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The Impact Of Developmental And Humanitarian Aid In The Nation Of Haiti

By: Hannah Chitty, Jessie Comeau, Esther Fluhart, Lauren Mullahy, Katherine Ward

Introduction

Emergency aid and developmental assistance are both necessary in different situations. Haiti is an example of a country that has received a significant amount of emergency aid, but also desperately needs developmental assistance. The United States is currently Haiti's largest donor. If millions of dollars are being donated to the country every year, why is Haiti still the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere?

Background Information

- Sugarcane and slavery sustained Haiti during the 18th century.
- Haiti gained independence from France in 1804 as a result of a slave revolt.
- Haiti experienced political struggles and corruption for most of the 19th and 20th centuries.
- Haiti has a complex history of economic struggles and natural disasters.



Goal of Emergency Relief

The goal of emergency aid is to provide the basic needs for a community after an unexpected natural or manmade emergency. It is designed to be short term, provide skilled aid workers, fast paced, and produce rapid lifesaving results.

Emergency Relief Aid in Haiti

- Search and rescue teams
- Emergency food aid
- Safe drinking water
- Emergency shelter



Goal of Development Assistance

The goal of developmental assistance is to address bio-psycho-socio-economic factors within the cultural setting, with the ultimate goal being sustainability. Deep immersion in the culture and collaboration with the host government and communities is vital to identify and prioritize needs and set goals that will maintain and improve health and wellbeing. Development focuses on building a community by utilizing resources already in the community such as leaders, materials, skills, and workers.

Developmental Assistance in Haiti

- Earthquake Rubble Removal Bottom-up Approach
- Agricultural Enterprises such as De Le Sol



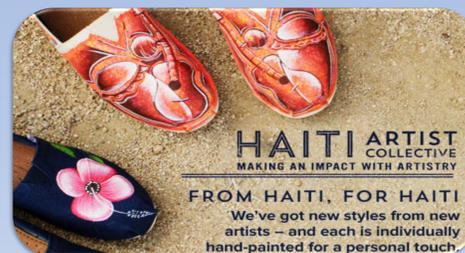
Practical Example of Helping Haiti

TOMS shoes is a "feel-good" campaign of our generation. When buying a pair of shoes, you are giving a pair of shoes to a child in need without leaving your home country. Is giving consumer products what an impoverished country really needs? Is TOMS hurting local business? Should America just keep giving handouts or should America help grow local Community business?

TOMS' move to community development in Haiti: TOMS has committed to create jobs through shoe production in Haiti to establish and support the shoe industry in the country. Employing local Haitian artists to design this new shoe collection has provided 40+ jobs and specialized training. The company saw the need to do more than just give away shoes. TOMS' involvement in Haitian communities empowers the nationals to use local talent to ensure economic stability.

The Believers' Response

Educate yourself on whether the charity or mission trip you wish to fund is helping or harming the local community. Allow God to reveal possible poor or selfish motives. Honor God in your giving by examining your heart. It is vital to understand the community when aiding from a foreign perspective. As believers, we cannot expect to understand effective aid without knowing and applying the Holy Scriptures.



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