

**THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME (WFP)
TO ADDRESSING THE HUNGER CRISIS IN HAITI THROUGH FOOD
SECURITY IN 2019-2024**

UNDERGRADUATE THESIS



**UNIVERSITAS
ISLAM
INDONESIA**

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DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

FACULTY OF SOCIO CULTURAL SCIENCES

UNIVERSITAS ISLAM INDONESIA

2025

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Hunger Crisis In Haiti Through Food Security In 2019-2024**

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Proposed to the Department of International Relations
Faculty of Socio Cultural Sciences
Universitas Islam Indonesia
As partial fulfillment of the requirements to earn a
Bachelor Degree in International Relations



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AUTHORIZATION PAGE

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Defended in front of Board of Examiners
in the Department of International Relations
Faculty of Socio Cultural Sciences
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Date

August 20, 2025

Validated by

Department of International Relations
Faculty of Socio Cultural Sciences Universitas Islam Indonesia

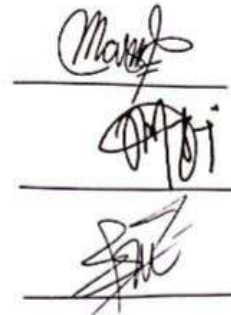
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STATEMENT OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

I hereby declare that this undergraduate thesis is the result of my own independent scientific work, and that all material from the work of others (in books, articles, essays, dissertations, and on the internet) has been stated, and quotations and paraphrases are clearly indicated.

No other materials are used other than those contained. I have read and understood the university's rules and procedures regarding plagiarism.

Making false statements is considered a violation of academic integrity.

01 August, 2025,



Siti Nuraliza Fauzia Hanan

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ABSTRACT

Haiti's various problems have made it the only country in the Americas to be included in the list of the ten countries with the highest hunger rates in the world. As one of the International Organizations that has a zero hunger mission, the World Food Program's contribution in dealing with hunger issues in Haiti through food security is questionable. To find out more about WFP's contribution in Haiti, this qualitative research utilizes the Food Security and nutrition theory developed by Charis M. Galanakis. This theory consists of four aspects, namely Availability, Access, Utilization, and Stability. This resulted in several findings such as emergency feeding programs to ensure food availability. Development of the SIMAST system, utilization of UNHAS, and negotiations to facilitate access to aid. The implementation of the SBCC approach and the provision of school feeding programs to promote and ensure the correct utilization of food. Support local farmers through various programs and training to maintain stable food income.

Keywords: *World Food Programme, Haiti, Hunger Crisis, Food Security*

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

As one of the countries located in the Caribbean archipelago of Latin America, Haiti has become one of the poorest countries in the world. Various factors, ranging from political instability and prolonged economic crises, recurring disasters, rampant gang violence and a lack of infrastructure have triggered the emergence of extreme poverty in Haiti (USAID 2020). It is through extreme poverty that a food shortage situation emerges, leading to acute food insecurity and acute hunger crises. For decades, Haiti has gone through prolonged food shortages. However, the rates of undernutrition and malnutrition in Haiti from 2000 to 2018 have remained at average levels, with half the population of Haiti being unable to meet their caloric needs. Many Haitians consume food of poor quality and of low dietary diversity (Global Hunger Index 2019a).

In dealing with hunger crises that often occur in various countries, the role of International Organizations is needed. The International Organization itself is a place that becomes a forum for interaction between various parties, both state and non-state, thus forming an institution that has principles, goals, administrators and members. Its main function is to provide a means of cooperation between several countries, which are then expected to benefit from it. On the other hand, International Organizations also play a role in conflict prevention and management, maintaining security and peace, providing humanitarian assistance, encouraging environmental conservation and many others. These roles usually

adjust depending on the organization itself. In the case of the hunger crisis, WFP is one of the international organizations that has an important role (Oktaviani, Putri, and Nulhaqim 2022, 1-15).

The World Food Programme, commonly referred to as WFP, is a food agency organization under the UN system that was established in 1961. WFP is the largest humanitarian organization that seeks to fight hunger around the world through food aid. In the Borgen Project, WFP is mentioned as one of the best organizations engaged in Human Assistance, especially Food Aid (The Borgen Project 2016). WFP's own contribution in human assistance is unquestionable, with it taking an active role in various countries to provide assistance. It has been recorded that approximately 83 countries have received assistance from WFP (Asyura 2022, 1-13). For example, in 2015, WFP took part in helping to overcome the problem of hunger in Yemen. Through the General Food Distribution (GFD) and Emergency Operation (EMOP) programs, WFP has provided food aid for those affected, as well as preventing famine in Yemen (Denisa 2024).

In addition to Yemen, WFP also took part in helping to overcome the famine in Somalia. Similar to Haiti, famine in Somalia is also caused by various factors. During the crisis in Somalia, WFP took an active role in providing education related to nutritious food and training to improve their food security (Rahman 2023, 1-11). In addition, WFP also provided direct assistance in the form of food. Similarly, when the crisis occurred in South Sudan in 2011, WFP took part and implemented several programs, such as Emergency Operations, Protracted Relief and Recovery Operations, and Development Operations (Oktaviana 2016). The existence of WFP has become very important for countries

experiencing hunger problems or food emergencies. One of the countries experiencing a food emergency now is Haiti. Not only is it a country prone to natural disasters, it is also in the third place of countries most affected by extreme weather for 2000 to 2019. This has worsened Haiti's situation by adding to it failed agricultural performance which has made Haitians dependent on imports (World Food Programme 2024a).

Haiti itself is a country that is highly vulnerable to gang violence and natural disasters. That is why Haiti needs short-term solutions first to address these issues. However, it also needs long-term solutions to stabilize the short-term solutions that have been implemented. That is why WFP's contribution in Haiti is greatly needed. In addition to providing emergency response, the WFP also serves as a bridge to strengthen food security in Haiti. Although both the WFP and FAO have similar focuses, namely issues related to food, the FAO only focuses on long-term food security (Food and Agriculture Organization 2025).

The WFP is also the most prominent international organization in Haiti. This is because the WFP's mandate directly addresses the main problem in Haiti, which is the result of other problems occurring in Haiti, namely the hunger crisis (Nawier 2019, 20-27). The WFP's role in Haiti is also notable due to the scale of its intervention, which has reached nearly half of Haiti's population, or around 5.7 million people in 2024 (World Food Programme 2024a). In comparison, the FAO focuses only on farmers, government agencies, and specific agricultural communities.

WFP has been present and taking part in Haiti since 1969. WFP works with the Haitian government to create a sustainable system to eradicate the roots

of food insecurity in Haiti (World Food Programme 2024a). However, WFP's role in Haiti only became prominent in 2010, after an earthquake hit Haiti and claimed more than 300,000 lives. After this event, WFP provided emergency food assistance to the affected communities. In addition, WFP also helped create employment opportunities for Haitians (United Nation 2015). Just as in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake, in 2017 WFP also helped Haitians affected by Hurricane Matthew. To stabilize food and improve food security in Haiti, WFP began to focus more on disaster preparedness management. This was done with the consideration of the frequency of natural disasters in Haiti. In addition, WFP also began to focus on residents affected by shock, and strived to support the local economy and agriculture in Haiti (Darmawati 2020, 1-13).

In 2019, Haiti became increasingly noticed after it made it to the list of ten countries with high levels of hunger and became the only country in the Americas to be included in the list (Global Hunger Index 2019b). In 2019 alone, Haiti experienced a deterioration in nutrition ; the consumption of proper food decreased drastically, increasing the malnutrition rate in Haiti (Global Hunger Index 2019a). For this reason, the role of WFP was and is needed in Haiti, not only as an emergency aid provider, but also to help create a sustainable food defense, and help Haiti to be able to help meet the nutritional needs of the Haitian people again (World Food Programme 2023a).

In 2024, in the global hunger index list, Haiti's peace level worsened reaching 34.3% percent (Global Hunger Index 2024), which was an increase of 3.2% from 2023 (Global Hunger Index 2023, 1-60). The number of kidnappings, murders and sexual violence acts by criminal groups increased throughout the

year. This was also one of the major reasons behind the increasing hunger in Haiti. According to data released by Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), in August 2024 critical acute food insecurity was experienced by some 3.4 million Haitians. This level is classified at level 3 or 'crisis'. High acute food insecurity was also experienced by another 48% of the Haitian population, which is category 3 or higher. Another 18 percent of the population was experiencing critical acute food insecurity, which is level 4 or 'emergency'. Another 6,000 were experiencing severe hunger and loss of livelihoods and were therefore classified at level 5 or 'catastrophe'. This was a 4% increase from the previous year (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification 2024, 1).

In addition, still in 2024, Haiti once again experienced a power vacuum. This occurred because Prime Minister Ariel Henry, who was in power in Haiti at the time, resigned from his position. This was due to various factors, including the escalating gang violence, lack of popular mandate, international pressure, and many others, which ultimately led Prime Minister Ariel Henry to decide to step down from his position (Syarifudin 2024). To address this power vacuum, Haitian political figures, the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) comprising 15 Caribbean nations, and international support from partner countries, the United Nations, and the United States agreed to establish a Presidential Transition Council in Haiti. This council will assist in the power transition process in Haiti and help appoint a new Prime Minister for Haiti (Phillips and Paluck 2024).

