



POUR LA QUALITÉ DE L'ÉDUCATION  
ET LA PROTECTION DE L'ENFANT

## **Violence in urban areas of Port-au-Prince Situation note No.1, 08 June 2021**

The main armed gangs in the third district of Port-au-Prince have been fighting each other since the beginning of June 2021 against the backdrop of the impotence of the Haitian National Police. This gang war has also caused innocent victims, resulting in the loss of human life, injuries, the burning of houses and vehicles in Martissant, as well as the displacement of numerous families seeking refuge in public squares and other inappropriate spaces in the commune of Carrefour. Among the displaced are elderly people, people with disabilities, pregnant women and children fleeing the anger of the belligerents in the conflict zones. In addition, the situation has led to a total paralysis of activities in the large district of Martissant, at the southern entrance to the capital, and in the surrounding area: national road number 2, linking Port-au-Prince to the Grand Sud (four departments in all), is impassable, commerce, businesses, churches and schools are not functioning.

The latest report from OCHA puts the number of people affected at 260,000 and the number of displaced at 5,600, 32% of whom are children at the main reception centre, the Carrefour Sports Centre. This figure is likely to increase as the clashes continue in an already delicate context marked by the outbreak of coronavirus infections and the unfolding of a cyclone season that is considered active. Sanitation, shelter, access to clean water and food are priority needs.

Thanks to its presence on the ground, the Federation of Protestant Schools of Haiti (FEPH) is participating in coordination efforts with the Town Hall of Carrefour, the Communal Committee of Civil Protection and other partners in order to provide support to vulnerable families on two (2) levels:

**a- Response to immediate needs**

- Distribution of water, food and hygiene kits
- Distribution of clothes, shoes and bedding
- Distribution of toys to children (in connection with psychosocial support).

**b- Response to recovery needs**

- Support for the continuation of schooling for children
- Support for the return to the provinces and for income-generating activities.

In each phase of the response, activities are planned to limit the spread of the coronavirus pandemic (awareness-raising and distribution of prevention materials), child protection (awareness-raising for child surveillance and monitoring of cases of maltreatment and sexual abuse) and advocacy for the respect of children's rights. These interventions should also extend to Bel-Air, Cité Soleil, Tabarre Issa and Delmas where hundreds of families are victims of forced displacement due to acts of violence.

EDF takes this opportunity to thank all its partners for the words of support that have already been addressed to it and which encourage it in its mission to support the Haitian education sector. It remains at their disposal to answer their questions or to coordinate joint actions.

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