
CSSF Women, Peace and Security Helpdesk

Conflict-sensitive Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) Analysis in Haiti

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List of acronyms

BINUH	United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CSO	Civil Society Organisations
FCDO	Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
GBV	Gender-based Violence
GEDSI	Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IDP	Internally Displaced People
IOM	International Office for Migration
KII	Key Informants' Interviews
LGBT+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender/Transsexual+
MCFDF	Ministry for the Status of Women and Women's Rights
MSS	Multinational Security Support (Mission)
NAP	National Action Plan
NGO	Non-governmental Organisation
SEA	Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-based Violence
UN	United Nations
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
WLO	Women-led Organisations
WPS	Women, Peace and Security
WRO	Women's Rights Organisations

Table of contents

Introduction	5
Methodology	5
Limitation and challenges	6
Key research questions	6
Findings and analysis.....	7
Context.....	7
The impact of increased insecurity on local communities	7
Gender inequalities.....	7
The Women, Peace and Security Agenda.....	9
Critical areas	10
Situation of children	10
Kidnapping.....	11
Gender-based violence (GBV).....	12
Displacement sites.....	15
Rape as a weapon of war	16
Sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA)	17
Women’s voices matter	19
Entry points	21
Annexes	24
Bibliography.....	24
KII’s Guide.....	27
Sample of CSOs working with victims/survivors of GBV, minorities and women’s empowerment.....	288

Introduction

As **gang violence** in Haiti's capital, Port-au-Prince, continues to spread, several organisations and actors have identified **a pattern of violence which targets women and girls**. Against this backdrop, a Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) analysis has been conducted to better understand the impact of gang violence on local communities, with an emphasis on women and girls, to identify their most pressing needs and the actions to be taken to address them. The focus is on gender-based violence (GBV), sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), and the situation of children within the framework of displacement, kidnapping, and daily survival to access basic services. The analysis considers the gendered impact of gang violence with an **intersectional lens**.

Because of the deteriorating situation affecting women and girls in particular, one aspect of this research highlights **the urgency of supporting/reinforcing essential services** to help them cope with widespread incidents of GBV. For instance, **local women's organisations** are playing a key role in supporting GBV victims/survivors through a wide range of services (e.g., medical, psychosocial, shelters, financial, legal assistance), but are often lacking resources. As such, a mapping of civil society organisations (CSOs) gives an overview of services that are available and those that would need support and capacity-building.

Against the backdrop of daily violence in the country, the ongoing deployment of a **Kenyan-led multinational police force** is raising a few questions. The history of abuses and violations by the Kenyan police in the domestic context represents a threat to an already fragile human rights environment. In addition, SEA cases of women and girls were documented in previous United Nations (UN) peacekeeping missions in Haiti.

Beyond the provision of services and the strengthening of protection mechanisms, it is important to look into the role of women-led organisations (WLO) and **how women's empowerment could pave the way to gender equality**. Civil society occupies a central place in Haiti as a vector of change, filling the gaps of successive dysfunctional governments. Organisations that defined themselves as feminist have been at the forefront of the promotion of women's rights and their inclusion in national politics. In today's context of violence, women's organisations are one of the few actors capable of carrying women's claims and responding to their most pressing needs through their power of mobilisation and their first-hand knowledge of issues at stake within communities.

The specific focuses of this analysis, as set out in this introduction, were agreed in consultation with the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) in Haiti.

Methodology

The research is mainly a desk review, primarily drawing from a diverse range of **available secondary data** such as published research studies on the subject matter; reports and publications by international organisations, including UN agencies working in the country; reports from the UN Secretary-General on the situation in Haiti and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights; progress reports and assessments by UN committees for relevant conventions (e.g., Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; CEDAW); databases; reports, assessments, and surveys by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) (Save the Children, Concern Worldwide, Christian Aid, etc.). To ensure the relevance of

the data used to the current situation, the research only looked at data from the past 4-5 years, unless demonstrably significant.

In tandem, six key informants' interviews (KIs) were conducted to provide **primary data** on the situation in Haiti. The informants are members of the following organizations:

- Concern Worldwide
- International Office for Migration (IOM)
- SÉROvie¹ (local organisation providing medical and psychosocial support to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender/Transsexual [LGBT+] individuals and minority groups)
- TOYA Foundation² (local women's organisation providing psychosocial support to GBV survivors and mentoring of young women)
- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- UN Women

The metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince is the geographical scope of this analysis, with a few references made to the Department of Artibonite that has seen a significant rise in gang violence in the last two years.

Limitation and challenges

Scheduling remote interviews in Haiti was challenging because of the current chaos prevailing in the country, **rendering communication difficult**, especially with national/local interlocutors. Out of the five local organisations that were contacted ahead of time, only three responded (one respondent agreed to an interview but was not contactable later).

Importantly, very strong **ethical considerations** were applied, and interviews were not conducted with victims/survivors of violence who might be in a vulnerable situation and hesitant to discuss topics such as sexual violence and trauma. As a result, the research relied on existing testimonies and interviews that were conducted by credible organisations that had received participants' informed consent. That information is publicly accessible.

Key research questions

- What main GEDSI gaps need to be urgently addressed in Haiti today, in a context of increased armed violence by gangs and displacement of populations?
- What groups of the population are currently the most affected/at risk and how? For example, women, girls, men, boys, and gender-diverse individuals, people living with disabilities.
- In light of multiple (and verified) reports of GBV particularly affecting women and girls, are services provided to victims/survivors sufficient, accessible, and safe, for example, medical, psychosocial, temporary shelters, and legal assistance?
- What roles do CSOs – women's organisations in particular – play in risk mitigation and women's empowerment?

¹ SÉROvie has become one of the most important networks in HIV/AIDS management in Haiti.

² TOYA Foundation is named after Victoria Montou, known as Toya, one of the warriors who fought to obtain the independence of Haiti.

Findings and analysis

“We are alive, but we are not living.”³

1

Context

The impact of increased insecurity on local communities

Over the past few years, Haiti has been facing an unprecedented **multi-crisis situation**, including a devastating 7.2 magnitude earthquake that struck the southwestern region in 2021, and a cholera outbreak that was first reported in the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince in 2022. The country is once again confronted by a wave of chaos fuelled by gang wars, which have intensified since the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse in 2021.