From 2019 to 2024, the hunger rate in Haiti increased rapidly. This increase in hunger was supported by a number of events, such as the Covid-19

pandemic that worsened the situation in Haiti to the death of President Jovenel Moise in 2021, which exacerbated political instability in Haiti, and gangs that ravaged Haiti. With this series of events worsening Haiti's condition, it is clear that Haiti needed attention from International Organizations, such as WFP. Especially as the world was slowly forgetting about the crisis in Haiti.

To handle the hunger crisis in Haiti, WFP has needed to cooperate with the government and local organizations to conduct data screening and aid distribution units. In carrying out its actions in Haiti, WFP collaborates with organizations under other UN systems, such as UNICEF, WHO, and FAO. Some of the programs carried out by WFP in Haiti include providing school meals, providing support for agriculture and local markets, providing good nutrition, building resilience, capacity building, and preparedness for future disasters (World Food Programme, n.d.-b). This research focuses on analyzing the role played by the WFP in Haiti to address the long-standing hunger crisis. It will emphasize how WFP overcomes the hunger crisis by using food security efforts in the programs that have been implemented. In addition, this research analyzes the effectiveness of WFP's food security program in Haiti, which is still relatively limited.

1.2 Research Question

How did WFP contribute to addressing the hunger crisis in Haiti through Food Security in 2019-2024?

1.3 Research Objectives

The purpose of this study is to analyze the contribution of the World Food Program (WFP) in the field of food security. As mentioned at the beginning of the

title written by the author in this study, this study aims to analyze the contribution of one of the international organizations under the United Nations that operates in the field of food security, namely the World Food Program. Specifically, it refers to its contribution in addressing the hunger crisis in Haiti through the food security and nutrition theory proposed by Charis M. Galanakis, as well as the impact of its contribution during the period from 2019 to 2024.

1.4 Research Scope

This research focuses on discussing the contribution of WFP to addressing the hunger crisis in Haiti through food security. This is in line with the increasing level of hunger that has been occurring in Haiti over time. WFP is one of the International Organizations that focuses on Humanitarian Assistance and Food Aid. This research also describes the programs implemented by WFP from 2019 to 2024. This research itself starts from the year 2019 when there was a spike in food shortages in Haiti, making Haiti one of the ten countries with the highest hunger levels in the world. Haiti is the only country from the western hemisphere on the list. This study ended in 2024, because that year saw a transition of government in Haiti. This was due to the resignation of Prime Minister Ariel Henry, which caused a power vacuum in Haiti. As a result, a presidential transition council was formed to assist with the transition of power in Haiti, which was agreed upon by various parties, including the Haitian political community, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), and international supporters.

1.5 Literature Review

Written by Ethol Exime and colleagues, 2021, "*The Role of International Cooperation in the Development of Haitian Agriculture against Hunger and Poverty*" discusses how international cooperation plays a vital role in dealing with the situation in Haiti. The research also emphasizes that Haiti needs innovation to overcome the hunger and poverty that has been rampant since 2010. Apart from that, Haiti also needs agricultural development for its population, driven by public policy, investment in technology, science, and other things that can help develop agriculture to strengthen the economy in Haiti (Exime et al. 2021, 1-13). The difference between this study and the present one is related to the actors discussed in the studies. The previous study emphasized the importance of the role of international cooperation. However, this study focuses more on one actor only, namely the World Food Program.

Written by Imanuela Juventia Montolalu and colleagues, 2024, "*The Role of The World Food Programme (WFP) In The Food Crisis In Chad for The Period 2021 - 2023*" discusses the role of WFP in addressing the complex food crisis in Chad. WFP plays a dual role, not only providing direct assistance but also helping to build long-term food security. In addition, it collaborates with the government, international organizations, and local communities to promote well-being. (Montolalu et al. 2024) This research has the same actor with the previous research, namely WFP. However, the country of the previous research is different. While the previous research discussed Chad, this research discusses Haiti.

The next is a journal, related to this research, namely, a journal written by Yulia Rimapradesi and colleagues, 2023, "***The Role of the World Food Program (WFP) In Addressing the Food Crisis in Haiti (2019-2021)***". It was explained that the role of the WFP as an international organization is divided into three: First, WFP is an instrument that supports the government by providing logistical assistance, telecommunications, and emergency food. Second, WFP is an arena for international organizations and other actors who want to help Haiti deal with the crisis. Third, WFP is an Actor, where WFP formulates its program policies to help the Haitian government as an independent institution (Rimapradesi, Istiqomah, and Hakim 2023, 91-100). This present research has a different problem focus from the previous research. The previous research focused on the food crisis, while this research focuses on the hunger crisis. The hunger crisis is a phenomenon that is more than just a lack of food. The Hunger Crisis is at a more severe level than the Food Crisis. This research was carried out until 2024 and there was a significant increase in hunger in Haiti from 2021 to 2024.

Written by Aryanto and Trisnaningtyas, 2025, "***Reflecting the Role of International Organizations through WFP's Food Aid Intervention in the Ethiopian Crisis (2019–2022)***". Discussing the role of WFP to addressing the food crisis in Ethiopia. In this case, WFP plays its role as an international organization that acts as a problem solver, collective action mechanism, aid provider, and capacity builder in Ethiopia (Aryanto and Trisnaningtyas 2025). Similar to this research, previous research also used the same actor, namely WFP. However, the countries and theories focused on were different. Previous research

examined Ethiopia using international organization theory, while this research examined Haiti using food security and nutrition theory.

Many previous researches have discussed the role of international actors, especially those related to the WFP. However, of the many studies related to the role of the WFP, only a few discuss the role of the WFP in Haiti. In addition, most research related to the WFP in Haiti only explains the role of the WFP from the perspective of the WFP as an international organization. It is still very rare to discuss the role of the WFP from the perspective of food security and nutrition. Furthermore, most previous research has mostly focused on the role of the WFP in addressing short-term issues in Haiti, such as the WFP's contribution to addressing natural disasters in Haiti. The issues discussed in this research are related to the hunger crisis, which is a stage where the problem is no longer just a matter of food insecurity, but has become more severe than that. To date, there has been no research specifically discussing the WFP's contribution to addressing the hunger crisis, particularly in Haiti. Therefore, this research differs from previous research in that it presents a new perspective on the analysis of the WFP's contribution.

1.6 Research Framework

To discuss the contribution of the World Food Programme (WFP) to dealing with the hunger crisis in Haiti, the author uses the framework of the concept of food security. The framework that the author has utilized can prove how the WFP contributes to handling the hunger crisis in Haiti.

In this research, the author uses Charis M. Galanakis' Food Security and Nutrition theory. According to the theory put forward by Charis M. Galanakis, food security can occur when all people in the region can have physical, social and

economic access to food. Not only that, but there is also access to sufficient, safe food, and food that can fulfill nutrition so as to provide active and healthy food preferences for their lives (Galanakis 2021, 181-207). Through the explanation of this theory, we get four important pillars that need to be considered in Food security and nutrition, namely Availability, Access, Utilization, and Stability (Galanakis 2021, 181-207).

1. Availability itself means that it is necessary to ensure the availability of food which includes various aspects such as production, distribution, and adequate food supply to meet all the living needs of the population in that place. In other words, the International Organization needs to ensure with certainty regarding the availability of food in the region both in terms of quality and quantity. Both of these need to be balanced in meeting food availability (Galanakis 2021, 181-207).
2. Access, the meaning of access here is that it needs to be ascertained whether there are accesses that can be used to distribute existing food or not. In addition, it also concerned with whether each family from the area can have good and smooth access to nutritious food or not (Galanakis 2021, 181-207).
3. Utilization, which refers to how the food obtained by the population is properly consumed or utilized. In other words, this pillar involves how eating patterns, food storage, processing, and healthy eating habits are carried out by the population in the area (Galanakis 2021, 181-207).
4. Stability—the meaning of food stability here is to ensure that the previous pillar, which include none other than the availability of food, access to

food, and utilization of food itself can be maintained properly over time. Without any disruptions caused by the consequences of internal or external factors. Certainly, factors such as economic crises, natural disasters, conflicts or other factors, have the potential to destabilize the food supply in the region (Galanakis 2021, 181-207).

Thus, based on the theory of Food Security and Nutrition put forward by Charis M. Galanakis, according to the author, this can be used to look further into the WFP's contribution to dealing with hunger cases in Haiti. Which by paying attention to the four main pillars, namely Availability, Access, Utilization, and Stability.

1.7 Provisional Argument

Through the theory of food security and nutrition, four pillars can be drawn, namely availability, access, utilization and stability.

In the pillar of Availability, WFP ensures that food remains available even in the face of multiple crises. In addition to delivering large-scale emergency assistance via land, sea, and air distribution channels, WFP also strengthens sustainability by purchasing food from local producers. This measure not only addresses urgent needs but also keeps the food production chain alive, ensuring that food availability in Haiti is guaranteed both physically and systemically.

