Disaster Relief in Haiti

We rarely think about what might happen when disaster strikes, but an unexpected emergency can happen to anyone, anywhere. Luckily, there are thousands of people around the world who are prepared to act rapidly in the event of a disaster.

Take, for example, the 2010 earthquake that struck the country of Haiti. This violent quake left around one million residents homeless and claimed hundreds of thousands of lives. When Haiti sent out an urgent call for assistance, aid workers came flooding in from governments and organizations across the globe. Rescue workers searched the rubble for survivors, their persistence paying off as they pulled people from collapsed buildings. Doctors and nurses arrived to help care for the wounded, their endurance tested by long lines of patient after patient needing treatment.

In addition to the aid workers, relief in the form of cash began pouring into Haiti from every corner of the world. Countries blessed with abundant resources opened their hearts—and their wallets—to relief efforts. Individuals, whether affluent or not, sent in donations. The United Nations rounded up donations totaling nearly $10 billion, while millions of dollars were raised through star-studded benefits and even text-message campaigns. While the expectancy is that relief and rebuilding efforts will need to continue in Haiti for many years to come, the combined efforts of people everywhere have helped get the country started on the road to recovery.