

Haiti

As armed gangs in Haiti merged and gained control over more of the country, escalating violence included attacks on schools, school students and staff, as well as the military use of schools, and disrupted education for over 1.2 million children. Members of armed gangs perpetrated sexual violence against female students on the way to or from school.

Context

In 2024 and 2025, violent and coordinated armed gangs carried out numerous attacks on Haitian people, killing, harming, and displacing thousands of civilians, increasingly destabilizing Haiti.¹ In 2024, some armed gangs joined forces, and intensified attacks.² In September 2025, the UN authorized the transformation of the former Multinational Security Support Mission (MSS) into a “Gang Suppression Force (GSF),” and the deployment of up to 5,500 uniformed personnel.³ By late 2025, under the GSF, approximately 1,000 members of security forces from the Bahamas, Belize, Jamaica, Guatemala, El Salvador and Kenya were based in Haiti; at least two Kenyan soldiers had been killed during attacks.⁴ The UN reported in October 2025 that armed gangs controlled close to 90 percent of Port au Prince, the capital.⁵ As gangs carried out fewer attacks in some areas of the capital, civilians returned, and extortion by gangs against civilians increased.⁶ Children were heavily affected: the UN reported over 2,269 grave violations against 1,373 children in 2024, a 490 percent increase compared to the previous year.⁷ This included the recruitment of 302 children, a majority of which were used in combat roles.⁸ While much of the violence was concentrated in the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area and its environs, in 2025 gangs also expanded geographically and carried out attacks in Artibonite, Centre, and North-West departments.⁹

The reporting period was marked by increasing political instability and weakening institutions in Haiti. Prime Minister Ariel Henry announced his resignation on March 11, 2024, following coordinated attacks on state institutions on February 29, 2024, carried out by Viv Ansanm, a coalition that includes the G-9 and G-Pèp armed gangs and was originally formed in September 2023.¹⁰ Haiti’s Transitional Presidential Council, formed in April, appointed Garry Conille as prime minister, and subsequently appointed Alix Didier Fils-Aimé as prime minister in November 2024.¹¹

The humanitarian situation became increasingly desperate during 2024 and 2025. According to the International Organization for Migration, the number of people displaced doubled from 700,000 in October 2024 to 1.4 million by October 2025.¹² In April 2025, the UN reported that 43 percent of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the capital were using schools as shelters.¹³

Education has been heavily impacted by the violence. Hundreds of schools were closed during the reporting period, and children faced multiple threats travelling to or from school, including being caught in the crossfire during armed clashes, recruited by gangs,¹⁴ as well as sexual violence.¹⁵ In July 2024, the UN reported that education was interrupted for over 156,000 students in the West and Artibonite departments alone, with 919 schools closed, including 515 that were completely closed.¹⁶ In mid-2025, the UN reported that at least 1,600 schools were closed in the West, Artibonite, and Centre departments, which affected education access and delivery for over 1.2 million students and teachers.¹⁷ The UN reported at the end of 2025 that about one in four children in Haiti were out of school.¹⁸ Children as young as eight were recruited by armed groups according to the UN, with reduced access to education cited as one of the main drivers.¹⁹

Haiti was not profiled in *Education under Attack 2024* so no comparison can be made with the previous reporting period. Although Haiti did not meet the conflict threshold criterion for inclusion in *Education under Attack 2024* (see Methodology), incidents of gang violence killing children on their way to or from school, as well as armed groups using schools as shelters, were reported.²⁰

Attacks on schools

GCPEA identified at least 339 attacks on schools in 2024 and 2025.

The UN reported that 280 schools had been destroyed between January and July 2024, including 47 destroyed by armed groups in West department in July alone.²¹ Separately, the UN reported 98 attacks on schools and school students and staff between January and December 2024, including the looting and destruction of schools.²² However, since it is not possible to identify how many were attacks on schools, versus attacks on students and staff, this number has not been included, to avoid double counting. Separately, GCPEA identified 13 attacks on schools in 2024.²³ For example:

- The UN and ACLED reported that, on March 25, 2024, in Fontamara Est, Port-au-Prince, armed groups reportedly set fire to 23 classrooms in the Les Frères Nau Mixed School, depriving at least 1,000 children of their right to education.²⁴
- Between March and April 2024, in the La Saline neighborhood, Port-au-Prince, nearby armed clashes trapped 3,500 children in two schools, as reported by the Global Center for the Responsibility to Protect.²⁵
- Between April and May, 2024, armed groups carried out arson or looting attacks against eight schools in Port-au-Prince, Gressier and Croix-des-Bouquets communes, West department, as reported by the UN.²⁶
- The UN reported that, in mid-May 2024, armed clashes near a school led staff to halt instruction for the day and send children home.²⁷

- Amnesty International and the UN reported that, during the night of August 2, 2024, in the Croix-des-Bouquets commune, West department, gang members attacked and looted the Montfort Institute, a school for deaf and deaf-blind children and young adults.²⁸ The gang members reportedly threatened children with guns, and took learning materials, staff vehicles, and the animals from the school farm. Over 60 students between the ages of three and 22, as well as 18 members of staff, were present during the attack and were only able to leave the following morning; staff reported that none were injured or killed, but that the students were not able to take assistive devices, such as hearing aids, with them when they left the school.

