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to disasters

Making Cities Resilient: My City is Getting Ready!

World Disaster Reduction Campaign 2010-2011

Port-au-Prince is getting ready!

Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Population: 2,109,516 (2003)

Type of Hazard: Earthquakes, Tropical Storms, Landslides, Hurricanes, Floods and Fires

Located on the Gulf of Gonâve on the Caribbean Sea, Port-au-Prince was founded in 1749 and has since become the economic and commercial hub of the country. Although economic activity is highly concentrated in this capital city, much of the population suffers from extreme poverty and high rates of unemployment. These factors have catalyzed the proliferation of vast slums in the past years.

Port-au-Prince is exposed to natural hazards such as earthquakes, tropical storms, landslides, hurricanes, floods, and fires.

Disaster Risk Reduction activities

On January 12, 2010, a 7.0 magnitude earthquake struck just south of the city of Port-au-Prince. The earthquake and strong aftershocks caused wide-spread destruction of the capital, as well as the cities of Jacmel and Léogâne, resulting in the loss of hundreds of thousands of lives. The earthquake came as the country was still struggling to recover from a series of hurricanes and tropical storms in 2008 that killed about 800 people and caused nearly \$900 million in damage.

In the weeks and months following the event, the government of Port-au-Prince was catastrophically impaired through the destruction of the city hall building during the earthquake. Today, as plans to rebuild the city are underway, focus is aimed at conducting seismic risk assessments and incorporating disaster risk reduction in the reconstruction of the devastated city.