In the pillar of Access, WFP helps increase Haitians' access to healthy and nutritious food. To ensure access, WFP also works with local Haitian partners for the food assistance they provide to reduce inclusion and exclusion errors.

In the pillar of Utilization, WFP provides education to the Haitian people on food utilization. In addition, WFP also strives to not only help provide food, but to also inform how to manage food properly and effectively.

In the pillar of Stability, WFP is helping to strengthen Haiti's local agricultural sector. This includes helping Haitian farmers reach markets and creating climate risk insurance programs so that small farmers are able to cope with and survive climate change.

1.8 Research Method

1.8.1 Type of the Research

The type of research used in this research is descriptive qualitative. Using qualitative methods produces descriptive data results that encourage understanding and facts from the subject and object being studied. In the compilation of this research, the author used a description which used a number of resources and facts that are already available before then conducting an analysis using theories and concepts.

1.8.2 Subject and Object of the Research

The subject of this research is the World Food Programme (WFP) as an actor from the International Organization, while the object of this research is the contribution of the WFP to addressing the hunger crisis in Haiti in 2019-2024.

1.8.3 Method of Data Collection

In this study, the author used data collection methods using secondary techniques, namely literature studies. The literature data used was taken from internet sources, journals, books, articles, reports, as well as the results of previous research relevant to the topic of this research.

1.8.4 Process of the Research

The research process was carried out by collecting data, researching previous research, sorting out data from reliable references and making it part of this research. Following this, the theoretical framework was determined and the data obtained were analyzed to answer the problem, then finally make a conclusion.

1.9 Thesis Outline

This research has been divided into four sections :

Chapter 1 contains the background of the research, research objectives, bibliography, and research framework that will be used in later chapters.

Chapter 2 analyzes, in depth, the problematic nature of the hunger crisis in Haiti. It also recognizes the steps taken by the Haitian government to address the problem.

Chapter 3 discusses the implementation of the four variables of food availability, access to food, food utilization, and food stability into WFP programs, such as emergency feeding, agricultural extension, and other programs. This

chapter also analyzes the effectiveness of the programs, challenges and opportunities that WFP faces when implementing its programs.

Chapter 4, or the last part of this research, contains conclusions from this research as well as suggestions that will be given for future research.

CHAPTER 2

THE HUNGER CRISIS IN HAITI AND THE CONTRIBUTION OF WFP

This chapter further examines the hunger crisis in Haiti, one of the most severe humanitarian challenges facing the country. This crisis is caused by various interrelated factors. It also discusses the response of the Haitian government itself and the contributions made by the WFP since it first entered Haiti in 1969 until 2019, which is the starting point of this research.

2.1. The Hunger Crisis in Haiti

The hunger crisis in Haiti is a phenomenon triggered by prolonged poverty, which has led to an inability to meet food needs over an extended period. As a result, in addition to facing a hunger crisis, a quarter of Haiti's population is also suffering from acute malnutrition, making Haiti the only Western country on the list of countries with the worst hunger in the world, alongside Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Somalia (World Food Programme USA 2023). Additionally, nearly 60% of Haiti's 11.5 million people are living in poverty and also face difficulties accessing food, healthcare services, and sanitation. As many as 9.4 million people were recorded as food insecure in 2021, with 5.4 million of them suffering from malnutrition. Food prices rose by 48% between 2021 and 2023, further exacerbating conditions in Haiti (Exime and Filho 2023). Although inflation in Haiti declined in 2024, the hunger crisis continues. This is because the crisis itself is caused by many factors. The following are the factors that triggered the hunger crisis in Haiti.

2.1.1 Historical Factors

Previously, Haiti was known as St. Domingue, one of France's colonies in the Caribbean, which was predominantly inhabited by black slaves from Africa. Its society was divided into three classes: white people, free mulattoes, and black slaves. The French Revolution sparked Haiti's struggle for independence (Rand, n.d.). However, independence was only recognized after Haiti paid a “debt of independence” of 100 million francs—equivalent to 21 billion US dollars today—to France (Choi 2021). This debt, combined with new loans from French banks, trapped Haiti in a “double debt” that drained most of the country's income and hindered the development of institutions and infrastructure (Porter et al. 2022).

As a newly independent nation, Haiti had a weak economy burdened by heavy debt and political isolation, making it difficult for the country to stabilize. As a country of freed slaves, it naturally disrupted other countries that also depended on slavery, such as the United States. In addition to refusing to recognize Haiti's independence, the US also imposed an economic embargo that worsened Haiti's efforts to become a stable country after France recognized its independence (Alexander 2011).

2.1.2 Political Crisis Factors

Even after Haiti was released from the French colony as well as the isolation and intervention of the United States, Haiti still faced internal problems caused by the Duvalier regime's dictatorship that was incessantly corrupt. The ruthless rule of the Duvalier dynasty invited coups from the Haitian people. In

fact, throughout Haiti's political journey, there were approximately six Haitian leaders who were coup d'état (Concern USA 2024). This indirectly has a side effect on Haiti's political condition, which has become unstable because the leaders are still unable to implement the regulations with certainty. This political instability and rampant corruption in Haiti has made Haiti, which has been weakened by US intervention and debt, even weaker.

The political crisis in Haiti worsened after the death of President Jovenel Moise in 2021 who was killed by a Colombian gang. The incident made political instability in Haiti even worse because it created a leadership vacuum in the government in Haiti (BBC 2023). The sudden vacancy in the Haitian government became a bone of contention. This power struggle then created internal conflict in Haiti. However, Joseph Lambert was eventually elected by the Haitian senate. He actually only got 10 senate votes out of 30 Haitian senate votes to become the interim president replacing president Jovenel Moise, but the rest had left the government earlier and Haiti still hadn't held general elections. Unfortunately, this action plunged Haiti even further into political crisis, until finally Haiti asked the UN to help it (CNN Indonesia 2021).

Besides Joseph Lambert, there was also Claude Joseph who resigned from his position as prime minister of Haiti, taking over the leadership as well as appointing himself as a replacement president only several hours after the assassination of president Jovenel Moise. The action of claiming the leadership of Haiti was also carried out by Ariel Henry as Prime Minister who had been appointed by President Jovenel Moise, but still had not taken office. The United

States and the United Nations recognize Claude Joseph as the leader of Haiti (Connelly 2021).

2.1.3 Economic Crisis Factors

Basically, the supporting factors for the hunger crisis that occurred in Haiti are interconnected with each other. Just like the economic crisis here, the economic crisis was triggered by internal conflicts in the Haitian government such as power struggles and corruption committed by state officials. Other than that, the lack of job opportunities and few options for employment in Haiti also triggered an increase in the amount of unemployment in Haiti (Uchiyama 2011, 15-30). More than half of the population in Haiti works in agriculture, while, as already known, Haiti is prone to natural disasters so it is not uncommon for water scarcity or drought to cause crop failure or low yields. These low yields make some Haitians unable to meet their needs. In addition, Haiti's foreign debt and independence debt is one of the factors why economic growth in Haiti is so slow (ACAPS 2020).

The high rate of currency inflation in Haiti has added to the burden of the economic crisis on the Haitian people. All these problems have further strangled the Haitian population. It is wonder extreme poverty is now spreading like a plague with the stagnation of Haiti's agricultural sector and the increasing number of unemployed citizens (Exime, Plein, and Pallú 2022, 1-13). By March 2023, as many as two-thirds of households had experienced a drop in income due to the poor labor market. The World Bank suggests that there is a possibility of an increase in poverty in Haiti (The World Bank 2024)

2.1.4 Natural Disasters Factors

There have been many studies documenting how natural disasters can affect a country's economic growth. There are two things that may happen to a country affected by a natural disaster. At best, there is only an initial loss for the damage caused by the natural disaster. And the worst is the long-term losses that the country has to bear (Joseph 2022, 1-18). Haiti is a small country with a fragile geographical location that makes it a country prone to natural disasters. There have been about 44 natural disasters that have hit Haiti in the last decade, whether in the form of hurricanes, floods, droughts or earthquakes. The 2010 earthquake was one of the many natural disasters that brought Haiti to its lowest point. The earthquake destroyed infrastructure, it also destroyed agricultural land. The Haitian population, the majority of whom are in the agricultural sector, experienced difficulties due to this earthquake. As a result, many Haitians migrated to get a better life. In 2016, Haiti was again hit by Hurricane Matthew which caused long-term food insecurity (Bacarreza et al. 2024, 1-21). Haiti experienced the worst impact of natural disasters, which are long-term losses that make Haiti suffer. This was one of the forerunners of the hunger crisis that hit Haiti.

2.1.5 Gangster Violence Factors

The poverty that envelops Haiti is one of the drivers that triggered the creation of gangsters. The emergence of gangsters is a form of fatigue among the Haitian people against poverty that never ends. Therefore, a cycle emerged where

poverty led to gangster violence and gangster violence led to continued poverty (Astuti, Rustam, and Munir 2022). The number of gangsters in Haiti has soared after the death of President Jovenel Moïse in 2021. The power vacuum that occurred at that time became very profitable for the gangsters to start controlling the Haitian capital Port-au-prince. As of two years after the death of President Jovenel Moïse, 80% of the population in the capital Port-au-prince were gangsters. Kidnappings and violence reached new highs, further worsening security in Haiti (Wilson Center 2023).

