

HAITI: THE AID DILEMMA

Who Will You Help?

Look deeper at the complexities of providing aid to a country following a major disaster. Using the handout Who Will You Help?, have small student groups play the part of financial officers for a large charity organization who need to determine where and how a major monetary donation should be made. They will need to analyze the services of six different charity organizations, reach group consensus on their priorities, and award the donation. Afterward, have students report their findings to the class and explain their views on whether short-term recovery or long-term commercial improvement/expansion should be the priority. Discuss whether students think increasing foreign aid would be beneficial for Haiti. If so, should Haiti receive emergency aid or long-term sustainable recovery aid? Could it cause Haiti to become dependent on such aid? If so, how could that be avoided?

Imagine you are the financial officer for a large non-profit organization. You have decided to donate \$1 million to the earthquake relief effort. Where will you put your money? Below is a list of aid agencies working in Haiti. There are **TWO** factors to consider in your decision-making:

- The members want to maximize their investment (that is, they DON'T want you just to divide the donations evenly).

- Some of the board's members are strong advocates of microfinance, giving financial services (including loans) to low-income individuals, who generally do not have access to traditional banks. The goal is to help those in poor conditions create sustainable economic routes out of poverty. Other members of the board consider microfinance to be an ambitious but slow-moving process, one that is less useful in a nation like Haiti that is still struggling to provide basic services to its citizens, like medical supplies and clean water.

What amount would you give each, if any? Justify your answers.			
AGENCY	DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE	AMOUNT YOU WILL DONATE	JUSTIFY YOUR DECISION!
DAI (Development Alternatives, Inc.) http://www.dai.com/	DAI operates the Economic Development for a Sustainable Environment Project (DEED), that which aims to improve land management and expand jobs in the production of sustainable crops. Also, they give it gives out small loans (“microloans”) for start-startups of small businesses, new product development, and commercial retail wholesalers.		
Yéle Haiti http://www.yele-haiti.org/	Founded by musician Wyclef Jean, this organization tries aims to improve Haitians’ lives in the areas of health, education, environment, and the community, by creating small, manageable, and replicable projects. This organization makes major use of music, sports, and the media.		
Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/	This is an international medical humanitarian organization working in more than 60 countries to assist people whose survival is threatened by violence, neglect, or catastrophe.		
UNICEF (United Nations Children’s Fund) http://www.unicef.org/	UNICEF is working in Haiti to reduce maternal mortality by providing medical equipment and training to reopen closed health facilities, benefitting an estimated 75,000 pregnant women. Also, UNICEF helped communities build 55 new schools, which will educate an additional 20,000 children.		

<p>World Food Programme (WFP) http://www.wfp.org/</p>	<p>WFP provides “food-for-work” programs in Haiti, including road reconstruction, agricultural land rehabilitation, and reconstruction of hillsides to prevent future mudslides. It also has the largest school feeding program in Haiti, providing daily meals to more than 400,000 children, and it is also providing medicine against parasites to children across the country.</p>		
<p>Fonkoze http://www.fonkoze.org/</p>	<p>Haiti's Alternative Bank for the Organized Poor, Fonkoze is one of the largest microfinance institutions in Haiti. It serves more than 175,000 savers and 55,000 women borrowers, most of whom live and work in the countryside.</p>		
<p>Aid agencies and descriptions are derived in part from the following sources: Nesbitt, J. (2009). “Top Aid Agencies in Haiti: A Primer.” http://www.devex.com/articles/top-aid-agencies-in-haiti-a-primer Zerba, A., J. Wilson, and C. Dawson (2010). “What will your Haiti relief donation go toward?” http://www.cnn.com/2010/LIVING/01/13/haiti.earthquake.how.to.help/index.html</p>			