



SYSTEMATIZATION OF BEST PRACTICES

**SUPPORT FOR CREATING THE  
BORDER POLICE IN HAITI**



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# ABBREVIATIONS

<b>BP</b>	Best Practices
<b>BRC</b>	Border Resource Center
<b>CBP</b>	Custom and Border Protection
<b>DR</b>	Dominican Republic
<b>GCM</b>	Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
<b>HNP</b>	Haitian National Police
<b>HR</b>	Human Rights
<b>INL</b>	United States Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs
<b>IOM</b>	International Organization for Migration
<b>INUSTAH</b>	United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti
<b>POLIFRONT</b>	Haitian Border Police
<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>TOR</b>	Terms of reference
<b>UNICEF</b>	The United Nations Children's Fund

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# BEST PRACTICE SUMMARY

<b>Best Practice</b>	Support for the creation of Haiti's Border Police.
<b>Description</b>	The initiative consisted in developing a border police force, stationed in the Haitian border area, to provide greater security at border points.
<b>Location</b>	Haiti - land border with Dominican Republic
<b>Beneficiaries</b>	Border Police National Police Government of Haiti Border communities

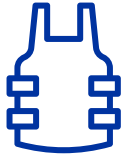
## MAIN ACTIONS

1.



Adapting physical infrastructure for the police activities

2.



Providing border patrol equipment

3.



Strengthening training for agents through effective capacity building

# INTRODUCTION

The following Best Practice (BP) was developed through a cooperative framework between the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Haiti and the Haitian National Police (HNP), this proposal began in 2017.

The initiative described in this document will be called POLIFRONT<sup>1</sup>, and consisted of the development of a border police force,

strategically located at the 4 official entry points to patrol along the Haitian border area in order to strengthen border security and combat human trafficking and migrant smuggling.

The documentation of this experience was made possible thanks to the support of Oliver Tenes from the IOM Mexico Office.

# CONTEXT

The territorial strip that divides the Dominican Republic (DR) from the Republic of Haiti, divides the Hispaniola Island in two countries per the border treaty signed in September 1697 between Spain and France, where Spain officially recognizes the French presence on the western side of the island.

Saint-Domingue was the French part of the island where there was historically greater inequality, promoted by French settlers and wealth management. The difficulties culminated in the first slave revolution in 1791 and the subsequent abolition of slavery in 1804; it was at that time that the independent State of Haiti was formed.

Historically, the territory between DR and Haiti has presented challenges regarding border control<sup>2</sup> and migratory transit<sup>3</sup>. In 2019, it was estimated that there was a population of half a million Haitians living in the DR.

There are currently four official border crossing points and an estimated 96 unofficial crossings points between Haiti and the DR border. This extremely porous border allows the proliferation of illegal activities, such as human trafficking<sup>4</sup>, migrant smuggling, contraband<sup>5</sup> and other types of crimes. The creation of POLIFRONT sought to establish better security in border areas (see Annex 1).

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<sup>1</sup> If you would like to review the project information for this initiative refer to: <https://primaforall.iom.int/sites/NorthAmerica/HT10P0505/Pages/Home.aspx>.

<sup>2</sup> Border control refers to the border inspections and patrol activities carried out at the physical borders of a State, whether air (airports), maritime, lake, river, or land (rails and roads, whose objective is to regulate the entry (or attempted entry) and exit of persons, animals and goods, to or from the territory of that State, in exercise of their sovereignty. International Organization for Migration. 2018. *International Law on Migration. IOM Glossary on Migration*. IOM. Page 40.

<sup>3</sup> The concept of transit implies a notion of temporality. However, for many migrants, particularly those who migrate irregularly, the journey to the intended destination can take months or even years. This calls into question the very notion of transit and raises the question of how long the stay must last for the transit country to be considered a country of destination. Office of the High Commissioner of Nations Unit for Human Rights. (2015) Situation of migrants in transit. UNCRH. Page 175.

<sup>4</sup> Trafficking in persons is the recruitment, transport, transfer or reception of persons, using the threat, force or other forms of coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or vulnerability or the granting or receipt of payments or benefits to obtain the consent of a person who has authority over another, for exploitation purposes. Such exploitation includes, at a minimum, exploitation of prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery, or similar practices to slavery, servitude, or organ extraction. International Organization for Migration. 2018. *International Law on Migration. IOM Glossary on Migration*. IOM. Page 263.

<sup>5</sup> Migrants Smuggling, is facilitating the irregular entry of a person into a State of which that person is neither a national nor a permanent resident to obtain a financial benefit or other material benefit. International Organization for Migration. 2018. *International Law on Migration. IOM Glossary on Migration*. IOM. Page 257.

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