



TV

# UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

## UN IN ACTION

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### HAITI'S EARTHQUAKE DISASTER

#### VIDEO

PORT-AU-PRINCE DESTRUCTION /  
RUBBLE

MONICA ALBERTINI ON CAMERA

MONICA AND LOUIS IN RADIO  
STUDIO

MONICA ALBERTINI ON CAMERA

QUAKE VICTIMS

#### AUDIO

##### NARRATION

At 04:53 in the afternoon of January 12<sup>th</sup>, a major earthquake hit the small island nation of Haiti. The impact of the 7.0-magnitude quake, the worst in the region in 200 years, was devastating. (15")

MONICA ALBERTINI: (English) **F**

*"Everything was just destroyed. People had died. There were mothers carrying the dead bodies of their children..."* (6")

##### NARRATION

UN staff members Monica Albertini and Louis Germain saw the disaster first-hand. (5")

MONICA ALBERTINI: (English) **F**

*"They were all in the streets. Their houses had collapsed. They were scared; there was fear in their eyes, in their faces. People were screaming, people were desperate."* (11")

INJURED SURVIVORS IN  
STRETCHERS

NARRATION

Early estimates are that over 300 thousand people were injured or killed. Reports indicate that one third of the country's nine million people were directly affected. The streets of the capital, Port-au-Prince, were filled with survivors who set up improvised tents amid the chaos. (19")

TENTS IN STREETS

VICTIM ON CAMERA

VICTIM: (Creole) **F**

*"My house was destroyed. We are sleeping in the street; we have no home to go to. And we have no money or anything to eat." (7")*

RESCUE EFFORTS

RUBBLE

JOURNALISTS

INTERNATIONAL RESCUE TEAMS

NARRATION

The lack of heavy equipment hampered early efforts to rescue many survivors, trapped under the rubble of collapsed buildings. Haitians, desperate to find loved ones, began to dig by hand, stone by stone. The tragedy caught worldwide media attention. One day after the quake, international rescue teams started to arrive. (22")

FRENCH RESCUE TEAM LEADER

MICHELE GILBERT: (French) **M**

*"We brought heavy digging equipment, and listening equipment, technical equipment, and search dogs. We have doctors and nurses, and medical material." (9")*

SOLDIERS IN STREETS

NARRATION

International aid began pouring in, but the

AID DISTRIBUTION

logistics of the operation were complex, and transportation difficult. Roads were blocked, and the distribution of food and water was hindered by desperate crowds and isolated looting incidents. (15.5")

CROWDS

CHILD IN SLUMS

Haiti, one of the poorest countries in the world, was especially vulnerable to a natural disaster. The majority of Haitians live on less than two dollars a day in precarious housing with scant access to basic services. Salvano Briceno, Director of the UN's Disaster Reduction Agency. (20")

CROWDS

CHILD IN STREET / TENTS

BRICENO ON CAMERA

SALVANO BRICENO: (English) **M**  
*"The major problem of course is that Haiti is extremely poor. It's poverty that is at the core of all of these disasters."* (5")

LINES AT AIRPORT

NARRATION

Foreign nationals flooded Port-au Prince's international airport, while Haitians themselves started a mass exodus away from the capital in search of food, shelter and security. (12")

CROWDS IN THE STREETS

MIGRATING RESIDENT FROM VAN WINDOW

PORT-AU-PRINCE RESIDENT: (Creole) **F**  
*"It will be better. When we get to the countryside, we can breathe fresh air again. Port-au-Prince has a stench, because too many people have died."* (9")

NARRATION

CASH-FOR-WORK  
RECONSTRUCTION EFFORTS  
  
FACTORY WITH WORKERS  
  
COMMUNITY COMMITTEES

In the capital recovery operations, supported by the UN, attempted to rehabilitate basic infrastructure and jumpstart the economy by hiring local workers. Community committees sprang up throughout the city. Their members banded together to share food supplies, locate the family of lost children, and provide security. (24")

FRITZ JEAN BAPTISTE: (Creole) M

FRITZ JEAN BAPTISTE ON CAMERA

*"We organize everything in common. If I have something, I bring it. We put our food together, and share the meal. Maybe we all get one bite of food per day."* (10.5)

NARRATION

Fritz Jean-Baptiste and Jean Anthony are local Committee members. (4.5")

JEAN ANTHONY: (Creole) M

JEAN ANTHONY ON CAMERA

*"Today is the first time I ate something in three days, because I don't have any money."* (4")

NARRATION

BAN KI-MOON VISIT TO HAITI  
  
AID DISTRIBUTION / CHILDREN  
  
CLINTON WITH INJURED CHILD

The UN issued a Flash Appeal to donors for food, water and sanitation, shelter, and health. Thousands of survivors, including a large number of children, are still in need of medical attention, water and food. Former US President Bill Clinton is the UN's Special Envoy to Haiti. (19")

CLINTON ON CAMERA

BILL CLINTON: (English) **M**

*"I'm really encouraged the way the UN and the United States and the government of Haiti have begun working together on the ground. I personally believe that they're going to be given the opportunity to in effect re-imagine their country." (13.5")*

SUPERMARKET REOPENS

NARRATION

Slowly, Haiti is starting to show the first signs of a return to normality. Many hope that the disaster may offer the country an opportunity to solve its long-standing social problems – provided the international community doesn't forget Haiti. (17")

RECONSTRUCTION

CROWDS / DESTROYED BUILDINGS

POLICE / SOLDIERS

LOUIS GERMAIN: (English) **M**

*"We have a proverb in Haiti, "[creole]", which means "behind mountains there are mountains", which means that for every challenge that you find in life there's another greater challenge that is waiting for you. They will try to deal with it the best as they possibly can because that is in fact the way of life for Haitians." (18")*

GERMAIN ON CAMERA

CLEANUP

CHILD RUNS

NARRATION

UN LOGO

This report was produced by Camilo Freire for the United Nations.