In 2023, escalating gang violence in the capital Port-au-Prince exacerbated the crisis in a country which was already facing political instability and widespread poverty. Today, the situation is made even more difficult because the outbreak of violence has led to the loss of livelihoods, food insecurity for the population, internal displacement, and the collapse of essential services, such as education, healthcare, and psychosocial support.

The security turmoil has had a profound impact on the safety and well-being of Haitian women and girls. As often in situations of armed violence, **sexual violence has been used as a weapon of war** to instil fear, and to assert control and domination. According to the GBV Sub-Cluster in Haiti, over 3,000 cases of **rape** were reported from January to October 2023, **an increase of 49 per cent** compared to the same period of time in 2022. People have been forced to leave their homes, seeking shelter away from gang violence. This has led to an increase in GBV risk factors, given the growing number of internally displaced people (IDPs) in overcrowded sites in Port-au-Prince.⁴

Furthermore, **by reinforcing existing gendered inequalities of power**, the food crisis and displacement have increased the risk of GBV. When harmful social norms and patriarchal power dynamics limit women’s rights, voices, and roles in society – norms which are at the root of their vulnerability to violence – women have limited abilities to cope with the challenges they face.

Gender inequalities

Discrimination based on gender as well as **pre-existing inequalities** has exacerbated the current ordeal of women and girls, exposing them to higher risks of insecurity and violence. Although legislation has evolved over the years to better protect them, the rate of violence against women and girls, in all its forms, has steadily increased during recent years. The consolidation of legal instruments to protect victims/survivors has not matched that pace.

³ Concern Worldwide, *“We are alive, but we are not living”*: A crisis of violence in Haiti, 6 October 2022.

⁴ Interview with UNFPA, 28 June 2024.

Context of the current crisis

- **Poverty:** Nearly 90% of Haitians live below the poverty line, with nearly a third of them living in extreme poverty (US\$2.15/day).
- **Food insecurity:** 18% of the analysed population is classified as Phase 4 (Emergency) and 31% as Phase 3 (Crisis), representing 49% of the population in need of urgent action to protect lives and save livelihoods (March to June 2023).
- **Health:** Recurring fuel shortages, a lack of trained staff due to a mass exodus of health workers, and a lack of supplies have been affecting 73% of the 22 largest health facilities.
- **Protection:** In the first quarter of 2023, at least 807 people were killed/lynched (up 107% from the last quarter of 2022), 746 injured (up 114%), and 627 kidnapped (up 125%).
- **Displacement:** 62% of IDPs from the urban violence have sought refuge in host communities whose living conditions have also been severely disrupted.

[Haiti: Humanitarian Response Plan 2023 At a Glance \(April 2023\)](#)

➤ Legislation

Haiti signed the most relevant international instruments related to gender equality and women's rights. It ratified the CEDAW⁵ in 1981 and the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention and Eradication of Violence against Women in 1997. It also adopted the Cairo Program of Action on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action.

With regards to violence against women, a 2005 decree modified existing law and officially **recognised rape as a punishable crime**⁶ (previously considered an "offense against morals"). However, for most of the survivors, justice – and adequate support – remain elusive and impunity remains the norm (cases are often not investigated and perpetrators not prosecuted rigorously). The Penal Code criminalises all forms of abortion and mandates penalties for medical practitioners and women involved.

In 2014, the Office to Combat Violence against Women was created, whose management was formalised through a protocol signed by three ministries: Ministry for the Status of Women and Women's Rights (MCFDF), Ministry of Health, and Ministry of Justice. In 2017, the MCFDF⁷ adopted a national plan to address violence against women and girls. However, that plan has yet to be implemented due to a lack of human, technical, and financial resources.

In addition, Haiti signed and ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1994. The Office of the Secretary of State for the Integration of People with Disabilities was created by presidential decree in 2007 with responsibility to establish a legal framework for the protection of people with disabilities. The country adopted the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2009.

⁵ Haiti, as a State Party to CEDAW, is obligated to act with due diligence to eliminate socio-cultural patterns and stereotypes that promote discrimination against women.

⁶ Décret du 11 août 2005 portant modifications du régime des agressions sexuelles.

⁷ On average, the MCFDF's budget does not exceed one per cent of the total government's budget.

The Women, Peace, and Security Agenda

In 2000, the UN adopted Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security (WPS)⁸, emphasising the impact of armed conflict on women and girls and promoting their involvement in peace and security-related matters and processes.

However, more than two decades after the adoption of Resolution 1325, **Haiti has not yet developed its own National Action Plan (NAP)**, mainly due to a combination of factors, for example, lack of commitment, absence of leadership, lack of funds, and political instability. The drafting of a national strategy and an implementation plan could guide different actors to respect their commitment to the WPS agenda. A NAP would be very relevant in the current context as it would provide a framework to promote the meaningful participation of women in peace and political and transition processes as well as to fight against GBV and promote women's rights in the post-crisis situation.⁹

Furthermore, Kenya – which is leading the deployment of a Multinational Security Support (MSS) mission – developed a National Action Plan¹⁰ in response to Resolution 1325, which outlines concrete commitments to addressing gender-related issues, including protecting women and girls from sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). As witnessed in past international missions, introducing foreign troops into Haiti exposes the population to SEA, particularly women and children.

As a result, the MSS mission will be an opportunity for Kenya to fulfil its commitments within the WPS agenda and for the international community, together with the Haitian government, to uphold their obligations to the Haitian people.

Snapshot of gender inequalities

- Haiti ranks **138 out of 155 countries in the Gender Inequality Index**.
- Around **44% of Haitian families are female headed households** and women represent the majority of people living in extreme poverty.
- **1 in 7 women** have experienced physical and/ or sexual intimate partner violence in the last 12 months (2023).
- **Pregnancy related complications** are responsible for nearly a quarter (24%) of all deaths of girls aged between 15 and 19.
- **Women earn on average 32% less than men**, and the unemployment rate is twice as high for women as it is for men (this disparity is even greater in rural areas).
- **Extremely low levels of women's participation in decision making** mean that in 2018, there was 1 woman senator (out of 30 members) and 3 congresswomen (out of 99 members) in Parliament.

(UN Women 2018; World Bank 2023)

⁸ United Nations Security Council, Resolution 1325, [S/RES/1325 \(2000\)](#), 31 October 2000.

⁹ In February 2024, the UN Women office in Haiti advertised the position of international expert for the development of Haiti's first NAP on UN Resolution 1325.

¹⁰ Kenya, [National Action Plan](#) for the Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 and Related Resolutions.

