

REFERRED TO IN CHAPTER 5
Haiti Security Levels

**Catholic Relief Services – USCCB
FSP - Haiti Program**

Chapter 13 Annex 5a: Classification of Security Levels

This document has been produced as a tool to assist all CRS/Haiti staff, but in particular the CR and Security Officer, to communicate the current security situation in Haiti and consequent standard operating procedures and policies that will be put into place under various conditions.

Level	Description	Consequences	Actions to be implemented
Normal (Level I)	<p>The social, economic, and political life is normal within the culture. Nothing significant to signal, apart from poor roads and general criminal activity.</p> <p>Crime and other foreseen security incidents are generally non-violent and controlled by national police.</p> <p>There are no curfews or travel restrictions in effect.</p> <p>Diplomatic missions have no travel advisories to the country.</p> <p>There is no perceived direct or indirect threat to CRS or its employees.</p>	<p>CRS functions normally without restrictions for operations and travel.</p> <p>Assessed safety and security risks to CRS staff, property and programs ranges from negligible to low.</p>	<p>Security committee meets every six months to review and update field security documents, including evacuation plans, kidnapping protocols, etc..</p> <p>Vigilance remains high on travel protocols, fleet maintenance, driver training, staff safety on roads, air travel, first aid training and fire safety.</p> <p>Basic building security measures at offices, warehouses and residences will be monitored proactively to prevent theft, including attention to guard management and access control.</p> <p>Visitors are allowed in and out of country without special permissions.</p>
Restrictive (Level II)	<p>Period of political, economic social transition. May include electoral periods, cyclone season, or known periods of increased criminal activity, e.g. preceding Christmas.</p> <p>Perceived tensions/threats exist among key political, security and justice system actors.</p> <p>There exists group dissatisfaction/tension for political, economic, or social reasons resulting in rallies and protests, may involve limited violence.</p> <p>There is robbery crime</p>	<p>Investments are curtailed due to perceived insecurity, lack of rule of law and infrastructure remains weak (ex..faltering electricity).</p> <p>May see a rise in absence and work productivity related to insecurity.</p> <p>Curfews are in effect by various organizations and considered by CRS.</p> <p>The situation is not perceived to be changing radically but fluctuates up and down in a more or less predictable pattern.</p>	<p>Identical to Level I plus:</p> <p>The CR/Security Officer increase monitoring activities. The Security Committee meets quarterly to analyze security environment and review appropriate policies and procedures as needed. Periodic updates provided to employees staff, visitors, regions and HQ.</p> <p>Staff/drivers have adequate communications equipment and protocols to ensure agile response to alerts about spontaneous demonstrations.</p> <p>There may be areas within cities or country restricted for travel.</p>

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	<p>(generally household) and a low level of violent crime such as kidnapping and carjacking. More violent crime is contained to identifiable geographic areas of the zone that can generally be avoided for regular CRS business. These acts are followed by police investigation and action.</p> <p>There is no perceived direct threat to CRS, its employees, or its buildings/residences.</p> <p>Diplomatic missions issue travel advisories to their citizens regarding concerns about travel to Haiti.</p> <p>Authorities have situation largely under control but they are ineffective in bringing all criminal elements to book and curtailing all kidnappings and politically motivated violence.</p>	<p>Assessed safety and security risks to CRS staff, property and programs ranges from low to medium.</p>	<p>Security Officer intensifies information gathering from local partners, governmental authorities, other NGOs, UNDSS, IOS, USAID or the American Embassy, and provides weekly summary/analysis of security environment to the CR.</p> <p>Identification and analysis of specific trouble spots are mapped for staff and visitors. Special SOPs developed for travel through these areas.</p> <p>Advisories/Curfewslimiting night time travel are considered.</p> <p>Vehicle usage/trips are monitored by Security officer and clearances obtained as designated necessary by CR.</p> <p>The CR will determine whether international visitors are recommended and, if so, the travel criteria and appropriate locations for visitor accommodation.</p> <p>Additional SOPs are in place during the tropical storm season.</p>
Tense (Level III)	<p>Demonstrations and strikes in the streets are more common and more violent.</p> <p>Random, high numbers, and geographically widespread kidnappings taking place.</p> <p>Violent acts are registered every day (i.e. killings, rapes) and the authorities are perceived as unable to contain, and possibly even complicit in, the crisis.</p> <p>The political situation is unstable and the government</p>	<p>Noticeably higher stress levels among CRS staff.</p> <p>Families envisage or are leaving the country.</p> <p>CRS programs experience moderate to serious delays due to lack of access for reasons of insecurity or natural disaster.</p> <p>There is a probability that CRS staff are in danger if they move freely about the affected area.</p>	<p>Identical to level II plus:</p> <p>Staff based on the field or located in different geographic areas must be in constant communication with the local office to report the status of the situation in their areas and share information.</p> <p>The CR/Security Officer/Security Committee meet at least monthly and evaluate the incoming information. The Security Officer is reporting on incidents daily to the CR, and provides a weekly written</p>

