

FORUM: United Nations Development Programme
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Introduction

Devastating the entire region, an earthquake of a magnitude 7.0 hit Haiti on January 12, 2010. The epicenter of this earthquake was only 16 miles, or about 26 km, away from Port-au-Prince, the capital of Haiti. The entire region was devastated with countless casualties.

Seven years have passed since the earthquake. However, the country is not fully recovered. Also, not only the earthquake but the

Hurricane Matthew, has hit this island on October 4, 2016, causing damage to the defenceless people of Haiti. This disaster has resulted in the deaths of 546, displacements of 175,500, and the extreme food insecurities for more than 1,400,000 people.



Tens of thousands of people in Port-au-Prince still live in tents and other temporary housing. (David Gilkey/NPR)



The road to recovery is a long one. Photo: UNDP Haiti

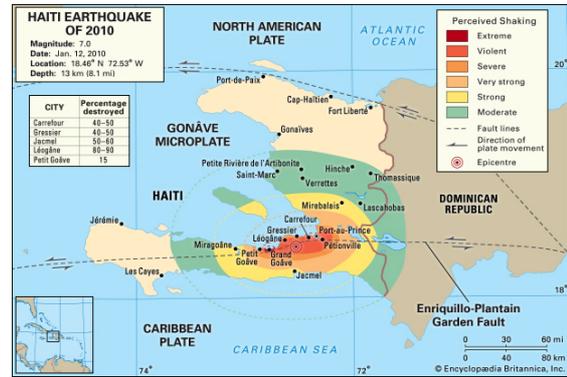
natural disasters.

Certainly, Haiti lost not only its people but also facilities to support people's lives, such as infrastructure, medication, agriculture, and shelter. Haiti desperately requires help to recover from these tragic phenomena and also needs the hands of developed countries to be restored economically and politically, in order to be able to prevent further consequences of

Key Terms

2010 Haiti Earthquake

On January 12, 2010, an earthquake of Magnitude 7.0 hit the Espanola Island in the Caribbean Sea. This earthquake was possibly the strongest quake ever to hit this region. It caused heavy casualties of 220,000-316,000 deaths and 300,000 injured. 1.5 million were initially displaced, and 55,107 people remain displaced on September 2016. This earthquake changed the whole capital into a heap of debris since the epicenter was close to the capital, Port-au-Prince. Victims of this phenomenon were numerous, as more than a third of the country’s population was affected by this disaster. Also, a quarter of the islands’ schools were damaged or destroyed.



The strength of the quake in Haiti, 2010. (Britannica)

Hurricane Matthew

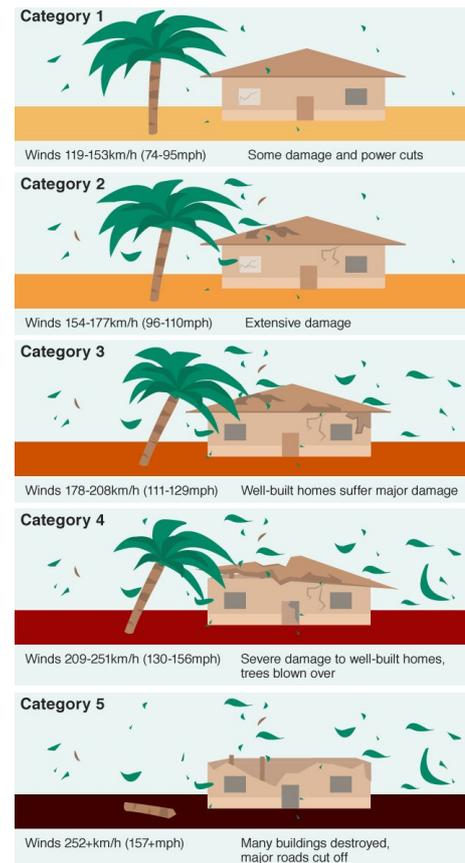
A Category 4 hurricane, winds reaching up to 145 mph tore through Haiti on October 4, 2016. This hurricane brought displacement, death, and extreme food insecurity. Hurricane Matthew was one of the most tragic natural disasters because Haiti was still on the way recovering from the last earthquake and cholera epidemic.

Magnitude

Magnitude is the measurement for the size of an earthquake. When the number of magnitude of an earthquake is 1.0 higher, the amount of energy is thirty times larger. For example, M6.0 earthquake is thirty times stronger than the earthquake of M5.0.

