

Specific Vulnerability as a Result of Non-integration of Science and Technology into International Development Cooperation Policies The case of the 12th January 2010 Haiti Earthquake.

Zango-Pascual, Marga¹, Marín Hidalgo, Isabel², Asencio Barragán, Claudia³

¹ *Area: Environmental Technologies. Department: Chemical, Physical and Natural System. Universidad Pablo de Olavide, Seville, Spain. mzanpas@upo.es*

^{2y3} *Graduates of Environmental Science from Universidad Pablo de Olavide, Seville (2013).*

ABSTRACT: While much was known about the vulnerability of Haitian society at the time of the earthquake in 2010, this paper aims to focus on a specific aspect of this vulnerability. With hindsight, recommendations will be made with a view to increasing resilience in the face of disasters to come, and a vindication will be made of the positive role that science and technology can play in risk management of disasters. Five types of vulnerability are normally considered: financial, natural, human, physical and social. It is essential to study the damage caused by the lack of integration of scientific knowledge and good technological practice since it can contribute to the mitigating the magnitude of a disaster. UN, EU and the Spanish government's cooperation policies with Haiti, both before and after the earthquake, have been closely analyzed in order to assess whether or not the seismic hazard and the measures put into place to mitigate and prepare for it had been taken into consideration in these policies. This research comes from the co-authors' B.A in Environmental Science dissertations, supervised by Dr. Marga Zango-Pascual. The conclusion was drawn that not only was scientific knowledge about seismic risks easily obtained, but that it already existed before the earthquake ever occurred. However, many of the policies that were analyzed were biased and therefore could not be used because they were lacking both scientific and technological information. Consequently, Haiti's vulnerability increased because seismic building codes were not compulsory in most of the development cooperation projects.

Keywords: governance, Haiti, international aid, seismic codes, public policies on cooperation

1. INTRODUCTION

This research aims to answer questions such as whether or not the extremely serious consequences of the earthquake in Haiti could have been prevented. To what extent was Haiti's seismic risk known and to what extent was it integrated in international development cooperation policies? Why weren't scientific knowledge and best technological practice taken into account? And, were Haiti's seismic risks foreseeable?

The estimates published by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) on the population exposed to the earthquake in the most heavily affected areas (11 human settlements) were that up to five million people could be affected with a likelihood of at least 34%, that more than 100,000 persons could be killed, and that there was a likelihood of more than 43% of losses of between 1 and 10 million US dollars. The PARNDH (*Plan de Acción para la Recuperación Nacional y el Desarrollo de Haití BID, Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo*) speaks of 7.9 million US dollars in losses and damage amounting to 120% of the country's 2009 GDP, 2.5 trillion in physical losses amounting to 55% of the total cost of the disaster, and 3.6 million US dollars (45% of losses) as collateral costs due to loss of employment and salaries, production, reduction in the volume of business, increase of production costs, 6% in education and health, and so forth. According to official estimates published by the USGS, the earthquake caused 316,000 deaths, and left 300,000 injured and 1.3 million displaced persons. A total of 97,294 houses were destroyed, and 188,383 homes were damaged in Port au Prince and a large portion of southern Haiti. The PARNDH published that 105,000 homes were destroyed and 208,000 damaged, and that more than 1,300 centers of education and more than 50 hospitals and health centers had suffered from collapse or were inoperable. The main port could not be used and a great number of public buildings such as the Parliament, the Palace of Justice and most of the Ministries had been destroyed.

2. RESEARCH

Research was therefore carried out with a view to understanding whether the actors involved at all levels of the Seismic Risk Management in Haiti were aware of the chance of a major earthquake with the breadth and intensity of that occurring on 12 January 2010. A survey was designed for NGOs that had worked with Haiti before as well as after the earthquake. There was prior consultation among different government and non-governmental sources to ascertain which NGOs had been present, and specifically which, due to the activities they performed, should have been aware of the chance of a major earthquake occurring. To facilitate communication, mainly Spanish NGOs or international NGOs with offices in Spain were chosen given that all of them, regardless of their nationality, obtained national and international funding. The sectors chosen included any of these that needed to build, manage, or outsource the building of infrastructure, be it housing for rural development, schools, water and sanitation infrastructure, health centers, or community centers, as part of their main activity. Forty-five NGOs were selected, of which 15 responded (33%).

In parallel, public policy for International Development Cooperation to Haiti both before and after the earthquake was examined, as were the main sources of funding, i.e. the United Nations System, the European Union, and the Spanish Development Cooperation Agency. Also examined was the Haitian government's legislation to ascertain the potential mandatory nature of seismic building codes and the type of buildings to which they applied. A thorough examination was also done of the reports and scientific publications making reference to Haiti's history of earthquakes in order to evaluate the extent to which this information existed and was available to the public for use.

