



# NDYS in Action, Newsletter

Natural Disaster Youth Summit Monthly News

<http://ndys.jearn.jp/> [ndys@jearn.jp](mailto:ndys@jearn.jp)

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## The VOICE of YOUTH is NEEDED!

Editor: Daniel Paz,  
Salta, Argentina



Topics

**Climate Change and disaster reduction**

Terrible disaster Killed thousands in Haiti.

## Terrible disaster killed thousands in Haiti

A massive 7.0-magnitude earthquake has struck the Caribbean nation of Haiti.

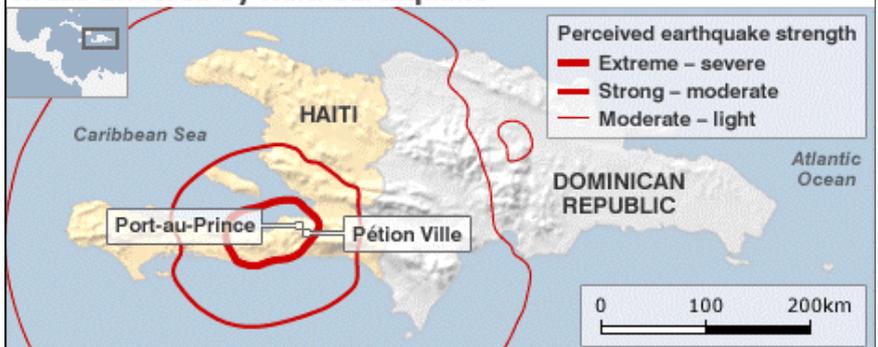
The extent of the devastation is still unclear but there are fears thousands of people may have died.

Haiti's worst quake in two centuries hit south of the capital Port-au-Prince on Tuesday, wrecking the presidential palace, UN HQ and other buildings.

A "large number" of UN personnel were reported missing by the organisation. Many people have spent the night outside amid fears of more aftershocks.

The Red Cross says up to three million people have been affected.

Areas affected by Haiti earthquake



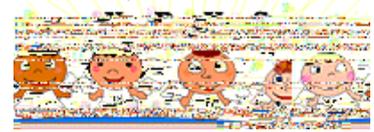
Describing the earthquake as a "catastrophe", Haiti's envoy to the US said the cost of the damage could run into billions. A number of nations, including the US, UK and Venezuela, are gearing up to send aid.

The quake, which struck about 15km (10 miles) south-west of Port-au-Prince, was quickly followed by two strong aftershocks of 5.9 and 5.5 magnitude.

The tremor hit at 1653 (2153 GMT) on Tuesday, the US Geological Survey said. Phone lines to the country failed shortly afterwards.

There is still no official word on casualties and the extent of the devastation is only now becoming clearer with dawn breaking.

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China has already indicated in reports in state media that eight of its peacekeepers are buried and feared dead, with another 10 unaccounted for.

The AFP news agency quoted the Jordanian army as saying three of its peacekeepers had been killed and 21 wounded.

The Brazilian army said four of its peacekeepers were killed and a large number were missing.

A French official told AFP about 200 people were missing in the collapsed Hotel Montana, which is popular with tourists. There have also been some reports of looting overnight.

Rachmani Domersant, an operations manager with the Food for the Poor charity, told Reuters that overnight the capital was in total darkness. "You have thousands of people sitting in the streets with nowhere to go. There are people running, crying, screaming". "People are trying to dig victims out with flashlights. I think hundreds of casualties would be a serious understatement."

Earlier, bodies white with dust could be seen piled on the back of a pick-up truck as vehicles tried to ferry the injured to hospital.

Haiti is the poorest country in the western hemisphere and has suffered a number of recent disasters, including four hurricanes and storms in 2008 that killed hundreds.

In a statement issued in New York, the UN said that its local HQ in Haiti had "sustained serious damage along with other UN installations" and "a large number" of personnel were missing.

UN peacekeeping chief Alain Le Roy said it was unclear how many people were in the building. The head of the UN mission in Haiti, Hedi Annabi, was reported to have been inside and is unaccounted for. French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner said he was believed to be dead. The UN's stabilisation mission plays a vital role in ensuring security in Haiti.

Raymond Joseph, Haiti's ambassador to the US, said the presidential palace, the tax office, the ministry of commerce and the foreign ministry had all been damaged, but the airport was intact. He and Haiti's ambassador to Mexico, Robert Manuel, both said that President Rene Preval and his wife had survived the quake.

The World Bank said its local offices were destroyed but most of the staff were accounted for, Reuters reported.

US President Barack Obama said his "thoughts and prayers" were with the people of Haiti and that he expected "an aggressive, coordinated [aid] effort by the US government".

