

HAITI EARTHQUAKE 2010



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About Haiti

Haiti is located in the Caribbean Sea, south-east of Florida in the United States

It is the Western third of the island of Hispaniola. The rest of the island makes up the Dominican Republic.



Facts about Haiti

Haiti is the poorest country in the western world:

-80% of Haiti's 9 million population live below the poverty line on \$2/day

- 75% unemployment rate
- Foreign debt is 1.9 billion dollars



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Poverty

Poorer people from rural areas are moving into the city in large numbers.

There is a shortage of housing, and the housing that exists is of poor quality.

Land is scarce so people build anywhere they can.



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Vulnerability

Even without the threat of natural disasters Haiti's people are desperately poor and vulnerable.



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Haitian Women and Girls

According to the UN, the Haitian Constitution does not specifically prohibit sexual discrimination.

Under Haitian law, the minimum legal age for marriage is 15 years for women and 18 years for men, and early marriage is common.



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Sexual Violence

Amnesty International states that sexual violence in Haiti is pervasive and widespread.

Only in 2005 was rape declared a criminal rather than a moral issue, and there is a very low level of reporting, investigation and prosecution of cases.



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An Earthquake Strikes

A massive earthquake of 7.0 magnitude hit on January 12, 2010.

There were more than 52 aftershocks in the following days and weeks.

Buildings, roads, airport, hospitals & port were destroyed.



The Impacts

An estimated three million people were affected by the quake;

The Haitian government reported that an estimated 230,000 people had died, 300,000 had been injured and 1,000,000 made homeless.



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Impacts for Women and Girls

In the chaos of humanitarian disasters, women and girls face devastating forms of gender-based violence, and increased vulnerability.



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