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UN Issues Appeal For \$98 Million To Help Haiti's Economic Recovery - [Agence
France Presse/Factiva]

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"The United Nations appealed Monday for contributions of \$98 million to help stabilize Haiti, where gang violence has forced hundreds to flee their homes in recent months.

The UN said it needs money for programs aimed at boosting Haiti's economic recovery and to help provide people with basic services. Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere and most of its 8 million people live on less than \$2 per day. More than 4 percent of Haitians are infected with HIV, and Haiti's maternal mortality rate is one of the world's highest. ..." [The Associated Press/Factiva]

"... 'The appeal also aims to reduce vulnerability among the population, ensuring that authorities are better prepared in the event of natural disasters,' said Joel Boutroue, Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti. ..." [Reuters/Factiva]

"... Boutroue added that the appeal would take a three-pronged approach: to address insecurity in Haiti's teeming shanty towns and deliver a 'peace dividend' to the population; to improve the situation in rural areas and thus stem the exodus to the cities; and to strengthen the capacity of the government. ...

Last week, government creditors in the Paris Club agreed with Haitian officials to restructure the country's external public debt within the Highly Indebted Poor Countries initiative. The agreement consolidated around \$69 million of the country's debt, and would lead to the immediate cancellation of \$7.2 million." [Agence France Presse/Factiva]