

# Haiti: Can The Cycle of Crisis End, and How?



Prospects for U.S. – Latin America Cooperation  
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# Project Overview

## 01. International Institutions

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## 02. Nationwide Security Challenges

Ashley Arellano, Lauren Ravekes, Janice Flores Reyes

## 03. Personal & Family Security

Chanel Calderon, Karla Rios, Elena Hoffman

## Local Economy

## 04.

Emilio Urteaga, Giselle Coleman-Martinez, TJ Kohler, Zachary Jenkins

## 05.

## Community Organizing

Jeffrey Vicente, Mat Ribeiro da Silva



# Background & Methodology

Key Judgments

Methodology

Academic Research

Consultation with Haitian Experts

# 01

## International Institutions

Elsa Case  
Sophia Skaff

Improving Foreign Aid in Haiti

Correcting the Course of  
Internationally-led Anti-  
Corruption Efforts

# Improving Foreign Aid to Haiti

## The Issue

- Foreign Aid bypasses Haitians
- No local capacity built

## The Recommendation

- Give Haiti's civil society agency over the aid process
- Focus on long-term economic growth (jobs, education, institutions)





# Correcting the Course of Internationally-led Anti-Corruption Efforts

## The Issue

- OAS and UN have the standing to affect change, but not the knowledge.
- Haitian civil society has the knowledge to combat corruption but not the safety to do so

## The Recommendation

- Establish a joint office in Port-au-Prince to facilitate a hybrid anti-corruption effort
- Rehabilitate UN & OAS perception in Haiti

# 02 Nationwide Security Challenges

Ashley Arellano,  
Lauren Ravekes,  
Janice Flores Reyes,

Reducing gang violence  
by eliminating the supply  
of arms

Preventing gang expansion  
through youth outreach clubs

Containing  
gang  
violence

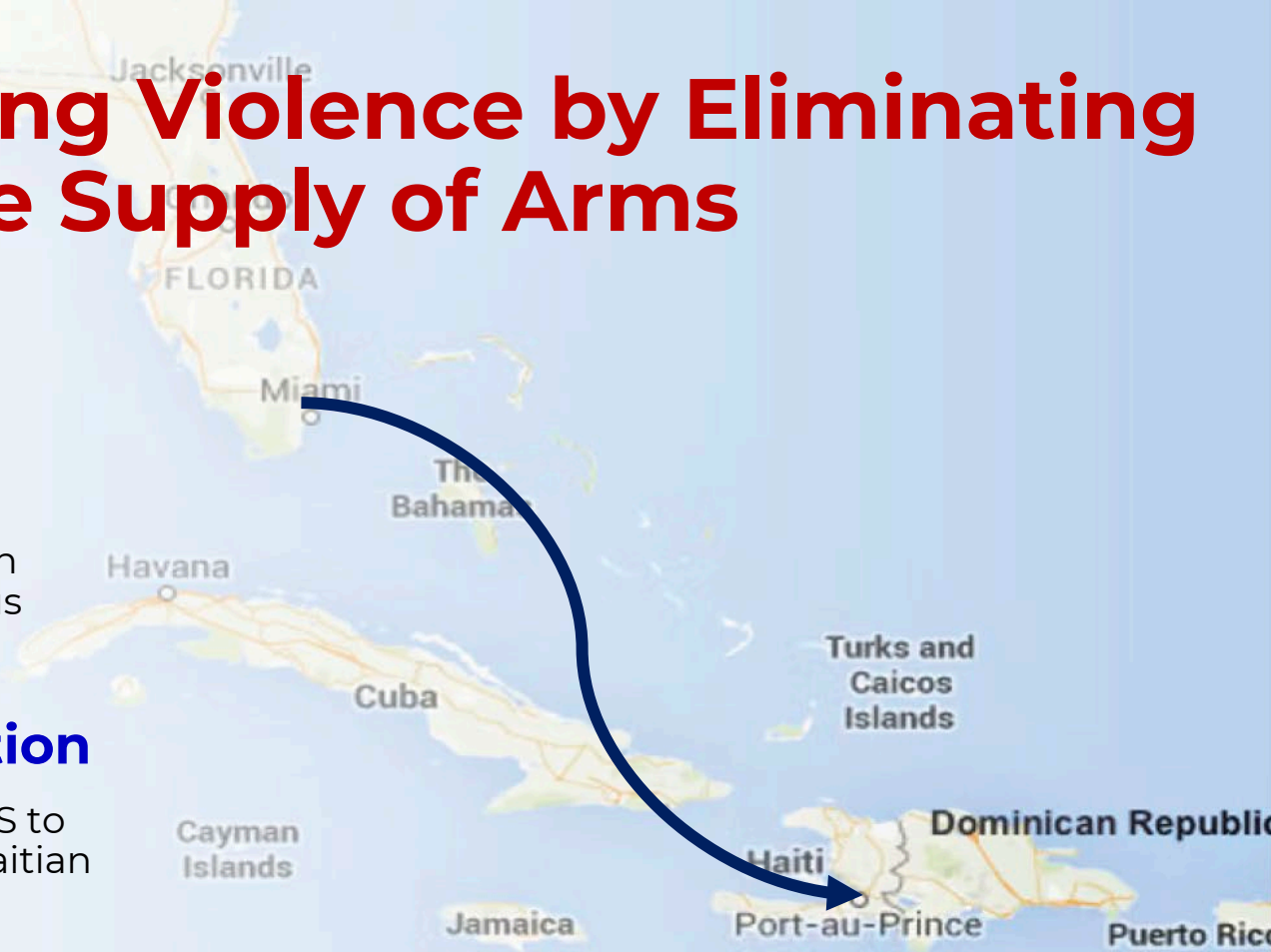
# Reducing Gang Violence by Eliminating the Supply of Arms