2

Critical areas

For the sake of clarity, the critical areas below are described separately. However, they should be understood as intertwined and treated as **cross-cutting issues**.

Situation of children

School closures due to security concerns put children at risk not only of setbacks and loss of education but also of recruitment by armed groups. According to a June 2024 rapid gender assessment conducted by UN Women¹¹ in displacement sites in Port-au-Prince, **90 per cent of children living in the surveyed sites no longer go to school**. In addition to recurrent obstacles such as costs and inadequate infrastructure, most schools are no longer functional and some of them are being used to house displaced people.

According to UNICEF's 2023 country office annual report, violence perpetrated by gangs had a dire impact on children's lives. In neighbourhoods controlled by armed groups where more than 500,000 children live, they are witnesses or victims of armed violence:

Adolescents are particularly vulnerable to recruitment by armed groups. While numbers are difficult to assess, estimates indicate that 30–50% of members of armed groups are children and adolescents.¹²

Gang members use children for different tasks, including as cooks, cleaners, 'wives', or acting as lookouts. On the issue of child and forced marriage, the organisation Girls Not Brides¹³ reports that 15 per cent of girls in Haiti are married or in a union before their 18th birthday and 2 per cent are married or in a union before the age of 15 (compared to 2 per cent of boys who are married or in a union before their 18th birthday). In times of crisis, families often see forced marriage as a way to cope with greater economic hardship.

Save the Children confirms that many children have been forced to join armed groups, while others have joined 'willingly' as a measure of survival:

The hunger situation is so desperate our staff are hearing stories of children joining deadly gangs just so they can get food to eat – putting their lives and futures at risk. Unaccompanied children are at the greatest risk of recruitment.¹⁴

An article from The New Humanitarian describes how children and teenagers can earn anywhere between a few dollars for running errands to roughly \$40 or more a week for other tasks:

One 13-year-old earned more than \$50 – no small amount when most Haitians live on less than \$2 a day – for alerting gang members to a kidnapping target's whereabouts.¹⁵

¹¹ Interview with UN Women, 2 July 2024.

¹² UNICEF, [Country Office Annual Report](#), Haiti, 2023, p.2.

¹³ Girls Not Brides, [Haiti](#), Child Marriage Atlas.

¹⁴ Save the Children, [Extreme hunger in Haiti forcing children into armed gangs](#), 8 May 2024.

¹⁵ The New Humanitarian, [Can Haiti's gangs help build a better future for the country?](#), 14 February 2022.

In the current situation, it is not unusual for girls to be compelled to take care of themselves and their siblings, either because their parents have died or because they have been separated/abandoned. For boys, one solution for their survival might be to join a gang, thus running the risk of being influenced by gang members to carry weapons and increasing their exposure to acts of violence.¹⁶

In February 2024, Concern Worldwide conducted an assessment of protection risks in a displacement site in Port-au-Prince.¹⁷ The findings highlight how children are stressed by their chaotic living conditions and **struggling to overcome trauma** caused by endemic violence. They live in fear as soon as they hear automatic weapons fire. These traumatic experiences can have a long-term impact on their psychological balance. In this climate of despair, parents tend to neglect their primary responsibilities of care, leading to reduced supervision of children who have been observed playing violent games, picking up sticks, and simulating gun battles. In the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince, there have been reports of children being separated from their parents, as they attempted to flee their neighbourhoods in search for a safe shelter. Some families are still unaware of the whereabouts of their children, unsure whether they have been victims of abduction by the gangs or executed.¹⁸

Kidnapping

According to a UN report, kidnappings were reported across the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince and the Artibonite Department. At least 438 people (234 men, 183 women, and 21 children) were kidnapped for ransom between 1 January and 31 March 2023.¹⁹

A pattern of abuse continues to be documented:

*Kidnapped women and girls are subjected to sexual violence, used as bargaining chips, and considered as 'prizes' since the gangs choose young girls who are close to the front line or who live in neighbourhoods that are not yet controlled in order to take possession of territories. They are sometimes killed.*²⁰

A UN report on Human Rights in Haiti²¹ highlights that **sexual violence against kidnapping victims** continues to be used as a means of forcing their families to pay ransom. Kidnappings remain an important source of income for many gangs.

*Testimonies from victims and witnesses indicated that kidnapping victims were sometimes raped several times by multiple armed captors in abandoned houses where they were held for weeks. Moreover, gang members have coerced young women, girls and sometimes, men, into becoming their 'sexual partners', in exchange for food, water and 'protection'.*²²

According to the local organisation SÉRoVie,²³ a new kidnapping trend has been observed for the past few months. Gang members kidnap women and girls and submit them to **collective rape**, but do not contact their families for ransom. Eventually they release them and kidnap new

¹⁶ Interview with IOM, 11 June 2024.

¹⁷ Concern Worldwide, Rapport d'évaluation des risques protection: Personnes déplacées de Pernier, Ecole Joseph C. Bernard de Frères, 10-12 February 2024, p.6.

¹⁸ Interview with Concern Worldwide, 10 July 2024.

¹⁹ United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH), Report of the Secretary General, S/2024/310, 16 April 2024, p.8.

²⁰ Delhaye Clara, The Alarming Situation of Haitian Women in the Face of Gang Violence, Gender in Geopolitics Institute, 12 November 2023.

²¹ United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH), Rapport trimestriel Droits de l'Homme (in French), January-March 2023, p.4.

²² UN Secretary General, Report of the Secretary General, Conflict-related sexual violence (Haiti, pp. 27-29), S/2023/413, 22 June 2023.

²³ Interview with SÉRoVie, 21 June 2024.

victims. They operate in complicity with motorcycle-taxi drivers who pick up their female passengers and drive them directly to the gangs.

Gender-based violence (GBV)

*Gender-based violence (GBV) in Haiti is one of the biggest challenges to protecting gender rights. Although men and boys may also experience violence due to their marginality or sexual identity, women and girls are more disproportionately affected.*²⁴

Research on GBV was carried out by the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime in 2022 in the impoverished and densely populated neighbourhood of Cité Soleil in Port-au-Prince. The research found that:

*80% of the women and girls who participated in the study had been victims of one or more forms of GBV by one or multiple perpetrators. While the research sample is not extensive, this is an alarming rate of GBV experienced by women and girls in the community.*²⁵

In addition, the research found that current or former partners were the most cited perpetrator (44 per cent). Alarming, the second highest group was strangers (including gangs and kidnappers) with 33 per cent of respondents reporting one or more assailant in this category. This contrasts with 17 per cent reporting a family member and 16 per cent reporting a friend or friend of the family.