Gang violence is one of the many factors that has caused Haiti to suffer from a hunger crisis. According to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, gang violence disrupts the transportation of goods or the distribution of goods. Not only that, gang violence also prevents people from leaving their homes to either go to work or buy food. That is why most of the people experiencing hunger crises are those directly affected by gang violence. However, as many as 2 million people who are not directly affected by gang violence are also experiencing the hunger crisis (Sanon and Coto 2024).

2.2. Haitian Government Response to the Hunger Crisis in Haiti

The hunger crisis has exacerbated Haiti's condition, which is on the brink of collapse. The Haitian government, with its limited capacity and weak legitimacy due to the political crisis, has easily lost the trust of its people. Nevertheless, during the presidency of Jovenel Moïse, the government attempted to respond by implementing policies such as lowering food prices through

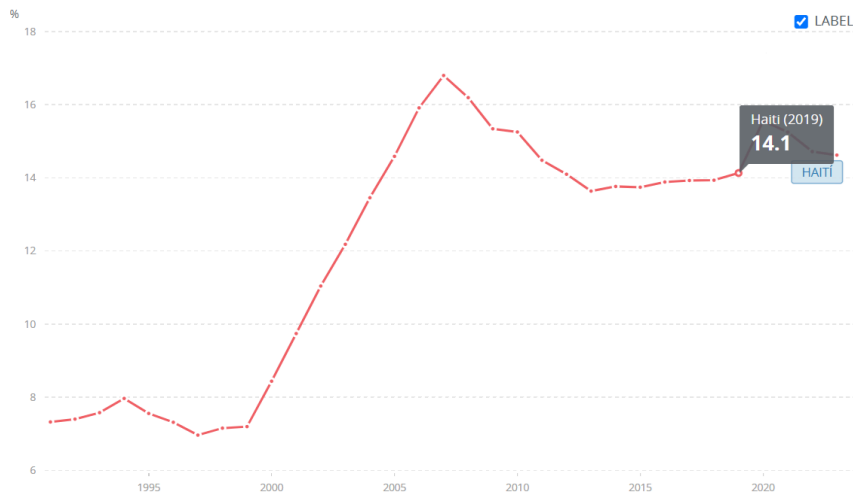
subsidies and discussing an increase in the minimum wage to ease social unrest (Meza 2019).

These policies did help to reduce tensions, but they did not address the root causes of Haiti's complex problems. Food subsidies added to the fiscal burden of a country already burdened with high debt, while a 17.4% depreciation of the currency and a 34% surge in staple food prices in the aftermath of Covid-19 further weakened people's purchasing power (ACAPS 2020). Persistent inflation exacerbates food insecurity, especially since Haiti relies on imports to meet its basic needs.

The minimum wage increase policy has also had other negative effects. Instead of helping to improve living standards, many small and medium-sized businesses are unable to comply with the policy, ultimately leading them to terminate employment relationships and increase unemployment in Haiti. The situation worsened when the Covid-19 pandemic hit the small business sector, forcing many companies to close down and deepening the socio-economic crisis in Haiti (CEPAL 2020, 1-9).

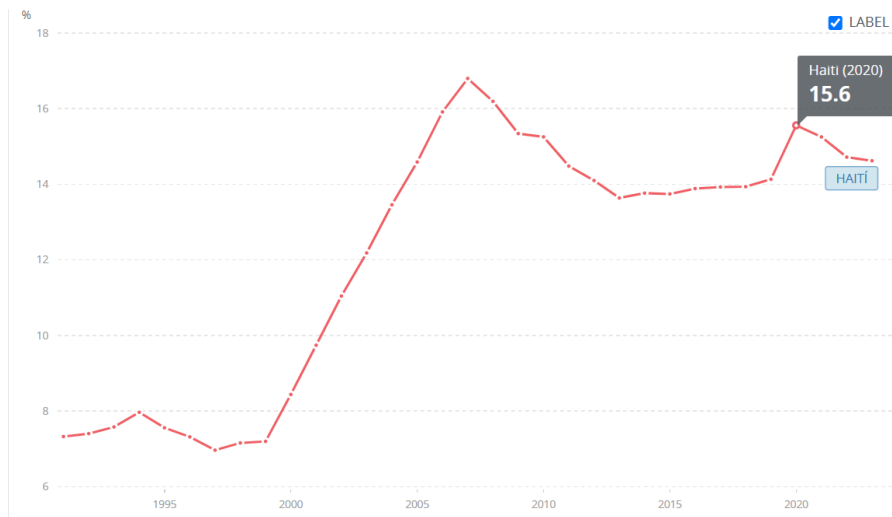
The surge in unemployment in Haiti can be seen in the tables below:

Graph 1. Unemployment rate in Haiti in 2019



Source : Grupo Banco Mundial (2024)

Graph 2. Unemployment rate in Haiti in 2020



Source : Grupo Banco Mundial (2024)

From the graph, it can be seen that unemployment in Haiti jumped sharply in just one year with an increase of 1.5%. This phenomenon certainly contributed to Haiti's economic problems, rather than resolving them (Grupo Banco Mundial 2024).

Until now, there has still been no definite step from the Haitian government that has really made a significant impact on overcoming the hunger crisis that occurred in Haiti. The Haitian government realizes its limitations in responding to the hunger crisis in Haiti, and for this reason, President Jovenel Moise repeatedly emphasized that Haiti needs international support to deal with the crisis (Pardo 2021). President Jovenel Moise even sent a personal letter to President Donald Trump to request food aid for Haiti's urgent food needs (Marsh and Paultre 2019). This clearly shows how Haiti is currently struggling to stand on its own feet. Thus, the role of WFP as an international organization working in the field of Humanitarian Assistance and Aid is needed.

2.3. WFP's contribution to Haiti before 2019

Long before 2019, the World Food Programme (WFP) had established a long history of contributing to Haiti. Its presence in the country has spanned several decades, marked by consistent interventions in response to recurring crises, ranging from natural disasters to economic instability. Over the years, WFP has been more than just a food provider. Instead, WFP has played a strategic role in stabilizing communities, supporting education through school feeding programs, and strengthening national capacity to respond to emergencies. This long-term engagement demonstrates that WFP's track record in Haiti is not merely

symbolic but rooted in a series of concrete actions that have impacted millions of lives across generations.

The 60 years that WFP has spent helping Haiti are not empty words, but proof of its enduring commitment and adaptability in a country frequently exposed to hurricanes, earthquakes, and chronic food insecurity. From its first emergency assistance during Haiti's brutal Duvalier regime, through interventions during the 2007–2008 food price crisis, post-2010 earthquake relief, and even during Hurricane Matthew in 2016, WFP has consistently demonstrated its relevance in Haiti's humanitarian landscape. In addition to emergency operations, its contributions also include development initiatives such as strengthening local food production, and others. To learn more about WFP's contributions, here are some of the initiatives WFP has undertaken in Haiti prior to 2019.

2.3.1 WFP's first contribution in Haiti (1969)

The first emergency food assistance by WFP in Haiti was in 1969. That year Haiti was in the midst of turmoil due to the authoritarian rule of Francois Duvalier who called himself President for Life. At that time, under the leadership of the Duvalier regime, almost 90% of the Haitian population experienced illiteracy and various diseases such as frambusia, tuberculosis, and malnutrition. The income of 4.5 million Haitians was also far behind that of Latin Americans who earned around \$400. Meanwhile, Haitians only earned \$75 per year (Krebs 1971). This led to widespread poverty in Haiti. It was at the end of Duvalier's tenure that the WFP stepped in for the first time and provided emergency food aid to Haitians in need.

2.3.2 WFP's contribution to the economic crisis in Haiti (2007-2008)

In 2007-2008, Haiti experienced a food and economic crisis marked by soaring global food prices, which led to riots in the capital Port-au-Prince and other cities. The government at the time fell, causing the crisis to worsen, leaving many Haitians vulnerable to starvation (Security Council Report 2008). In response to this situation, the World Food Programme (WFP) intervened, and in 2008, through its emergency response, targeted approximately 200,000 households, providing assistance to 1.1 million people, as well as implementing a nutrition program for 200,000 children in Haiti (United Nation 2008).

Additionally, in August-September 2008, Haiti was hit by consecutive tropical storms that devastated Gonaïves in the Artibonite region. These storms further worsened Haiti's situation, leaving 160,000 families homeless and without livelihoods. As a result, the WFP launched an emergency operation from November 2008 to April 2009. This assistance reached 800,000 people. The assistance itself included emergency food distribution, logistical support, and the provision of access to isolated areas (Haiti Innovation 2008).

In addition to providing emergency food assistance, WFP also led the Logistics Cluster, which facilitated the distribution of aid across agencies. Due to disrupted land access, WFP operated air and sea access to reach Gonaïves and other isolated areas. WFP's coordination across agencies made aid distribution faster and more targeted (IFRC 2008, 2-6).

