



Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti
Bureau des Avocats Internationaux

HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN HAITI

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Bureau des Avocats Internationaux
UC Hastings College of the Law
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www.HaitiJustice.org

Who We Are...

IJDH and BAI: Seeking Justice for Haiti's Poor

- Fight for the rights of Haiti's poor majority
- Represent victims of injustice
 - ▣ Earthquake victims
 - ▣ The unjustly imprisoned
 - ▣ Children without access to education



IJDH/BAI: Seeking Justice for Haiti's Poor

Our Approach

- Victim-centered
- Rights-based
- Multi-faceted

Our Projects

- Health and Human Rights in Prisons Project (HHRPP)
- Human Right to Education Project (HREP)
- Haiti Asylum Information Project (HAIP)
- Half Hour for Haiti
- Lawyers Earthquake Response Network (LERN)

Our Team: Seamless Advocacy Inside and Outside of Haiti

Bureau de Avocats Internationaux

- Litigation in Haiti
- Support for international litigation
- Information gathering
- Grassroots advocacy in Haiti
- Capacity building

Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti

- Support for litigation in Haiti
- International litigation
- Information dissemination
- Grassroots advocacy in the U.S.
- Fundraising



Building Haiti Back More Justly

A Rights-Based Response to the Earthquake

The Haiti Earthquake

*“In terms of its proportionate impact on one country, the Haitian earthquake may well be **the worst natural disaster ever.**”*

-Bekele Geleta, Secretary General of the International Federation of the Red Cross

Disproportionate Burden on Haiti's Poor

National Palace:

- 2 people died in the collapse of the National Palace.



Urban Slums: Home to Haiti's Poor Majority

- Tens of thousands of people died in the collapse of hillside slums.



