



**It is with sadness and deep concern that we share the latest news from Haiti.**

Political unrest has continued to build throughout September, fueled in part by a gas shortage that has reached crisis proportions. However, even as shipments of fuel reached most areas of the country, the tension and violence have only increased.

On Friday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, tens of thousands of protesters took to the streets to demand the resignation of the President, not only in the capital city of Port-au-Prince, but throughout Haiti, in what have been the largest anti-government displays this year. The demonstrations have been increasingly violent, with looting, burning of homes, buildings and vehicles, sacking of a police station, bands of armed protestors, widespread road barricades, and multiple deaths. Police have been firing tear gas and there are many reports of gunfire exchange between Haitian police and demonstrators. President Moïse has refused to step down, and parliament is in uproar.



For Rayjon's leaders in Haiti, it has become impossible to carry on as normal. Still, they are doing all that they can to keep programs operating to the fullest extent possible. There are many challenges. For example, parents have been

unable to safely bring their malnourished children to the Centre in Cap Haitien for care. As an emergency measure staff will be doing limited food distributions to the most vulnerable families.

**Field Director Andre writes:**

**“...Haiti’s problems are much more than meets the eye. This is a time for prayer, and doing the best we can to help those that are most vulnerable and in most cases are often the ones that suffer the most...trying so hard to make ends meet with a small commerce, fighting to be able to send their kids to school in hopes of a better future for their kids that have their world turned upside down and the little they have depletes even more in these times of social unrest. They are usually the people that get overlooked...in this ugly and gruesome tug of war over power.”**

In the St. Marc area the Pinson School is one of the few schools open, but there have been delays with transportation of supplies. The RSCH office in St. Marc has had to close frequently because of the violence. We have also been unable to proceed with plans for a Canadian monitoring team to visit Haiti.

**Renaud, Rayjon’s senior leader in St. Marc writes:**

**“Things were really bad in Haiti yesterday. I think people won’t stop the unrest until [President] Jovenel Moïse decides to go. No one believes in his leadership... I am sorry to say that things get worse every day... Keep up your prayers for Haiti.”**

In all of this turmoil, it is the most vulnerable who are suffering the most. Public transportation is not running. Workers cannot safely get to their workplaces. Businesses and banks are closed. Children cannot get safely to schools, most of which remain closed. Food and fuel are scarce, and families are afraid to venture into the streets.

Right now we are asking all supporters to keep Haiti in their thoughts and prayers, and especially our leaders on the ground who are working tirelessly to keep programs running. In the coming days and weeks we will be working closely with Haitian leaders to direct support to where it is most needed, and will issue a special e-bulletin dedicated to project updates to keep you informed of the situation as it unfolds.

We continue to believe that the programs Rayjon supports foster lasting change, and it is a top priority to keep all programs running even in this time of crisis. Please stand with us in support of the Haitian people.

## **[Donate Now](#)**

Even in the middle of this time of crisis, we have much to be thankful for. There were some very special Rayjon events celebrated in Canada during September. Proceeds from those events will go a long way to support efforts on the ground in Haiti. With so much news to share we will be issuing additional e-bulletins this month. Please stay tuned.

**THANK YOU, MÈSI, GRACIAS.**