3. RESULTS

3.1 Stakeholder Perception of Seismic Risk in Haiti.

Table 1: A survey of more than 45 Non Governmental Organizations that worked in Haiti both before and after the earthquake

DATE	DRM	SEISMICITY	Construction	Afectad
1994	No	No	No	No
2003	yes	yes	yes	No
2004	yes	yes	yes	No
2005	yes	yes	No	No
2009	N/C	N/C	yes	yes
2010	yes	yes	yes	No
2010	yes	yes	yes	yes
2010	No	No	No	No
2010	yes	yes	No	No
2010	yes	yes	No	No
2010	yes	yes	N/C	N/C
2011	yes	yes	yes	No
2011	yes	yes	No	No

3.2. Seismic Risk in Haiti in Public Development Cooperation Policy.

Analysis of policies in Development Cooperation in various international institutions, United Nations System, European Union and the Spanish Cooperation Agency.

Table 2: Summary table of the international planning for the development of Haiti in agreement management disaster risk, before and after the earthquake of 2010. (*Asencio Barragán, 2013*)

AÑO	UNITED NATIONS	EUROPEAN UNION	SPAIN GOVERN	GRD	SEISMICITY
2001	MANUD 2002-2006			✘	✘
2005			DEP Haiti 2006-08	✓	✘
2007		DEP 2008-13		✓	...
2008	MANUD 2009-2011			✓	✘
2012	Haiti CPAP PNUD 2013-2016			✓	✓
	CSI 2013-2016			✓	✓

3.3 The Seismic Situation in Haiti and Building Codes.

The January 2010 earthquake in Haiti occurred on the boundary between the Caribbean and North American Plates, whose interaction spans 100-250 km, and which have a direct impact on the islands of La Hispaniola, Cuba, Jamaica and Puerto Rico, spanning a total of more than 2,000 km from the Lesser Antilles to the Central American Arc. The data of the epicenter, depth, and rupture model indicate that the earthquake was triggered in the Enriquillo-Plantain Garden (EPFGZ) fault system on the south of the island, although Professor of Geography at Purdue University (Indiana) Eric Calais, (led the first team that went to after the earthquake. This Geophysicall studied system failures and Northern Enriquillo from 1989). Asserts that the earthquake "was due to a non-assigned fault running virtually parallel to Enriquillo fault", which is called the "Léogâne fault". The main collision between the plates did not generate any observable displacement on the surface, but did contribute to breaking the secondary faults and to an elevation of the Léogânes delta (Port au Prince). This leads to the conclusion that the tension generated in the area was not duly released and therefore remains a considerable threat. A similar situation could occur in the not too distant future. The earthquake occurred at 9:53:10 p.m. UTC (4:53:10 p.m. local time at the epicenter), at a depth of 13 km (hypocenter) and 25 km west of Port au Prince (epicenter 18.443°N 72.571°W), and had a magnitude of 7.0 on the Richter scale and an intensity of up to X degrees on the Modified Mercalli (MM) scale.

The lack of a building code, licenses for architects, engineers and contractors, or even spontaneously built homes in spontaneous settlements, made this earthquake all the more catastrophic. The codes potentially used were the French BAEL code (limit state

design for reinforced concrete) that does not include measures for seismic design, and the American ACI-318 (American Concrete Institute) code for building with concrete structures and whose building and inspection requisites are neither mandatory or revised. Added to this is the use of poor materials such as sand from the beach that is corrosive to concrete, coupled with poor labor and poor maintenance giving rise to houses that are fragile and weak and cannot withstand even the slightest of tremors. It seems it was the historical buildings built between 1890 and 1925 that withstood the earthquake the best thanks to the building materials and techniques used at the time. There was, however, local damage due to topographical amplification that contributed to the destruction of ‘firm and relatively well built structures’. (EMS, *European Macroseismic Scale, 98*).

Prior to 2010, the government of Haiti had plans and national strategies that considered Earthquakes and Risk Management for Disaster Reduction. However, the lack of interest on the part of the Haitian Administration enabled unbridled proliferation of infrastructure lacking control and urban planning. Haiti has one of the lowest Human Development Indexes in the world, and the same holds for its governance capability. Likewise, International Development Cooperation Policy regarding actions performed in the field has not taken seismicity into account or the application of pre-disaster phases of Risk Management. It is Humanitarian Aid that has prevailed due to Haiti’s social and political situation with tremendous economic losses year by year.

