



Government of Canada Response to Natural Disasters Abroad

**2010 Haiti Earthquake
&
After-Action Review Plans**

Government of Canada Coordination Mechanisms

- Standard Operating Procedures in Response to Natural Disasters Abroad (“SOPs”)
- Standardized templates & checklists
- Standing Interdepartmental Task Force
- Interdepartmental Strategic Support Team (ISST)
- After-action Reviews (lessons learned)



GoC Response Mechanisms for Natural Disasters Abroad

- Cash contributions in response to appeals
- Deployment of relief supplies
- Deployment of Canadian experts
- Canadian Forces assets
- Other special measures



**All
used
in Haiti!**





START & the Haiti Earthquake Response

- Convened the Interdepartmental Task Force on Natural Disasters abroad.
 - 1st meeting within 3 hours of the earthquake.
 - Continued meetings throughout the emergency response phase.
 - Convened 39 times between Jan 12th and Mar 11th.
- Led the Interdepartmental Strategic Support Team (ISST)
 - Deployed to Haiti within hours of the earthquake.
 - Assessed needs, engaged donors and the GoH.
 - Identified key recommendations regarding Canadian humanitarian response package.
- Continued Coordination Role
 - Key liaison and conduit between Canadian government departments and other actors.
 - Produced regular situation reports for the whole-of-government community.



After-Action Review *Process*

- External consultant
 - moderate meetings & focus groups, conduct interviews, review all materials, produce final report with key recommendations.
- Review of effectiveness of SOPs and key response mechanisms.
- Working-level Interdepartmental Task Force meeting.
 - Including federal government actors in Ottawa, personnel from the mission, and personnel deployed to the field.
- Senior management focus group
 - engage key OGD partners
- Interviews with key GoC task force members



After-Action Review

Key Issues

- **Interdepartmental Coordination**
 - SOPs, HQs-field and interdepartmental coordination, ISST
- **International Coordination**
 - engagement with other countries, international orgs, non-governmental orgs
- **Humanitarian and Recovery Assistance Response**
 - were response needs identified quickly, effectively?
- **Communications and Media Relations**
 - coordination across government, consistent messaging, effective use of comms and media
- **Management and HR Issues**
 - surge capacity, deployments to mission
- **Consular Response**
 - Evacuations, identification, location of CanCits.
- **Expanded Use of CF Assets**
 - What were the high-value elements used, did they match the situation and needs identified?

QUESTIONS?