According to the GBV Sub-Cluster in Haiti (June 2023), a standardised system to document GBV cases is currently lacking. The consequence is that **many GBV cases go unreported**, and available data is incomplete or unreliable. Access to GBV services in communities controlled by armed gangs remains a challenge, while facilities are becoming inaccessible. Existing shelters for victims/survivors of sexual violence are overcrowded and the use of alternative shelters like hotels is becoming more expensive.²⁶

According to UNAIDS, the current crisis has also exacerbated the vulnerability of people living with or affected by Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), particularly women and girls:

*The feminization of HIV has long been a feature of the Haiti pandemic with HIV prevalence for females at 2.3%, compared to 1.6% among men. Still, the continuing multi-faceted and profound crisis, fuelled by such levels of violence, is exposing thousands of women to HIV infection.*²⁷

²⁴ Christian Aid, [Addressing impunity for gender-based violence among displaced communities in Haiti](#). Community perspectives on barriers to accountability and justice, March 2023, March 2023, p. 12.

²⁵ Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime, [Gang control and Security Vacuums, Assessing Gender-Based Violence in Cité Soleil, Haiti](#), May 2023, p. 3.

²⁶ Interview with UNFPA, 28 June 2024.

²⁷ UNAIDS, [Supporting women and girls affected by gang violence in Haiti](#), 29 June 2023.

The GBV situation

- From January to March 2024, **1,793** incidents of GBV, including **75% sexual violence**, 15% physical assault, and 10% psychological/emotional violence, were reported by service providers within the GBV Sub-Cluster.
- There has been **a significant increase in the number of reported cases**. The number of cases reported in March 2024 is 5 times higher than the number of cases reported between January and February 2024.
- **The majority of victims/survivors are women (80%) and girls (14%).**
- Most GBV victims/survivors have **IDP status** (78%, with 66% living in host communities and 12% in a displacement site).

[GBV Sub-Cluster in Haiti \(2024\)](#)

➤ Importance of trauma counselling

The social stigma of sexual violence leads many rape survivors to carry the burden in silence. The normalisation of GBV at the community level is a key factor in perpetuating GBV impunity:

*Women's associations and social workers believe that **gender and cultural norms that shame and blame women** play a role in survivors and their families remaining silent about the assault to avoid stigmatization from their community members.²⁸*

Haiti's male-dominated, patriarchal culture remains powerful. Because of the perceived shame a victim brings to her family, victim blaming is common in Haiti, which discourages survivors from reporting sexual violence. **Guilt is placed on the survivor**, who is likely to face psychological trauma and fear. Survivors are also revictimised in the sense that they are devalued in society, which can have an impact on their self-esteem, sense of purpose, and well-being. In the case of rape perpetrated by gangs, there is a considerable chance that the survivors will face reprisal by the perpetrators if they were to come forward.²⁹ Hence, **a culture of silence**. The impact of GBV on mental and physical health can have considerable consequences for individuals, families and communities. As the psychosocial consequences of GBV are devastating and lasting, the usual medical care (alone) can't bring necessary relief to the victims/survivors.

As well as for GBV, it is important to highlight the importance of psychosocial counselling for all people experiencing recurrent violence, often witnessing harrowing violations of human rights. In the existing context, the social fabric has been torn apart, and people's self-esteem and confidence are very low, especially among young people. Establishing and reinforcing **psychosocial support services and counselling sessions** is essential to assist victims of trauma in overcoming their difficult experiences and rebuild their mental well-being; this should be treated as a priority.³⁰

The **IDEO Foundation** has provided highly valuable support on psychological trauma following the various crises the country has faced. Following the 2010 earthquake, its team worked with a Haitian NGO, URAMEL (Medico-Legal Research and Action Unit), in establishing the CPTH (Psycho-Trauma Centre of Haiti), the first psycho-trauma centre in Haiti.

²⁸ Christian Aid, *op.cit.*, p.26.

²⁹ Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, "[Haiti: Situation and treatment of survivors of sexual violence and domestic violence, including stigmatization and revictimization](#)", August 2020.

³⁰ Interview with Concern Worldwide, 10 July 2024.

➤ **Importance of providing justice to victims/survivors**

In a [2023 report](#), Christian Aid highlighted that GBV victims/survivors lacked awareness of and information about the different steps needed to seek justice. Overall, they found navigating the justice system very confusing and difficult. Accessing justice is expensive and often beyond the means of GBV victims/survivors and their families, particularly those from displaced communities.

Furthermore, victims/survivors are required to obtain a **medical certificate** within 72 hours of a sexual assault³¹ to proceed with their cases, although it is not legally mandatory:

Although Haitian law does not mandate it, in practice, the medical certificate detailing the injuries to the survivor's body becomes a vital part of the prosecution process because a survivor's testimony is not legally sufficient.³²

Indeed, by requiring a medical certificate in SGBV-related prosecutions, the Haitian justice system reinforces a deep-seated cultural belief that a woman's testimony is inherently untrustworthy. Lack of interrogative protection, coupled with open gender discrimination, often lead women to endure harassment and distrust at trial. As a result, victims/survivors of sexual violence justifiably **lack confidence in the justice system and are reluctant to testify and seek redress**:

Haiti lacks evidentiary rules—such as rape shield statutes—that protect rape victims from in-court testimonial inquiries that can be humiliating and re-traumatizing.³³

There is a specialised unit of the Haitian National Police which deals with GBV (a focal point is supposed to work on GBV cases in each police station in the country). However, for the most part **police services are not survivor-centered**. In terms of justice, there is no specialised jurisdiction for these crimes, as is the case in South Africa for example. The majority of judges of the courts and tribunals in Haiti have received training in GBV, but without specialising;³⁴ for example, investigating judges might not have adequate training to address the particular sensitivities of victims of sexual violence.

The current crisis underscores the fact that **legal reforms must be undertaken to provide justice to GBV victims/survivors and end Haiti's cycle of impunity**.

³¹ A timely visit to a medical professional ensures that critical evidence will be preserved for use during a subsequent prosecution.

³² Christian Aid, *op.cit.*, p.20.

³³ Lankenau, Shannon, [Towards effective access to justice in Haiti: Eliminating the medical certificate requirement in rape prosecutions](#), *Hastings Law Journal*, Vol. 64:1759, August 2013, p.12.