2.3.3 WFP's contribution after the earthquake (2010)

In January 2010, a 7.0 magnitude earthquake struck Haiti, one of the worst natural disasters the country has ever experienced. The epicenter of the earthquake

was located near the capital city of Port-au-Prince, causing severe damage. As a result, approximately 3 million people were injured and struggled to access basic necessities (Government of Canada 2010). The death toll reached between 220,000 and 300,000 people. This created a humanitarian crisis in Haiti and necessitated immediate assistance.

In response, the WFP took swift action by providing large-scale emergency assistance in Haiti. With the cooperation of survivors and international partners, the WFP successfully distributed 127,000 tons of nutritious food along with cash assistance to support recovery in Haiti. The WFP's intervention also reached more than four million Haitians (Government of Canada, 2010).

In addition, WFP also needs to adjust its operations to reduce the compounding effects of rising food prices and low agricultural yields. This could threaten and prolong food insecurity in Haiti in the aftermath of the earthquake. To address this, WFP has decided to maintain its emergency assistance for vulnerable populations for a little longer. Approximately 700,000 Haitians are receiving emergency assistance for up to eight consecutive months. This initiative by the WFP aims to ensure the survival of even the most vulnerable groups (Vallas 2020).

2.3.4 WFP's contribution after Hurricane Matthew (2016)

In addition to the earthquake, WFP was also actively involved in the response to Hurricane Matthew in 2016. The hurricane hit Haiti and caused severe damage, destroying agricultural land and exacerbating food insecurity in Haiti. WFP responded swiftly by deploying trucks and helicopters to reach hard-to-access affected areas and distributing emergency food assistance to

approximately 750,000 people. Even before the hurricane struck, WFP had already provided direct assistance to over 30,000 people living in shelters (World Food Programme USA 2016). This swift response demonstrates WFP's readiness to respond to emergencies, as well as its commitment to supporting the Haitian people affected by the disaster.

In addition to providing direct food assistance, WFP has also established partnerships with various international actors, including the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Through this partnership, WFP seeks not only to provide emergency assistance but also to strengthen the food security and nutrition of the Haitian people in the aftermath of the disaster (United Nation 2016). This approach demonstrates how WFP is not only focused on short-term relief but also seeks to lay the foundation for long-term recovery.

Over time, WFP also began to develop programs that were more focused on empowering vulnerable communities and children. One notable initiative was the school meals program, which became a sustainable program in 2015 (Manigat 2025). Through this program, WFP provides nutritious meals to schoolchildren in various regions of Haiti, thereby not only supporting their health but also encouraging birth rates and continued education. This program is crucial given that many Haitian families are unable to provide nutritious meals regularly at home, especially following a series of disasters that have struck the country (World Food Programme 2025).

Additionally, WFP plays a role in strengthening Haiti's food distribution system. In some cases, WFP ensures that food assistance is not only available in sufficient quantities but also reaches remote areas that are difficult to access due to

geographical conditions or poor infrastructure. The distribution of aid using various modes of transportation, from trucks to helicopters, is one of the main strategies to ensure that even the most isolated communities can benefit (United Nation 2010). This also underscores how WFP prioritizes the availability and accessibility of food for all segments of Haitian society.

Broadly speaking, WFP's contributions prior to 2019 can be seen through three main aspects: emergency response to disasters, medium-term support to improve food security, and long-term initiatives in nutrition and education. From its inception in 1969 to its response to the 2010 earthquake and Hurricane Matthew in 2016, WFP has consistently demonstrated its capacity to respond quickly to crises while also considering more sustainable solutions.

Thus, prior to the 2019 period, WFP had already left a significant mark on Haitian society. From the outset, the emergency food assistance provided was not merely aimed at addressing immediate hunger but also part of a broader effort to ensure food availability, improve nutritional quality, and promote long-term resilience. This has made WFP one of the most prominent international actors in supporting Haiti in addressing food crises and disasters.

2.4 WFP's contribution to Haiti in 2019 - 2024

Previously, we discussed the contributions of the WFP prior to 2019. However, before getting into the main discussion, it is also necessary to understand the contributions of the WFP in Haiti during the period 2019-2024. This is to provide complete empirical facts before finally analyzing them theoretically in the next chapter.

2.4.1 WFP's contribution after Haiti entered to the ten countries with the highest levels of hunger (End of 2019-2021)

At the end of 2019, Haiti officially entered the list of the ten countries with the highest levels of hunger in the world. Immediately after that, WFP increased the scale of its response in Haiti. This was one of the follow-up actions to the recognition of the acute hunger crisis in Haiti. The WFP expanded its emergency operations by increasing the number of direct food distributions and cash assistance to reach 1.3 million people, a number that is significantly higher than before. Similarly, the School Feeding Program was expanded to serve approximately 300,000 children, and take-home packages were implemented when schools were closed during the COVID-19 pandemic (World Food Programme 2021a, 7-8).

Similarly, when a 7.2-magnitude earthquake struck Les Cayes and Jérémie in 2021, it further exacerbated Haiti's already deteriorating conditions. WFP, which had been closely monitoring Haiti, responded swiftly. Collaborating with UNHAS (United Nations Humanitarian Air Service), WFP distributed hot meals and logistical assistance to reach areas inaccessible by land. Following the earthquake, WFP expanded its assistance coverage to 215,000 of the most affected individuals and distributed 15,000 hot meals to patients, their families, and medical staff who were also impacted (United Nation 2021). Also this year, the WFP began implementing an SBCC approach to reduce malnutrition rates in Haiti while changing the consumption habits of the Haitian population (World Food Programme 2019, 1-37).

2.4.2 WFP's contribution during the crisis Violence & Limited Access in Haiti escalates (2022–Early 2024)

The assassination of President Jovenel Moise amid a severe famine crisis has plunged Haiti into chaos. Gang violence has increased significantly, and the capital Port-au-Prince is almost entirely controlled by gangsters. The surge in gang violence has cut off access to food in Haiti. Many Haitians are unable to leave their homes to work or buy food to meet their needs, especially those in the capital, which is almost completely isolated. To address this, the WFP has resumed its collaboration with UNHAS to utilize air routes. Additionally, it relies on water routes to transport trucks loaded with food aid (World Food Programme 2022).

Furthermore, the WFP has begun negotiations with gangs in Haiti to reach Haitian communities trapped in these areas. At that time, the WFP successfully distributed approximately 300 metric tons of rice, beans, and oil, benefiting around 50,000 people. This was done because the area had previously been inaccessible to food aid. The WFP also sought to distribute hot meals to 48 refugee shelters (Birkbeck and Segur 2024). In addition, WFP has also expanded the scope of farmer involvement in the school feeding program, reaching not only individual farmers but also hundreds of farmer associations in Haiti (World Food Programme 2023, 9-11).

2.4.3 WFP's contribution to addressing the political crisis and hunger emergency in Haiti (2024)

Not only has the level of hunger in Haiti increased, but in 2024 Haiti's peace ranking also fell far below previous levels. This adds even more reasons for hunger in Haiti to become increasingly rampant. Not to mention the resignation of Prime Minister Ariel Henry, which caused chaos in Haiti, not only in terms of gang violence, but also due to the power vacuum itself (Phillips and Paluck 2024). Amidst this situation, hunger in Haiti is spreading like an epidemic. It is no longer just severe acute hunger; Haiti has reached Level 5 (Catastrophe) on the IPC hunger scale. Approximately 6,000 Haitian residents are estimated to be at this level, while 48% are at Level 3 and 18% are at Level 3, nearing Level 4 (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification 2024, 1).

As a result, the WFP has expanded its emergency operations, distributing hot meals to hundreds of thousands of affected Haitians. The emergency aid target now exceeds 2.4 million people. Additionally, WFP is providing hot meals and over 100,000 food assistance packages to displaced residents. It has also airlifted 15 tons of aid (United Nation 2024a). Beyond food assistance, WFP is expanding farmer engagement in the school feeding program, which reaches over 200 farmer associations with tens of thousands of members (World Food Programme 2024b).

CHAPTER 3

WFP'S CONTRIBUTION TO ADDRESSING THE HUNGER CRISIS IN HAITI

This chapter analyzes the contribution of WFP to the handling of the hunger crisis in Haiti using the Food Security and Nutrition Theory proposed by Charis M. Galanakis. WFP's contribution through its programs in Haiti will be carefully analyzed using four pillars, namely Availability, Access, Utilization, and finally Stability (Galanakis 2021, 181-207).

3.1. WFP's Contribution to Addressing the Hunger Crisis in Haiti Based on Availability

The availability pillar emphasizes the importance of ensuring that food is adequately available, covering various aspects such as production, distribution, and overall supply to meet the needs of the population. In other words, international organizations must ensure that food is consistently available in a region, not only in terms of quantity but also quality. In other words, a balance between the two will be essential to maintaining food availability (Galanakis 2021).

