Jully 1 to september 30, 2026

Briefing from Jesuit Migrant Service (SJM-Haiti)

OBJECTIVE:

This briefing presents the migration situation in northern Haiti, particularly at the Cap-Haïtien airport and the Ouanaminthe–Dajabón border crossing, from July 1 to September 30, 2026. It analyzes the increase in repatriations from the United States and the Dominican Republic, voluntary returns, and humanitarian and protection challenges, while highlighting SJM/SFw-Haiti's interventions to support migrants, returnees, affected communities, and potential migrants.

Context

For several decades, many Haitians have migrated to the Dominican Republic and United States in search of better living conditions, fleeing poverty, political instability, insecurity, and a lack of opportunities in Haiti. The repatriation of irregular migrants has always been a reality. However, while repatriations to Haiti have long been a reality, the practices observed in 2026 raise serious concerns regarding respect for fundamental rights and human dignity. The conditions of certain operations have been described as inhumane, coercive, and heavily militarized, contrary to the principles of protection for migrants and international human rights commitments.

Migration and Human Rights Sector

During the period under review (July 1 to September 30, 2026), 564 migrants were repatriated by air to Cap-Haïtien International Airport, some of whom arrived after having been handcuffed and shackled for several hours. Meanwhile, at the Ouanaminthe–Dajabón border crossing, 24,491 Haitian migrants were repatriated and 25,572 returned voluntarily. These movements are taking place against a troubling humanitarian backdrop, marked by allegations of violations of fundamental rights. Eyewitness accounts also report the confiscation of personal belongings and identity documents—practices that exacerbate the vulnerability of those affected and complicate their reintegration.

On September 22, 2026, Dominican authorities intercepted 39 Haitian nationals (31 men, 7 women, and one child) at sea; they were placed in police custody in Dajabón for identity verification. According to the information gathered, they reportedly spent a day without food. After verification, they were identified as undocumented migrants and subsequently repatriated on September 26 at the Dajabón–Ouanaminthe border crossing, where they departed to reunite with their families.

The table below provides a breakdown of the number of repatriated migrants as well as those who opted for voluntary return, as recorded by SJM-Haiti teams at the Dajabón/Ouanaminthe border during the period from July 1 to September 30, 2026.

Period	Categories	Men	Women	Boys	Girls	Total
July 1—Sept. 30, 2026	Repatriates	15,407	6,162	1,412	1,510	24,491
	Voluntary return	13,998	8,727	1,442	1405	25,572

According to data collected from the National Office of Migration (ONM), 564 people were repatriated to Cap-Haitian International Airport between July and September 2026. Of these, 435 came from the United States, 62 from the Bahamas, and 17 were intercepted in Cuban waters.

Date of Arrival	*Place of Origin*	*Number of Repatriated Individuals*	*Description*
July 16, 2026	United States	111	
July 28, 2026	Bahamas	62	13 women and 49 men
August 20, 2026	United States	161	
September 10, 2026	United States	82	Arrives with hands and feet handcuffed
September 17, 2026	United States	92	77 men, 12 women, and 3 children
September 24, 2026	United States	39	33 men and 6 women
September 29, 2026	Cuban waters	17	
Total		564	564





SJM-Haiti's Achievements in the Migration and Human Rights Sector and Other Sectors – For the period from July 1 to September 30, 2026

From July to September 2026, despite financial and logistical constraints, SJM-Haiti continued its work with migrants, returnees, and vulnerable communities. Its efforts focused on protection, legal assistance, referral services, and community support, with the goal of addressing priority needs and promoting human rights.

The following table outlines the main achievements in supporting returnees at the Ouananminthe-Dajabón border:

Month	Shelter	Hygiene Kits	Transportation Costs	Hot Meals	Other
July—Sept. 2026	30	321 hygiene kits	31	30	Purchase of cleaning products for linens

Legal Assistance

In August 2026 (specifically on August 6 and 20), SJM-Haiti conducted two follow-up visits to the police station's holding cells, the Magistrate's Court, and the Prosecutor's Office of the Ouanaminthe Criminal Court. We interviewed 94 individuals (3 girls and 91 boys). These efforts led to the release of 17 of them (1 girl and 16 boys).

