

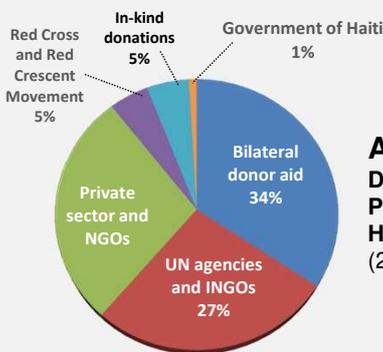


# Haiti: a Fragile State in Disaster

## Lessons Learned from the 2010 Earthquake

### Not your typical Smart city

- **Hypercentralized** capital, high densities without urban planning or building codes
- **Aid-dependent and fragile State** struck in its core by a complex emergency
- **Global mobilization to "build back better"** facing a humanitarian conundrum in a crowded and vulnerable urban setting



**Additional key figures**  
 Donors pledges: 9,9 billions US\$  
 Private donations: 3 billions US\$  
 Haiti Government: ~1 billion US\$ (2009 budget)

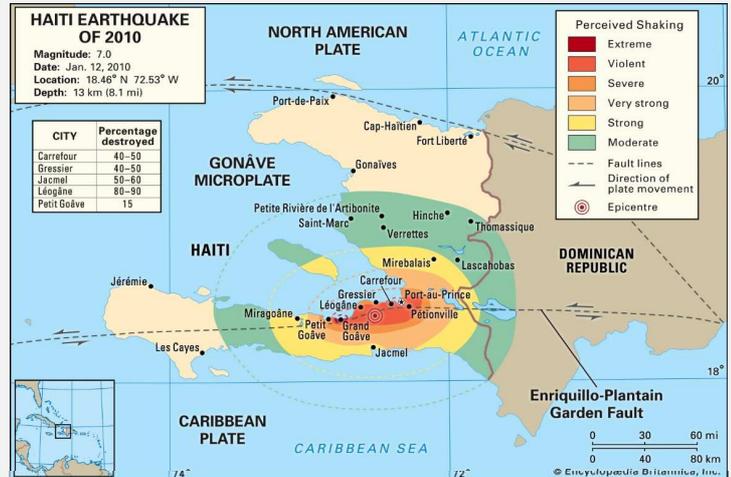
Humanitarian aid allocation (2,42 billions of dollars in 2010-2012) according to the Office of the UN Special Envoy in Haiti.

### Questions and methods

- Premise: **Why do international interventions seem to keep failing in Haiti?** How to improve disaster risk management in fragile contexts?
- **19-month fieldwork** (interviews, project management, review of media and reporting)



Jalousie slums repainted by the Haitian Government, 2012. Credit: Paolo Woods



**Human toll:** 50 000 to 316 000 dead, ~300 000 injured  
**Economic damage:** 8 billions US\$ (120% GDP)  
**Housing crisis:** 1,5 million of IDPs (July 2010)

### Key findings

- **Weak coordination and accountability** among the international response
- **Unreliable data and misperceptions** of the Haitian State and society
- **Protracted marginalization** of Haitian actors: local resilience strategies ignored by **standardized and technical solutions**
- **Routinization of foreign-led emergency mechanisms and unsustainable programs:** unending crisis and donor fatigue

### Build back as it was?

- **Link statebuilding, resilience and DRM:** integrate sound sociopolitical analysis in the disaster preparedness framework
- **Understand informal modes of government and networks** to better engage with local actors and capitalize on their reach
- **Create a strong public agency** to handle data, planning and accountability
- **Bringing the State back in** disaster management by public investment at the local level (small long-term projects)

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