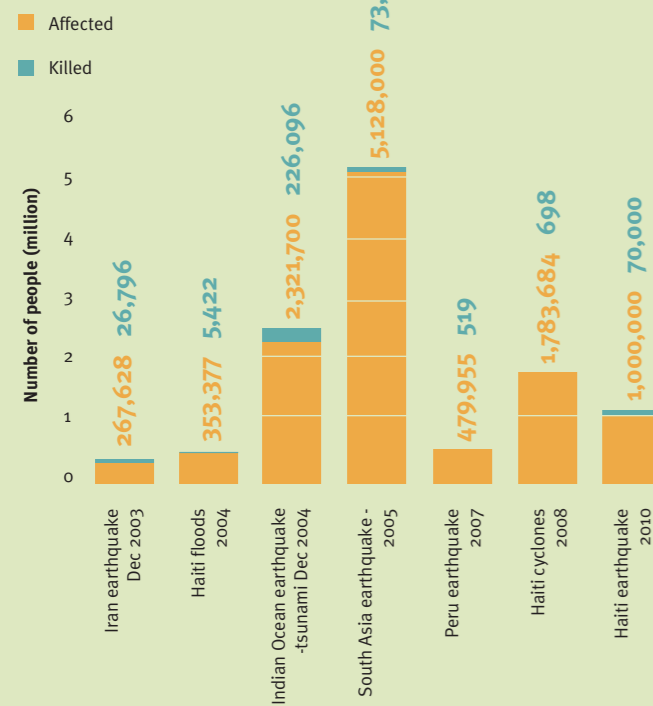


# Haiti

## 13 January 2010. Earthquake. Port-au-Prince.

The earthquake that hit Haiti on 13 January 2010, measuring 7.0 on the Richter scale and reported as the strongest to have hit the country in 200 years, is just the latest but probably worst crisis to have hit this country – one of the least able to cope with such a shock. Political upheaval and insecurity, as well as a long list of natural disasters, especially tropical cyclones and flooding, have had a serious impact on Haiti over the last 20 years.

In terms of scale, this earthquake ranks as one of the worst in recent memory. Figures at mid-January suggested that 70,000 people had been killed and one million affected by the disaster.



Source: Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED), 20 January 2010

Haiti is often called the poorest country in the Americas but even when compared to the whole world it is revealed as fraught with huge humanitarian and development challenges.

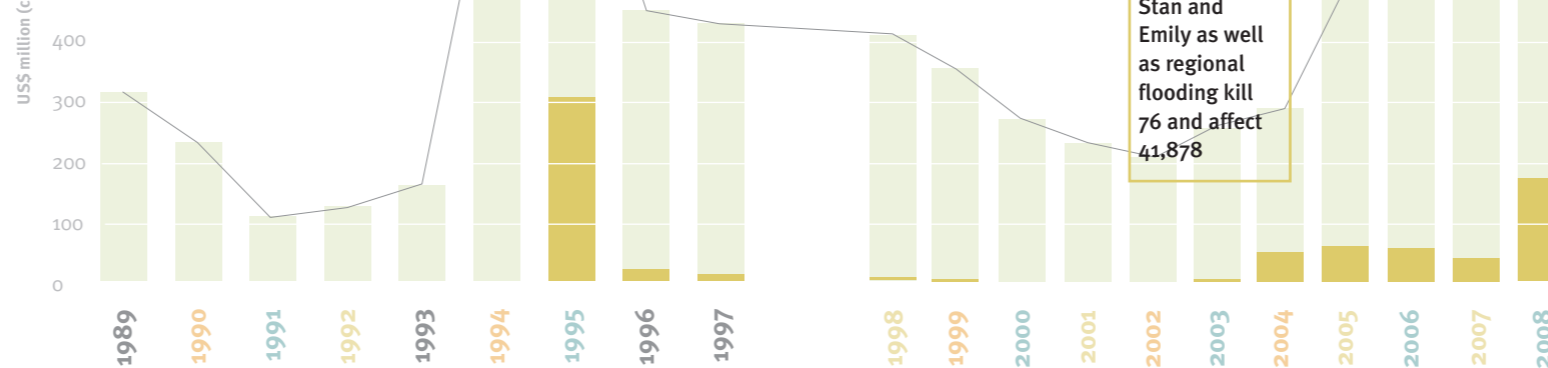
Indicator	Result	Global ranking	Americas ranking
Gross domestic product (GDP) per capita	US\$1,155	23rd worst	Worst
Life expectancy:	61 years	32nd worst	Worst
Probability of not living until 40	18.5%	44th worst	Worst
% of population not using an improved water source	42%	16th worst	Worst
Adult illiteracy	37.9%	16th worst	Worst
Corruption	n/a	10th worst	Worst
Fragility	n/a	16th worst	Worst
Aid dependency (total ODA as % GDP)	13%	15th worst	2nd worst

Source: Human Development Report, OECD, MDG Monitor, Foreign Policy, World Bank, Transparency International, Development Initiatives

## A history of fragility, crisis and aid

Official development assistance (ODA) to Haiti has increased by 312% (or US\$655 million) since 2002, with sharp rises in both development and humanitarian aid. At US\$175 million, humanitarian aid – aid that aims to save lives, alleviate suffering and maintain human dignity – accounted for just over 20% of the total aid spent in the country in 2008. This is second only to 1995, when humanitarian aid to Haiti reached US\$316 million – or 37% of total ODA.

The trend towards increased humanitarian aid can be attributed to disaster relief following several devastating hurricanes that affected the country in 2004, which were then followed by food riots in April that year. The January 2010 earthquake will most likely ensure that humanitarian aid to Haiti remains a major donor priority.