## The Issue

- Illicit arms flow into Haiti is exploiting a security crisis
- Mostly a result of lax US gun laws, corruption, and porous borders

## The Recommendation

- Simply encouraging the US to enforce existing US and Haitian laws on arms





# Preventing Gang Expansion through Guidelines for Community Youth Outreach



## The Issue

- Organized gangs recruit marginalized young Haitians

## The Recommendation

- Create guidelines to help communities build youth resilience
- Youth outreach clubs as a tool to prevent youth gang involvement

# Containing Gang Violence



## The Issue

- Gangs fill state security vacuums, incentivized by financial interest
- Indiscriminate crime halts communication, resources, and security measures

## The Recommendation

- Establish local assemblies to identify transportation security vulnerabilities, decrease violent incidents

# 03

## Personal and Family Security

Chanel Calderon,  
Karla Rios,  
Elena Hoffman

Reducing Dominican  
Violence Against Haitians

Confronting Gender-based  
Violence through Safe Spaces

Challenging the Normalization  
of Violence Against Children

# Reducing Dominican Violence Against Haitians



## The Issue

- Systemic issues between Haiti & the Dominican Republic
- Border-associated violence

## The Recommendation

- A joint comic book relaying a factual version of history from the perspective of Hispaniola.

# Confronting Gender-Based Violence through Safe Spaces

## The Issue

- 1 in 3 Haitian women experience gender-based violence (GBV)
- Haitian hypermasculinity
- Matriarchal Society

## The Recommendation

- Community-elder lead counseling groups to tackle increased gender-based violence and understanding the role of hypermasculinity



# Challenging the Normalization of Violence Against Children

A photograph of two women and a baby. The woman on the left is wearing a white headwrap and a yellow short-sleeved shirt, smiling warmly while holding a baby in a white outfit. The woman on the right is wearing a blue top and large hoop earrings, also smiling. They appear to be in an outdoor setting with a wooden bench.

## The Issue

- Around 2/3 of children in Haiti experience physical violence in their childhood.
- There is a lack of enforcement of laws and regulations protecting children.

## The Recommendation

- Parenting classes that will allow caregivers to understand how violence impacts a child's life and development to stop the cycles of violence and abuse.

# 04

## Local Economy

Emilio Urteaga,  
Giselle Coleman-Martinez,  
TJ Kohler,  
Zachary Jenkins

Accessing Markets and  
Combating Food Insecurity

Building Trust  
through Education

Disaster Insurance  
Accessibility

Rural Access  
to Technology

# Building Trust Through Education



## The Issue

- Farmers' lack of trust in formal finance institutions
- Existing informal savings and loans are too small

## The Recommendation

- Develop a collaborative education program
- Expand current systems' capabilities educate on financial opportunities and money management
- Build trust and relationships through existing networks



# Accessing Markets and Combating Food Insecurity

## The Issue

- Farmers have difficulty getting access to markets, contributing to food insecurity
- Minimal connections within the farming community

## The Recommendation

- A network database of resources at highly populated markets and en route to popular marketplaces in NE Haiti
- Create a resource of information for farmers to connect with other farmers, Madan Sara, and MPP



# Disaster Insurance Accessibility



## The Issue

- Farmers haven't heard of and/or don't know how to navigate disaster insurance
- Disasters occur every 2-5 years and cause hundreds of millions of dollars in damages

## The Recommendation

- Enhance financial and insurance literacy, bolster MFI's agricultural finance know-how
- Leverage Haitian Diaspora collective remittances to pay for disaster insurance.

