

Haiti Earthquake

An earthquake is the shaking of the Earth's crust. Approximately 15 major earthquakes occur each year around the world. Their effects can be devastating.

When Did It Happen?

An earthquake struck on 14th August 2021 just before 8:30 a.m.

Where Did It Happen?

The epicentre of the earthquake was in the Tiburon Peninsula in southwest Haiti, 78 miles (150km) away from the capital. Haiti is in the Caribbean.

What Happened?

The Caribbean Plate moved eastwards causing a 7.2 magnitude earthquake.

At the country's capital, Port-au-Prince, there was a tsunami measuring 3m (10ft) high. Many coastal areas were affected by liquefaction. This is when the vibrations from an earthquake weaken the ground, making it flow like a liquid.



Other Facts

The earthquake was only 6 miles (10km) deep, but this proved crucial as shallow earthquakes usually cause more damage than deeper ones.

Haiti was still recovering from a previous earthquake in 2010.

What Were the Effects?

Infrastructure

Ports were damaged and access to major roads limited due to landslides and flooding.

Hundreds of schools and many hospitals were damaged or destroyed.

More than 100,000 homes were destroyed or damaged.

Social and Economic

Approximately 2200 people were killed and many others injured.

Thousands of people lived in displacement sites and many more were in need of humanitarian assistance.

The damage repair cost was estimated to be £1.3 billion.

Response

Aid was sent by the United Nations and some charities, though access limitations halted aid delivery.

Temporary hospitals were built to treat the injured and to provide routine care.

Temporary shelters were built.