

SIDMUN

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Security Council

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Introduction

As prolonged internal conflicts and natural disaster hits have become more common and more deadly as the years progress, the impact on civilians has multiplied greatly. Post-Cold War conflicts have caused over five million casualties found all over the world, and 95 percent of these have been civilians. In 2001, it was estimated that 35 million people were affected in different ways by conflict worldwide, these including internal affairs, natural disasters and poor aid. According to Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations, it is progressively truer that "the main aim ... [of conflicts] ... is the destruction not of armies but of civilians and entire ethnic groups."

Such disturbing developments have necessitated extensive humanitarian relief efforts and development assistance to rebuild war-torn countries and disaster-hit nations after conflict has ended or where help is increasingly needed. Development assistance is one long-term strategy for violence prevention in nations where chaos is being to breakout in result of helplessness. Although they are presented as two different subjects, humanitarian aid and development assistance often overlap, to help resolve conflicts on the civilian level.

Natural disasters adversely affect civilians both directly, and indirectly, in which majority of the time; the primary aim is preventing human casualties and ensuring access to the basics for survival: water, sanitation, food, shelter, and health care; to help care immediately toward those whose lives are on the line due to natural destruction. Haiti, which was struck by a 7.0 hurricane in January 2010, has, and is continuing to struggle for the strength to repair its nation and restore the quality of everyday life.

This being said, there is much that can be done, as far as humanitarian aid to help give back and help reinstate these residents lives.

Humanitarian aid is a positive step Haiti's government is strongly looking into to help restore its nation. Haiti is backed by a U.N. peacekeeping mission established after the ouster of former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in 2004, which entails help from other nations to secure peace and help fix this problem one step at a time. With an estimated 40,000 people in urgent need of food and water, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reports that in Gonaives, northern Haiti, relief workers continue to struggle in distributing the amount of food and water it is receiving to help the people affected by flooding there. Keeping in mind that this just one region of Haiti, at least 44 metric tonnes of food are being distributed at two distribution sites each day with the hope that relief workers are giving these victims the assistance they need to survive under such horrid conditions. The UN humanitarian team is looking into opening four more distribution centers in Gonaives and an additional four centers outside that city, once the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) has secured the sites, to provide shelter, and organize the distribution of the tangible assistance they are receiving from helping nations.

History

Haiti, was a former colony of the French Empire. The majority of its people were slaves from West Africa who were brought to work on sugar and coffee plantations. Military generals François-Dominique Toussaint L'Ouverture, Jean Jacques Dessalines and Henri Christophe inspired the first successful slave movement for independence. On January 1, 1804, Haiti became the first black republic in the Western Hemisphere. The 19th Century proved to be a turbulent period in regards to establishing

a substantial government ruled by a well respected figure-head. Upon declaring independence, Dessalines proclaimed himself to be the emperor and the leaders of the movement created a constitution for the new citizens to abide by.

"Of the 22 heads of state between 1843 and 1915, only one served out his prescribed term of office, three died while serving, one was blown up with his palace, one presumably poisoned, one hacked to pieces by a mob, one resigned. The other 14 were deposed by revolution after incumbencies ranging in length from three months to 12 years," James Leyburn, the late historian at Washington and Lee University, summarized in his 1966 book, "The Haitian People." Through this time period, Haiti began to suffer through tough economic times. This caught the attention of the United States who was one of Haiti's main investors. For the next 19 years the United States took matters into its own hands and more or less governed Haiti by installing figureheads to the country until it stabilized.

In 1946, Haiti had its first direct Presidential election and Dumarsais Estime was named President. He was followed by General Paul Maglorie in what turned out to be a period of peace and prosperity. However, his corruption paved the way for the cruel dictatorship mini-dynasty of the Duvalier family. In 1957 Francois "Papa Doc" Duvalier (a well known doctor) won a presidential election that was rigged by the Haitian Army. Similar to the former USSR's Josef Stalin, Duvalier distrusted many of the people around him. He established a ruthless secret police called the Ton Ton Macutes intended to eliminate his political opponents. Duvalier used his authority to terrorize the public. According to the U.S. Library of Congress, more than 30,000 Haitians died for political reasons during Duvalier's reign.