Cholera

Cholera is an infectious disease, which can kill the patient in 48 hours if left untreated. The main symptoms are diarrhea, vomiting, dehydration, circulatory collapse, and shock. This disease is caused by eating contaminated food or drinking water that contains



bacteria *V. cholerae*. There is an estimated data of 3-5 million cases, and over 100,000 deaths per year around the world.

Infrastructure

The basic facilities or institutions to support human lives, such as water supply, electricity, transportation, communication, schools, etc. Infrastructure is critical to all human because it sustains people's basic quality of life, and develops the country.

Sustainable Development

According to the Sustainable Development Commission, "Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." In order to offer sustainable development for a country, there are 17 goals. The goals are defined by the United Nations.



History

Haitian Government (1957-2006)

In 1804, Haiti became the second independent state in the western hemisphere, and the first republic country established by the black people. Haiti was one of the free and wealthy countries when they gained independence. They had sugar canes to support their economy. However, Haiti had both domestic and diplomatic political problems. The Haitians have suffered especially from the Duvaliers' dictatorships, until 1990. Francois Duvalier, also known as "Papa Doc,"



François Duvalier, the 40th president of Haiti

became the president of Haiti in 1957. Although he presented himself as a “reconciliatory president,” he soon started to silence all of the political opposition. In order to successfully achieve his goal, he reorganized the army and created a new secret police called Tontons Macoutes. Hundreds of Haitians were arrested, beaten, or disappeared during his time, and thousands of Haitians were indirectly killed by Duvalier due to food shortage. In 1964, his supporter declared a new constitution that ensures Duvalier to be president-for-life. At this point, many professionals decided to flee from Haiti, resulting in the lack of educational and health care system. His reign lasted until his death, when his son, Jean-Claude Duvalier (Baby Doc), became the president at the age of 19 in 1971. However, Jean-Claude Duvalier flees Haiti in 1986, and ends the long dictatorship by the Duvaliers. The government was unsettled for years until 2006 when MINUSTAH’s operation for democratic election finally started to function.

Economic and Social Situation of Haiti Before the 2010 Earthquake

Since Haiti’s income did not catch up with the indemnity they had to pay, the economy of Haiti became catastrophically impoverished. According to Fund for Peace, Haiti is number 12 in their list of failed states (2009), which means Haiti already had difficulties sustaining its function as a country, due to poverty and or unstable government.

Researchers point out how poor the Haitians were even before the earthquake. Political unrest, violence, and other factors all came together to cause poverty and chaos, especially in the overpopulated capital of Port-au-Prince. Data shows that 80% of the citizens live under poverty line, and half of them live in abject poverty. LEDC, Less Economically Developed Countries, have difficulties to provide education, infrastructure, stable politics, and medication, to their citizens.

As an example, education has been insufficient in Haiti, compared to developed countries such as U.S., U.K., France, etc. In Haiti, at most 50% of the children attended school and about 90% of the children who attends elementary school abandon school before sixth grade. Moreover, the quality of schools is low. According to Haiti Partner, only half of the teachers are qualified, and 80% of the teachers have not received pre-service training. Because of the insufficiency in the education area, the literacy rate is low. The literacy rate of Haitians is only about 45% (2006), while other Caribbean developing countries show the average of 90%.

2010 Haiti Earthquake

Disastrous earthquake hit Haiti in 2010 and worsened the economic and social situation. Haiti lost about \$8 billion, which is about 120% of the annual GDP of the country. Most of the infrastructure, such as electricity, water supply, communication, hospitals,



A man carries a bundle of metal bars salvaged from the rubble of collapsed buildings in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, on Jan. 17, 2010.

shelters, and roads were severely damaged. Since Haitians did not have building codes and they were made of concrete, shelters and infrastructures did not have enough strength to overcome the quake. This caused patients to stay outside of the hospital buildings, and displacement for most of the people (Approximately 300,000 buildings destroyed). Also, the broken roads made it harder for food supply to enter the quake-hit areas. U.N. PKO, MINUSTAH (United Nations

Stabilization Mission in Haiti), American Army, and police supported to keep peace and order.