³⁴ Toussaint, Georges Margarete, [Juge et Juge d'instruction, Tribunal de Première Instance de Fort-Liberté, Comment la justice en Haïti protège les victimes de violences sexuelles et sexistes?](#) International Association of Women Judges, 14 June 2024.

The ordeal of a victim of sexual violence

- **Finding transport to reach a health centre:** expensive, fear of kidnaping.
- **Suspension of some services in clinics:** shortage of staff, gang violence.
- **Women fail to reach a clinic within the 72-hour window for emergency contraception:** only 3% of women manage to receive medical assistance.
- **Shortage of mental health care workers:** long-term psychosocial counselling not available.
- **Most rapes go unreported:** patriarchal gender norms/stigmatisation/fear of reprisal.
- **Lack of protection in displacement sites:** overcrowded, 76% of sites lack adequate lighting, 31% of sites have no latrines, and for sites that do, toilets are for both sexes.

[The New Humanitarian \(2023\)](#)

Displacement sites

IOM reports that almost half of IDPs in Port-au-Prince have had to leave their temporary accommodation in host communities and that they now reside in vulnerable conditions in improvised sites, nearly doubling the figure from the end of 2022.³⁵ This indicates a trend of growing fatigue in host communities and families. Indeed, **the majority of IDPs first sought safety with friends and family in other communities**. When hosting displaced people, communities have to share their limited resources with them. As the crisis drags on, their capacity is eroding.

In addition, high levels of insecurity are creating a climate of mistrust between certain host communities and displaced populations, thus deteriorating social cohesion. This situation is causing displaced people to leave the relative safety of these homes for improvised displacement sites where they are exposed to **additional risks, including communal violence, SGBV, discrimination, and outright abuse**.³⁶

Furthermore, women are excluded from decision-making positions that could make a difference in how the sites are organised in terms of protection and access to and control over resources. UN Women's Gender Rapid Assessment shows that, of the total number of people **involved in the management of displacement sites, only two per cent are women**.³⁷ For example, security systems are poor in the sites surveyed, and often there is no lighting and no toilets. This lack of privacy creates safety problems for women and girls. If women had been consulted about protection-related issues, they could have offered solutions for risk mitigation.

➤ [LGBT+ individuals](#)³⁸

LGBT+ individuals are particularly at risk of violence in makeshift displacement sites because of their sexual identity and/or diverse gender identity. As a result, they keep quiet and GBV victims/survivors are **reluctant to seek assistance because they are afraid of being**

³⁵ IOM, [Displaced Haitians Face Greater Risks in Improvised Sites](#), 16 August 2023.

³⁶ Interview with IOM, 11 June 2024.

³⁷ UN Women, *Rapid Gender Analysis in Displacement Sites in Port-au-Prince*, Preliminary Report, 18 June 2024.

³⁸ FCDO uses the acronym LGBT+.

identified. For their own protection, they don't want the host community to know who they are. Invisibility protects them to a certain extent, but can put their health in jeopardy.

Although Haitian law does not criminalise sexual acts between members of the same sex, LGBT+ individuals are often harassed by the police and arbitrarily arrested under 'immorality and indecency' charges. Stereotypes and discrimination against LGBT+ people are well anchored in the cultural beliefs of the population. Awareness raising and educating the population on LGBT+ rights remain to be done.³⁹

A local organisation Kouraj works to integrate LGBT+ people into the broader fight for the respect for and protection of human rights in Haiti.⁴⁰

➤ **People living with disabilities**

Although disabilities are recognised as affecting a significant portion of the Haitian population, there are no recent accurate estimates of the number of people with disabilities in Haiti. In 2021, the World Bank **estimated that approximately four per cent of the Haitian population aged five and over were living with some form of disability.**⁴¹

The current crisis affects the whole population but has a particular impact on people with disabilities and their families. Many of them, already facing health problems, find themselves **without access to adequate healthcare services and are suffering from serious mental health problems.** As Haiti does not have a system in place for collecting data disaggregated by age, sex, origin, and disability, there are no precise figures for disabled people displaced because of gang violence. People with disabilities are often disowned by their families as they are perceived to be a burden.⁴²

Women living with a disability are doubly impacted by crises than men. In spite of their disability, they often continue to take care of household-related chores. Prevailing norms about the division of labour mean that women are still expected to shoulder the burden of household chores more generally; for example, caretakers for children and the elderly, preparing meals, and cleaning. And if, on top of that, women living with a disability are pregnant or breastfeeding, their situation becomes even more problematic in times of crises. Furthermore, they are at a high risk of experiencing GBV and face difficulties in reporting abuses and seeking assistance, because, for example, lack of access to information about available services, difficulties in accessing transportation, and fear of stigmatisation.

The local organisation **UFMORH**⁴³ works to ensure that the rights of women and girls living with disabilities are respected and advocates for their autonomy and inclusion in society.

Rape as a weapon of war

The use of rape as a weapon isn't a new phenomenon in Haiti. During the military regime in the 1990s, armed men sexually assaulted civilians as a means of suppressing political opposition and resistance. But now, as gang abuses and criminal activities have reached unprecedented levels, transforming urban areas into battlefields, **the use of rape as a weapon has become a systemic feature of gang violence.**

³⁹ Interview with SÉRoVie, 21 June 2024.

⁴⁰ Charlot Jeudy, the President of Kouraj, was found dead at his home in November 2019. Investigations into the circumstances of his death reached a deadend.

⁴¹ Groupe de la Banque Mondiale, [Vers une plus grande inclusion pour les Haïtiens vivant avec un handicap](#), 17 décembre 2021.

⁴² Neas Emilio, [Analysis of the consequences of armed conflicts on people with disabilities in Haiti in light of Article 11 of the CRPD](#), International Disability Alliance, June 2023.

⁴³ Union of Women living with reduced mobility of Haiti.

Gangs continue to use sexual violence, including gang rape and mutilation, to **terrorise and punish populations living in areas controlled by rival groups**. For example, at least 49 women were collectively raped during April 2023 during gang attacks against the population of the Brooklyn area of Cité Soleil slum. A 3 July 2023 report from the UN Secretary General explains that:

*In this area [...], women and girls are exposed to the risk of being raped daily as they try to go to work or gain access to services. After being raped, seven victims were killed, and their bodies disposed of publicly.*⁴⁴

UN quarterly reports on the situation of human rights in Haiti continued to document the trend throughout 2023, acknowledging that **every attack on neighbourhoods motivated by territorial expansion was accompanied by sexual abuse**. According to a Human Rights Watch's report,⁴⁵ Médecins Sans Frontières, which manages several hospitals in the capital Port-au-Prince, reported that between January and May 2023 the organisation treated a total of 1,005 survivors of sexual violence, **almost twice the number recorded during from the same period in 2022**.

