



# Crisis in Haïti, GBV Sub-Cluster Situation Brief

## Women & Girl's 16 Days of Activism campaign 2023

**#NoExcuse for gender-based violence** : "All spaces should be free from gender-based violence. This International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, let us recommit to concrete actions that will protect women and girls in all their diversity. Let us recommit to building a world that is more just, inclusive and equitable, and where women and girls can live in peace"(UNFPA Statement)

### What we Know

**Crisis Context** : Over the past year, gang violence dramatically increased and armed gangs' violence has expanded. There is an increase in reports of elders, women and girls being brutally raped, tortured and kidnapped by gangs. The GBV sub-cluster estimates that 1,171,183 people will need assistance in 2024, 97% of them are girls and women, 51% in the west and 23% in Artibonite. The main risk factors for GBV are the incursion of armed gangs in communities, forced population displacement and food insecurity.

**Escalation of Rape Cases**: The humanitarian situation in Haiti continues to deteriorate. Gang violence in the capital Port-au-Prince and the department of Artibonite, continues to escalate with much of the violence targeting women and girls.: Sexual violence against women and girls is used as a weapon of war, intimidation, territorial control and domination,<sup>1</sup>women in gang-controlled areas belong to the gangs. Poverty and unemployment mean that women and girls are encouraged by their own families or friends to form "relationships" with armed elements in order to support themselves. A total of 3056 cases of rape were reported between January and August 2023, an increase of 49% compared to 2022. According to the SISNU, 861 <sup>2</sup>cases of sexual violence and 3,447 cases of physical violence against women were reported between January and August 2023.

**Disrupted access to GBV services and referral pathways**: despite efforts to strengthen the access to medical services, there are severe shortages of supplies and medications, including clinical management of rape (CMR) kits, dignity kits, female hygiene supplies and other life-affirming and life-saving care. There is a lack of services mappings and referral pathways in some subnational humanitarian hubs such as Artibonite. Rule of law institutions are under-staffed and mostly non-operational. Mental health services, psychosocial care and support for victims of sexual violence is needed as survivors suffer high level of psychological trauma, periodic flashbacks, acute anxiety, depression, suicidal thoughts and other mental health problems after being abused.

**Need to scale-up sub-national GBV Coordination**: The GBV Working Group is operational in the West Department, have updated referral pathways and assessed the current limitations and barriers in GBV services, including clinical management of rape CMR. The GBV Working Group in Artibonite was established in October during the scale-up project period but the referral pathway is not operational. Working groups from South, Nippes and Gand 'Anse need to be revitalized and strengthened. There are ongoing efforts in terms of fundraising

<sup>1</sup> Global Initiative, GANG CONTROL AND SECURITY VACUUMS, ASSESSING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN CITÉ SOLEIL, HAITI, MAY 2023, <https://reliefweb.int/report/haiti/gang-control-and-security-vacuums-assessing-gender-based-violence-cite-soleil-haiti>

Rapport des cas sous -cluster VBG, janvier à aout 2023 dans le département de l'Ouest et Artibonite  
<sup>2</sup> SISNU (Système d'Information Sanitaire National Unique), janvier à aout 2023



## What we need

*How to stay and deliver in the multifaceted crisis of Haiti?*

Meeting the Needs:

According to the GBV Sub-Cluster's needs analysis for 2024 HNRP, the following critical actions must be implemented in the coming months in order to meet the needs of the population at immediate risk of GBV

- To mobilize adequate resources to scale up GBV response and risk mitigation programming: **15.9 million required**
- To ensure that medical supplies are available (post rape kits in health facilities) and medical staff trained.
- To increase cash programming response and socio-economic empowerment programs for women and girls at risk of GBV: **5600 women targeted**
- Strengthen localization efforts by supporting and mobilizing women's groups/WLOs (women-led organizations) for their meaningful participation in GBV risk mitigation actions and GBV coordination. **At least 20 groups targeted**

## GBV strategic objectives for 2024

- Women and girls have access to basic medical care, clinical management of rape, psychosocial support and mental health according to their specific needs at specialised service delivery points offering complementary services such as Women and Girls Safe Spaces
- Strengthen GBV prevention mechanisms, including GBV risk mitigation and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA)
- Strengthen localization efforts by mobilizing women's groups/WLOs (women-led organizations) for their meaningful participation in GBV risk mitigation and coordination.
- Strengthen the resilience of populations at risk of GBV through socio-economic empowerment

## Recommendation for the HCT

- I. The Humanitarian Coordinator in Haiti will work closely with HCT members and the clusters to elevate GBV as a key priority in the response as a whole including mobilise human and financial resources,
- II. Conduct advocacy with senior levels of Haitian Government and de facto authorities on GBV. The HC supported by the sub-cluster should work on an advocacy plan based on the GBV strategy. Advocacy with the Government should focus on their leadership role to address GBV.
- III. Support to establish a strategy for GBV prevention, mitigation and response informed by the sub-cluster expertise and endorsed by the HCT.

## Ressources and contacts

- To access briefings from the GBV Sub-Cluster in Haiti, please visit the [GBV AoR Haiti , Relief Web Response Page](#)
- For information on current activities of the GBV Sub-Cluster in Haiti , please sign up for the [GBV Sub Cluster Mailing List](#)
- To contact the GBV Sub-Cluster in Haiti, please email: [afanda@unfpa.org](mailto:afanda@unfpa.org) ; [feminineambassady@yahoo.fr](mailto:feminineambassady@yahoo.fr), [vovi@unfpa.org](mailto:vovi@unfpa.org)

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