Moreover, Duvalier is notorious for his corruption. In 1961 Duvalier manipulated the presidential election to extend his term. He won with an official tally of 1,320,748 votes to 0. The New

York Times response to the election "Latin America has witnessed many fraudulent elections, but none will have been more outrageous than the one which has just taken place in Haiti." Duvalier ensured that the elite bourgeoisie got richer while majority of his citizens starved and watched their quality of life drastically decrease. In 1963, Haiti's average per capita income was \$80 US (lower than any state in the Western Hemisphere) and its illiteracy rate remained steadily at 90%.

Duvalier lived out the rest of his days in a French Villa in the hills above Cannes. His corruption awarded him with an economically prosperous lifestyle. "As part of an investigation into the looting allegations, authorities raided the villa Mr. Duvalier and his wife rented in Mougins shortly after they arrived in France. The authorities say they caught Mrs. Duvalier trying to flush a notebook down the toilet. It logged recent spending -- \$168,780 for clothes at Givenchy, \$270,200 for jewelry at Boucheron, \$9,752 for two children's horse saddles at Hermes, \$68,500 for a clock, \$13,000 for a week in a Paris hotel."-The Wall Street Journal

Furthermore, Duvalier eventually handed power down to his son who was concerned with his personal life than the daily affairs of his country. Since Duvalier's reign, there has been an epidemic of Presidential elections followed by violent coups and an everlasting struggle for power.

Haiti's current constitution ratified on March 29th 1987 established its current form of government. The President serves as the head of state and is directly elected by the people every five years. The Prime Minister is hand-selected by the President and approved by the National Assembly. He or she acts as the head of government. The National Assembly of Haiti is the nation's legislative body. Its two chambers are the *Chambre des Députés* (Chamber of Deputies) which has ninety-nine members serving four year terms and *The Sénat* (Senate) with thirty seats. One third of the seats are elected every two years. Haiti's legal system receives jurisdiction under the International Court of

Justice (ICJ) and ranges from a Supreme Court to small judicial courts. In 2006, Transparency International's corruption index ranked Haiti's government as the most corrupt on the planet.

Haiti is under a constantly deepening pit of severe poverty and hunger. Despite the billions of dollars of relief going into the country annually, not much of a difference has impacted its desperate people. In January 2010, a devastating 7.0 earthquake virtually wiped out its capital city Port-au-Prince and all of its infrastructure. There is a relentless battle for power for current President Rene Preval's seat in office. However, not much can be done to help relieve Haiti of its plethora of problems until the issue of corruption can be dealt with. Only then, can Haiti relieve its suffering people.

Current Status

According to most economic measurements, Haiti is the poorest country in the Americas. It is an impoverished country and has been slow to develop. Because of the poor economy and the failure of the government to take initiative the rebuilding process has been tediously slow. Construction standards are not very high in Haiti and the country has no building codes and regulations. It was unlikely that many buildings had stood through an earthquake of such magnitude. Structures are often raised in areas that are not desirable for building. Some buildings were built on slopes with insufficient foundations or steel works. This made the buildings likely to collapse upon natural disaster. Slow distribution of resources in the days after the earthquake resulted in sporadic violence, with looting was reported at an overwhelming rate. The citizens of Haiti were in desperate need of help and the international community has worked to provide their assistance. The government was overwhelmed by the condition of the people and is running rampant with corruption.

In July 2010, as much as 98% of the rubble from the quake remains uncleared. Much of the capital city of Port- au- Prince remain inaccessible and human bodies still lay in the rubble. The number of people in relief camps of tents and tarps since the quake remains at 1.6 million, and almost no transitional housing has been built. The conditions in the camps are terrible. Many occasions, there is no running water, electricity, or proper facilities. However, monetary aid from the international community is being released to each of the displaced families. This will help to get citizens back on their feet but cannot heal the wounds that the earthquake caused. The government is also further overwhelmed by the outbreak of cholera. The Haitian Department of Health has been taking steps to stop the epidemic but the general populous feels as if not enough is being done, much like the response to the earthquake.

An area of controversy that faces Haiti and its citizens is the question of land ownership in post-quake Haiti. Land tenure has always been a complex and contentious issue in Haiti because so many pre-quake homes were not officially registered with the Haitian Government. A vast number of citizens did not own their houses before the quake. They were tenants, squatters, or migrants. The housing crisis in Haiti will be the hardest issue to tackle during the upcoming years.

