



AYITI INTEL | ONE-STOP INTELLIGENCE BRIEF

February 11, 2026

Intelligence for Haiti's Democratic Transition

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

US Charge d'Affaires Henry Wooster testified before the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on February 10 revealing that Haiti faces a force imbalance of approximately 3,000 heavily armed gang fighters against only 400 effectively combat-ready PNH officers. Wooster classified Haiti's gangs as proto-insurgent movements generating between 60 and 75 million dollars annually through systematic extortion. The International Rescue Committee simultaneously warned Haiti is on the verge of humanitarian collapse with funding at only 3.4 percent of documented need. Prime Minister Fils-Aime consolidated executive authority by dismissing Economy Minister Alfred Metellus and assuming the portfolio himself. The United States announced an additional 16 million dollars in food security funding.



QUICK SUMMARY FOR STAKEHOLDERS

Wooster Senate testimony quantifies catastrophic security force imbalance for first time.

IRC declares Haiti on verge of humanitarian collapse with funding crisis.

Fils-Aime fires potential rival and assumes direct control of national treasury.

US provides 16 million dollars additional food security funding amid policy reframing.

Gang extortion economy operates as parallel revenue state worth 60 to 75 million annually.

DEVELOPMENT 1

US Charge d'Affaires Henry Wooster appeared before the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on State Foreign Operations on February 10 to present testimony titled Haiti 2026 Security and Foreign Assistance Priorities. Wooster provided the most detailed official US assessment of Haiti's security balance to date revealing force disparities that fundamentally reframe the nature of the crisis. The testimony marks a significant shift in US policy language from characterizing Haiti's security challenge as gang violence to explicitly identifying it as a proto-insurgency threatening state survival.

Wooster stated that armed gangs in Haiti number approximately 12,000 individuals with roughly 3,000 heavily armed and operating under coordinated command structures including Viv Ansanm and Gran Grif. Against this force the Police Nationale d'Haiti maintains approximately 6,000 officers on its rolls but Wooster testified that maximally

400 do most of the fighting. This produces an effective combat ratio of 7.5 gang fighters for every one active PNH combatant. Wooster characterized these armed groups as proto-insurgent movements rather than criminal gangs noting they now control territory generate systematic revenue and challenge state authority in ways that exceed traditional organized crime. The gangs generate between 60 and 75 million dollars annually according to Haiti Finance Ministry estimates primarily through extortion of shipments transiting from the Dominican Republic. This revenue stream allows gangs to operate as a parallel state with systematic taxation of street vendors bus companies car dealerships power plants factories industrial parks and seaports.

The testimony included appearance by Austin Holmes CEO of Caribbean Security Group who testified that without freedom of movement humanitarian response cannot succeed. Holmes stated that aid cannot move food cannot reach children clinics cannot function and schools cannot operate. The combined testimony establishes that military operations alone cannot defeat economically self-sustaining armed groups and that financial disruption through sanctions and supply chain interdiction must complement security operations. Wooster emphasized the need to address economic problems that fuel violence alongside direct military pressure.



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

US Congressional testimony on Haiti security has historically focused on humanitarian conditions and police training programs. The February 10 testimony represents the first time a US official has publicly quantified the specific combat force imbalance and explicitly framed the crisis as proto-insurgency rather than criminal violence.

TALKING POINTS

Wooster testimony quantifies for first time that only 400 PNH officers are effectively engaged in combat operations.

Gang forces number 3,000 heavily armed fighters operating under coordinated command producing combat ratio of 7.5 to 1.

Gangs classified as proto-insurgent movements challenging state survival not merely criminal organizations.

Gang revenue of 60 to 75 million annually from extortion makes them economically self-sustaining.

Policy reframing justifies more aggressive military intervention and financial warfare

measures.

GSF deployment becomes existentially urgent given revealed force imbalance.

RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

International community should accelerate GSF deployment timeline given extreme force imbalance revealed by Wooster testimony.