Venezuela says it will send a 50-strong "humanitarian assistance team". The Red Cross is dispatching a relief team from Geneva and the UN's World Food Programme is flying in two planes with emergency food aid.

The Inter-American Development Bank said it was immediately approving a \$200,000 grant for emergency aid.

The UK said it was mobilising help and was "ready to provide whatever humanitarian assistance may be required".

Canada, Australia, France and a number of Latin American nations have also said they are mobilising their aid response.

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Pope Benedict XVI has called for a generous response to the "tragic situation" in Haiti.

In the minutes after the quake, Henry Bahn, a visiting official from the US Department of Agriculture, said he had seen houses which had tumbled into a ravine.

"Everybody is just totally, totally freaked out and shaken," said Mr Bahn, who described the sky as "just grey with dust". He said he had been walking to his hotel room when the ground began to shake. "I just held on and bounced across the wall," he said. "I just heard a tremendous amount of noise and shouting and screaming in the distance."

Reports on the Twitter message site, which cannot yet be verified by the BBC, expressed the chaos in the wake of the quake.

Tweets from troylivesay spoke of the worst damage being in the Carrefour district, where "many two and three storey buildings did not make it".

In the immediate aftermath of the quake, a tsunami watch was put out for Haiti, Cuba and the Bahamas, but this was later lifted.

Source: news.bbc.co.uk

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Salta, Argentina



Topics

**Climate Change and disaster reduction**

Argentina is in Haiti and with Haiti.

## Argentina is in Haiti and with Haiti



Here we can see the soldiers alter they departure to the devastated country of Haiti.

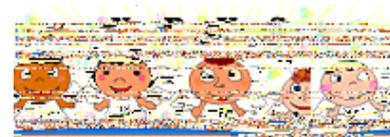
It is a moveable unit which was used to do 85 high complexity operations in one day. Nowadays it is full of patients.

They are 11 articulated containers positioned in a special way in order to create a complex system for medical attention and it can be used in any part of the world and resist hard tremors. This hospital is one the three that exist in the world and belongs to the Argentinean Air Force (FAA in Spanish). At the beginning was the only hospital of its conditions working in the country of Haiti.

"Assist and treat civil patients is not its essential mission, but after watching the extreme situation the specialized personal started treating people who coming desperate".

"The three main hospitals of the city are destroyed" commented José María Vázquez, the Argentinean Ambassador. We cannot derivate patients to other places. The working units are also the "No Frontiers Doctors" and the Cuban Doctors' Cooperative.

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This hospital went to Haiti In 2004 when the hurricane Jeanne left 2.000 death people and thousands of injured. It was located near the International Airport of Prince Port. After the tragedy, first military and second civil people were treated in the hospital.

Each module of the moveable hospital has a special insulation and is available to resist temperatures from -15° C to 40° C without any problem. The containers develop 2 rooms with 20 beds each and have 2 operating rooms, an emergency hall, a dentist room, a laboratory, kitchen and bathrooms. They have a special room used in order to refrigerate food but now it is a morgue.

The darkness that came after the disaster wasn't a real trouble for the unit, as it possesses 2 electricity generators which move and energize the hospital and purify water. This is a real advantage when all the basic services are nonexistent.

Nowadays the last plane Argentina sent brought them many huge tents to extent the attention area. It is the third plane sent with food, hygienic tools and medical supplies.

During the first 24 hours of inaugurated [the hospital] it received 800 people.

Source: [www.clarin.com.ar](http://www.clarin.com.ar)

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Salta, Argentina



Topics

**Climate Change and disaster reduction**

Displaced people by a flood in Egypt.

## Displaced people by a flood in Egypt

At least six people were killed and hundreds displaced by rain-induced flooding on 18 January in the Sinai Peninsula, the Red Sea port of Hurghada and Aswan Governorate, southern Egypt, according to local officials and media reports.

In Aswan, about 800km south of Cairo, around 41 homes were destroyed by floods that swept through five villages. Government rescue workers evacuated residents and said they found them shelter in nearby youth centres and in open fields.



"We managed to move the residents to safe places and gave them the necessary aid," Mustafa el-Sayed, governor of Aswan, said. "The rescue workers also managed to put out fires that broke out in some homes."

In the Sinai Peninsula, north-eastern Egypt, at least two people died, more than a dozen were missing and dozens of houses were destroyed. "The flooding forced rescue workers to use boats to move around," Abdel Fadil Shousha, governor of South Sinai, said.

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Topics

**Climate Change and disaster reduction**

Framers take actions against climate change.