In September, despite the absence of visits to the holding cells, judicial follow-ups were conducted. On September 23, three (3) cases were heard before the Special Criminal Court of Ouanaminthe: two (2) defendants were released the same day, and the third was sentenced to six months' imprisonment and a fine of 25 gourdes. Due to a lack of resources, no case follow-ups were conducted at the Fort-Liberté Court of First Instance in either August or

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Addressing the Root Causes of Migration (Social Transformation)

Thanks to support from our partners **Broederlijk Delen, Canadian Jesuit International, Dunn Family Foundation, UN Women, and Christian Aid** through a **UNPBF** fund, SJM-Haiti does not limit its work to emergency responses to the consequences of migration. SJM-Haiti also invests in the resilience of vulnerable communities. These interventions directly contribute to reducing the factors that drive people toward irregular migration.

Broederlijk Delen Project: Agroecology and and Resilience



As part of the program funded by Broederlijk Delen, "Transition to Agroecology and Food Sovereignty, Economic Resilience, and an Active Civil Society," several activities were carried out from July to September 2026 in the municipalities of Mont-Organisé, Carice, Mombin-Crochu, and Capotille.

The activities focused in particular on the technical monitoring of 35 agroecological gardens and the distribution of vegetable seeds (cabbage, tomato, carrot, leek, bell pepper, chili pepper, and eggplant) to 46 beneficiaries in Mombin-Crochu (27 men and 19 women). Economic support visits, planning meetings with local stakeholders and PODSEMO regarding the installation of the rice mill, as well as a dialogue with the organizations PDL, MPP, and TK, strengthened the beneficiaries' capacities.

In Capotille, the activities also promoted civic participation, dialogue between authorities and civil society, conflict prevention, the fight against gender-based violence, and the ecological transition.
In total, 280 beneficiary participations were recorded for activities carried out during the July–September 2026 period.

Project Christian Aid: Fanm Lidè K'ap lite pou gen aksè ak latè ak lapè"



As part of the **"Fanm Lidè K'ap lite pou gen aksè ak latè ak lapè"** project**,** SJM-Haiti held seven community dialogue sessions in Ferrier and Capotille from July to September 2026, bringing together 359 people, including 308 women and 51 men. These meetings provided an opportunity to analyze the causes of land disputes, promote women's land rights, and identify peaceful resolution strategies tailored to local realities.

In addition, 20 female trainers organized follow-up training sessions in the municipalities of Ouanaminthe, Ferrier, Capotille, and Fort-Liberté, reaching 200 people, including 164 women and 36 men. The training sessions focused on leadership, governance, women's land rights, communication, civic engagement, and peaceful conflict resolution.

In total, these activities reached 559 participants, strengthening women's leadership, civic participation, and community capacity in the areas of conflict prevention, women's access to land, and sustainable peacebuilding.

Project UN Women: Participatory Actions by Women and Youth for Inclusion and Resilience in the Northeastern Border Areas of Haiti



As part of the project "Participatory Actions by Women and Youth for Inclusion and Resilience in the Northeastern Border Areas of Haiti," several activities were carried out from July to September 2026 to strengthen the economic autonomy and resilience of displaced and repatriated women.

In July, six Mutual Solidarity Groups (MuSo) were formed and organized in Ferrier, Ouanaminthe, and Capotille, bringing together 150 women—two groups of 25 members per municipality. In August, follow-up visits were conducted during three monthly meetings to assess the beneficiaries' commitment and the groups' operations. In September, three municipal monitoring committees, comprising a total of 15 members, were established to ensure local coordination, monitor activities, and ensure the sustainability of the project's achievements.

Observations: From July to September 2026, observations by SJM-Haiti reveal a deterioration in protection conditions for migrants and returnees in northern Haiti, particularly in Ouanaminthe–Dajabón and at the Cap-Haïtien airport. The main concerns relate to the lack of traceability of deportations, the increase in cases of unaccompanied children, health issues, alleged confiscations of property and documents, the dehumanization of migrants at the time of their repatriation, and the risks of racial discrimination. Reception and humanitarian assistance capacities also remain insufficient given the scale of the returns.

Recommendations: SJM-Haiti recommends strengthening child protection, access to healthcare and legal assistance; mobilizing additional resources for humanitarian actors; documenting alleged human rights violations; and improving coordination between authorities and protection organizations. It also calls for intensified advocacy with Haitian and Dominican authorities and international bodies to ensure that repatriation procedures respect fundamental rights, human dignity, and the principle of non-discrimination. SJM-Haiti recommends a tangible, meaningful, and organized presence of the Haitian government along the entire Haitian-Dominican border to protect, defend, and safeguard the lives and property of Haitian citizens.