GCPEA identified at least 59 attacks on schools in 2025.²⁹ For example:

- As reported by the UN, on February 11, 2025, at a school in Port-au-Prince, stray bullets killed one student and injured another.³⁰
- On 26 April 2025, in Port-au-Prince, alleged members of an armed gang reportedly vandalized the Catholic Saint-Francois d'Assise High School, as reported by ACLED and local media.³¹
- On October 13, 2025, in Port-au-Prince, a drone reportedly fell near the National Sacred Heart Catholic School, causing students to panic, as reported by ACLED and local media.³² GCPEA was unable to establish whether the school was in session or whether any staff or students were harmed.
- On November 26, 2025, in Port-au-Prince, the Institution du Sacré-Coeur religious school was set on fire, destroying school buildings and the nuns' residence, as reported by ACLED and local media.³³

Attacks on school students, teachers, and other education personnel

GCPEA received reports of at least 55 attacks on school students, teachers, and other education personnel in 2024 and 2025.

GCPEA received reports of at least 52 attacks on school students, teachers, and other education personnel in 2024.³⁴ The UN reported that between April and June 2024, armed clashes had killed people walking to or from school, including young girls.³⁵

Separately, GCPEA identified two attacks in 2024:

- On January 17, 2025 in Port-au-Prince, six nuns, who were on their way to schools, were kidnapped, as reported by international media *La Presse*.³⁶
- On February 24, 2024, a teacher working at a religious mission was reportedly kidnapped in the Bicentenaire neighborhood, Port-au-Prince, as reported by international media *RFI*.³⁷ The school, which was reportedly the only school still operating in the area, was subsequently closed.

In 2025, GCPEA identified three attacks on school students, teachers, and other education personnel.³⁸ For example:

- On 31 March 2025, in Mirebalais, Centre department, two nuns were allegedly killed, at the Mirebalais National School where they taught, as reported by ACLED and local media.³⁹ Another girl who was with them was also injured, although GCPEA was unable to determine whether or not she was a student.
- On 14 June 14, 2025, in Cabaret, West department, unidentified armed individuals abducted four teachers inside a school, as reported by the UN.⁴⁰

Military use of schools and universities

GCPEA identified at least 27 reports of military use in the 2024-2025 reporting period.

The UN reported that 25 schools were used for military purposes in 2024.⁴¹ Separately, in July 2024, the UN reported that 20 schools in West department were occupied for military purposes.⁴² Since it is not clear whether this was included in the annual count, GCPEA has not included this number, to avoid double counting. GCPEA identified at least one incident of military use in 2024. Amnesty International reported that, on or after August 2, 2024, in the Croix-des-Bouquets commune, West department, an armed gang occupied the Montfort Institute, a school for deaf and deaf-blind children and young adults,⁴³ after attacking the school, as detailed above.

GCPEA identified two reports in 2025:

- As reported by the UN, from February 2025 alleged members of an armed group occupied the Peres Salesians de Don Bosco School in La Colline area, Gressier, West department. On March 13, 2025, armed civilians and members of the Protected Areas Security Brigade (BSAP) expelled over 100 alleged armed gang from the school, killing four of them with machetes inside the school.⁴⁴
- On March 31 and April 1, 2025, in Mirebalais, Centre department, alleged members of an armed gang reportedly took control of the Mirebalais High School, as reported by ACLED and local media.⁴⁵

Sexual violence at, or on the way to or from, school and university

GCPEA identified at least two cases of sexual violence at, or on the way to or from, school during the reporting period, although it is worth noting that many sources reported that this attack type was widespread,⁴⁶ and individual incidents are often underreported because of stigma and fear, among other reasons. For example, Amnesty International reported that girls faced sexual violence by gang members, both alone and in groups, or the threat thereof, on a daily basis, including on the way to or from school in 2024.⁴⁷

GCPEA identified two incidents of sexual violence at, or on the way to or from, school in 2024.

- On January 26, 2024, in Drouillard area, Cité Soleil commune, Port-au-Prince, three Terre Noire gang members raped and killed a 17-year-old girl who was on her way to school, as reported by the UN.⁴⁸
- On 12 February 2024 in the commune of Tabarre, Port-au-Prince, two teenage sisters were abducted by gang members on their way back from school and they were both raped by multiple perpetrators, as reported by Amnesty International.⁴⁹

At the time of writing, no attacks of sexual violence at, or on the way to or from, school or university, were identified in 2025.

Attacks on higher education

GCPEA identified two attacks on higher education during the current reporting period, both in 2025.

- On February 11, 2025, in Port-au-Prince, during armed clashes between police and gang members, a stray bullet hit and killed a male student who was on his way to the Centre for Diplomatic and International Studies, as reported by ACLED and local media.⁵⁰
- On November 1, 2025, in Port-au-Prince, alleged members of an armed gang reportedly set fire to a building associated with the Université Soleil d'Haïti, as reported by ACLED and local media.⁵¹

Endnotes

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