Basically, WFP has a role to provide humanitarian assistance. One type of humanitarian assistance that is usually provided by WFP is providing emergency food. For more than 60 years, WFP has carried out its role as an actor that provides emergency food in various situations, such as during conflict,

post-conflict, and disasters (World Food Programme 2025a). Not only has WFP provided food aid with the bare necessities, but it has also involved a more complex understanding of more than just food aid. WFP takes into account the nutritional needs of those they are helping, as well as the people of Haiti (World Food Programme 2025b). In addition, WFP also pays close attention to the emergency food they provide from production to delivery. One of the steps WFP is taking to also build Haiti's local economy is to prioritize buying food from local producers (United Nation 2024).

WFP's emergency food provision for Haiti is not just tied to a problem caused by a natural disaster. Far from it, WFP responded quickly to hunger caused by gang violence in 2019. WFP's assistance to Haiti has become more intense over the years. In 2021, a 7.2 magnitude earthquake devastated Haiti again, causing 2,200 deaths. Responding to this incident, WFP provided 330,000 people with emergency food aid. Even one year after the earthquake, WFP was still actively assisting the affected victims, especially in the areas of Grand Anse, Nippes, and Sud (Piorr and Rigaud 2022). This was to ensure that food security levels did not deteriorate. However, Haiti's condition did get worse when the Covid-19 pandemic struck.

Right when the coronavirus hit Haiti in 2021, food prices in Haiti skyrocketed. It was mentioned that the price of a plate of food in Haiti at that time reached up to US\$74 for one plate. It's no wonder many Haitians feared hunger more than the virus. During these difficult times, WFP expanded the scope of its emergency program to reach 900,000 of Haiti's most vulnerable people. Using helicopters, WFP also brought its personnel to more remote locations. Especially

in areas with high levels of food insecurity such as Port-au-Prince and Gonaives (Vallas 2021).

In 2024, the world's attention began to be diverted from the prolonged and worsening crisis in Haiti. However, WFP was still sending emergency food aid to 50,000 internally displaced people. In November, WFP delivered 834,000 hot meals to 48 locations in need. This effort to provide nutritious emergency food aid is WFP's response to Haiti's increasing food insecurity. 277,000 children are acutely malnourished, not just hungry. Besides food, WFP also ensures the availability of medicines and medical supplies in Port-au-Prince and stocks them for operations in other regions (Birkbeck and Segur 2024).

To expedite the availability of its food aid to various places, WFP sends the necessary emergency food aid by various fleets, such as by using cars, trucks, ships, and helicopters if needed. This is used to facilitate the distribution of food in Haiti, even for besieged areas (World Food Programme 2024b). In the production process of emergency food aid in Haiti, WFP prioritizes the purchase of raw materials from the Haitian population. This is one of WFP's strategies to keep the economy in Haiti running.

Although the WFP is designated as the provider of this emergency food aid program, it is essentially the involvement of many parties that enables the program to run smoothly. In order for the program to run, donors are needed to provide cash and food itself, such as rice, corn, oil, nuts, and so on. These donors often come from donor governments such as the United States, Japan, the European Union, Canada, and others, which assist the WFP in purchasing food both in local and international markets. In addition to governments, USAID also contributes

through its Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA). For example, after the 2021 earthquake, USAID provided millions of US dollars to help WFP provide emergency food aid in Haiti (World Food Programme 2021b).

In addition, WFP also coordinates with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to further assess emergency food supplies after the disaster in Haiti. This is because after a natural disaster, FAO needs time to restore Haiti's agricultural sector, such as damaged land or crop losses (Food and Agriculture Organization 2021). That is why FAO and WFP often coordinate, in this case regarding how long WFP should provide post-disaster food assistance.

For example, during the 7.2-magnitude earthquake in 2021. Four agricultural sectors in Grand'Anse, Nippes, Sud, and Sud-Est suffered severe damage, including the loss of agricultural infrastructure such as irrigation systems, markets, land, storage and processing facilities, and the abandonment of rural roads typically used for distributing agricultural products. As a result, approximately 980,000 people faced acute food insecurity, and the need for emergency assistance increased dramatically. Following this, the FAO immediately issued a funding request of USD 20 million to restore livelihoods and food production capacity through the distribution of seeds, farming tools, livestock seedlings, cash assistance, and the rehabilitation of key agricultural infrastructure (Food and Agriculture Organization 2021).

Unlike the FAO, which focuses on restoring livelihoods, the WFP is strengthening its role in delivering much-needed emergency assistance. WFP is increasing food distribution in affected areas. This involves providing assistance to around 215,000 people in the departments of Sud, Grand'Anse, and Nippes,

through the distribution of ready-to-eat meals and “hot meals,” with logistics operations fully supported by UNHAS using helicopters as well as a fleet of trucks and barges to overcome damaged land routes (World Food Programme 2021c).

As in the case of Port-au-Prince, WFP not only focuses on the quantity of food being sufficient, but also focuses on the quality of food to meet the food and nutritional needs of the population. The area is isolated and it is very difficult to get quality food supplies. An example of equality is the provision of hot meals that are rich in carbohydrates, protein and fiber for affected communities. Basically the availability of emergency food aid provided by WFP also covers aspects ranging from production, distribution, and sufficient food supply (World Food Programme 2024h).

3.2. WFP's Contribution to Addressing the Hunger Crisis in Haiti Based on Access

The access pillar refers to the ability of individuals and households to obtain food through existing distribution systems. This pillar not only highlights the existence of mechanisms that facilitate the distribution of available food supplies, but also whether these systems function effectively and fairly in various communities. Additionally, this pillar emphasizes the importance of ensuring that every household in a given area has consistent, safe, and affordable access to nutritious food that meets their nutritional needs (Galanakis 2021, 181-207).

To ensure that all families experiencing hunger have access to assistance, WFP collaborates with the Système d'Information du Ministère des Affaires Sociales et du Travail (SIMAST) which was technically developed in 2013 by

WFP (Vallas 2020a). SIMAST is a Haitian system responsible for collecting, processing, and providing information on vulnerable households in Haiti. The data contained in SIMAST includes geography, families, and individuals (SIMAST 2025b). SIMAST has now managed 33% coverage covering 761,381 households in Haiti (World Food Programme 2024c, 23).

The following table shows the development of SIMAST from 2019 to 2024.

Table 1. Increased SIMAST coverage every year

Year	Total household coverage	Percent
2019	376,000	16%
2020	430,000	18%
2021	500,000	21%
2022	550,000	23%
2023	626,321	26%
2024	761,131	33%

Source : Compiled from Haiti Annual Country Report (World Food Programme 2020), (World Food Programme 2021a), (World Food Programme 2022a), (World Food Programme 2023a), (World Food Programme 2024c).

Based on the table, it can be seen that there was an expansion of household coverage in Haiti every year. This has also expanded the scope of WFP assistance to households in Haiti who experience vulnerability, and are thought to need assistance from WFP. SIMAST is classified into four categories, namely More Vulnerable, Midd Vulnerable, Less Vulnerable, and Not Vulnerable (SIMAST

2025a). This classification is based on the Haitian National Index of Vulnerability and Deprivation (INPV) which assesses the living conditions of households after aggregating and accounting for several key variables and indicators found in the questionnaire (Ministère des Affaires Sociales et du Travail 2022).

Although there are some areas that SIMAST has not yet reached due to ongoing conditions in Haiti, SIMAST continues to update the number of vulnerable families, including food insecurity, in its population census every year. This helps WFP to provide greater access to Haitians in need of assistance. Therefore, this collaboration between SIMAST and WFP is an effort to facilitate access to nutritious food, especially in times of natural disasters and worsening gang violence. As was the case when a massive 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck southern Haiti in 2021, WFP utilized SIMAST data to identify the number of people affected. SIMAST also enabled WFP to immediately prepare around 270,000 emergency food aid items in one month. This speeds up WFP's work and makes identification easier (World Food Programme 2021b).

As mentioned earlier, apart from natural disasters, SIMAST is also able to help facilitate access when gang violence occurs. One example is when there are refugees from areas affected by gang violence. In the midst of a spike in gang violence, many refugees come to evacuation centers. For example, schools in Port-Au-Prince are filled with refugees. By utilizing SIMAST, WFP was able to determine which displaced populations were at risk. SIMAST assists WFP in coordinating the amount of food needed in refugee camps in particular (Khorsandi 2024). In its planning, WFP prioritizes SIMAST as Haiti's national safety net.

This is in line with the Haitian ministry of social affairs and labor's goal of 70% coverage of all Haitians by 2028 (World Food Programme 2023b, 8).

As stated earlier by relying on the data provided by SIMAST, WFP can determine which families are in need of assistance. However, as the situation in Haiti has escalated, with gang violence escalating, access to aid has been cut off. To overcome this problem, WFP utilizes the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) as a means to facilitate access to food aid in areas where access has been cut off by conflict or disaster. The role of UNHAS here is very helpful for WFP to reach areas that are also remote and allows WFP to reach people more widely. In addition, WFP is also working on a negotiation so that they can open access to aid in besieged areas such as the capital city of Port-au-Prince which is currently infested by many gangs. This effort helped many families trapped amidst the tension of gang violence get nutritious food aid (Birkbeck and Segur 2024).