US and partners should immediately implement financial sanctions targeting gang revenue streams from Dominican Republic shipments.

Humanitarian donors should respond to IRC collapse warning by closing massive funding gap currently at 3.4 percent of need.

Security planning should shift from counternarcotics model to counterinsurgency framework incorporating territorial control objectives.

Supply chain interdiction measures should target checkpoint economies and systematic extortion networks.



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High confidence based on official institutional reporting.

DEVELOPMENT 2

The International Rescue Committee published a major emergency warning on February 11 stating that Haiti is on the verge of humanitarian collapse and that without immediate international action to protect civilians and rush in aid the consequences will be catastrophic. The warning comes with updated humanitarian indicators showing dramatic deterioration across protection metrics food security and forced displacement. IRC Country Director Mwiti Mungania stated the organization has documented conditions that indicate systemic failure of humanitarian response mechanisms.

IRC data shows more than 8,000 people were killed in Haiti in 2025 representing a 20 percent increase over 2024. Gender-based violence cases reached 8,000 in 2025 up 25 percent from the previous year. Sexual violence against children has increased 1,000 percent since 2023 while child recruitment by armed gangs rose 700 percent in the first quarter of 2025 alone. The organization reports that 1.4 million people are

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displaced with half being children and that 270,000 individuals were forcibly returned to Haiti in 2025 representing a 36 percent increase over 2024 deportation figures. The most alarming indicator is that humanitarian funding stands at only 3.4 percent of documented need creating operational constraints that make effective response impossible.

The World Food Programme has been forced to suspend life-saving meals for newly displaced families and slash food rations in half due to funding shortfalls. WFP requires 44 million dollars to maintain operations through April 2026 but current funding levels cannot support even reduced programming. The combination of deteriorating security conditions expanding displacement and collapsing humanitarian funding creates conditions for mass starvation and protection failures. International Organization for Migration data shows that 98 percent of forced returns came from the Dominican Republic with deportations of adult women up 92 percent girls up 152 percent and boys up 133 percent compared to 2024. Nineteen percent of deportees were already internally displaced before leaving Haiti and 60 percent had been previously deported indicating recidivism driven by lack of viable options inside Haiti.



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Haiti has experienced multiple humanitarian crises since the 2010 earthquake but the current situation represents the first time that humanitarian funding has fallen below 5 percent of documented need while security conditions simultaneously prevent access to affected populations.

TALKING POINTS

IRC declares Haiti on verge of humanitarian collapse requiring immediate international action.

Humanitarian funding at catastrophic 3.4 percent of need making effective response operationally impossible.

Child protection indicators show 1,000 percent increase in sexual violence and 700 percent rise in gang recruitment.

More than 8,000 killed in 2025 up 20 percent from previous year indicating escalating lethality.

WFP forced to cut rations in half and suspend meals for newly displaced due to funding crisis.

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270,000 forcibly returned in 2025 with 60 percent recidivism rate showing deportation ineffectiveness.

RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

International donors should immediately mobilize emergency funding to close gap between 3.4 percent current level and minimum operational threshold.

Protection actors should prioritize child safeguarding given 1,000 percent increase in sexual violence against minors.

Deportation policies should be suspended pending stabilization given 19 percent of returnees were already internally displaced.

WFP should receive priority funding to restore full rations and resume meals for newly displaced families.

Humanitarian access negotiations should intensify given that security conditions prevent aid delivery to affected populations.



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DEVELOPMENT 3

Prime Minister Alix Fils-Aime executed his most politically significant governance move on February 7 by revoking Alfred Metellus as Minister of Economy and Finance and appointing himself to the portfolio ad interim. The decision came during the first Council of Ministers meeting held immediately after the Transitional Presidential Council handover ceremony and represents an unprecedented concentration of executive and fiscal authority in the hands of the Prime Minister. The move is widely interpreted as retaliation against Metellus who had been floated by several CPT members as Fils-Aime's potential replacement during the late January attempt to oust the Prime Minister.