2010 Cholera Outbreak

The earthquake damaged the sanitation system in Haiti, letting the ongoing cholera pandemic brought by the UN peace keepers. This deadly disease infected nearly 790,000 people, about 6% of the country was affected by cholera in just two years. Also, it was easy for cholera to spread in the country, because of the sanitation issues, such as bodily fluid was not disposed of right methods, and also clean water was inadequate, which rendered citizens drink uncontaminated water. The other reason of poor sanitary condition is that in Haiti, citizens started to dump trash in the waterless rivers. Moreover, when rain starts to fill the river, the trash in the upstream flows down to the downstream, causing the poorer hygiene in the lower reaches. Due to the sanitary condition, Haitians suffer from the cholera epidemic still today.

Hurricane Matthew and its Consequence

Hurricane Matthew was a category 4 hurricane that hit the Hispaniola Island, and some parts of the U.S. Haiti was slowly recovering from the earthquake. These recoveries were destroyed by this fatal phenomenon. 2.2 million people were affected, and in some areas, 90% of the houses were



Rebuilding their home after Hurricane Matthew hit. (Oct. 12, 2016)

destroyed. Estimated 70 to 100% of the crops were ruined. The infrastructure has fallen apart, and the recovery from both the earthquake and the hurricane is to start all over again. Overall, it has been calculated to be the costliest hurricane since Sandy in 2012. Additionally, officials warn the Haitians that waterborne diseases such as cholera and tetanus is wide spreading with the flow of water across the country. According to research by Mercy Corps, “deforestation has caused significant soil erosion and degraded watersheds in Haiti’s rural areas, making them more vulnerable to harsh weather and natural disasters.”

Hurricanes Striking in the Caribbean, September 2017

Hurricanes have been attacking the area once again in September 2017. Major hurricane attacks are by Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria. Hurricane Irma hit Haiti in the early September. Haiti was not directly hit by the hurricane on the path, but the hurricane went over Haiti, causing damages to the rebuilt infrastructure.

Problems Raised

Broken Infrastructure, Sanitary System

According to Wahba, “There are still about 55,000 people in camps and makeshift camps. Many are still living in unsanitary conditions due to displacement caused by the earthquake. We have a very long way to go.” The condition of Haiti’s infrastructure was unsatisfactory even before the natural disasters. Since Haiti is a developing country, further sustainable development is necessary even the country has recovered to its original state.

Damaged Agricultural Functions

The decimated crops, farmlands, and irrigation canals severely affect the economy and food supply for the Haitians, as Haiti has heavily relied on agriculture before the catastrophic disasters. Haitians grow both cash crops and food crops on their farms. When both types of crops are damaged, Haitians are no longer be able to gain profit from selling the cash crops. A lack of income as well as a lack of food causes many to suffer from malnutrition and hunger at least for a year.



These two pictures were taken at the same place on Jan. 14 2010, and on Dec. 29 2014. (Port-au-Prince)

Humanitarian Aid

NGO Corruption

NGOs and NPOs have been gathering money via calling for donation. However American Red Cross has been accused of misusing the donation. Their charity raised about \$500 million, and the Red Cross says it has provided homes to more than 130,000 people. Yet, the number of permanent homes the charity has built is only six.

Lack of Widespread Humanitarian Aid

Haiti is currently suffering from hurricanes, and they desperately need humanitarian aid to support their life. 1.4 million people are in urgent need of assistance, according to Haiti's Ministry of Interior. The lack of water and food is especially severe in Haiti. After each natural disaster, most of the unprepared citizens suffer from starvation and thirst, which often leads to other issues like deterioration of public order, malnutrition, and diseases.

Unsustainable Economy Due to the Reliance on NGOs

According to Ramachandran, Haiti is often called “the Republic of NGOs,” because of its dependency on the NGOs. Another study explains that even before the January 2010 earthquake, NGOs provided 70 % of healthcare, and 85 % of the national education is run by NGOs. In order to attain sustainable development, Haitians should be able to start their own project to move forward. Also, because of the humanitarian aid provided by the

NGOs, Haitians had no need to buy from the local farmers. This situation lowered the income for the local farmers and merchants. For example, small stores have bankrupted due to the freely provided food by the NGOs, since fewer people would buy the goods from the stores.