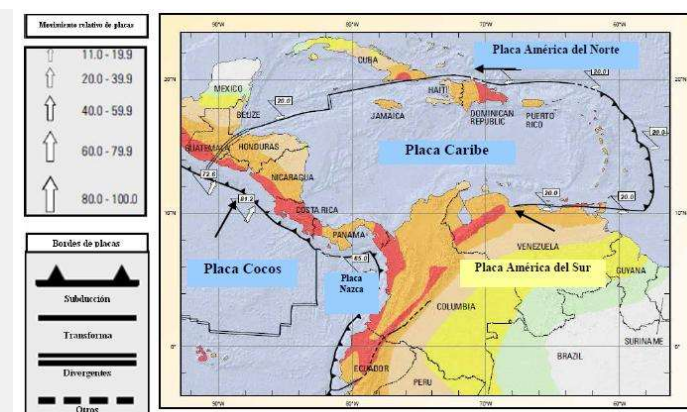


Figure 1: Map of caribbean plate and vicinity: Modificate for authors. Source: Tarr, C, Rhea, S, Villaseñor, A, Furlong, K.P, Benz, H, USGS 2007.

Table 3: Source: Bulletin of the Seismological Society of America, Vol. 102, N^o, 1, pp. 18-30, February 2012, DOI: 10.1785/0120110077

Significant Enriquillo Fault System Earthquakes			
Date	Lat (° N)	Long (°)	M _I *
9 November 1701	18.41	72.65	6.6 ± 0.3
18 October 1751	18.36	70.84	7.4-7.5 ± 0.2 ^S
21 November 1751	18.54	72.32	6.6 ± 0.2
3 June 1770	18.50	72.86	7.5 ± 0.3
8 April 1860	18.55	73.54	6.3 ± 0.3
12 January 2010	18.45	72.54	M 7.0

4. CONCLUSIONS

The main conclusion is that the risk was only partially not every effectively assessed and appreciated. It did not impact the requirements of the projects to be carried out. There was no prior building policy requiring seismic building codes in the country despite that fact that there are several such codes in Latin America that orientate those building their own homes using various materials present in developing areas, and that can be easily accessed and implemented under technical supervision. These codes were developed following the earthquakes in the Republic of El Salvador in January and February 2001. To understand why the normal risk management and disaster reduction methodologies failed, one could think of subjective causes preventing resilience and involving factors included in the bias that we use when analyzing problems if we come from technical, scientific, social, legal, or emergency management backgrounds (Zango-Pascual, M. 2011). Other issues to consider have to do with governance and the subjective causes affecting each situation and context. It is the relationship between public policies and science and technology in Spain that has been researched by the author. Her conclusion is that the risk management responsibility does not always come hand in hand with the necessary interdisciplinary and trans-disciplinary knowledge, or with the appropriate legal instruments for this knowledge to be correctly materialized. There may be differing levels of management and responsibility in decision-making, be the decisions political, technical or operational, and cooperation, including the division of tasks, is not always appropriate. (Zango-Pascual, M. 2012)

One of the best known, cited and successful articles worldwide on Risk Management and Disaster Reduction is Wisner et al, “At Risk”, and the PAR model, (Pressure, Action, Reaction), which has even been included in certain manuals compiled in Spain by organizations specialized in Humanitarian Action and Development Cooperation. This vision is based mostly on including the population’s perceptions on risk and their participation in the process. While this is absolutely legitimate, if it does not come hand in hand with information from science, technological progress and best available practice, a significant element of vulnerability can arise. This has proven to be the case in Haiti. The population at seismic risk was barely a priority amidst others such as poverty, violence, covering basic needs such as health or education, and so forth. The last earthquake had occurred 200 years prior and was far from the forefront of people’s minds. Some of the NGOs participating in the country documents of international programs prior to the earthquake confirmed that they had not taken the seismic risk into account, that it was not a priority.

For science (see figure 1 and table 3) the risk was evident and information was easy to obtain for any scientist or actor involved who resorted to scientists for correct interpretation. For technical experts, seismic resistant building codes were nothing at all new and could even be adapted to situations as complex as those in Haiti. The Colombian Association of Seismic Engineering (*Asociación de Ingeniería Sísmica Colombiana*) has adopted several such techniques for houses built by their residents out of adobe, cemented coated barahaque, and barahaque.

5. ADDED VALUE FOR THE POST 2015 DISASTER RISK REDUCTION FRAMEWORK

The second strategic goal of the 2005-2015 Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA), Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters, is “Developing and strengthening institutions, mechanisms and capabilities, particularly at community level, that can systematically contribute to building resilience to hazards”. The disaster in Haiti is a clear example of how science and technology were not considered to be important capabilities. Nor were they addressed. They were not included in cooperation programs and the investments made were not at all resilient as called for in the post 2005-2015 HFA-2. While the country’s funding capacity was minimal, the funding it obtained to progress in its development was not accompanied by policies sufficiently permeable to scientific knowledge, technological progress and best practice. Seismic building codes were not factored in to most of the projects in which critical infrastructure was built, nor was the population given capacity-building for erecting their own houses.

Often, those who design these policies and those who make Risk Management and Disaster Risk Reduction policies do not have scientific or technical training or experience, and it is assumed that proper legislative strategies suffice. But any legislation and planning must take science and technology and progress into account so that knowledge can be transferred to society purposefully to contribute to facing the challenges generated day by day.

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