

Covid-19 and (Im)mobility in the Americas

HAITI

1. **Poverty rate:** 71% out of the total population.¹
2. **Migration data**
 - a. Sending country: About 1.6 million Haitians or 15% of the population live abroad mainly in the US (47%), Dominican Republic (31%), and Canada (6.3%).
 - b. Destination country: About 19,000 immigrants, representing 0.17% of the total population live in Haiti. The main countries of origin are Venezuela (13%), the Dominican Republic (13%), and the US (8.4%).
3. **Impact of COVID-19³ (as of July 14, 2020)**
 - a. Registered cases: 6,727
 - b. % of cases out of the total population: 0.05%
 - c. Number of deaths: 141
4. **State measures**
 - The government declared a state of emergency and curfew.
 - Border closures. Ports and airports are only open for merchandise trade.
 - Three deportees are confirmed positive of COVID-19.
 - The World Health Organization (WHO) is providing Haiti with free COVID-19 test kits.
 - The government implemented protocols to assist Haitian deportees. Prime Minister Joseph Jouthe said Haiti is taking care of the deportees: "They are Haitians. They are coming home. We have to receive them."
5. **At risk populations**
 - *Haitian Deportees* (this population is extremely vulnerable to COVID-19)
 - o Before the pandemic:
 - Haitians were criminalized and sent handcuffed on deportation flights from the US or from the Turks and Caicos Islands. They were also deported by land by the Migratory authorities in the Dominican Republic.
 - o During the pandemic:
 - Deportation flights from the US and the Turks and Caicos Island have continued.

¹ <https://www.oxfam.org/es/que-hacemos/donde-trabajamos/paises/haiti>

² <https://datosmacro.expansion.com/demografia/migracion/emigracion/haiti>;
<https://datosmacro.expansion.com/demografia/migracion/inmigracion/haiti>

³ John Hopkins University (2020). "Corona Virus Resource Centre". <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html>

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- There were 189 Haitian deportees from the US and 400 deportees from the Turks and Caicos Islands. Upon arrival, assistance and health protocols were implemented and they were taken to hotels to social distance and quarantine. The government paid for accommodation and food expenses.
- Among the deportees, there were cases of people infected with COVID-19.

6. Social Responses

- *Migrant struggles:*
 - Reverse migration or return migration:
 - Around 21,000 Haitians from the Dominican Republic, the US and Turks and Caicos Islands returned to Haiti to protect their health.
- *Solidarity networks*
 - Pro-migrant and human rights organizations in Miami demanded to stop receiving deportees to the president Jovenel Moïse and requested the US president, Donald Trump, to suspend deportations.
 - Support Group for Returnees and Refugees (GARR) invited the Haitian authorities to safeguard from COVID-19 the border crossing points with the Dominican Republic
 - In cities in the border area with the Dominican Republic, grassroots organizations are deploying preventional and informational campaigns of COVID-19 and how to apply hygiene principles.

Sources:

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*For more detail go to the digital archive that we created:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1o00O4-LalYs9FNi0PIRRz99hinvqvWgT>

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