***The 2010 Haiti Earthquake***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  |  |
| Name & Location | 2010 Haiti Earthquake |
| Location | 25 kilometres West of Port-au-Prince |
| Background | On Tuesday the 12th of January 2010 an Extremely powerful earthquake measuring 7.0 on the moment magnitude scale occurred 25 kilometres West of Port-au-Prince, along with over 50 moderately strong aftershocks which resulted in devastating effects including thousands made homeless, injured and killed.  The Earthquake was a result of the fault that runs through Haiti. This consisted of a Transform boundary which included The Caribbean (East moving) and North American plate which rubs against each other creating friction and resulting in an earthquake. ( Estimated to be 20mm per year) |
| physical + human factors | The geophysical factors that contributed to the 2010 Haiti earthquake included the movement of plates at a Transform boundary in which the friction as a result of them rubbing against each other resulted in an extremely powerful earthquake. The depth of the Earthquake epicentre was also a key factor, as it was very deep, meaning that the earthquake built up power as it travelled to the surface.  Human factors also played a predominant role in intensifying the impact of the earthquake, which was the poor construction of buildings which collapsed fairly quickly due to poor material choice; this prevented many from escaping before they collapsed, overall adding to the death toll. |
| Actions | Actions that are currently being taken include that of Evacuating main cities in order to avoid any structurally unsound buildings that present any threat to the community.  Aid has also been sent out in an attempt to provide medical treatment to those in need and overall prevent the death toll from increasing.  Several foreign workers (namely from the United States) have been sent over to help clear up the rubble and provide as support in rebuilding Haiti.  Tents have been set up as both makeshift homes for those affected by the earthquake and education in order to temporarily compensate for the loss of buildings. |
| Futures | Future plans include that of revising and eventually improving the infrastructure such as the roads and providing more earthquake resistant buildings.  Ideas have included those such as transporting the capital to a more geologically safe location to begin a new community. |
| Impacts | The Impacts of the Haitian earthquake were severe, as many people were killed, injured and left homeless.  The fact that Haiti is an extremely poor developing country means that it is very difficult for them to recover and it has been estimated that 98% of the rubble had been untouched after 6 months.  The fact that so many people were left homeless means that they have had to live in temporary accommodations which consisted of small tents.  Environmental degradation consisting of scarred land  Destruction of important infrastructure such as schools, telephone networks and hospitals (30,000 commercial buildings) has lead to an increase in the death toll.  Escaped convicts killed and stole from members of the community. |
| Statistics | Death toll : 200,000  Injured : 2.5 million  Homeless: 1.5 million |