Source: [www.irinnews.org](http://www.irinnews.org)

## Farmers take actions against climate change



Desertification is a real problem now  
in Burkina Faso.

Disappointed by the “failure” of the Copenhagen talks to adequately help poor countries adapt to climate change, the Burkina Faso government and farmers are working to adjust farming techniques to changing weather patterns.

“Despite the failure of Copenhagen we must follow adaptation at our own cost because we have been experiencing the impacts of climate change in Burkina for several years, and they are getting worse,” said Mr. Bassiaka Dao, confederation of farmers in Burkina Faso (CPF) president.

Dao said the US\$10 billion that rich nations agreed to provide annually to developing countries to help mitigate climate change effects was insufficient. The UN said at the Copenhagen meetings that \$25 billion to \$50 billion per year would be required.

Over recent years the rains have begun and ended later than usual in Burkina Faso, continuing into October though September is traditionally harvest time, according to Dao.

The rains are also increasingly heavy, leading to soil erosion and flash floods, according to World Bank natural resource management specialist Emmanuel Nikiéma. Some 22,200 hectares of land were flooded in 2009 according to the Ministry of Agriculture. “The rain comes in torrents, with the capacity to flood a field in 15 minutes,” said Mr. Dao.

Meanwhile desertification, long a problem in the north, has now spread in pockets to the south, Nikiéma said. Longer rains mean crops risk rotting. Forty percent of the cowpea crop and much of the sorghum harvest rotted in 2009, Dao said. Farmers need more outside help to help adapt to these new conditions, he said.

Through its National Action Adaptation to Climate Change programme, the government has channeled \$3 million to help people adapt in the farming, livestock, forestry and water resource sectors. A key agriculture activity is to extend traditional soil protection techniques, said Dao. Methods include digging “Zai” pits – compost-filled planting pits which hold water, helping deep-rooted vegetables grow; building up grass and rock barriers around crops to protect them from soil erosion; and cultivating manure in septic tanks to use as fertilizer. But to enable crops to survive erratic rains, many more farmers need access to high-yield, quick-growing seeds, said the World Bank’s Nikiéma.

This is one of the priorities of the World Bank’s agricultural production and food security support to Burkina Faso, amounting to \$54.5 million from 2010-2015. Last year the Bank spent \$5 million on distributing quick-harvest sorghum, maize and cowpea seeds.

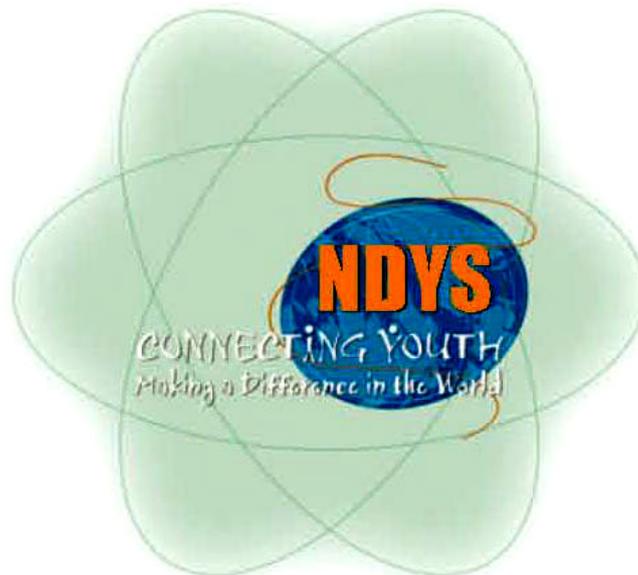
New varieties of cowpeas can be harvested in 45 days, down from 80, according to agricultural experts; sorghum and maize down to three months from four or five. Francois Traoré, grain farmer in Burkina’s second largest city Bobo-Dioulasso and president of the National Union of Cotton Producers of Burkina, more donors should follow suit.



**Comments:** Hope you liked the report of the situation in Haiti. As a Latin-American young it is a big pain what I feel when watching the news. I wish they could find peace and could get over this. The world is with them...

I hope people from Burkina Faso can achieve their goals. Their intentions are so good that they deserve to succeed. And something to highlight is they "don't agree with the Copenhagen talks"...is this opinion something unique? ... I think is not!

This version of the newsletter is which close the 2<sup>o</sup> year of its on-line publication. Let's go for more!



*"Communication saves lives!"*

■ For more information please contact ■

ndys@jearn.jp <http://ndys.jearn.jp>

NDYS Committee Office: c/o JEARN Office / Kobe Center for Overseas Migration and Cultural Interaction 19-8, 3-chome, Yamamoto-dori Chuo-ku, Kobe, Hyogo 650-0003, JAPAN