Zantray News characterized the dismissal as taking on the appearance of revenge noting that the action functions as an assertion of Fils-Aime's authority over potential rivals within the transitional government. By assuming direct control of the Economy

and Finance Ministry Fils-Aime now personally controls both the government apparatus and the national treasury creating a single point of authority for all budget allocations fiscal policy decisions and donor fund disbursement. This concentration of power deviates from the power-sharing model that characterized previous phases of the transition and may create friction with political stakeholders who view the move as exclusionary rather than inclusive governance.

The February 7 Council of Ministers also adopted a project de decret placing the direction of executive power collectively in the hands of the Council of Ministers. This institutional arrangement formally addresses the absence of a head of state by distributing presidential functions across the cabinet with Fils-Aime presiding. Three additional arretes were presented to establish provisional municipal commissions in Port-au-Prince Petion-Ville and Gressier restoring some local administrative capacity in the capital region pending elections. Minister of Tourism John Herrick Dessources presented strategic priorities for the tourism sector on February 10 signaling an attempt to project normalcy and forward economic planning despite deteriorating security conditions.



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Haiti's transitional governments have historically featured power-sharing arrangements with economy and finance portfolios held by technocratic appointees separate from the prime minister. Fils-Aime's self-appointment to the finance portfolio represents the first time a transitional prime minister has directly controlled both executive and fiscal functions simultaneously.

TALKING POINTS

Fils-Aime fired Economy Minister Metellus who had been floated as potential PM replacement during January ouster attempt.

PM now directly controls both government operations and national treasury in unprecedented power concentration.

Decision interpreted as assertion of authority over political rivals rather than inclusive governance approach.

Council of Ministers decree distributes presidential functions across cabinet addressing absence of head of state.

Municipal commissions established for Port-au-Prince Petion-Ville and Gressier

restoring local administrative capacity.

RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

Political actors should assess whether power concentration stabilizes decision-making or increases single-point-of-failure risk.

International partners should monitor fiscal transparency given PM's direct control of treasury and donor fund flows.

Business stakeholders should establish direct engagement channels with Fils-Aime given centralized fiscal authority.

Transitional governance observers should track cabinet stability for signs of resignations or political backlash.

Budget implementation monitoring should intensify given lack of institutional checks on PM fiscal decisions.



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DEVELOPMENT 4

The United States announced on February 10 that it is providing an additional 16 million dollars for an ongoing resilience and food security program in Haiti. The funding announcement came from the US Embassy in Port-au-Prince on the same day as the Wooster Senate testimony creating coordinated messaging around continued US commitment despite broader global aid budget constraints. The 16 million dollar allocation comes on top of the 5 million dollars in military financing for the Forces Armees d'Haiti announced earlier in February bringing total new US commitments for this reporting period to 21 million dollars.

The timing of the food security funding announcement alongside the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee hearing suggests deliberate policy coordination between State Department operations and Congressional oversight processes. The hearing featured testimony from both Wooster and Austin Holmes CEO of Caribbean Security Group and focused explicitly on security and foreign assistance priorities for Haiti in

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2026. The hearing title Haiti 2026 Security and Foreign Assistance Priorities signals that Haiti remains a Congressional priority despite competing global demands for US assistance resources. The policy reframing from gang violence to proto-insurgency establishes justification for sustained or increased funding levels.

The 16 million dollar food security allocation partially addresses the humanitarian funding crisis identified by IRC and WFP but remains grossly insufficient given the scale of need. With humanitarian funding currently at 3.4 percent of documented requirements and WFP requiring 44 million dollars through April 2026 alone the US contribution represents important but inadequate response. The funding may serve as a catalyst for additional donor commitments from European Union Canada or multilateral institutions. Le Monde published analysis on February 8 noting that Haiti's political transition operates under the eye of Washington and that the absence of strong coherent national leadership gives international actors freedom to interfere in internal affairs. The characterization reinforces perceptions that US policy priorities rather than Haitian political consensus drive transition timeline and resource allocation decisions.



