

Week 1 Assignment Hazard Impacts Group 4

A 21st Century Disaster Study of Haiti

What Happened?

- Just before 8:30 a.m. ET on August 14, 2021 a 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck southwest Haiti with an epicenter located 78 miles west of Port-au-Prince.
- Damage:
 - Over 60,000 homes destroyed and 76,000 homes damaged.
 - 70% of schools and several hospitals heavily damaged.
 - Water lines ruptured, flooding Les Cayes.
- Food Security became reduced as significant damage occurred to infrastructure and crops.
- The earthquake exacerbated the challenges that Haiti already faces, including political instability, economic difficulties, and recovery efforts from previous disasters such as the 2010 earthquake, and Hurricane Matthew in 2016.
- This earthquake highlighted Haiti's vulnerability to natural disasters, and underscored the ongoing need for sustainable development, infrastructure development, and disaster preparedness in the region.

Key Factors Contributing to the Impacts of Haiti's Earthquake



Geology

Haiti sits on a fault line between the North American plate and the Caribbean plate.



Social and Economic

Building practices have been poor as well as high population density exists within some sections



Environmental

Mountainous terrain leads to more severe shaking and landslides which can cause increase the amount of landslides



Response and Preparedness

The country's government lacks the sufficient capacity to prepare and respond to natural events

Solutions

01

Robust Infrastructure and Urban Planning

Address building codes and employ zoning methods
When addressing these building codes, ensure to consider earthquake risks and avoid construction in high-risk areas.

Community Based Approach:

Empower local communities to lead disaster risk reduction initiatives by including them in the planning process.

Foster community-based organizations and initiatives that promote resilience-building activities and support vulnerable populations.

02

Socio-Economic Measures

Investment in insurance bonds, social safety nets.

Promote livelihood diversification and economic resilience among communities to reduce dependency on sectors vulnerable to natural disasters.

Implement social protection programs to support vulnerable populations before, during, and after disasters, ensuring that they have access to basic services and resources.

Q/A?

Any Questions

