

# WHAT HAPPENED HERE?

Look at these images of different disasters.

**Can you work out what happened in each picture?**



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## ODD ONE OUT

Read through the list of events below and find the event that was **NOT** a disaster.

In 2010, **heavy monsoon rains in Pakistan** flooded the Indus river basin. Approximately one-fifth of Pakistan's total land area was underwater, covering approximately 307,374 square miles and destroying property, livelihoods and infrastructure. Around 20 million people were affected and 2,000 people died.

In 2008, **a dam on the river Kosi in Nepal burst**, forcing 3 million people to leave their homes.

In 1964, **an earthquake in Alaska** caused an avalanche of rock that covered 30 million square metres of uninhabited land.

In January 2010, **an earthquake hit Haiti**, 16 miles from the country's capital, Port-au-Prince, killing an estimated 220,000 people and leaving 1 million more homeless.

On Boxing Day 2004, **an earthquake beneath the Indian Ocean triggered a tsunami** that struck countries across Asia, killing more than 230,000 people in 14 countries and making more than 5 million people homeless.

In October 2011, **it rained continuously for more than 10 days in El Salvador**: 5,000 acres of crops were damaged by the flooding.

The event that was not a disaster was \_\_\_\_\_

because \_\_\_\_\_

# MAPPING DISASTERS

## Countries' development status

The Human Development Index ranks countries by level of human development and includes a comparative measure of life expectancy, education, and standards of living in a country. It is also used to distinguish whether the country is a developed, a developing or an underdeveloped country.

**Table A: Most deadly disasters of the early 21st century**

Type of disaster	Year	Country/Countries affected	Human Development Index ranking	Number of people who died (approx)
Earthquake	2001	India	136	19,700
Heatwave	2003	European countries, esp France	20	40,000
Earthquake	2003	Iran	76	43,000
Heatwave	2010	Russia	55	56,000
Earthquake	2008	China	101	69,000
Earthquake	2005	Kashmir (Pakistan/India)	146/136	86,000
Cyclone	2008	Burma	149	146,000
Earthquake	2010	Haiti	161	220,000
Tsunami	2004	Countries around the Indian Ocean, esp Indonesia	121	230,000

**Looking at the data in Table A, what conclusions might be drawn about how a country's level of development affects the impact of a disaster?**

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**Suggest possible reasons for this.**

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# NOT ALL EARTHQUAKES ARE EQUAL



	<b>Chile</b>	<b>Haiti</b>	Use this column to make notes about the statistics
<b>Death toll from 2010 earthquake</b>	<b>562</b>	<b>220,000</b>	
<b>Life expectancy at birth</b>	79	62	
<b>Spending on health services (% of GDP)</b>	3.8	1.5	
<b>Risk of major infectious diseases</b>	Low	High	
<b>Adult literacy rate (%)</b>	98.6	48.7	
<b>Population living below poverty line (%)</b> (less than US\$1.25 per day)	1.4	55	
<b>Population (millions)</b>	17	10	
<b>Area (in square km)</b>	756,102	27,750	