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

US assistance to Haiti has historically fluctuated based on Congressional appropriations cycles and competing global crises. The February 2026 funding announcements maintain Haiti as a line-item priority despite broader US foreign aid budget pressures and represent continuation of post-earthquake engagement patterns.

TALKING POINTS

US announces 16 million dollars additional food security funding bringing February total to 21 million with FAd'H allocation.

Timing coordinates with Senate hearing establishing Haiti as sustained Congressional priority.

Wooster testimony reframes crisis from gang violence to proto-insurgency justifying continued assistance.

Funding inadequate against 3.4 percent humanitarian funding level but may catalyze additional donor commitments.

Le Monde analysis notes transition operates under Washington's eye due to absence of strong Haitian leadership.

RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

Humanitarian actors should leverage US funding announcement to pressure European and Canadian donors for matching contributions.

Haitian political stakeholders should assert national priorities to counter perception of externally driven transition.

Congressional appropriations committees should follow testimony with specific Haiti funding line items in upcoming bills.

Private sector should monitor whether security funding translates to territorial gains enabling business operations.

Diaspora organizations should coordinate advocacy for TPS extension using humanitarian collapse data from IRC.



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WHAT TO WATCH NEXT

NEXT 24 TO 48 HOURS

Congressional appropriations response to Wooster testimony may produce Haiti-specific funding allocations or trigger financial sanctions targeting gang revenue streams. Fils-Aime governance moves following economy ministry consolidation could signal inclusive dialogue or further unilateral authority assertions. Delmas demolition operation fallout should be monitored for protests business disruption or political criticism following February 11 implementation. Camp Jamaica displacement site fire investigation should determine if incident was accidental arson or gang-related as pattern matters for IDP security planning.

THIS WEEK

GSF advance team formal establishment in Haiti expected this month with Jack Christofides mission leadership arrival. WFP funding response to US 16 million dollar commitment may prompt European Union Canada or multilateral announcements.

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ULCC asset declaration deadline of March 9 approaches for former CPT members requiring compliance monitoring. Tourism sector strategic priorities announced by Minister Dessources on February 10 may produce detailed implementation plans.

STRATEGIC HORIZON

Le Monde assessment that August 30 election date already seems to be moving away suggests international media pricing in postponement. Expert James Boyard projects elections possible within twelve months placing new elected authorities by February 7 2027 in optimistic scenario. Gang territorial control sustainability depends on GSF deployment schedule with first arrivals expected April 2026 and full deployment October 2026. Humanitarian funding crisis at 3.4 percent of need will drive worsening malnutrition indicators by second quarter 2026 absent donor mobilization.

PRIMARY SOURCES

Zantray News February 10 2026 12,000 gang members analysis and PNH pressure reporting

Better World Campaign February 10 2026 Senate hearing analysis with Wooster and Holmes testimony

HaitiLibre February 11 2026 daily headlines on carnival cancellation camp fire 16 million funding

International Rescue Committee February 11 2026 humanitarian collapse press release

International Organization for Migration January 30 2026 forced returns factsheet via ReliefWeb

Zantray News February 7 2026 Fils-Aime dismisses Metellus assumes economy portfolio

Gazette Haiti February 7 2026 Council of Ministers decrees coverage

US Embassy Port-au-Prince February 10 2026 16 million food security funding announcement

Le Monde February 8 2026 transition under Washington's eye analysis

World Food Programme January 14 2026 Haiti emergency 44 million gap and ration cuts

International Crisis Group December 15 2025 Undoing Haiti's Deadly Gang Alliance Senate Appropriations Subcommittee February 10 2026 Haiti 2026 Security and Foreign Assistance Priorities hearing record

Vant Bef Info February 9 2026 Delmas demolition notice

HaitiLibre October 2025 budget 2025-2026 adoption details