**The Earthquake in Haiti**

**Haiti:**
- Between Caribbean Sea and North Atlantic Ocean
- West of the Dominican Republic
- More than 55% of Haiti’s population lives on less than $1 a day
- Only country in Western Hemisphere on UN’s Least Developed Countries list
- In need of foreign aid to help them out of extreme hunger and poverty

**Earthquake - January 12, 2010:**
The earthquake which struck Haiti significantly increased the number of individuals and their families’ facing extreme hunger. Over 1.9 million people were food insecure prior to the earthquake. The natural disaster not only left many injured, homeless, but also increased those facing hunger to over 3 million.

The catastrophic 7.0 on the Richter scale earthquake destroyed many homes and the access to clean water resources and food was limited. This earthquake tore, the already fragile infrastructure apart, which left Haitians hungry and dependent on relief for weeks.

The earthquake had and continues to have over 500,000 Haitians relying on foreign aid.

Two years after the quake, Haiti is still struggling to maintain their food supply. Constant aid is being given to Haiti with hope that fewer will go hungry.

**Our evidence**

**Hunger specific problems:**
- Haitians import 80% of rice from US- need to focus on bringing in other resources to deal with the crisis
- International community put too much emphasis on donating food rather than Haiti’s agriculture-based economy
- Food or waterborne diseases: bacterial and protozoal diarrhea, hepatitis A and E, and typhoid fever
- Clean water source: unimproved: urban: 29% of population, rural: 45% of population, total: 37% of population
- Unmet Food Aid requirements: $101,987,574

**Current Hunger specific solutions:**
- Immediate after earthquake- WFP provides emergency food assistance to four million Haitians
  - Targeted food aid to ~1.6 million of Haiti’s most food- insecure
  - 1.1 million children daily nutritious meal under Haiti’s National School Meals Program
    - Connecting meal programs to local producers of milk, maize & rice
    - January 24, 2012: announced food program to feed 2.2 million school children across the country; “Aba Grangou” meaning "down with hunger" (enlist 10,000 workers)
  - 140,000 people are getting employed through short-term cash and food-for-work programs
    - World Food Programme paying workers in cash, food or combinations of the two
- Lacking long-term solution

**Where is the donated money?**
- ½ of the money raised for Haiti is in bank accounts of aid organizations waiting for the "right" time to spend it
- Congress allocated $1.14 billion for Haiti in 2011 and only $184 million has been put to use
- Aid that has been offered to Haiti is too much for some sources to absorb
  - Doctor’s Without Borders stopped taking donations for Haiti because they had no where to spend it
  - American Red Cross: raise $479 million and has only “spent or signed agreements to spend” $245 million

**Our conclusions**

- Lack of control with regards to food distribution (corruption/lack of cooperation between various relief groups)
- Long-term relief needs to be obtained
- Identify priorities in aid (hunger clearly important so bring in more food)

**Our recommendations**

To others - Country/International Agencies/Other Agencies:
- Improve distribution of food aid by getting the NGO/government to work together and find a uniform strategy all across the country
- Establish (as quickly as possible) infrastructure to make the country self-sustainable (especially with regards to food)
- Governments can shift spending (money sitting in bank meant for building infrastructure should be used to solve immediate problems-lack of food)
  - If not using money, stop collecting
- Spread feeding programs all over country (currently only in urban areas)
- Part of the solution should include improving agriculture and farming

**The Question**

Our research has focused on whether or not the post-earthquake aid relief in Haiti was effective in terms of its influence on extreme hunger? We hope to use the gathered information to enable us to advocate and work towards creating a more effective disaster relief model.

**References**


Inform yourself about what international aid agencies are doing to help

Make informed decision about where you donate

Share what you have learned with others

Advocate for better emergency aid relief