In addition to UNHAS, to make access to emergency food distribution safer, especially amid the massive gang violence that often disrupts the transportation of food and other necessities. The United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH) assists the Haitian police in maintaining security along food distribution routes, ensuring the safe passage of food aid convoys. This is done to prevent disruptions in food supply caused by gangster blockades in Haiti. The food supply itself is often under the responsibility of the World Food Programme (WFP), a key actor in providing emergency food assistance in Haiti. Like BINUH, UNODC is also involved in monitoring ports, airports, and airfields in Haiti that could be used to supply illegal weapons to gangsters in Haiti (United Nation 2024b). This is an effort to reduce gangster violence in Haiti. By reducing

gangster violence in Haiti, food distribution will become easier without fear of being looted or forcibly stopped.

Another effort that WFP makes to reach every family in need of assistance is by establishing relationships with existing local communities. Here the process of community engagement is at the core of programming that puts the community at the center. The Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) also underwent a series of targeted consultations with 200 representatives from 6 stakeholders (World Food Programme 2022b). AAP is a form of WFP's accountability to the Haitian people, where the community is involved in matters concerning their lives (World Food Programme 2017, 1-2).

This allows for two-way communication between WFP and the Haitian community. In addition, it ensures that field activities related to affected populations can be validated by other affected populations (World Food Programme 2017, 1-2). AAP was first implemented in Haiti by WFP in mid-November 2023 through the Anticipatory Action (AA) program (World Food Programme 2024d, 1-16). Through this, WFP can directly ascertain whether there are families that have been missed, minimize the occurrence of wrong targets and receive direct feedback from the community (World Food Programme 2023b, 8). This approach is done so that WFP can be truly accepted by the Haitian population, making it easier for WFP to open access to assistance.

3.3. WFP's Contribution to Addressing the Hunger Crisis in Haiti Based on Utilization

The utilization pillar refers to the way in which food resources obtained by individuals and households are consumed and converted into adequate nutrition. This goes beyond mere food availability or accessibility, as it emphasizes the importance of proper dietary practices, safe food storage methods, and effective food processing to maintain quality and nutritional value. In this context, utilization is directly linked to the adoption of healthy eating habits and the overall population's ability to convert food intake into better health outcomes and well-being (Galanakis 2021, 181-207).

WFP not only ensures that all Haitians can get enough food. In reality, having enough food and access to it is not enough. Both pillars are useless if they are not accompanied by proper utilization. Therefore, WFP provides education regarding the utilization of the food itself so that it does not only provide food, but the food consumed can also provide proper nutrition. This includes setting a good diet, how to store food and how to process food properly so that the nutrients obtained can be as they should be. To achieve this, WFP implemented a Nutrition Education program through the Social Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) approach in Haiti. This SBCC approach became one of the strategic components in WFP's nutrition education in Haiti in 2020. This is in line with WFP's strategic plan for Haiti and the program is also in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (World Food Programme 2019, 1-37).

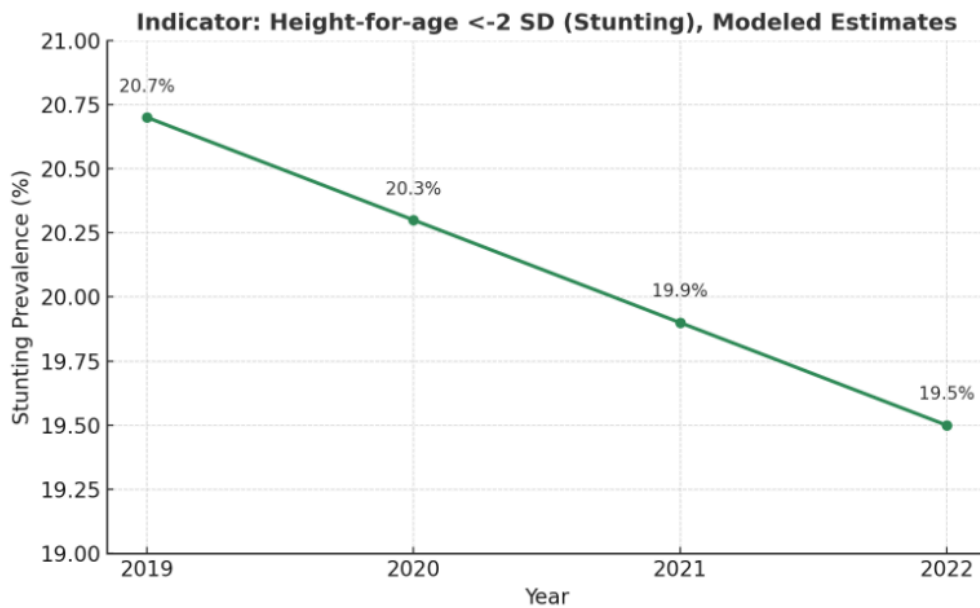
This approach has been adopted by WFP with the aim of changing nutrition-related behaviors in its programs. It also aims to improve nutrition

outcomes by complementing nutrition needs with social and behavioral changes (The Communication Initiative Network 2019). To optimize this approach, WFP is working with the Haitian Ministry of Health to address the structural root causes of malnutrition in Haiti. Through this program, WFP also provides socialization to the people in Haiti about a good and balanced diet. The approach is implemented based on previous and ongoing research related to providing an understanding of contextual constraints, cultural drivers, and behavioral patterns to ensure the program resonates with the targeted communities.

This socialization was conducted by WFP to students and their families through a tool called LENDI (Learning and Empowerment for Non-Discrimination and Inclusion), an SBCC gender and nutrition project integrated with the School Feeding Programme in 2023. It was conducted in 57 schools in the northeast. Involving 649 teachers in schools, reaching 11,950 students and 2,270 parents, there was a significant increase in nutrition knowledge from 47% to 78%. It also helped increase gender awareness among parents, with a 2% increase in understanding (World Food Programme 2023a, 30-35). Another tangible impact of the implementation of SBCC can be seen directly through the graph below.

This is a graph of stunting rates in children under the age of five in Haiti in 2019 to 2020.

Graph 3. Under-5 Stunting Rate in Haiti (2019–2022)



Source : UNICEF Data Warehouse (2025)

In the graphic, it can be seen that from 2020 to 2022 there was a significant decrease in stunting rates in children under the age of five in Haiti. From a figure that had previously touched 20.3% in 2020, it managed to drop to 19.5% in 2022, meaning a decrease of 8% (UNICEF 2025). As for the SBCC, it has been one of WFP's strategic steps in Haiti since 2020. Indirectly, the SBCC has contributed to the reduction of stunting in children under the age of five in Haiti.

The School Feeding Program is a free school feeding program that has been implemented by WFP in Haiti since 1969, with food ingredients coming entirely from imports. The School Feeding Program is designed to address food insecurity and malnutrition as well as to contribute to improved education, health, and gender equality outcomes, particularly in terms of increased school participation, attendance and retention of girls until the end of primary school. The program was also created to encourage parents experiencing food insecurity to send their children to school to save on food costs.

Picture 1. *Children queuing for the school feeding program*



Source : World Food Programme (2021)

In 2015, the Haitian government also issued a policy that the School Feeding Program was to be fully sourced from local farmers by 2030. Therefore, in 2015, the program began to be better known as the Homegrown School Feeding Program as the food source for this program comes from local farmers or local

ingredients. The following is data on the development of the School Feeding Program implemented by WFP in Haiti along with the number of students reached using the Homegrown School Feeding Program as well as local farmers impacted by this program.

Below is the progress data of the School Feeding Program implemented by WFP in Haiti along with the number of affordable students using the Homegrown School Feeding Program and the local farmers affected by this program.

Table 2. Increased reach of school feeding programs.

Year	Number of schools reached	Students Reached by the School Feeding Program	Students Reached by the Home Grown School Feeding Program	Number of local farmers affected
2018 - 2019	1,243 schools	over 292,600 students	33,400 students	21 Smallholder Farmers
2020	1,093 schools	250,000 students and 93,000 Families	50,000	54 smallholder farmers
2021	1,538 schools	293,582 students	86,201 school children	1,623 smallholder farmers
2022	1,700 schools	358,000 students	105,460 school children	2,441 smallholder farmers
2023	1,843 schools	450,279 students	225,927 school children	170 agricultural organizations (20,000 members)
2024	1,994 schools	602,713 school children	411,865 school children	247 smallholder farmers associations (23,500 members)

Source from Compiled Haiti Annual Country Report (World Food Programme 2019a), (World Food Programme 2020), (World Food Programme 2021a), (World Food Programme 2022a), (World Food Programme 2023a), (World Food Programme 2024c).

In addition, WFP also indirectly collaborates with UNICEF. UNICEF provides essential basic services such as nutritious school meals, sanitation, recreational programs, hygiene, water, as well as pedagogical and psychosocial support. This is to ensure that children's nutritional and health needs at school are met. (UNICEF 2020). The WFP itself focuses only on the provision of food, so the programs of these two organizations are essentially parallel and complement each other.