Data from undp.org, worldbank.org and unicef.org

**Give reasons why the death toll may have been so much higher in Haiti than in Chile.**

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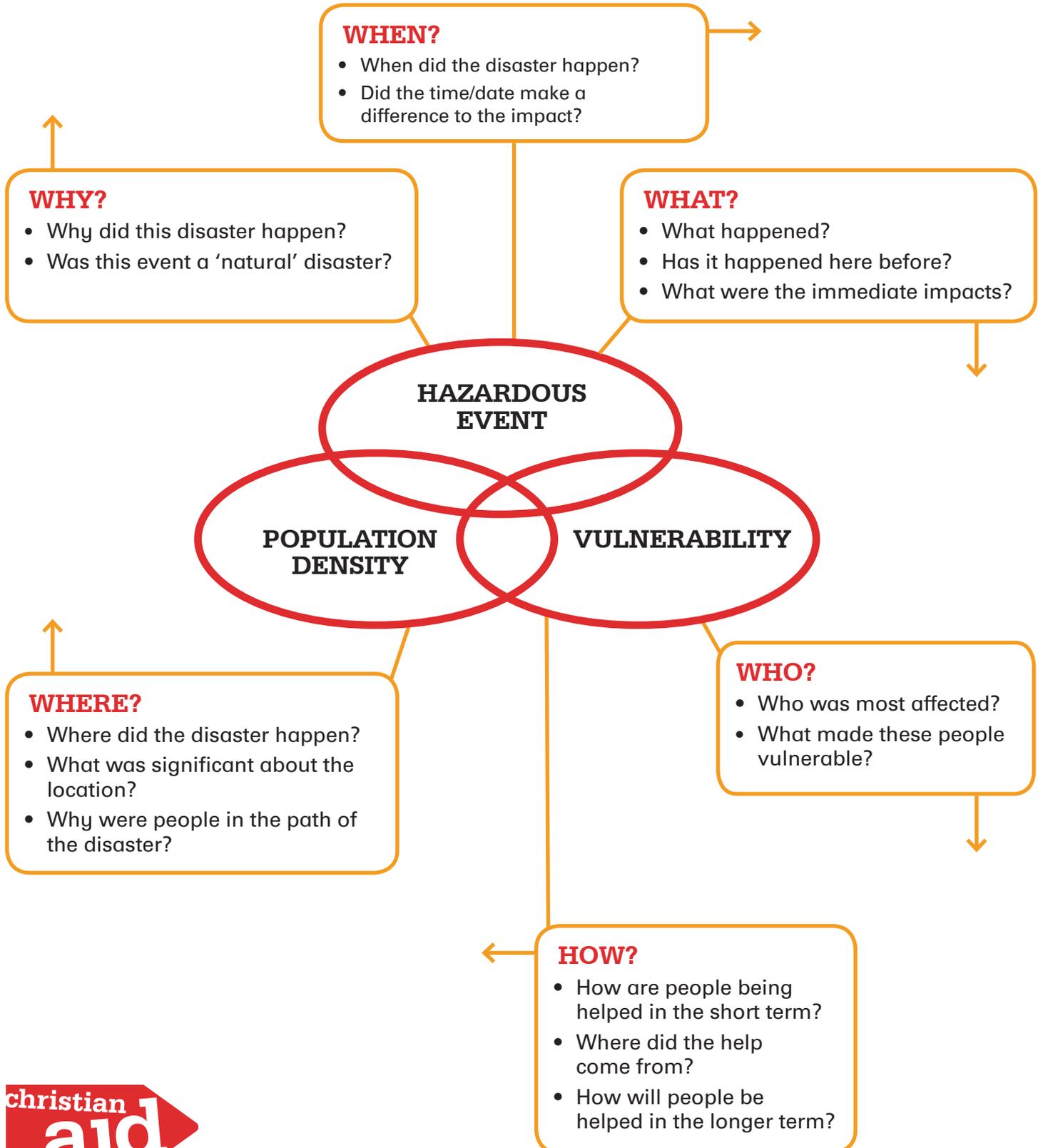


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# DISASTER ANALYSIS

Use this sheet to help you organise and analyse the information you gather about a disaster. You can add information and ideas around each of the bubbles.





# MATCH TO ADAPT

Photocopy this sheet so that you will have one set of cards per group (you will probably have around six groups of five in an average class) and cut the cards out. Shuffle and give a set to each group.

## Bangladesh

This country is prone to floods. It has lots of big rivers and the land is very flat, with few hills. It rains a lot here. Rising sea levels are contaminating the water supplies, making the water salty. Traditional varieties of crops struggle to survive in these conditions.

Christian Aid's partners are helping farmers to create 'floating gardens', which are gardens with plants that can cope with very wet weather and flooding. They have also given farmers a new type of rice that can grow well in saltwater conditions.

## The Philippines

This country is made up of more than 7,000 islands in the Pacific Ocean. People here are facing increasingly wet and stormy weather – around 20 typhoons\* batter this country every year, and scientists believe they are becoming stronger.

*\*Typhoon is the name given to a hurricane that happens in the north-west Pacific Ocean.*

People in the poorest communities are most at risk from storms, so Christian Aid partners are training them in how to escape when a typhoon hits. People are also being trained in how to spot the signs that a flood or storm is likely, and are being given radios and loudspeakers so they can warn others of the potential danger and evacuate.

## Senegal

The north of this country used to be covered in forest, but hotter, drier weather and deforestation (people cutting down trees) have resulted in more desert, making it harder for people to find food for their cattle.

Christian Aid partners are helping people to find new ways to farm that are more suited to the new conditions in this area. Many are giving up their cattle, which were not thriving in the dry desert conditions, and are growing fruit trees instead. The fruit can be eaten or sold, and planting trees is helping to bring vegetation back to the area.



## MATCH TO ADAPT CONTINUED

Photocopy this sheet so that you will have one set of cards per group (*you will probably have around six groups of five in an average class*) and cut the cards out. Shuffle and give a set to each group.

### Bolivia

This country has lots of mountains and lots of glaciers (big areas of ice), which provide many people who live here with drinking water. But these glaciers are melting, which means that people's water supplies are disappearing.

Christian Aid partners have helped people who live in the mountains to build a small reservoir that can hold water from mountain streams, so that they have more water to use for washing and drinking and to water their crops.

### United Kingdom

Several years of very low rainfall resulted in a drought in the south east of this country, which was shortly followed by some of the wettest weather on record in 2012. This meant that farmers had a difficult time growing crops, first with too little rain – and then too much. People's houses were damaged by floods.

To conserve water, the government of this country ordered a hosepipe ban during the drought. Working with weather forecasters, it issued warnings to let people know when to expect flooding. Emergency services stepped in to rescue people whose homes became cut off by the floods.



