

# Clear Country Contexts

Based on data for January 2015-December 2017



Haiti is regularly exposed to natural disasters, including hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, landslides and droughts. The country has made progress in its recovery from multiple natural disasters since 2010; however, poor socio-economic conditions, a fragile political environment and food insecurity continue to affect development.

**This country profile is based on the analysis of security incidents and concerns shared by 14 aid agencies through the Aid in Danger project. It provides a unique insight into the environment in which aid agencies work.<sup>1</sup>**

## Reported concerns affecting aid delivery in Haiti



- **Unrest:** Demonstrations and roadblocks.



- **Crime:** Violent crime – car-jackings, armed robberies and physical/sexual violence. Petty crime – burglaries and thefts.



- **Aid delivery disruption:** Looting by armed groups and beneficiaries during aid distributions.



- **Killed, injured, kidnapped (KIK):** One NGO staff member killed, two injured, one kidnapped and two assaulted since January 2015.



- **RTAs:** 12% of reported road traffic accident (RTA) incidents caused NGO staff injuries.



- **Weapons use:** 27% of NGO-related security incidents reported weapons use.<sup>2</sup>

## No particular changes to the country-typical patterns have been identified in recent months (October-December 2017).



- The main threats continue to be **crime, unrest** and **RTAs**.



- No reports of aid worker deaths, injuries, or kidnappings were identified between October and December 2017.

<sup>1</sup> All decisions made on the basis of or with consideration to such information remain the responsibility of the organisations taking such decisions. Staff are advised to secure travel briefings prior to travel.

<sup>2</sup> Weapons use reported during 21 incidents related to crime, KIK, operational space and unrest. Weapons were used in 67% of KIK incidents; 33% operational space-related incidents; 26% crime incidents; and 12% unrest-related incidents.

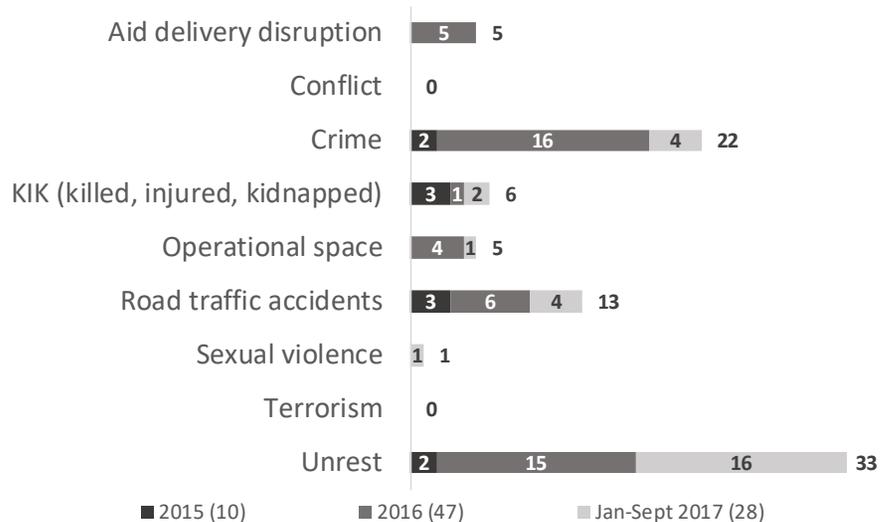
# Long-term threat patterns and recent changes

Based on data for January 2015-December 2017



## Long-term threat patterns, January 2015-September 2017

A high number of incidents were related to civil unrest, resulting in security measures being taken to protect staff and programmes, and criminally motivated incidents, including armed robberies, burglaries, car-jackings, property damage, looting and thefts.



**Aid delivery disruption:** Looting at project sites.

**Conflict:** No incidents identified.

**Crime:** Damage to NGO compound, office and two NGO vehicles (see [Crime](#) on p. 4 for other incidents).

**KIK:** In 67% of incidents the perpetrators were armed with firearms.

**Operational space:** NGO staff members denied access to project sites and offices over NGO activities and beneficiary selection process.

**Sexual violence:** From another passenger.

**Road traffic accidents:** 85% of reported RTA incidents did not cause NGO staff injuries.

**Terrorism:** No incidents identified.

**Unrest:** Demonstrations and political unrest.

## Recent concerns affecting aid delivery, October-December 2017

Most recent incidents reflected Haiti’s country-specific patterns, with frequent reports of criminally-motivated incidents that affected aid workers and NGO assets.



**Aid delivery disruption:** No incidents identified.

**Conflict:** No incidents identified.

**Crime:** Robberies and thefts.

**KIK:** No incidents identified.

**Operational space:** Threat made against NGO; no further details available.

**Road traffic accidents:** No NGO staff member injuries reported.

**Sexual violence:** No incidents identified.

**Terrorism:** No incidents identified.

**Unrest:** Unspecified armed activity.

# Long-term threat patterns and recent changes

Based on data for January 2015-December 2017



**Unrest:** Civil unrest, motivated by either political or socio-economic issues, frequently disrupts aid delivery.



- Typical locations include downtown Port-au-Prince around the National Palace, the Champ de Mars, and the State University campuses, together with sporadic incidents scattered throughout the city and along major highways throughout the country.
- Firearms use during unrest led to security measures being implemented twice to protect staff, assets and programmes.

## Demonstrations



- Demonstrations quickly turn violent, and bystanders can be easily caught up in riots or clashes between police and protesters.