Currently, WFP is trying to re-expand its network in Haiti with this SBCC approach. However, as the amount of acute malnutrition in Haiti increases, WFP has begun to focus the SBCC approach on pregnant women and children who will be the foundation of the future (World Food Programme 2019, 1-37). So far, SBCC has reached 1,047 pregnant and lactating women, 818 girls and 812 boys aged 6-24 months, as well as 931 men, promoting good nutrition practices (World Food Programme 2024d, 1-2).

3.4. WFP's Contribution to Addressing the Hunger Crisis in Haiti Based on Stability

The pillar of stability refers to the ability to maintain the three previous pillars—availability, access, and utilization of food—consistently over time without significant disruption. This pillar emphasizes the importance of resilience

in the food system so that temporary shocks or long-term pressures do not undermine food security. Various factors, such as economic recession, natural disasters, political instability, armed conflict, or other external and internal challenges, have the potential to threaten the stability of food supply in a region. Therefore, stability requires mechanisms that protect food security from these risks and ensure that communities have adequate food availability by relying on stable and uninterrupted access to adequate nutrition (Galanakis 2021, 181-207).

The final key to dealing with the hunger crisis that hit Haiti is the maintenance of stability of the previous aspects. All the previous aspects will be useless if stability is not present in the targeted country, in this case Haiti. Haiti needs to have a strong foundation to maintain its food stability so that it does not easily collapse when a crisis, conflict, or disaster strikes, whether internal or external. To ensure that food security in Haiti remains stable, WFP is taking steps to strengthen it. The WFP's move starts from strengthening the existing local agricultural sector. This is based on the fact that about two-thirds of Haiti's population lives in rural areas and thus relies heavily on the agricultural sector (World Food Programme 2023b). It is also based on the hope of creating a sustainable food security system that can adapt to climate change.

The hunger crisis in Haiti is a crisis involving various factors, one of which is gang violence. Gang violence in Haiti is centered in the Haitian capital, Port-au-Prince. Port-au-Prince itself is the main distribution center in Haiti because it is the entry and exit point for logistics goods from Haiti. However, following the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse in 2021, there was a surge in gang violence, making access to the capital city of Port-au-Prince extremely

difficult, including access to the Port-au-Prince port, which was inevitably cut off (Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs 2021). This has caused many schools in the regions to lose their food supplies, food prices to skyrocket, and local farmers to struggle to sell their crops.

To address this vulnerability, WFP began expanding the reach of its Homegrown School Feeding Program to provide a market for local farmers to sell their crops. In 2021, the number of local farmers involved increased significantly, from only 54 smallholders in the previous year to 1,623 smallholders in Haiti in 2021 (World Food Programme 2021a). And in 2024, the program no longer reaches local farmers individually, but also organizationally, with a total of 247 smallholder farmer associations with approximately 23,500 members (World Food Programme 2024b). This is the first step by the WFP to create stability based on strengthening the agricultural sector as the main source of income for the people of Haiti.

WFP utilizes the climate risk insurance program, which aims to enable both communities and smallholder associations, to better cope with shocks to stability, provide early response cost support after major disasters, and accelerate recovery from extreme climate change. By 2022, the disaster risk financing strategy to stabilize food security in Haiti was expanded to become even broader. Integrated climate risk management, called the R4 Rural Resilience Initiative, was publicly introduced by WFP as a new risk management approach. The initiative aims to address both climate and non-climate drivers of vulnerability in Haiti (World Food Programme 2024f).

Picture 2. *Planting seeds to prevent erosion in Limonade*



Source : World Food Programme (2022)

WFP collaborated with Alternative Insurance Company (AIC), technical provider Weather Risk Management Services (WRMS), and reinsurer Societe Commerciale de Reassurance (SCOR) to implement the initiative. The initiative was implemented on a widespread basis in 2023 and successfully reached 10,565 smallholders. This was an increase from the previous year, which only reached 4,990 smallholders (World Food Programme 2024f).

In addition, WFP also conducts a series of other programs that support the stability of food security in Haiti. One of these programs is the Purchase for Progress (P4P) program. This program emerged after problems related to small farmers appeared, in which small farmers did not have access to production inputs and financing. Likewise, post-harvest management, including proper storage, was

often inadequate. This lack of proper storage includes crops that are exposed to mold, rot, or pests (World Food Programme, n.d.-a).

This is why the WFP program aims to build and develop markets and connect them with smallholder farmers. Another benefit of the program is to enable smallholder farmers to negotiate better, sell more produce, lower transaction costs, and expand their customer base. In other words, the program guarantees a market for smallholder farmers. Not only that, but the farmers supported by the P4P program also receive training and tools that will help them move into the formal market. In other words, the program includes linkages between agricultural inputs, commodities, and financial services. It also includes improved access to market information, increased access to financial services such as savings and loans, and reduced post-harvest losses at the household level (SNV, n.d.).

This program is one of the forms of support provided by WFP to the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Organizations (OPAs). Regarding training to strengthen the capacity of smallholder farmers in Haiti, WFP has partnered with and received donations from FAO. In addition, the training provided is not only focused on male farmers, but also on female farmers who play an important role in managing agricultural production and sales (Food and Agriculture Organization 2022). This is done not only to achieve temporary stability, but also to create long-term stability through the strengthening of Haiti's main source of livelihood.

CHAPTER 4

CONCLUSION

4.1 Conclusion

Haiti has become the poorest country in the Americas, and the only country in the Americas that is among the ten poorest countries in the world. This is due to various contributing factors, namely historical factors, political instability, prolonged economic crisis, natural disasters, and gang violence. These factors have paralyzed Haiti with a food shortage that has now turned into hunger and placed Haiti in IPC 3 or Crisis level situation.

Although the hunger crisis in Haiti is spreading, unfortunately there is not much that the Haitian government can do in response. The Haitian government has many limitations, especially with the internal problems that are eating away at the government which also causes a lack of trust from the public of the Haitian government. So even though policies have been trialled by the Haitian government to reduce hunger in Haiti, they end up ineffective due to incompetence.

Haiti's inability to sustain itself eventually necessitated the intervention of International Organizations. The World Food Programme (WFP), as one of the UN organizations concerned with the problem of hunger, has also played a role. Although WFP's role in Haiti has been running since 1969, its contribution in Haiti became more intense after the hunger in Haiti reached Crisis level.

To better understand WFP's contribution to handling the hunger crisis in Haiti, the author analyzed the role of WFPs using four kinds of indicators from

Charis M. Galanakis' Food Security and Nutrition theory. The four pillars are Availability, Access, Utilization, and Stability.

For the **availability pillar**, WFP has shown its contribution through the provision of quality and nutritious emergency food programs and distributed them to the Haitian population experiencing hunger, whether they are victims of natural disasters, gang violence, or others who are experiencing hunger. In addition to food, WFP also ensures the availability of medicines in Haiti.

As for the **access pillar**, WFP ensures good and smooth access in Haiti so that the emergency food they provide can reach people suffering from hunger. To facilitate this access, WFP collaborates with the Système d'Information du Ministère des Affaires Sociales et du Travail (SIMAST), a system owned by the Haitian government that collects information about households in Haiti. This collaboration helps WFP avoid target errors. WFP also utilizes the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) to reach Haitians whose access is cut off either by gang violence or natural disasters. To determine the target of its assistance, WFP also interacts with the local community.

Meanwhile, through **the utilization pillar**, the Nutrition Education program can be seen which is implemented using the Social Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) approach. WFP implements this approach when conducting socialization to students and their families which is also integrated into the School Feeding Program.

In line with Haiti's goal of seeking sustainability of food security in Haiti is the **stability pillar**. This is an indicator that seeks to keep the three previous indicators stable. To maintain food stability in Haiti, WFP started by helping the

farmers who are the pillars of Haiti. This included opening market access to farmers, helping repair and build irrigation, and providing training to farmers on how to manage the harvest and finance itself. In addition, WFP also implemented a climate risk insurance program to maintain the foundation of food stability in Haiti.

4.2 Recommendations

Based on the research conducted here, there are some recommendations that the author proposes. First, for future researchers who are also interested in studying the same topic can help to complete the shortcomings that exist in this study. These shortcomings include a lack of discussion of how the training was conducted by WFP for farmers in Haiti, as well as how WFP maximized the utilization of SIMAST in the midst of Haiti's chaotic situation. These are very important because they are determinants of the success of an international organization's intervention.

In addition, this research lacks a map-based explanation of the development of each region in Haiti after WFP implemented its program. There is no data related to the impact on the community, and this map-based data could help to determine the development of each region and the impact provided by WFP.

As for the Haitian government itself, it needs to take strategic steps to fix the country's internal problems and restore the government into an institution that can exert a strong influence again. The government also needs to strengthen the capacity of domestic institutions to control the chaotic situation in Haiti. Furthermore, the government needs to think about the flow of buying and selling

in order to maintain food stability while creating economic supply for the country. This needs to be done to prevent the possibility of dependence on international organizations.

Finally, the researcher recommends that the international community also strengthen its food security. In these times, extreme climate change will not only hit Haiti. Therefore, it would be better to start looking for solutions to overcome food security problems in the future amid the climate crisis to prevent hunger from happening worldwide.

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