

The Earthquake

On January 12, 2010 at 4:53 P.M. a 7.0 magnitude earthquake shook the nation with its epicenter only 10 miles west of Port au Prince, Haiti.



Here are a few statistics:

- 220,000 people estimated to have died with another 300k injured
- 300,000 homes were damaged or destroyed by the earthquake and an estimated 1.5m people became homeless
- 25% of civil servants in Port au Prince died
- 60% of Government and administrative buildings, 80% of schools in Port-au-Prince and 60% of schools in the South and West Departments were destroyed or damaged
- Over 600,000 people left their home area in Port-au-Prince and mostly stayed with host families

- At its peak, one and a half million people were living in camps including over 100,000 at critical risk from storms and flooding

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Over 700 million cubic tons of rubble was hauled out of the damaged areas. That is enough to fill 7 Superdomes in New Orleans.



There were no building standards and codes before the quake and unfortunately the government's only official action is to decry the shoddy building. With no real infrastructure to see that building is done correctly coupled with the poverty existing in Haiti, little will prevent buildings from being rebuilt by the same untrained workers as before.