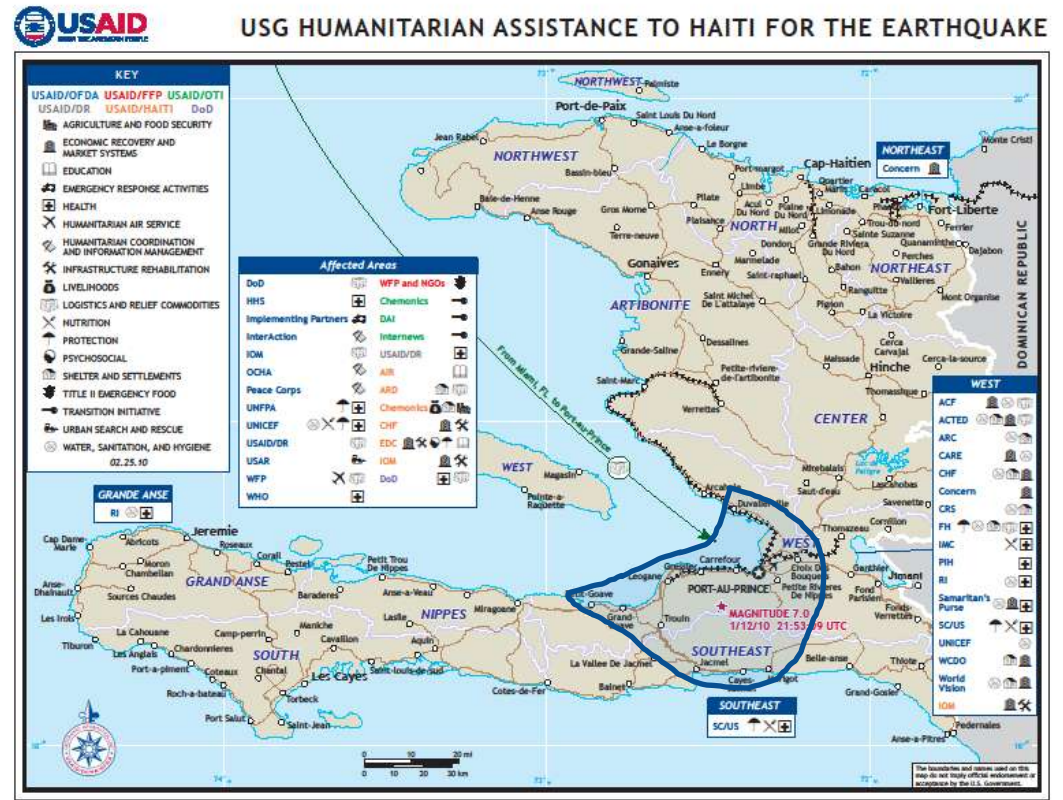


Rapid Environmental Impact Assessment – Haiti 2010 Earthquake

Sun Mountain Intl./CHF
for
USAID Haiti

- 7 magnitude earthquake west of Port au Prince
- 230,000 deaths
- 3 million affected; 1.3 million displaced
- Extensive but random pattern of damage
- Damage to government and international assistance capacities