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	<p>is losing political/social control. There may be gangs or politically motivated groups taking sides and skirmishing in cities or the country side.</p> <p>Flooding affecting many departments.</p> <p>Presidential or otherwise predicted contentious elections period.</p> <p>Increasing occurrence of incidents targeting the UN or international community.</p> <p>National police and justice system has little or no capability to maintain control.</p>	<p>Foreign nationals could be targeted as well as children.</p> <p>UN Security Council applies Chapter VII of the UN Charter, maintaining a military force in Haiti.</p> <p>Assessed safety and security risks to CRS staff, property and programs ranges from medium to high.</p>	<p>summary and analysis as in Level II.</p> <p>Advisories/Curfews concerning evening/night travel are implemented.</p> <p>Reduction of site/field visits put into place depending on intelligence.</p> <p>Travel in the affected areas must be reported to the Security Officer. Multiple people in cars necessary.</p> <p>As soon as employees arrive at their destination point, the person in charge of security at PAP and Les Cayes office must be informed.</p> <p>Evacuation plans are reviewed, updated, and disseminated to appropriate staff. CRS employees must be informed about steps and procedures about eventual evacuation.</p> <p>All international visits must be approved by Region and Global Security/Chief of Staff.</p> <p>Reduction in international personnel and families seriously considered to essential staff only.</p> <p>Communication trees implemented and security information widely disseminated on a regular basis. Office closed as necessary or skeletal staff maintained.</p> <p>Radio communications as backup is activated and practiced.</p> <p>Emergency stocks of water, food, and other supplies such as flashlights, batteries, candles,</p>

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			etc. are refreshed in offices and homes in case situation jumps from III to V.
Evacuation (Level IV)	<p>Economic activities are severely restricted; access to basic goods and services is a problem.</p> <p>Demonstrations, crime, insecurity prevails in the area affected, likely Port au Prince. Kidnapping and killings occur at daily exaggerated levels.</p> <p>The government and security forces appear unable to control the situation. It is a downward trend and dangerous.</p> <p>Commercial airline carriers begin to cancel flights into PAP.</p> <p>The international community is partially or totally evacuated.</p>	<p>Public Transportation not functioning. Staff cannot make it to work.</p> <p>It is impossible to contact the authorities.</p> <p>CRS Haiti's program activities are suspended due to insecurity.</p> <p>Assessed safety and security risks to CRS staff, property and programs is High to Severe.</p> <p>CRS as an NGO under indirect and direct threat due to assets (cars, food, buildings) needed by belligerent parties.</p>	<p>Identical to Level III plus:</p> <p>Emergency evacuation plan is implemented. All or partial number of international staff are evacuated. Assets are secured to the extent possible.</p> <p>Minimum daily radio check among designated senior managers.</p> <p>Minimum daily check in by RD with Acting CR in country, RD reports to HQ.</p> <p>National staff salaries paid in advance.</p> <p>CR/RD/HQ determines whether office should be totally shut down and sealed.</p> <p>Preparations are made for an extended lock down situation.</p>
Catastrophic (Level V)	<p>Same as Level IV, but..</p> <p>Evacuation is considered too dangerous.</p> <p>All employees remain in their residences locked down.</p> <p>Ongoing operations are not possible and security cannot be reasonably assured.</p> <p>This could result from a natural catastrophe or man-made crisis.</p>	<p>Food and water availability becomes scarce.</p> <p>Roads too dangerous to travel.</p> <p>Communication links hampered or non-existent.</p>	<p>Identical to Level IV plus:</p> <p>Evacuation of all international staff remains planned and re-evaluated consistently.</p> <p>Communication channels kept open any way feasible among all staff.</p> <p>Region/headquarters updated by the hour and consider outside interventions for rescue.</p>