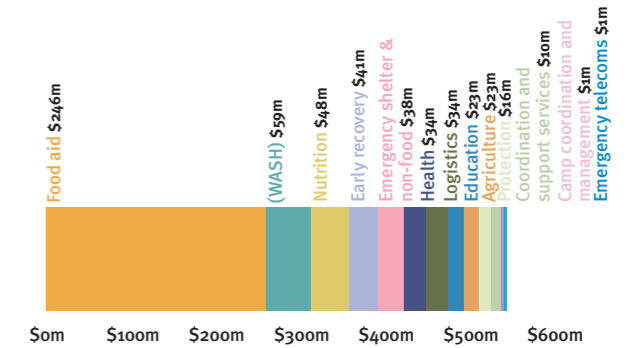
- 1990**: Jean-Bertrand Aristide elected president in first democratic elections
- 1991**: Aristide ousted in a coup led by General Raoul Cedras, triggering sanctions
- 1992**: Drought affects 1,000,000
- 1994**: Military regime relinquishes power; US oversees transition to a civilian government; Aristide returns. Tropical cyclone Gordon. 112 killed, 1,587,000 affected
- 1995**: UN peacekeepers arrive; Aristide supporters win elections; René Préval elected president
- 1998**: Cyclone George kills 190 and affects 12,029
- 1999**: Préval declares that parliament's term has expired and begins ruling by decree
- 2000**: Aristide re-elected
- 2001**: Armed attacks and attempted seizure of the National Palace suggested to be a prelude to a coup
- 2002**: Cyclone Lili and flash floods kill 35 and affect 38,589
- 2003**: Flooding and storms kill 88 and affect 197,225; drought affects another 35,000
- 2004**: 200 years of independence marred by violent uprising. Rebels seize towns and cities. Aristide forced into exile; interim government takes over. UN peacekeepers arrive to take over security. Political and gang violence levels rise. Severe flooding, tropical storm Jeanne and cyclone Ivan kill 5,422 and affect another 353,377
- 2005**: Cyclones Dennis, Alpha, Stan and Emily as well as regional flooding kill 76 and affect 41,878
- 2006**: Préval becomes president. A democratically-elected government headed by Jacques-Edouard Alexis takes power. Tropical storm Ernesto, regional flooding and storm surges kill 16 and affect 39,700
- 2007**: Multiple floods and cyclones Noel, Olga and Dean kill 73 and affect 220,042
- 2008**: Food riots. Parliament dismisses Alexis; Michèle Pierre-Louis succeeds as prime minister. Brazil boosts peacekeeping force to combat violence. Cyclones Gustav, Ike, Hanna and Fay kill 698 and affect 246,726
- 2009**: Jean-Max Bellerive becomes prime minister after the Senate passes censure motion against Pierre-Louis. World Bank and IMF cancel US\$1.2bn of Haiti's debt, 80% of the total

Source: CRED, BBC, January 2010

## 15 January 2010. UN launches flash appeal for US\$575 million.

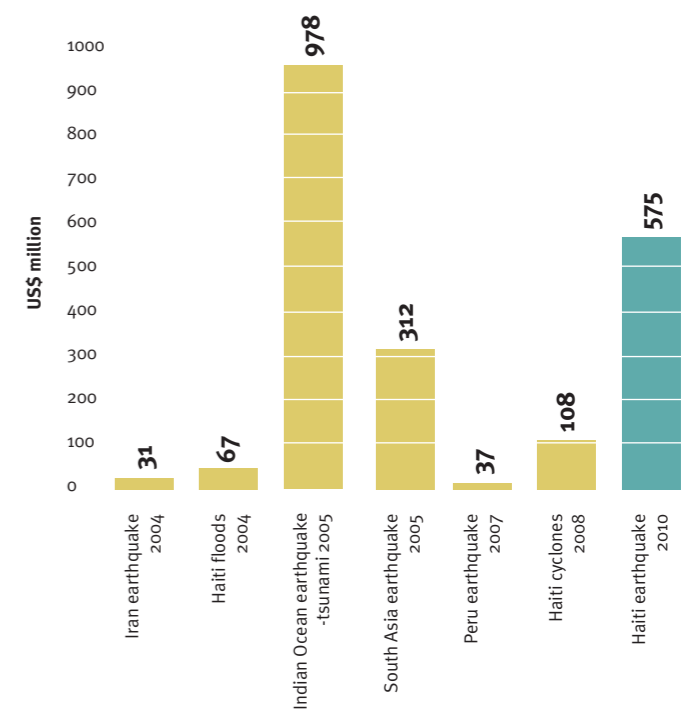
On 15 January, two days after the earthquake, the UN launched a US\$575 million flash appeal for 30 appealing agencies to carry out emergency operations for some three million people over the next six months.

The World Food Programme (WFP) estimates that lack of access to supplies and the damaged infrastructure will leave at least two million people in need of food aid. The water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) cluster, led by UNICEF, has the next largest requirements.



UN flash appeal for Haiti, January 2010 [Source: UN OCHA Financial Tracking Service (FTS)]

Over the last seven years, only the Indian Ocean earthquake-tsunami, which was estimated to have affected five million people, has had a higher flash appeal requirement in response to an earthquake (US\$978 million). On a per person basis, requirements for the Indian Ocean earthquake-tsunami and Haiti appeals are similar.



Initial UN flash appeal requirements [Source: UN OCHA FTS]

For further information, please contact the Global Humanitarian Assistance team at Development Initiatives  
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