Some gangs use sexual violence as a form of **control to demonstrate that they are the new authority** in areas where they were not previously present, whereas other armed groups use it to **punish residents** who oppose their presence in the neighbourhoods.⁴⁶

In the Cité Soleil slum, women and girls using the only available road to exit Brooklyn were intercepted by gangs of rival neighbourhoods and subjected to collective rape. In January 2023, one of the victims, a 17-year-old girl, while using this route to go to school, was caught by a group of armed individuals and raped several times by multiple perpetrators. She was then shot to death.⁴⁷

A UN Human Rights report mentions receiving detailed accounts of sexual violence committed by gangs against older women:

*These incidents aim to humiliate the victims and to break apart the social fabric, given the respect for the elderly in the Haitian culture. When asked by her family what had happened to her, one of these victims, afraid of being stigmatized for the sexual assault that she had suffered, only told them that she had been beaten up and robbed by armed men.*⁴⁸

Sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA)

SEA has been documented by several organisations, highlighting how women and girls use negative coping mechanism to survive:

*Most children and families we're speaking to are struggling to even find one meal a day, and often eat expired food. Single mothers have also told our teams that they were considering or have done sex work to support their children.*⁴⁹

Poverty and unemployment mean that women and girls are encouraged by their own families or friends to form so-called 'relationships' with members of armed groups in order to support themselves. According to the UN Women's Rapid Gender Assessment, **10.8 per cent of**

⁴⁴ United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH), Report of the Secretary General, S/2023/492, 3 July 2023, p.6.

⁴⁵ Human Rights Watch, Living a Nightmare, 14 August 2023, p. 24.

⁴⁶ *Idem*, p. 23.

⁴⁷ United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH), S/2024/310, *op.cit.*, p.9.

⁴⁸ UNOHCHR/BINUH, Sexual violence in Port-au-Prince: A weapon used by gangs to instil fear, October 2022, p.10.

⁴⁹ Save the Children, *op.cit.*

women living in displacement sites in Port-au-Prince reported having resorted to sexual intercourse to meet their needs, at least once.⁵⁰

At a UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights press conference on 6 May 2024,⁵¹ UN experts explained that displaced women and girls who live in inadequate and precarious displacement sites in the capital city are particularly vulnerable to sexual violence and abuse.

They also warned about the increased risk and prevalence of trafficking of women and girls for the purpose of sexual exploitation and sexual slavery. However, this information on trafficking could not be substantiated. As regards the deployment of a multinational force in Haiti, in a 3 June 2024 press release, Amnesty International warned that:

*Past multinational or foreign security missions in Haiti have been tarnished by widespread human rights violations and rampant impunity. That is why all the necessary measures must be taken both prior to and for the entire duration of any deployment in Haiti to prevent history from repeating itself.*⁵²

The UN security Council Resolution 2699 authorising the MSS mission has clear requirements to ensure the highest standards of transparency, but information about the rules, procedures, and structure have not been made public (yet)⁵³. Also missing is **an accountability mechanism to investigate human rights violations, in particular SEA**. Although there were reports of pre-deployment training on gender and prevention of SEA for the Kenyan police force, it is not clear at this stage if they will receive context-specific training/briefing on gender and SEA once deployed.

⁵⁰ Interview with UN Women, 2 July 2024.

⁵¹ UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, [Press release: Women and girls bear the brunt of crisis ravaging Haiti](#), 06 May 2024.

⁵² Amnesty International, [Haiti: Concern about lack of transparency in multinational security support \(MSS\) mission deployment](#), 4 June 2024.

⁵³ UN Security Council, [Resolution 2699, S/RES/2699 \(2023\)](#), 02 October 2023.

3

Women's voices matter

Victims/survivors of violence are facing a multiplicity of impacts, which run across several aspects of their lives. Any responses that are meant to be transformative and effective must encompass medical and psychosocial assistance as well as economic and political support and (re)build the capacity of women to have their voices heard.⁵⁴

The structural drivers of GBV must be addressed to prevent and to mitigate (re)occurrence of violence. Primarily, structural political, economic, and social inequalities in all their forms, in particular gender-related power imbalances within a society, need to be addressed to prevent conflict.

The role of Haitian CSOs, including WLOs, is crucial in the current context of urban violence perpetuated by armed gangs. Indeed, because CSOs operate in close proximity to local and grassroots communities, they understand the socio-cultural context better than the government and international organisations. However, one of the main and recurrent difficulties that women's organisations face is the lack of available and accessible funding. CSOs' limited resources directly impact the quality of programmes, their scope, and the very implementation of projects in the long run.⁵⁵

Several grassroots organisations that work with women who have been victims of violence are organised around professional or social advocacy and are composed of women who are often survivors of violence themselves:

*They work on the ground in the area where their members are from and relay the cases of women victims to the non-governmental and international organisations they are in touch with.*⁵⁶

Although they are filling the gaps of governmental interventions, these organisations have a limited influence because of their financial insecurity and a lack of continuity in their actions. Their funding depends mainly on international donors who set up **short-term programmes**, which do not allow them to operate on a sustainable basis in the country, for example, to pay rent, staff salaries, and daily administrative costs.⁵⁷

⁵⁴ Interview with TOYA Foundation, 19 June 2024.

⁵⁵ ACTED, [ACTED supports 15 feminist organisations in Haiti](#), 2021.

⁵⁶ Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, *op.cit.*

⁵⁷ Interview with TOYA Foundation, 19 June 2024.

Maison Claire Heureuse

In 2023, Pascale Solages, the Coordinator of Nèges Mawon, a feminist organisation committed to improving the conditions of women and girls in Haiti, announced the opening of a reception and accommodation centre in the West Department. This initiative is in tribute to Claire Heureuse, Haiti's first empress and first war nurse.

The mission of Maison Claire Heureuse is to [provide support and assistance to women and girls survivors of violence](#), with a capacity to accommodate 30 individuals simultaneously over a maximum period of four months. In addition to accommodation, the House offers medical, psychological, and legal services aimed at supporting these women and girls in their healing process. Through its 'marrainage' programme, Nèges Mawon has already supported 415 women and girls who are rape survivors in 2023 ('marrainage' consists of pairing a woman victim of sexual violence with another woman, the 'godmother', who is herself a survivor).

