has been monitoring this crisis since its beginning. In response, IOM in support to the Haitian Civil Protection has deployed two (2) camp management and registration experts and three (3) protection workers and a nurse. In collaboration and coordination with the Haitian Civil Protection (DPC) and the Institute for Social Well-being and Research (IBESR) and following the request of the Minister of Interior, IOM has put in places the following activities:

**CCCM (Camp Coordination and Camp Management)**

Together with the Civil Protection and the local authorities, IOM CCCM’s team primarily carried out assessments in four (4) returnee sites and assessed a total of 2,383 displaced persons. This number has since decreased as the displaced population has returned to their area of origin in Haiti, has gone to live with family/friends in the area of Anse-à-Pitres, or has settled in neighboring communes. The following priority needs have been confirmed through the assessments: Food, Water, Health, NFI.

**Displaced households assessed through primary evaluations carried out in partnership with Civil Protection and local authorities:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sites</th>
<th>Households</th>
<th>Individuals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Shelter (Anse-à-Pitres)</td>
<td>431</td>
<td>1,784</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parc Cadeau</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tête à L’Eau</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bas Réfugié</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>198</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>558</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,383</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LOGISTICS

On 15th March, as per a request from the Civil Protection and the Ministry of Interior. IOM has sent 4 loaded trucks with NFI (hygiene kits, mattresses and mobile toilets for 300 households- 1,500 persons).

The Civil Protection agents with the support of IOM and the Haitian Red Cross have been distributing the NFI to a total of 215 households (1,075 persons) with the Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of Haitians Living Abroad, Dr. Stéphanie Auguste.

**Distribution of NFI in the four sites prioritized by local authorities:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sites</th>
<th>Households</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Shelter (Anse-à-Pitres)</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Réfugié</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tête à L’Eau</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banane</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>215</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The 85 NFI kits balance have been prepositioned in anticipation of further influx after the 21st March ultimatum deadline.

The most vulnerable cases have been prioritized for the distribution of NFIs: one of the six pregnant women identified in the Tête à l’Eau locality © 2018 IOM

Several hundreds of Haitians fled the Dominican Republic on Monday night fearing violence © 2018 IOM
PROTECTION/ HEALTH

A protection team composed of two (2) protection officers, 1 psychologist and 1 nurse reached Anse-à-Pitres to support with technical expertise in terms of identification of specific vulnerabilities and to provide psychosocial assistance.

From the 15th to the 18th of March 2018, the Protection and Health Staff carried out a set of activities in the border areas of Anse-à-Pitres (at the Emergency Shelter Center, at the Border Resource Center (BRC) and at the Tête à L’Eau locality) in order to identify, assess, and assist vulnerable people who have been deported, returned and those who have fled the DR after threats of violence.

While participating in all coordination meetings with State and Non-State actors (GARR, SJM, Haitian Red Cross, Haitian Civil Protection, the Mayor of Anse-à-Pitres, IBESR, ONM/DIE, RFJS, and MCFDF), IOM Protection staff carried out the following activities:

- **Mass sensitization activities in the emergency shelter to raise awareness on SGBV prevention in times of crisis.**
- **First needs analysis and profiling of vulnerabilities in the emergency shelter of Anse-à-Pitres.**
- **Identification of the most vulnerable cases to benefit from the distribution of NFIs: 20 pregnant and lactating women (14 pregnant women were identified in the emergency shelter center and 6 pregnant women in the Tête à l’Eau locality), 13 elderly (4 men and 9 women) present in the emergency shelter, 2 persons with a handicap (physical and sensorial), and 7 teenage mothers.**
- **Organization of 3 artistic mediation workshops for 199 children, including 117 girls and 82 boys.**
- **4 support groups for adults, including 30 people per group for a total of 120 people including 73 women and 47 men.**
- **Conduction of 15 individual interviews for psychosocial support for 11 women and 4 men. These persons expressed the need to share their story and were in emotional distress.**

- **Reception and registration at the BRC of Anse-à-Pitres of 175 families arriving from the Dominican Republic.**
- **Visit of the BRC of Anse-à-Pitres lead by the DIE/IOM for the Members of the parliamentary commission.**
- **Support to the registration and assessment of vulnerable cases and conduction of psychosocial activities in the Tête à L’Eau community.**
- **Assistance of the following persons by the mobile clinic put in place on the 17th of March in collaboration with the staff of the hospital center of Anse-à-Pitres (MSPP Ministry of Public Health and Population), the following beneficiaries were assisted:**
  - 50 breastfeeding women from the community, including those from the center were identified and their infants benefited from an adequate vaccination package according to their age (Measles, Diphtheria, Tuberculosis).
  - 16 pregnant women benefited from an antenatal consultation.
  - 20 women benefited from a visual inspection of the cervix.
  - 10 women received a Family planning consultation and received an injection Depo Provera.
  - 25 people (7 women and 18 men) received condoms.

The Border Resource Center of Anse-a-Pitres welcoming families returned from the Dominican Republic © 2018 IOM

IOM’s psychologist providing psychological first aid to the victims © 2018 IOM

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