Poverty

High level of poverty is hindering the slow recovery of Haiti. Haiti's ranking of fragile states issued by Fund for Peace has been relatively high throughout the world; 11th place in 2010, 5th place in 2011, 7th place in 2012, 8th place in 2013, 9th place in 2014, 11th place in 2015, 10th place in 2016, and 11th place in 2017. Definitely, the earthquake in 2010 has damaged the economy of Haiti, as the rank has risen incredibly higher. When a country's economy is substandard, other problems raise at the same time. Poverty causes more crimes, more victims of diseases and injuries, instability of the area, etc. Also, poverty indicates that the Haitian government is not adequate to sustain rebuilding the whole country.

International Actions

UNOPS Constructing Houses for Haitians

The United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) is an operational arm of the United Nations, supporting the successful implementation of its partners' peacebuilding, humanitarian and development projects around the world. UNOPS has provided supports for Haiti since 2004 to help stabilizing the government. However, the focus is on the recovery from Earthquake since 2010, and setting up an economic foundation for the country. They have worked on the housing, and their main purpose is to rehabilitate all the destroyed houses. This project is called 16/6 Project, has been jointly implemented by the UNDP, the International Labour Organization and UNOPS, with leadership from the Government of Haiti.

The United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH)

The United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti was established on 1 June 2004, by the Security Council. MINUSTAH has supported Haiti to elect the president in 2006 in order to stabilize the Haitian government. Also, in 2011 after the earthquake, MINUSTAH has been working to fulfil its original mandate to restore a secure and stable environment, to promote the political process, to strengthen Haiti's government institutions and rule-of-law-structures, as well as to promote and to protect human rights. However, within about half a year, MINJUSTH will take over its mission to continuously provide help for Haiti.

Key Players

Jack Guy Lafontant

Jack Guy Lafontant is the 20th prime minister of Haiti elected in March 2017. He is also a gastroenterology doctor, and being the prime minister is his first career in politics.

United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINJUSTH)

United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti, the new mission in Haiti, will be carried out from October 15 2017. The Security Council has unanimously adopted a new resolution, focusing on assisting the government in strengthening the rule of law, policing, and human rights protection.

The United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH)

MINUSTAH is a part of the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations (PKO). The objective of this mission is to bring in public security, democratic election process, and the protection of human rights.

World Health Organization (WHO)

The World Health Organization is the specialized agency of the United Nations to maintain international health. WHO defines what is health, and also believes that human health is one of the basic rights of the human.

World Food Programme (WFP)

The World Food Programme is the leading humanitarian organization fighting hunger worldwide, delivering food assistance in emergencies and working with communities to improve nutrition and build resilience.

Medecins Sans Frontier (MSF)

Medecins Sans Frontier, also known as Doctors without Borders, is an international medical humanitarian organization. MSF fulfils medical needs of the people who are in situations such as conflicts, natural disasters, and poverty.

Possible Solutions

Recover Infrastructure

It is highly significant to rebuild the infrastructure as quickly as possible to be able to achieve sustainable development in Haiti. Due to the lack of infrastructure, especially

transportation, Haitians lack access to sufficient food, water, and other necessities for life. Also, it is extremely important to build new infrastructures with better security code, because most of the former buildings easily collapsed.

Prevent Further Damages by Natural Disasters by Providing Information

Haiti is extremely vulnerable to natural disasters, specifically because of the lack of knowledge of the Haitians. In a video presented by Miami Herald, a Haitian man has expressed the lack of knowledge about the natural disasters. Since he had a chance to know about hurricane from a cousin in America, he realized that Hurricane Irma was about to hit Haiti, so he told the people around him about the hurricane. However, they did not believe him due to the lack of knowledge about weather forecast. They did not know that natural disasters were predictable. One of the possible solution to preventing further damages is to educate the citizens and make sure it is possible for them to gain the information about the natural disasters. In order to accomplish this learning goals, NGOs or the Haitian government can start schools in churches after their service, because most of the Haitians go to church. Also, the Haitian government can develop a radio system that warns about natural disasters.

Time Line

Time	Event
1804	Haiti gains independence; former slave Jean-Jacques Dessalines declares himself emperor.
1957	Francois Duvalier is elected as the 40 th president
1964	Duvalier declares himself as a President-for-life.
1971	Francois Duvalier dies, Jean-Claude Duvalier takes his father's position.
1986	Jean-Claude Duvalier flees Haiti
1990	Jean-Bertrand Aristide elected president in Haiti's first free and peaceful polls.
2004	Security Council creates MINUSTAH

2010	M. 7.0 earthquake hits Haiti
2011	Cholera epidemic
2016	Hurricane Matthew hits Haiti

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