- 68% of unrest-related incidents were due to election-related violence and demonstrations.
- An NGO driver was injured while caught in violent protest in Nippes department (November 2015). Stones were thrown at NGO property during demonstrations.

## Roadblocks



- Roadblocks were set up by locals; aid materials taken.
- Distribution team was stopped by unarmed group who took relief items (no staff injuries were reported).



**Aid delivery disruption:** By armed groups and beneficiaries during aid distributions.



- Looting and rioting during aid distribution are common.



- Attempted and actual looting occurred during aid distribution (no staff injuries reported).
- An NGO truck was attacked by looters in response to slow emergency response.
- NGO staff members were threatened by armed group during a food distribution session.
- UN peacekeepers fired non-lethal ammunition at locals attempting to loot a humanitarian convoy.
- Looted items included hygiene kits, food and non-food items.



**Sexual violence:** From another passenger.



- Against female NGO staff member from male during air travel.

# Long-term threat patterns and recent changes

Based on data for January 2015-December 2017



**Crime:** Violent crime – car-jackings, armed robberies and physical/sexual violence. Petty crime – burglaries and thefts.



- The security situation in Haiti can be volatile – criminal acts can occur frequently and often at random. This risk reportedly increases at night and in isolated areas.
- Crime includes gang violence; homicides; kidnappings; assaults; sexual violence; arms, drugs and human trafficking; armed robberies; burglaries; and theft.



- Violent crimes are reportedly prevalent in Port-au-Prince, where violent crime and homicide rates are highest.
- Other areas of concern include: Belair, Carrefour, Fort National, Simon Pele, Cité Soleil, Martissant and Grand Ravine, and in the southern peninsula departments of Grand'Anse and Sud.



- Agency-reported crime incidents included actual and attempted armed robberies, burglaries, car-jackings, sexual violence (see [Sexual violence](#) on p. 3 for further information) and thefts.

## Type of location

- **Road:** Half of crime incidents occurred on the roadside.
- **Vehicles:** On three occasions NGO vehicle lights and/or mirrors were stolen.
- **Residence:** Personal assets were taken; no NGO staff members were present.
- **Warehouse:** Over 500 educational books were stolen.



## Weapons use in crime incidents

- **Unarmed:** In over three-quarters of reported crime incidents the perpetrators were unarmed.
- **Armed:** Seven reported crime incidents indicated firearms use. These incidents were reported during road travel and aid convoys, and also included street robberies and two car-jackings.

## Aid in Danger project-reported crime locations

9 or more reported incidents    3-8 reported incidents    1-2 reported incidents





## Reported KIK incidents (6)

The table below lists KIK incidents reported between January 2016 and December 2017. KIK incidents are any incidents that resulted in a staff member being killed, injured or kidnapped. KIK includes beaten, kidnapped, killed, missing, tortured, and wounded.

2017-09	<b>Quest department</b>	NGO staff member kidnapped. No further information is available.
2017-08	<b>Nord department</b>	Female NGO staff member physically assaulted by armed locals; relative of staff member was sexually assaulted during the incident.
2016-05	<b>Port-au-Prince</b>	UN staff member stabbed in his car by two armed suspects. No further information is available.
2015-11	<b>Nippes department</b>	NGO staff members in rented vehicle caught in violent protests. One NGO driver injured.
2015-10	<b>Port-au-Prince</b>	UN national staff member fatally shot while waiting for transportation to work. The incident occurred in the context of violent demonstrations and armed attacks involving rival groups.
2015-06	<b>Port-au-Prince</b>	NGO male national security guard physically assaulted and shot by two armed males while on his way home in the evening.



### Weapons use in KIK incidents

- 67% of reported KIK incident reported weapons use.
- NGO staff fatally member shot, UN staff member stabbed, and NGO staff member kidnapped.

# Long-term threat patterns and recent changes

Based on data for January 2015-December 2017



## Road traffic accidents (RTAs): Poor infrastructure and dangerous driving practices.



- Road safety remains a threat to aid workers' safety and security.
- Poor infrastructure, dangerous driving practices, damage to infrastructure still remains since the 2010 earthquake and 2016 Hurricane Matthey all contribute to RTAs.
- Pedestrians and animals crossing roads pose additional safety hazards.



- In Port-au-Prince hazardous road conditions are compounded by poorly maintained roads and congestion.
- In rural and suburban areas roads tend to be less maintained; are often unpaved; and frequently have no guard rails, few traffic signs/road markings, and little/no vehicle or road lighting.



- 17 vehicle aid-worker-related road traffic incidents were identified by the Aid in Danger project.
- 12% of reported RTA incidents caused NGO staff injuries.
- No reports of RTAs causing NGO staff member deaths.
- Vehicle accidents were reported more often than motorcycle accidents.
- Two incidents were reported of NGO vehicles crossing rivers being caught in flash floods, forcing staff to evacuate the vehicles. In one such incident a group of locals rescued an NGO team.
- Two incidents were reported of RTAs caused by livestock on the road. In both incidents NGO staff members were riding motorcycles and were injured, one requiring hospital treatment.

### Aid in Danger project-identified RTA incidents, by year

	2015	2016	2017
Fatal injuries	0	0	0
Major injuries	1	0	0
Minor injuries	1	0	0
No injuries	1	6	8
<b>Total incidents per year</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>

### Aid in Danger project-reported locations of RTAs