➤ Participation of women in the transition

The participation of women in the current political transition would allow structural changes in society to be sustainable and more inclusive, by allowing them to have a voice in the post-crisis rehabilitation process. Human rights organisations and feminist advocates are mobilising and calling for the full inclusion of women in Haiti's transition process. As explained in their 3 June 2024 statement, signed by 13 organisations:

Human rights and feminist organizations in Haiti and the U.S. demand that Haiti's male-dominated transition process start to include women as required by Haitian and international law [...]. Women are leaders in community organizations, business, healthcare, education, and everywhere else. We are so frequently the first and last response in emergencies. Yet in this pivotal moment in Haiti's democracy, we are being given nothing but a chance to watch men make decisions from the observer seat.⁵⁸

On 11 June 2024, several media outlets⁵⁹ reported that, out of the 14 ministers of the new Haitian government, only 4 were women. And only one woman, without the right to vote, sits on the transitional presidential council (no woman had been approached to occupy the post of prime minister). Such a token inclusion is a violation of Haiti's Constitution, which guarantees women equality of participation.⁶⁰

⁵⁸ Center for Gender and Refugee Studies, [Human rights and feminist advocates demand full participation of women in Haiti's transition](#), 3 June 2024.

⁵⁹ <https://www.lapresse.ca/international/caraibes/2024-06-11/haiti/un-nouveau-gouvernement-est-omme.php>; <https://www.alterpresse.org/spip.php?article30549>

⁶⁰ In response to chronic failures to respect women's political rights, the Constitution was amended in 2012 to explicitly require 30 per cent participation by women in all public offices.

Entry points

It has been well-documented that gender equality is **the strongest indicator of peace**.⁶¹

Among the critical actions that a 2024 GBV Sub-Cluster's needs analysis highlighted to meet the needs of individuals at immediate risk of GBV, one listed action is of particular interest in the current environment:

- ◆ *Reinforce a community-based protection approach as well as **localisation efforts** by supporting women's groups/WLOs for their meaningful participation in GBV risk mitigation.*⁶²

Indeed, in addition to the immediate response to GBV in the provision of services, it is important to focus on empowering women within their own community. As a Médecins Sans Frontières report highlighted:

*The consequences of SGBV are physical and psychological, but they are also social and economic. SGBV affects not only the survivors, but also their families and communities.*⁶³

Facing all these challenges, women's CSOs are making significant efforts to tackle all forms of violence against women and girls, as well as to fight for the recognition of their rights, including access to employment, health services, education, and decision-making processes. Gender equality and the equal participation of men and women in leadership roles are vital for the rehabilitation of the country. Engaging in dialogue between the government and CSOs willing to participate in the rehabilitation of Haiti is crucial, emphasising the importance of cooperation with WLOs. **It is also important to develop a feminist analysis of the key spheres of life that will be affected by the post-crisis phase, including the economy, infrastructure, social services, education, and healthcare.**

In a recent landmark white paper on international development, the FCDO said it would "work towards a more inclusive and **more locally-led approach**"⁶⁴ and "[...] locally-led women's rights organisations (WROs) should be at the heart of setting development priorities in their communities".⁶⁵

a) **As a result, possible actions by FCDO could be:**

- Local organisations involved in GBV prevention and response need to be reinforced, especially WLOs that are providing crucial services to victims/survivors. Mental health and disability are fields that are largely neglected. **FCDO could support a few local organisations in critical areas such as trauma counselling and access to services for people living with disabilities.** Greater and more efficient collaboration between the entities involved in the GBV response would therefore be encouraged and reinforced.

⁶¹ For example, O'Reilly Marie, "Why Women?", Inclusive Security and Peaceful Societies, Report, Inclusive Security, October 2015; Women International League for Peace & Freedom, "Does gender equality lead to peace?", Fact Sheet building on the Global Study on 1325, 2015.

⁶² GBV Sub-Cluster in Haiti, Crisis in Haiti, GBV situation brief, update 26 April 2024.

⁶³ Médecins Sans Frontières, "Against their will: Sexual and Gender-Based Violence on Haiti", 12 July 2017, p. 19.

⁶⁴ UK International Development, International development in a contested world: Ending extreme poverty and tackling climate change, A White Paper on International Development November 2023, p.31.

⁶⁵ *Ibid.*, p.79.

- Furthermore, as women and girls get better access to services, including psychosocial support, they also need access to justice to get redress and to heal from the trauma induced by the violence they have been subjected to. In that sense, **FCDO could accompany local entities/associations, in cooperation with the Haitian government, in jointly designing/funding a justice and reparation programme for GBV victims/survivors.**

In large part due to the work of grassroots organisations like KOFIVIV and Women Victims Get Up Stand Up⁶⁶ (FAVILEK) and groups like the Office of International Lawyers (Bureau des Avocats Internationaux), women have been much less reticent to report sexual violence. These groups have made considerable progress in **sensitising women and girls to seek support**, obtain critical medical care immediately after an attack, and file complaints with the police. Nonetheless, awareness of and access to these support services remains unavailable in many communities outside Port-au-Prince. Shortages of financial and other resources also place severe constraints on women's organisations that provide these services.

The FCDO could reinvigorate previous initiatives to mitigate GBV-related risks and provide appropriate responses, including legal support. In response to the epidemic of violence and sexual assault in displacement camps in the wake of the 12 January 2010 earthquake, the Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti and the Office of International Lawyers joined KOFIVIV and FAVILEK as well as international partners to launch the **Haiti Rape Accountability and Prevention Project**. The project brought together direct legal services, medico-legal partnerships, community organising, and public advocacy to secure justice for individual survivors, establish legal precedent for prosecution of GBV in Haitian courts, and empower women and girls.⁶⁷

A list of recommended CSOs for **FCDO to consider supporting, including WLOs**, is provided in **Annex IV** for easy reference. Each of them is well-embedded within the social fabric of society and provides a wide range of services for women and girls, LGBT+ individuals, people living with disabilities, as well as leadership courses for women and political advocacy.

b) [Here are suggestions for possible further actions should FCDO decide to address more issues raised in this report:](#)

- **School closures** are a major issue affecting children, with gendered consequences; for example, boys enrolled in gangs, girls exposed to SEA:
 - Identify and support CSOs who are working to provide emergency schooling to displaced children, including psychosocial support and child well-being.
- A **new kidnapping trend** was reported that involves collective rapes of women by gang members:
 - Work with local organisations like SÉRoVie to develop public information messaging around emerging kidnapping trends to disseminate to local populations and increase awareness/reduce vulnerability.
- There is a **lack of meaningful and active participation of women** in leadership structures in the management of displacement sites:

⁶⁶ Fanm Viktim Leve Kanpe, or 'FAVILEK'.

