

12 Would you consider this earthquake a 'disaster'? Why or why not?

11 What was worse the response of the government in Haiti or the charities?

10 Some say that "What happens to other countries is their own business. It's not our responsibility to sort out their problems." Do you agree?

1 Describe the location of the earthquake's epicenter.

2 What were the primary impacts of the earthquake?

3 What were the responses to the earthquake?

4 Would you describe this earthquake as a disaster? Why?

One year on, wounds heal slowly in Haiti

A magnitude 7 earthquake in 2010 left Haiti shattered. One year later, with billions of aid dollars spent, why is the country still in ruins?

Iselene Clairvil was lying in the bath when the earthquake struck. Her house, like most in Haiti's capital, Port-au-Prince, simply crumbled. With both arms crushed under chunks of concrete, the terrified woman was trapped for three hours before rescuers heard her screams.

Some might think her one of the lucky ones. More than 200,000 Haitians died in the disaster, which reduced most of the country's capital city to rubble.

The international community rushed to promise aid for the stricken Caribbean nation. At a donor conference organized by the UN, governments around the world pledged £6.5 billion to get Haiti back on its feet.

But one year later, as Haiti commemorates the anniversary of the quake, Iselene is living on the streets. 'The government,' she says, 'are not doing anything to help us. I will be stranded here forever.' The earthquake left around 1.5 million people without homes, and it's estimated that two thirds of them still live under canvas in 'tent cities' or on the streets.

Conditions in these temporary camps are often dire. Criminals control many areas. Rapes and murders are common. Survivors live cramped in unsanitary conditions, vulnerable to weather and disease. How can such a vast international effort have made such modest progress?

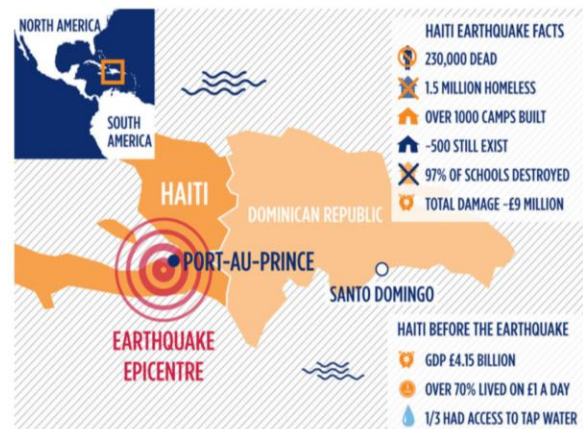
The Haitian government is part of the problem. It has always been weak and corrupt, and the earthquake destroyed all but one of its 29 ministries, and killed 20% of Haitian civil servants. Now it can barely function at all.

The hundreds of independent aid agencies that poured in after the disaster have also been blamed. No one knows how many have been operating in the country in the past year; a significant number are amateur outfits, run by sympathetic enthusiasts who arrive with more good intentions than genuine expertise.

Too many cooks?
In future, critics claim, disaster response should be much better coordinated, and more money should go through the government

of the affected area. The huge number of charities, each doing their own thing, has created chaos, and is slowing down reconstruction. A centralised effort might take longer to organise but in the end it could get more done.

Others feel differently. The rush of private organizations at least meant that aid got there fast. According to an Oxfam spokeswoman 'aid agencies working together kept millions of people alive.' And a Haitian survivor said: 'if we wait for [the government] to act, we will die before it happens.'



9 How could the response to the earthquake be improved?

8 What % of civil servants died and how did this affect the response?

7 Are the government to blame for the poor response?

5 How were people affected in the longterm?

6 Describe the conditions in the temporary shelters for the homeless: