

Edexcel GCE

Global Development

**Advanced Subsidiary
Unit 2: Resource Booklet**

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Paper Reference

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The issue: Natural disasters pose significant challenges for development.

Figure 1: The six costliest natural catastrophes of 2010

Date	Event	Affected countries	Overall losses (in million US \$)	Insured losses (in million US \$)	Loss of life
27th February	Earthquake (Mag. 8.8)	Chile	30,000	8,000	520
7th–14th September	Floods and flash-floods	Pakistan	9,500	100	1,760
12th January	Earthquake (Mag. 7.0)	Haiti	8,000	200	222,570
29th June	Floods and landslides	China	8,000	150	260
3rd September	Earthquake (Mag. 7.0)	New Zealand	6,500	5,000	0
26–28th February	Winter storm Xynthia	Much of Europe	6,100	3,100	65

(Source: Adapted from www.munichre.com/en/reinsurance/business/non-life/georisks/natcatservice/annual_statistics.aspx)

The impact of natural disasters can be assessed in a number of ways. Overall losses are estimates of the economic costs of disasters which range from direct losses of property to indirect and often long-term loss of production. In some cases these losses are covered by insurance but in most years only about a quarter of overall losses are covered by insurance leaving the rest to be shouldered by corporations, governments, relief organisations and, ultimately, individuals. In most years, including 2010, natural disasters are far more costly than man-made catastrophes. However the impact that attracts most attention is the impact on people as measured by loss of life. Not all deaths and injuries from natural disasters are immediate, so-called 'primary' impacts; the disruption to basic services such as water supply often leads to further 'secondary' loss of life, especially when the events occur in less developed countries such as the Boxing Day tsunami of 2004 or the Haiti earthquake in 2010. As a result, loss of life data from large events such as these vary a good deal.

In terms of loss of life the most devastating natural disaster of 2010 was the Haitian earthquake although the event itself was no more powerful than the later event in New Zealand and much less so than the earlier Chilean quake. The estimated death toll varies between 200,000 and over 300,000. On the first anniversary of the quake Haiti's Prime Minister said the death toll from the quake was more than 316,000. What is not disputed, almost three years after the event, is that Haiti is still a country a long way from full recovery. At least 490,000 people are living in camps, a cholera epidemic has affected 600,000 people and claimed the lives of 7,040 people as well as food insecurity affecting more than 45 percent of the population. All this despite up to \$4.5 billion of promised aid. For many the impact of the earthquake goes well beyond its primary or even secondary impact by exposing many issues about both its level of development and the role of various development models and their agencies; issues that contributed greatly to the heavy loss of life caused by this event. To learn more about the event itself you can listen to the podcast on <http://gallery.usgs.gov/audios/330>

The issue: The impact of the earthquake on Haiti and its very slow recovery have much to do with the economic, social and political issues surrounding its low level of development.

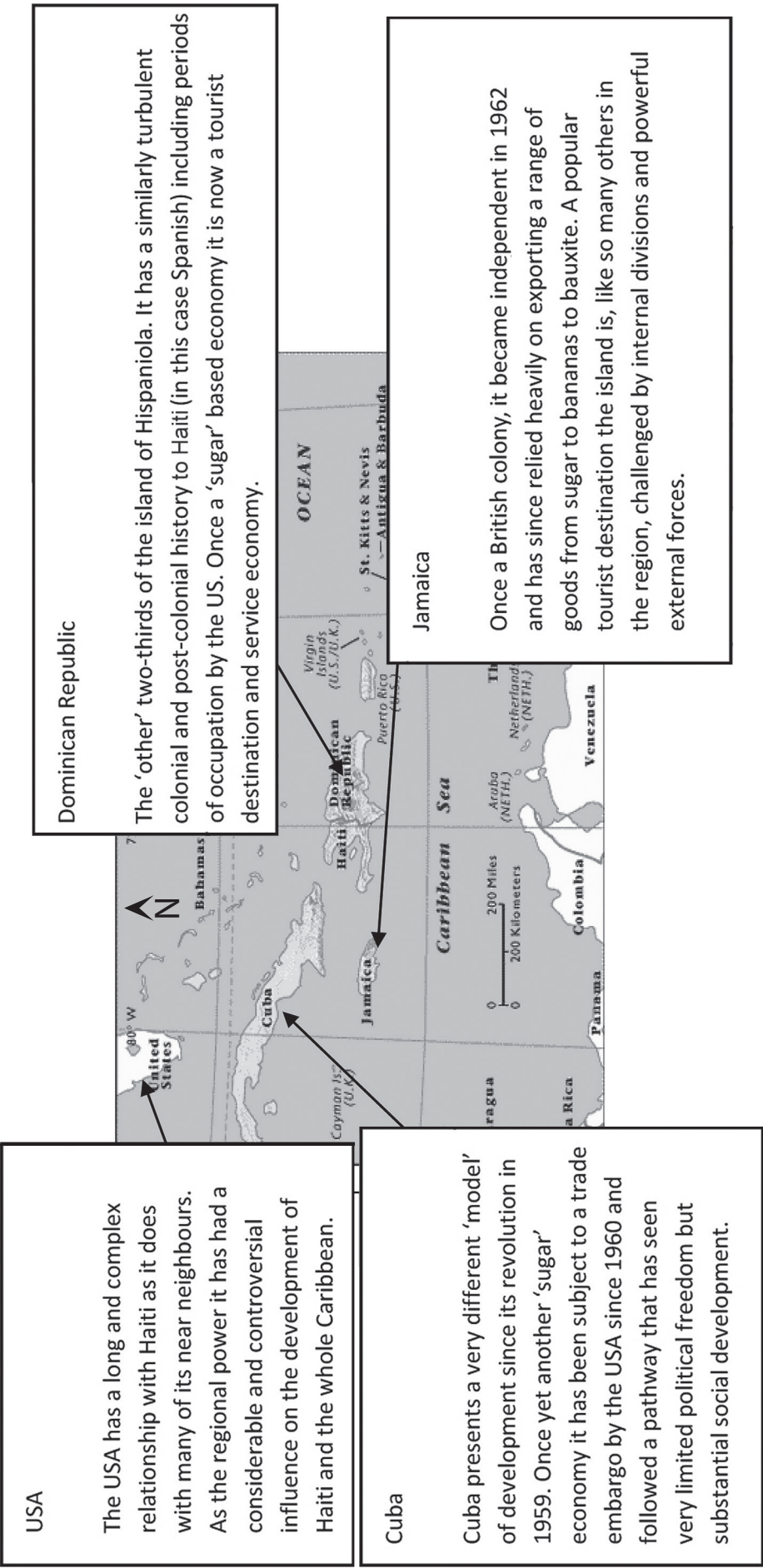
Haiti, at the western end of the island of Hispaniola where Christopher Columbus first set foot in the Americas in 1492 has a long and often grim colonial and post-colonial history and is today the least developed state in the Americas. Near neighbours, despite similar challenges, have stronger economies and better social data in almost every category. After a successful slave rebellion, Haiti declared independence from France in 1804. In more recent times the violent dictatorships of Papa Doc and Baby Doc Duvalier from 1957 to 1986 were followed by the disrupted rule of populist leader Jean-Bertrand Aristide. The USA has always taken an interest; US marines actually occupied Haiti for nearly 20 years, starting in 1915 and even today virtually no political decision has been taken in the country that has not involved international intervention especially from the closest superpower, the US, but also from the very many non-governmental organisations (NGOs) operating in the country both before and after the earthquake. Some Haitians say that the problem is that Haiti never really overthrew slavery: one form of slavery was just replaced with a poor majority being exploited by a wealthy minority, aided and abetted by powerful global institutions and the United States with the so-called 'American Plan', a version of the 'Washington Consensus', being just the most recent version of US interference. So while the world today continues to focus on the problems resulting from the earthquake many Haitians suggest that it was and is this political and social system that paved the way for the devastation and makes rebuilding their country so challenging. Others argue that by modernising its institutions and following the policies recommended by global institutions such as the World Bank and IMF this troubled state can eventually achieve rapid economic development.

Figure 2: Key data for Haiti and its neighbours

	Haiti	Dominican Republic	Cuba	Jamaica	United States
Population (millions)	10.1	10.1	11.3	2.7	313.1
GDP per capita (in US\$)	1123	8087	5416	6487	43017
Life expectancy (years)	62.1	73.4	79.1	73.1	78.5
Under-5 mortality (per 1000)	87	32	6	28	8
Adult literacy (%)	48.7	88	99.8	85.9	99.8
HDI/ranking (/187)	0.45/158th	0.69/98th	0.77/51st	0.73/78th	0.91/4th
Income Inequality*	25.2	12.2	n/a	9.8	8.5
Gender Inequality ranking (/187)	123rd	90th	58th	81st	47th

*Income inequality is measured here by showing the income of the richest 20% of the population as a multiple of the poorest 20%

Figure 3: Key data for Haiti and its neighbours



Source A: 'Two years after catastrophe, Haiti looks forward' – Connor Schratz

Amid the disaster, there was a silver lining. The international community came together as it never had before, donating billions of dollars, much of it from private individuals, to help the Haitian people rebuild after such a catastrophic disaster. While funding and support from the international community has led to improvements, much work remains to be done two years after the earthquake was first felt. The United Nations, as it usually is, was among the first responders.

"The UN has been on the scene since Day 1," said United Nations Foundation CEO Kathy Calvin. "It continues to help [Haitians] rebuild and transform their country." The United Nations Development Programme, (UNDP), has been a major contributor to this process. From working to address the immediate issues caused by the earthquake, to ensuring that such a disaster could never hurt Haiti so severely again, UNDP has been at the forefront of Haiti's recovery.

"Haiti still needs a combination of humanitarian and development support," claimed Rebecca Grynspan, the Associate Administrator of UNDP, "but slowly the emphasis and allocation of resources is shifting towards recovery and reconstruction."

Along with the UN, the United States, Haiti's powerful neighbour to the north, made great efforts to aid the people affected by the earthquake. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has worked closely with the Haitian government to build up Haiti's infrastructure and development capacity. Beth Hogan, who serves as the Director of USAID's Haiti Task Team applauded the work of the new government in Haiti, and outlined the work that USAID is planning on doing in Haiti to ensure long-term sustainability there. "The ultimate goal is to reduce Haitian reliance on foreign assistance." Ms. Hogan sees jobs as Haiti's way out of the shadow of poverty. She claims that USAID has provided about 17,000 short and long-term jobs for Haitians, along with vocational training for 13,000 out of school youths. She also described a new industrial park that will encourage manufacturing, creating as many as 80,000 new jobs.

(Source: Adapted from www.southsouthnews.com)

Source B: 'Haiti in the hands of the NGOs' – Christophe Wargny

For a long time now most Haitians have looked to NGOs rather than the state for public services. Before the earthquake, the UN World Food Programme fed almost two million Haitians, with money received from expatriates taking care of the same number⁽¹⁾. The earthquake has increased dependence. Whether they like it or not, in Port-au-Prince, NGOs are the only means of survival. Alongside the UN agencies⁽²⁾, there are some 10,000 organisations around the world helping to support Haiti. More than 1,000 are on the island. Following the old colonists, American and European NGO officials are in just about all the camps. With their luxury vehicles and expensive equipment contributing to the traffic snarl-up, they offer "work for wages" to more than 100,000 people employed in the clean-up. In today's Haiti, NGOs have more financial muscle than the state. Humanitarian aid accounted for a third of GDP in 2009. Hundreds of thousands of people live on it. By contrast some foreigners live well; the poorest Haitians can see that as they scavenge in the rubbish bins of the restaurants. Practically every Haitian graduate seeks either to emigrate⁽³⁾ or to join an NGO. It's safer than working for the state or starting a business. And even though things are improving, corruption costs the state huge sums in lost taxes.

(1) The most recent state budget was barely \$2bn – or the cost of five days of war in Iraq during the mid-2000s. According to the Inter-American Development Bank, the diaspora accounts for 16% of GDP.

(2) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNESCO, UNICEF, World Food Programme, UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), UN Population Fund (UNFPA).

(3) According to a 2007 report by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), for every 100 new Haitian graduates, 80 who have already graduated emigrate, mainly to North America.

(Source: Adapted from <http://mondediplo.com/2011/01/06haiti>)

Source C: 'Haiti two years on: beyond relief, beyond belief' – Philip Wearne

Blaming lack of capacity, corruption and inefficiency, for the past two decades, major aid donors have increasingly bypassed the Haitian government. Instead, they channel funds through multilateral agencies or NGOs, some of whom are simply products of this growth industry, and thus, by definition, being government funded, not NGOs at all.

The primary reason was politics, with a large dose of hypocrisy. Funnelling 'budget support funds' to the Duvalier dictatorships was never a problem, however much was openly stolen. But when Haitians began to reject Washington's 'choice' of presidential candidates in free elections from 1990 onwards, bypassing and destabilising Haitian governments became the norm. Funding NGOs and hand-picked corporations to administer aid or lead development was another multi-pronged means of forcing weakened governments to accede to destructive neoliberal economic policies that the electorate had emphatically rejected – reversing, perverting and discrediting democracy in the process.

The hallmarks of this plan were universal – the slashing of import tariffs, privatisation of public assets and services, deregulation, minimum-wage-if-you're-lucky assembly plants. But the effects in a country as impoverished, dependent and vulnerable as Haiti, were even more devastating than elsewhere. The estimated 85 percent of Haitians who live on less than the minimum wage have a nickname for this: the American Plan or, more tellingly, plan lanmò – the 'Death Plan'.

Nowhere is the reality of a 'Death Plan' more evident than in food security – and one key architect of that policy, Bill Clinton, no less, admits it. In just 33 years, Haiti has gone from being self-sufficient in rice, sugar, poultry and pork to being the largest importer of US foodstuffs in the Caribbean. It has been a scandalous decline, pushing Haiti to the bottom of the global food security league, despite its fertile land and abundant rainfall. In 1995, for example, import tariffs on foreign rice were slashed from 35 percent to just 3 percent. Unable to compete, Haitian rice producers, large and small, gave up, throwing thousands out of work, many of whom, of course, ended up in the shanty towns of Port-au-Prince.

(Source: Adapted from - www.newint.org/features/2012/01/01/haiti-earthquake-relief-reconstruction)



(Source: http://www.cartoonstock.com/newscartoons/directory/h/haiti_earthquake.asp)

Source D: 'Reconstruction from equity' – an extract adapted from Oxfam Briefing Paper 136 – 'Haiti – A Once-in-a-Century Chance for Change.'

Many Haitians have told Oxfam that the first thing that needs to change is the inequality in Haitian society; that exclusion is pervasive in education and government at all levels. Wealth and power have always been concentrated in the hands of Haiti's small political and commercial elite. The scale of the challenge to reverse exclusion is already being seen in Haiti's reconstruction. According to Oxfam's preliminary investigations, the most marginalised people – renters and squatters and those living in and around the poorest neighbourhoods of Port-au-Prince and the areas outside – are not receiving the same amount of assistance as those in more affluent areas.

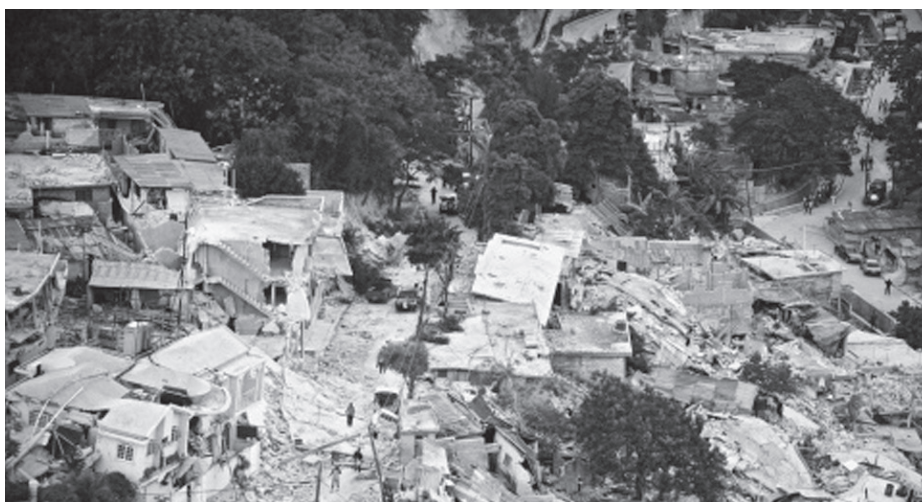
Gender matters

Reconstruction provides an opportunity to improve the situation of Haitian women significantly and to harness their energy and potential. In a profoundly unequal society, women are subjected to all forms of gender-based violence, including an alarmingly high level of sexual assault and rape. Oxfam's assessments suggest that women continue to be vulnerable to violence in the camps.

Donors and government need to increase the participation of women in the reconstruction, from community level to the highest reaches of government; and to develop women's greater economic capacity through the design of projects that enable them to participate on an equal basis with men, for example through appropriate childcare and support structures, training and capacity building.

Haiti's long history of instability, economic deterioration and periodic conflict has left a legacy of poor governance and lack of confidence by donors. Incoming aid should not exacerbate already skewed wealth distribution; this could heighten historical tensions between the majority and the wealthy elite. The challenge for reconstruction now is to reduce, not reinforce, the inequality that lies at the heart of the country's instability and violence, already starting to manifest itself in street demonstrations. Every part of the recovery must take a 'pro-poor' approach that reduces the inequalities and tensions between groups, based on a national consensus on the whole reconstruction plan.

(Source: www.oxfam.org/sites/www.oxfam.org/files/bp136-haiti-once-in-a-century-220310)



(Source: adapted from www.gettyimages.co.uk/detail/photo/earthquake-damage-in-port-au-prince-high-res-stock-photography/116381941)

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