⁶⁷ <https://www.ijdh.org/our-work/womens-rights/sexual-and-gender-based-violence/>

- Try to gather evidence on barriers to women's involvement (e.g., through a rapid needs assessment), so specific means of involving more women in decision-making mechanisms could be identified.

Note: At the time of writing, the World Bank, UN, European Commission, and the Inter-American Development Bank have started a Haiti Rapid Crisis Impact Assessment with the following three objectives:

- Estimate the impact of the 2021-2024 crisis on the population; the economy and society; physical assets and service delivery infrastructure; and public institutions and administration.
- Support the government of Haiti in developing a short-term (2 years) Crisis Recovery Framework to transition out of the security crisis.
- Provide a platform for coordinated provision of support from these organisations.

In light of this GEDSI analysis, and the identification of critical areas, it is of the utmost importance to ensure that CSOs, and in particular WLOs, are consulted throughout the different steps of the Rapid Crisis Impact Assessment process and during the post-crisis transition to ensure an all-inclusive approach.

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II. Klls guide

Interview questions were **tailored to the role, function, institution/organisation, nature of work, and location of key informants**. Most key informant interviews lasted between 45 minutes to one hour. Below is a sample of key questions.

Opening: Introduction of the research objective; consent by participant; explanation of use of information gathered during the interview.

- To begin with, could you please briefly introduce yourself, your role/responsibilities in your organisation/association?
- In your view, how has the armed violence perpetrated by gangs impacted the population/communities (concrete examples)? Where are the most impacted communities (urban/rural/displacement sites)?
- What groups of the population are currently the most affected/at risk/isolated? And why? E.g. women, girls, men, boys (age, disability + single head of household + pregnant women + the elderly).
- What do you think are the most pressing needs and urgent priorities to be addressed in the current context of violence? And why?
- What groups of people are you working with? E.g. women and girls, GBV victims/survivors, children (girls/boys), people living with disabilities, the elderly, etc.
- What services are you providing or/and what activities are you carrying out in your organisation/association? E.g. medical, psychosocial, legal, education, shelters, etc.
- How many staff members/volunteers do you have?
- How are your services/activities financed, e.g. UN/government funding. And what are the current gaps in terms of financial and human resources?
- What kinds of problems do service providers face in the country? E.g. in terms of access/safety/confidentiality/supply/resources/qualified personnel (urban/rural).
- What other problems do you think would need immediate attention? E.g. recruitment of children in gangs (boys/girls, different roles); issue of kidnapping, issue of displacement of population; food/nutrition; economic opportunities, etc. And what do you suggest to address the problems you have identified?
- What roles are CSOs playing in the current crisis, and women-led organisations especially?
- Are there any other points you would like to make that haven't already been covered?

III. Sample of CSOs working with victims/survivors of GBV, minorities, and women's empowerment

These organisations represent a variety of activities that encompass medical and psychosocial services, legal support, and temporary shelters as well as empowerment of women and minorities groups made even more vulnerable by the current crisis.

Name of organisation	Description of work
TOYA Foundation	<p>Work to promote the leadership of girls and young women through capacity building, psychosocial support, defence of rights, and personal development so that they can identify their potential, to use it for their personal development and their community.</p> <p>Focus on ensuring that girls become confident and autonomous women within a process of sustainable socio-economic and socio-cultural transformation.</p> <p>Toya Foundation recently developed the phone app ALO TOYA for women and girls who can call directly either to speak to someone about violence, receive psychological assistance, or get information about services.</p>
NÈGÈS MAWON	<p>Defines itself as: 'A feminist organization founded in 2015, mainly fighting against the consequences of the patriarchal organization of society on women'. They promote political advocacy for the improvement of the living conditions of women and girls in Haiti, e.g. in June 2024, NÈGÈS MAWON participated in a session with the United Nations working group on discrimination against women and girls (as part of a consultation of civil society actors on the gender dimension of health care and the promotion of an equitable and feminist approach to care).</p> <p>Also runs the Maison Claire Heureuse to welcome and provide support and assistance to women and girls survivors of violence.</p>
SÉROVie	Offers free specialised sexual and reproductive health services, psychosocial support, and family support services. Provides health services to sexual and gender minorities, sex workers, and their families. Works to prevent and treat infectious diseases.
OFAVA	<p>Provides a wide range of services to women and girls victims/survivors of violence: e.g., medical, psychological, and psychosocial support, as well as housing and training in microfinance and micro-enterprise, also adding financial support for income-generating activities.</p> <p>In addition, the intervention includes assistance in paying school fees for the child survivors and other family children (or for the children of the adult survivor) and emergency relocation.</p>
KOURAJ Foundation	Works to promote protection of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex people in Haiti. It aims to fight for the equality of rights and against all forms of violence, exclusion, and discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.
UFMORH (Union of women living with reduced mobility of Haiti)	Established in September 2009 by women and girls living with disabilities who came together to advocate and campaign for the respect for rights; e.g., right to education, right to justice, right to have a home, right to not be victims of discrimination, and the right to be fully included in their communities.

<p>IDEO Foundation</p> <p>(Institute of Personal and Organisational Development)</p>	<p>The activities focus on mental health, psycho-trauma, and peacebuilding issues. It aims at contributing to a change of mentality and the establishment of a peace climate in Haiti, through supporting mental health issues, specifically for marginalised groups.</p> <p>The work is divided through four axes: 1) personal development; 2) access to psychological resources; 3) access to organisational development; 4) and peacebuilding and conflict prevention through peace education activities.</p>
<p>KOFAVIV</p> <p>Komisyon Fanm Viktim pou Viktim,</p> <p>(The Commission of Women Victims for Victims)</p>	<p>KOFAVIV is a not-for-profit formed at the end of 2004 by a group of women from poor areas of Port-au-Prince who had been raped during the dictatorship of 1991-1994.</p> <p>KOFAVIV aims to reduce GBV in all its forms in Haiti. It has established a network of community-based rights activists, who identify and help provide medical, psychological, and legal support to survivors.</p>