



Haiti's Post-2010 Disaster Migration Crisis

The Haitian migration landscape has experienced dramatic changes since the 2010 earthquake. Intensification of South-South Migration to countries such as Brazil and Chile occurred due to social, political, economic, and environmental crises in Haiti, shifting migration policies, and new opportunities in Latin America. The circulatory nature of Haitian migration has become even more apparent as thousands of migrants have attempted the treacherous journey northward towards the US, in an attempt to join what is still the largest Haitian diaspora in the world.





Forced Return Migration in Times of Crisis

Following the 2015 socioeconomic and political crisis in Brazil, tens of thousands of Haitians continue onward to Chile, a country unaccustomed to receiving black migrants. Work opportunities and a previously favorable migration policy in Chile fueled an increase of Haitian migration to the country. However, a 2019 government survey found that around half of Haitian respondents had faced discrimination due to their race and language barriers. In 2018, the political shift to the right and region-wide economic recessions due to the pandemic in 2020 pushed many Haitians to embark on a treacherous journey of some 7,000+ miles towards the southern border of the US. In September 2021, the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is overwhelmed with some 14,000 Haitian migrants accommodated in informal settlements under a bridge in Del Rio, Texas.

2015: Number of permanent residencies issued to Haitians begins to increase exponentially

2018: An estimated 179,000 Haitians reside in Chile

2018: The conservative Piñera government implements restrictive migration policies for Haitians, and sends thousands home on criticized "humanitarian flights"

2011: Less than 200 permanent residencies are issued to Haitians in Chile

2019: Net (im)migration of Haitians to and from Chile is negative for the first time since 2010. Chile registers 10,478 departures and 7,515 entries, according to national data sources

2010

2020



Haitian Migration Routes in Latin America and the Caribbean (2010-2019)