Proposed Solutions

Possible solutions in order to re-construct Haiti are to reinstate temporary government by providing long term stability. That can be achieved by various education programs not only to the citizens, but to political leader themselves. Political leaders as well as citizens need to be aware of different organizations of the political system, and how to keep it stabilized. Another aspect you would want to stabilize is the economy of Haiti. The government has a close connection to how the economy is doing, and if the economy is successful, less problems will surface.

Another way to successfully stabilize Haiti is by involving the Department of Peace Keeping Operations. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations is a department of the United Nations which is charged with the planning, preparation, management and direction of the UN peacekeeping operations, and can easily be a valuable tool in order to reconstruct Haiti. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations has been used in the past in order to re-construct governments, and would be a great asset in any resolution paper.

Increase security in as well as the boarder of Haiti. With a stronger security system, there is less violence, leading to less misbehavior against the government. A few ways this can be established is by tightening boarder control, educating the citizens on how to further practice stronger security, as well as educating the persons outside of Haiti in order to increase outer offering of help. Though remember that Haiti may not want involvement of other countries, as it has happened in the past where a country had not wanted any other country or a selective country's help due to religious beliefs, political beliefs, etc.

An involvement with NGO's is crucial in order to help reconstruct a poor country. Involvements with NGO's such as the Red Cross, the Academy for Educational Development, Actions Without Borders, Africa Action, Africa Confidential, etc. By enabling different NGOs, especially those that are independent and non-religious, you are enabling maximum help benefits.

Bloc Positions

United States:

The United States and Haiti have always had a relationship with the United States providing millions in humanitarian aid and investment well before the 2010 earthquake. In 1915 the U.S. occupied

Haiti until 1934. During this interim period, 1700km of road were functioning, 180 bridges were built, and the building of public schools, hospitals, and public buildings were commissioned. Drinking water was made drinkable in big cities and sugar and cotton became the main exports for the country. Since the 2010 earthquake the U.S. has renewed its relationship with Haiti and a pledge of \$1.15 billion over the next two years. While parts of the Haitian airport destroyed the U.S. was allowed access to control the airport to coordinate the relief effort. Along with the initial pledge the U.S. has sent ships, helicopters, transport planes, and 2000 marines.

European Union:

Although the EU's donations have not matched the United States, the EU has pledged 1.6 billion in aid in various forms of money and supplies.

Britain:

To start Britain has promised \$10 million in aid along with an assessment team, 71 rescue specialists, search dogs and heavy equipment

Norway:

Norway has donated \$5.3 million along with Denmark which has donated \$1.9million. Finland has donated \$1.8 million with Sweden donating \$850,000. Sweden has also pledged tents, water

purification equipment and medical aid. In the earthquake, the UN headquarters in the impoverished nation was destroyed and Sweden has stepped in by sending a team to rebuild the headquarters.

Spain:

Spain has donated over \$4.37 and sent rescue teams and a 100 tons of equipment.

Asia:

China and India will each donate \$1million, and China is sending a 60 member search and rescue team with sniffer dogs. Japan has promised \$5million with more to come in the near future.

Latin America:

Venezuela a neighbor of the Caribbean has sent doctors, firefighters, and rescue workers. Mexico no stranger to natural disasters has sent doctors, search and rescue dogs and infrastructure experts.

Questions a Position Paper must answer

1. What can the Security Council do, as an international legislative body, to help stabilize the Haitian Government?

2. Should the issue of humanitarian aid be left to the government of Haiti? Or should the UNSC take actions to help? Does this fall within the scope of the topic?
3. Specifically outline a plan of action that should be implemented to help in the restabilizing.
4. Does the fact that this is a currently changing issue have anything to do with what plans are made now? What can be done to ensure that said plans are made viable for long term sustainability?
5. What can be done to promote future transparency and overall cooperation from Haiti in this government restabilization?

Questions a Resolution must answer

1. What should be done to ensure short term stability while this body convenes?
2. What should be left in the hands of the Haitian government, and what should be taken under the wing of the UNSC?
3. Just how much international influence should there really be in this process?
4. What can be done to promote sustainability?