# DISASTER RESPONSE

News has just come through that a strong earthquake has hit one of the countries where Christian Aid works. **As head of Christian Aid's Humanitarian division, you need to make some important decisions.**

**Which decisions would you make? Circle agree or disagree for each statement.**

The first thing to do is charter a plane to deliver emergency supplies from Britain/Ireland.

**AGREE** or **DISAGREE**

People will need lots of clothes, shoes, furniture and toiletries so ask local groups to collect these to send them over.

**AGREE** or **DISAGREE**

Once everything has been arranged, you should phone the Christian Aid office in the affected country to let the staff know that help is on its way.

**AGREE** or **DISAGREE**

Many children will have been orphaned by the earthquake, so look into setting up a child-sponsorship scheme in the affected country.

**AGREE** or **DISAGREE**

The poorest people are most at risk from disaster – attention should focus on their needs.

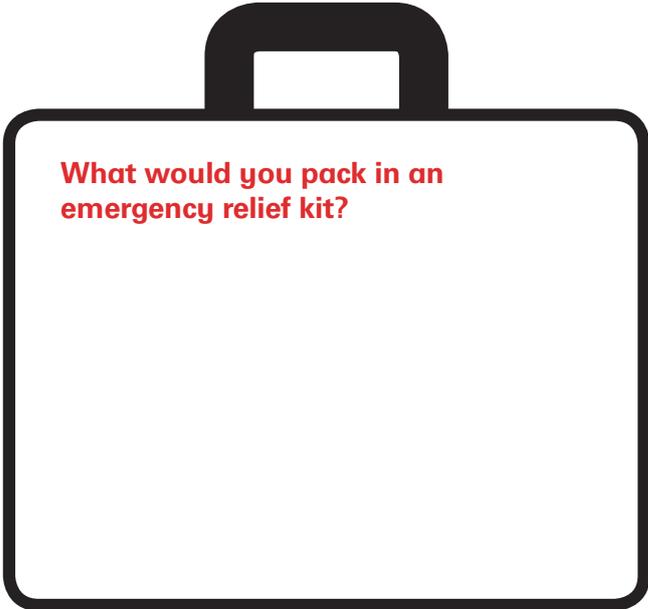
**AGREE** or **DISAGREE**

Celebrities must visit the scene as soon as possible to get lots of media attention.

**AGREE** or **DISAGREE**

As well as meeting people's immediate needs, you should start planning what their needs will be in a few months' time.

**AGREE** or **DISAGREE**



**What would you pack in an emergency relief kit?**

# DISASTER RESPONSE: CHRISTIAN AID'S ANSWERS

Here are the decisions Christian Aid would make, and its rationale for making them.

**The first thing to do is charter a plane to deliver emergency supplies from Britain/Ireland.**

## DISAGREE

Often airports are badly damaged in disasters (as happened in the 2010 earthquake in Haiti) and flights cannot enter the country quickly. Also, you would not know immediately what people needed most. Emergency supplies need to meet the most pressing needs of the people, so your first response would be to find out from local people what is most needed.

**Once everything has been arranged, you should phone the Christian Aid office in the affected country to let the staff know that help is on its way.**

## DISAGREE

Christian Aid's first priority, before the charity made any arrangements, would be to speak to its local partners in the affected country and find out from them what is most urgently needed. Christian Aid's partners will speak the local language and understand best the most urgent needs of people in their own communities.

**The poorest people are most at risk from disaster – attention should focus on their needs.**

## AGREE

Although major disasters can affect anyone living in a disaster-struck area, the poorest people are likely to be worst affected. This is because they are likely to have poorly built houses and few savings or resources to help see them through the disaster.

**Celebrities must visit the scene as soon as possible to get lots of media attention.**

## DISAGREE

Celebrities can help to draw valuable attention to important causes, but they are unlikely to be of immediate help in an emergency situation. The most important thing is to establish what people in the most desperate need require to help them cope – and local people are best placed to advise on that.

**As well as meeting people's immediate needs, you should start planning what their needs will be in a few months' time.**

## AGREE

As well as addressing the immediate needs of survivors, aid agencies must very quickly start to plan how people will be helped to recover in the longer term.

**People will need lots of clothes, shoes, furniture and toiletries so ask local groups to collect these to send them over.**

## DISAGREE

Items like clothes and toiletries might be needed, but sending shipments of items that outsiders think might help can waste valuable time and resources. Instead, it is really important to listen to what the people in the affected country are requesting.

**Many children will have been orphaned by the earthquake, so look into setting up a child-sponsorship scheme in the affected country.**

## DISAGREE

Although disasters do often have a terrible impact on children, sponsoring just a few children might not be the best way to help a whole community to recover. Christian Aid partners look at the needs of the whole community to try to make sure that all children (and adults) can benefit from the recovery process and that the community can move forward together.

**Did you pack any of the following in your emergency relief kit?**

