

Emergency Response in Haiti

13 January 2010

Summary

On 12 January a devastating earthquake, measuring 7.0 on the Richter scale hit Haiti. Estimates so far are that thousands of people have died and 3 million people are affected in the biggest earthquake to hit Haiti in 100 years.

ActionAid has been working in Haiti since 1996, supporting over 30,000 people. As the poorest country in the Western hemisphere, Haitians are only just recovering from huge damage inflicted by hurricanes in recent years. Now, Haiti's creaking infrastructure has been wrecked by the earthquake. Buildings have been destroyed, power is out in the capital, and communications are down.

Adriano Campolina, ActionAid's Americas International Director, said: "Early reports are limited but we can be sure this earthquake is a catastrophe for Haiti. We are expecting a massive death-toll as the main slum areas of downtown Port-au-Prince and neighbouring areas were badly affected. There is also lots of concern about the damage in Carrefour, the epicentre of the earthquake.

"Haiti is already the poorest nation in the Western hemisphere and has been very badly damaged by hurricanes in recent years. In the capital Port-au-Prince 80 per cent of people live in absolute poverty in shanty towns spread out over the city's hills. This latest disaster will hit the poorest Haitians hardest and they will need help from the international community to recover.

A map showing the earthquake's impact is below.

What we need

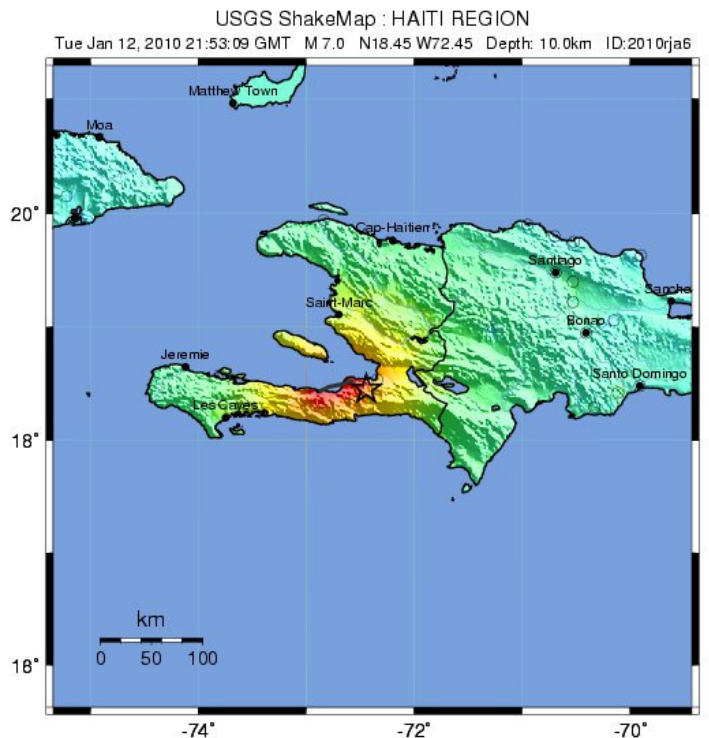
At present, urgent needs include:

- Search and rescue teams – several thousands of people are still trapped in the rubble
- Temporary shelter for those who have lost their homes
- Medical supplies
- Food and non food items such as blankets
- Water and sanitation – especially clean water

ActionAid are responding will respond in both Port-au-Prince and Jacmel and we hope to reach up to 20,000 people. Psychosocial support is also likely to be delivered. ActionAid will also be looking at protection of vulnerable sections such as women, children, elderly and persons with disabilities. There are already reports of looting.

We urgently need **£800,000** for immediate relief. This could provide **water, food** and **shelter** for around 20,000 people.

We will also continue our work with communities as they rebuild their lives by restoring livelihoods and helping people recover from the trauma of the earthquake.



Map Version 3 Processed Tue Jan 12, 2010 06:33:36 PM MST – NOT REVIEWED BY HUMAN

| PERCEIVED SHAKING | Not felt | Weak | Light | Moderate | Strong | Very strong | Severe | Violent | Extreme |
|------------------------|----------|---------|---------|------------|--------|-------------|----------------|---------|------------|
| POTENTIAL DAMAGE | none | none | None | Very light | Light | Moderate | Moderate/Heavy | Heavy | Very Heavy |
| PEAK ACC.(%) | <.17 | .17-1.4 | 1.4-3.9 | 3.9-9.2 | 9.2-18 | 18-34 | 34-65 | 65-124 | >124 |
| PEAK VEL.(cm/s) | <0.1 | 0.1-1.1 | 1.1-3.4 | 3.4-8.1 | 8.1-16 | 16-31 | 31-60 | 60-116 | >116 |
| INSTRUMENTAL INTENSITY | I | II-III | IV | V | VI | VII | VIII | IX | X+ |