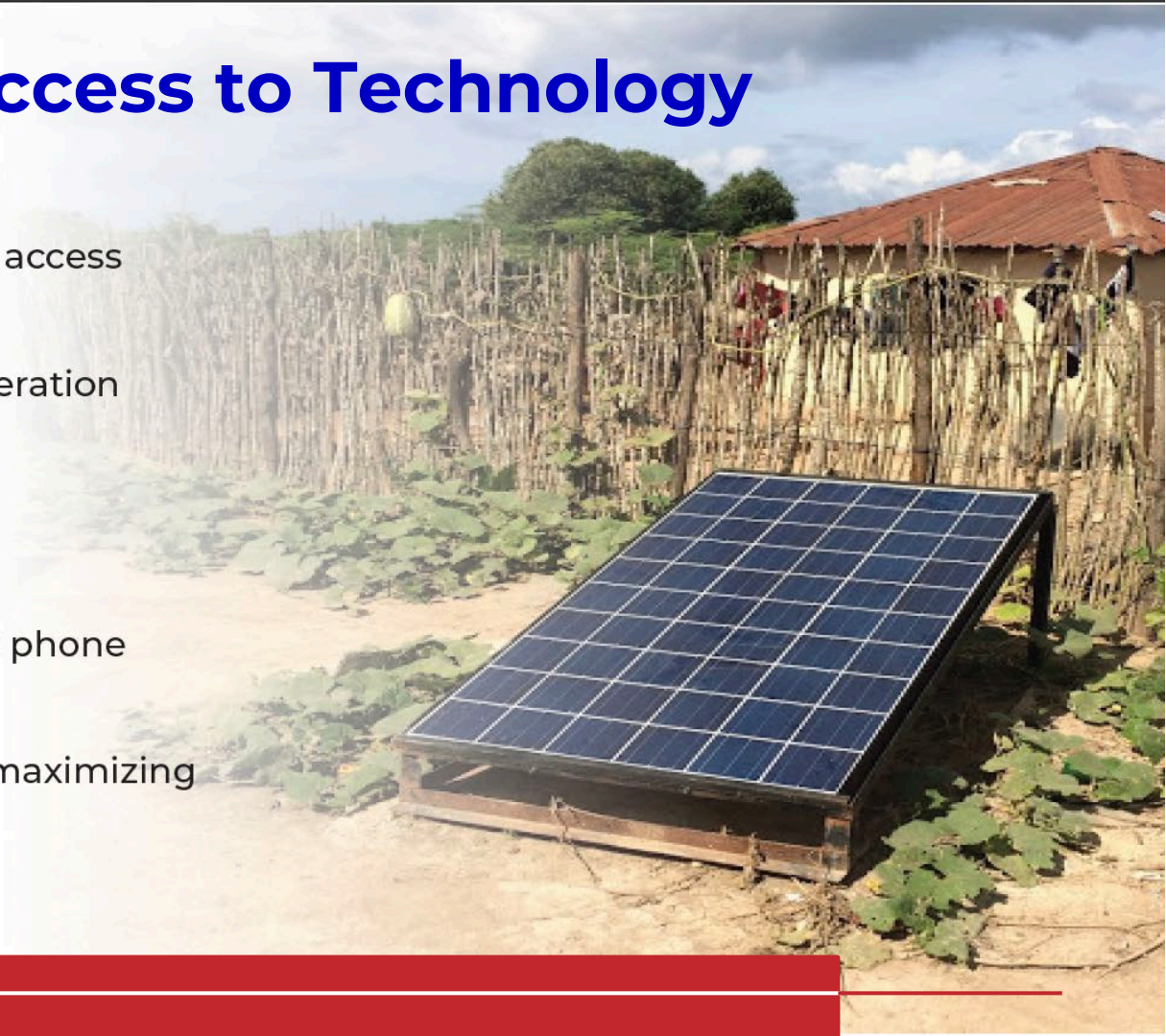
# Rural Access to Technology

## The Issue

- Low rates of electrification prevent access to mobile technology.
- Centralized methods of power generation are ineffective

## The Recommendation

- Solar generator kiosks offering free phone charging services
- Simple, cheap construction, while maximizing energy produced



# 05

## Community Organizing

Jeffery Vincente  
Mat Ribeiro da Silva

Facilitating access to  
information through  
technology

Reinforcing community  
cohesion through local-level  
water governance

# Facilitating Access to Information through Technology

A young man with a shaved head, wearing a light blue plaid polo shirt, is smiling broadly while holding a silver flip phone to his ear. He is looking down at the phone with a happy expression. The background is a blurred outdoor setting, possibly a market or a public square, with various people and structures visible in the distance.

## The Issue

- Centralized Haitian government issues and failed elections
- Lack of communication tools and access to information

## The Recommendation

- WhatsApp Business
  - Connecting local government and residents
-

# Building Community Capacity through Local-level Water Management

A young child is shown in profile, drinking water from a public tap. The child's hands are cupped under the running water. The background is a bright blue wall. The image is semi-transparent, allowing text to be overlaid.

## The Issue

- Access to water and poverty are intrinsically linked.
- Water is a vital component for communities to thrive.
- Communities do not have access to knowledge on water management.

## The Recommendation

- A cooperative handbook on water management will empower communities.

# Closing Remarks

## Recommendations

1. Improving Foreign Aid in Haiti
2. Correcting the Course of Internationally-Led Anti-Corruption Efforts
3. Stemming the Flow of Weapons into Haiti
4. Preventing Gang Expansion through Youth Outreach Clubs
5. Containing Gang Violence and Enhancing Territorial Control
6. Reducing Dominican Violence against Haitians
7. Confronting Gender-Based Violence through Safe Spaces
8. Challenging the Normalization of Violence against Children
9. Farmers Accessing Markets and Increasing Production
10. Improving Farmers' Financial Capability through Collaborative Education
11. Extending Disaster Insurance to Farmers
12. Expanding Rural Electrification
13. Facilitate Community Access to Information through Technology
14. Building Community Capacity through Local-Level Water Management

**Questions?**