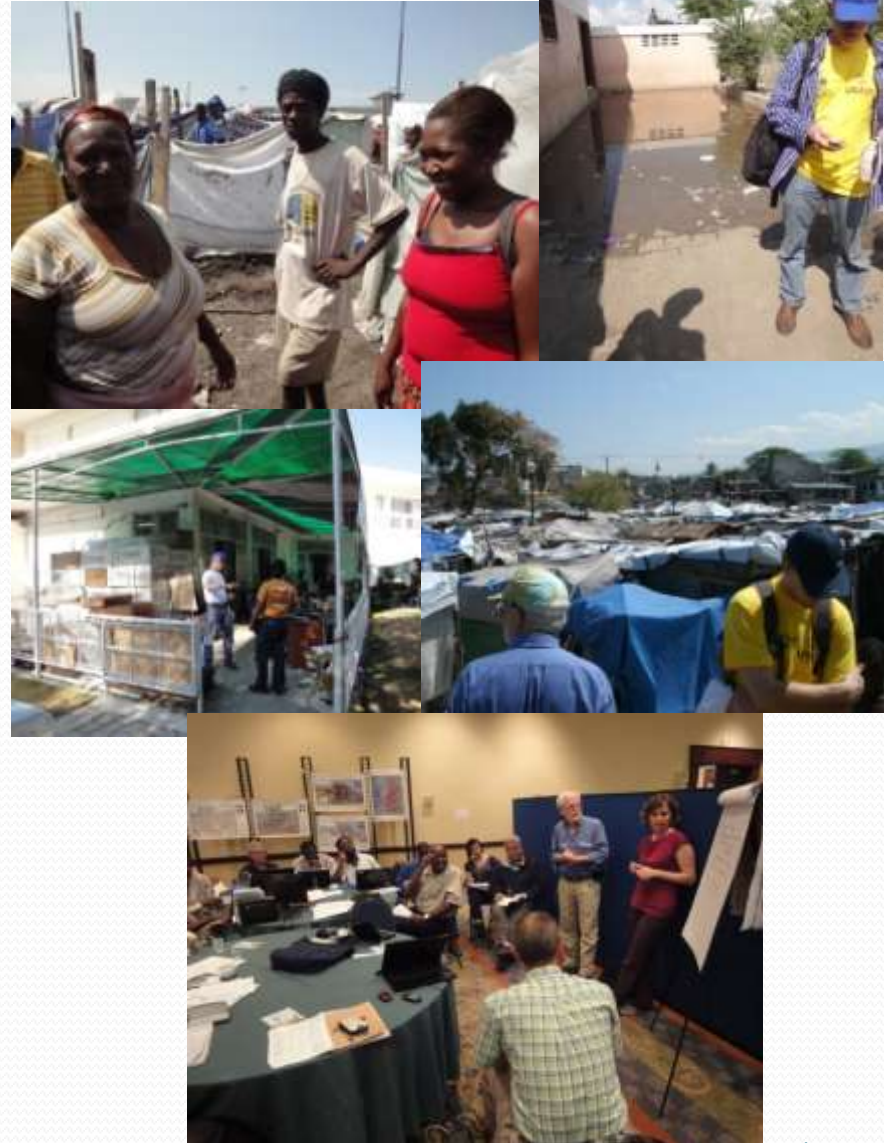


The Haiti USAID REA

- Initiated by USAID
- Used Rapid Environmental Impact Assessment in Disasters (REA) methodology
- Provide a rapid assessment and report
- Provide input into further assessments
- Provide advice as requested

The Assessment

- Began on 16 February; Initial report on 1 March
- 9 person Haitian/Expat team
- Community-level assessment: 66 interviews
- Organization-level assessment: Meetings, 1/2 day workshop, briefings
- Synthesis and reporting



Coordination

The scale and scope of the earthquake impacts and assistance far exceed existing coordination mechanisms, leading to general inefficiencies and a lack of focus on environmental issues.

Recommendation...

A single, clear, properly resourced coordinating structure for environmental issues should be established.

Sanitation and Waste

- Sanitation poor
- Sewage is not properly managed.
- Waste disposal anarchistic.
- Proposed waste management solutions, particularly for sewage, could contribute to environmental damage



Sanitation and Water

- *Increase # of toilets and ensure proper operation*
- *Monitor waste generation and sanitation and adjust scale and scope of operations as conditions change*
- *Do not use chemical toilets or chemical additives*
- *Develop long term solution and short term implementation plan for sewage and solid waste disposal*
- *Single WASH-Health Cluster vector control plan based on integrated pest management best practice*

Geophysical and Hydro-Meteorological Hazards Monitoring

- Geological/hydro-meteorological hazards will be more dangerous.
- Events will affect people who lack basic shelter and are in more hazardous locations.
- Threat of seasonal precipitation/flooding should be not be underestimated.



Geophysical and Hydro-Meteorological Hazards Monitoring

- *Geophysical and hydro-meteorological hazards should be (re)assessed and risk assessments and mapping developed for flooding and landslides in the earthquake-affected areas and specifically for existing and new shelter sites.*
- *Shelter site specific warning and evacuation plans in the earthquake-affected areas should be developed for new and existing rural and urban sites.*

Livelihoods and Food Security

Livelihoods/food security are in flux. Food markets are unstable. Disaster survivors may turn to livelihood/food security options which are unsafe or with negative environmental impacts.

Recommendations

- *Assess livelihood strategies and support environmentally-positive livelihood strategies*
- *Livelihood/food security projects should mitigate negative impacts on the environment*
- *Monitor food supply/nutrition to identify if worsening conditions leading to increased natural resource demands*
- *Expand shelter site level food production*
- *Provide fuel access to improve food intake*

Shelter and Shelter Sites

- Most shelter sites did not meet minimum standards in the areas of sanitation, space, shelter, safety, or fire safety.
- Ad hoc shelter sites are being established in ecologically fragile areas, near wetlands, with limited resources for construction.
- Squatting has increased
- Transitional shelter plans will require upwards of 20,000 tons of wood.



Shelter and Shelter Sites

- *Subject all shelter sites to an environmental impact review and management plan*
- *Establish fire management plans.*
- *Provide lighting from rechargeable battery lights or from main electrical supplies*
- *No emergency/transition shelter use during a hurricane or severe weather*
- *Wood for transitional shelters should come from sustainable forests and be provided with other shelter materials*
- *No need for chemical treatment of wood provided for transitional shelters*
- *Implement a plan to rebuilding housing and infrastructure to forestall reoccupation of high hazard hillsides and of new, environmentally fragile, sites*

Debris Management

- 20 to 75 million cubic yards of debris need to be managed to avoid damage to the environment, livelihoods and recovery efforts
- Debris disposal has been anarchistic
- A proper management process beginning established
- Effort has received an environmental review, but further monitoring and reviews are needed as operations expand



Debris Management

- *Debris operations need to meet appropriate environmental standards, and include sustainable re-use or recycling of materials in the debris stream.*
- *Local-level debris clearance operations need to meet acceptable worker safety and environmental impact criteria and incorporate standardized impact mitigation plans and procedures.*
- *Debris removal/processing needs to be vertically coordinated and laterally integrated to minimize competitive operational plans and procedures and operational confusion.*

Results

- Rapid Assessment; broad overview, snapshot in time
- Critical issues: some old, some new, some missed
- EA not mainstream in humanitarian response (but is in military response)
- Obligatory follow-through but weak capacity
- Poor planning
- Capacity to manage environmental aspects of recovery uncertain

Questions?

Rapid Environmental Impact Assessment – Haiti 2010
Earthquake
Sun Mountain/CHF
For USAID

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All views expressed are personal and not those of any
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