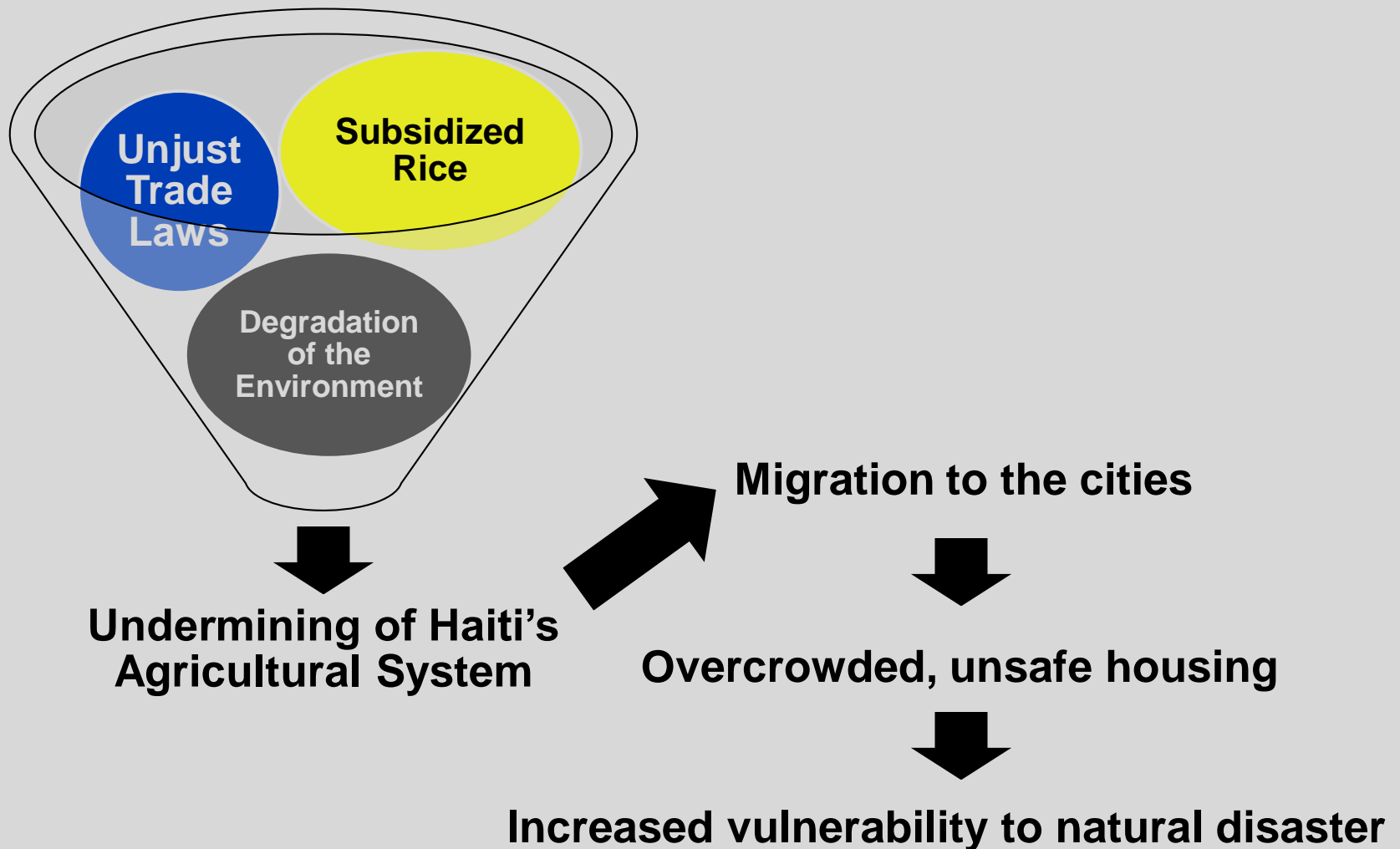
Inadequate Housing



Typical Haitian housing: Many houses are made of anything that can provide the semblance of shelter, including rags, plastic bags, and banana leaves.

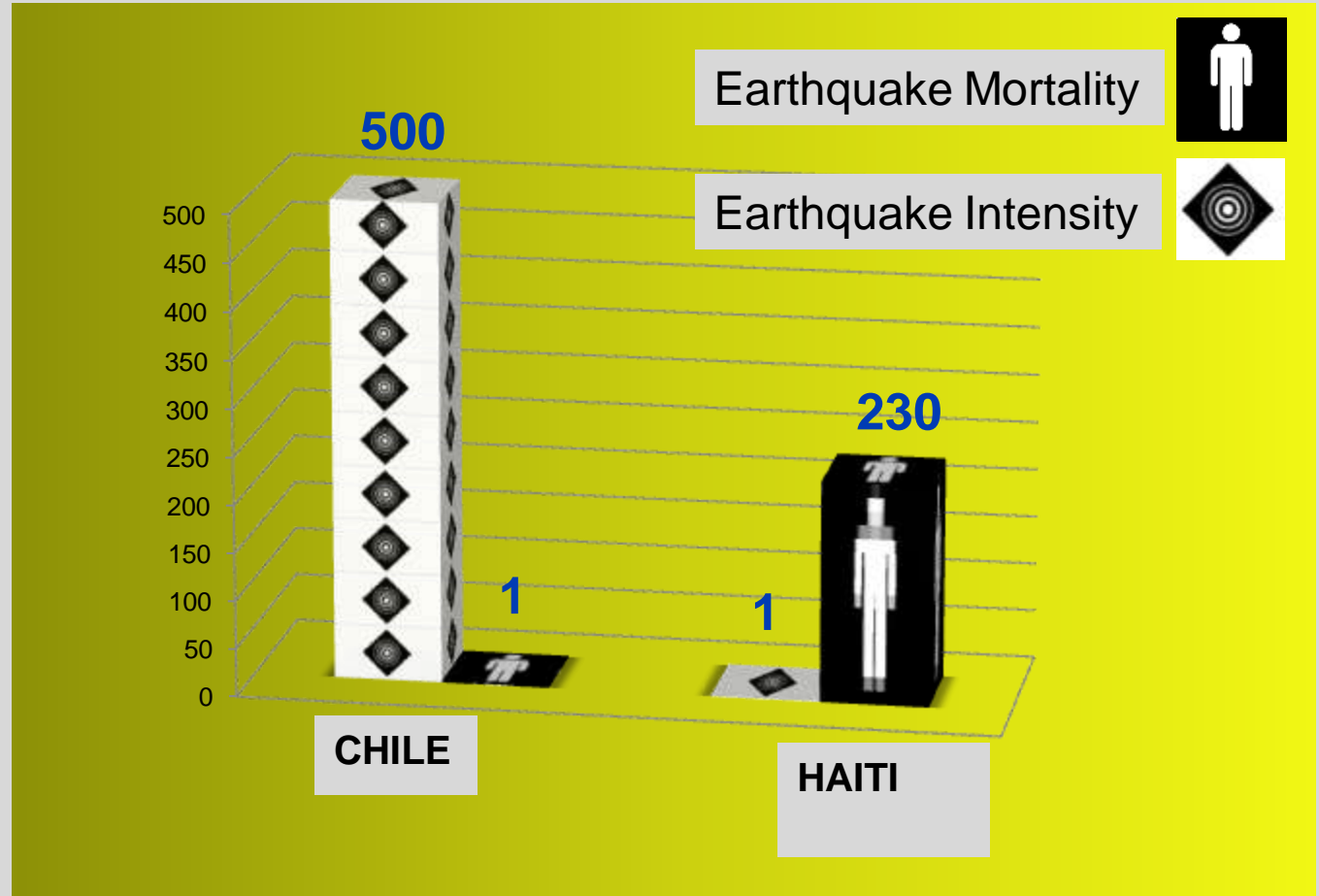
- 86% of the urban population in Haiti live in slums.
- Only 22% of the urban population in Latin America & Caribbean live in slums

Structural Causes of the Vulnerability of Haiti's Poor

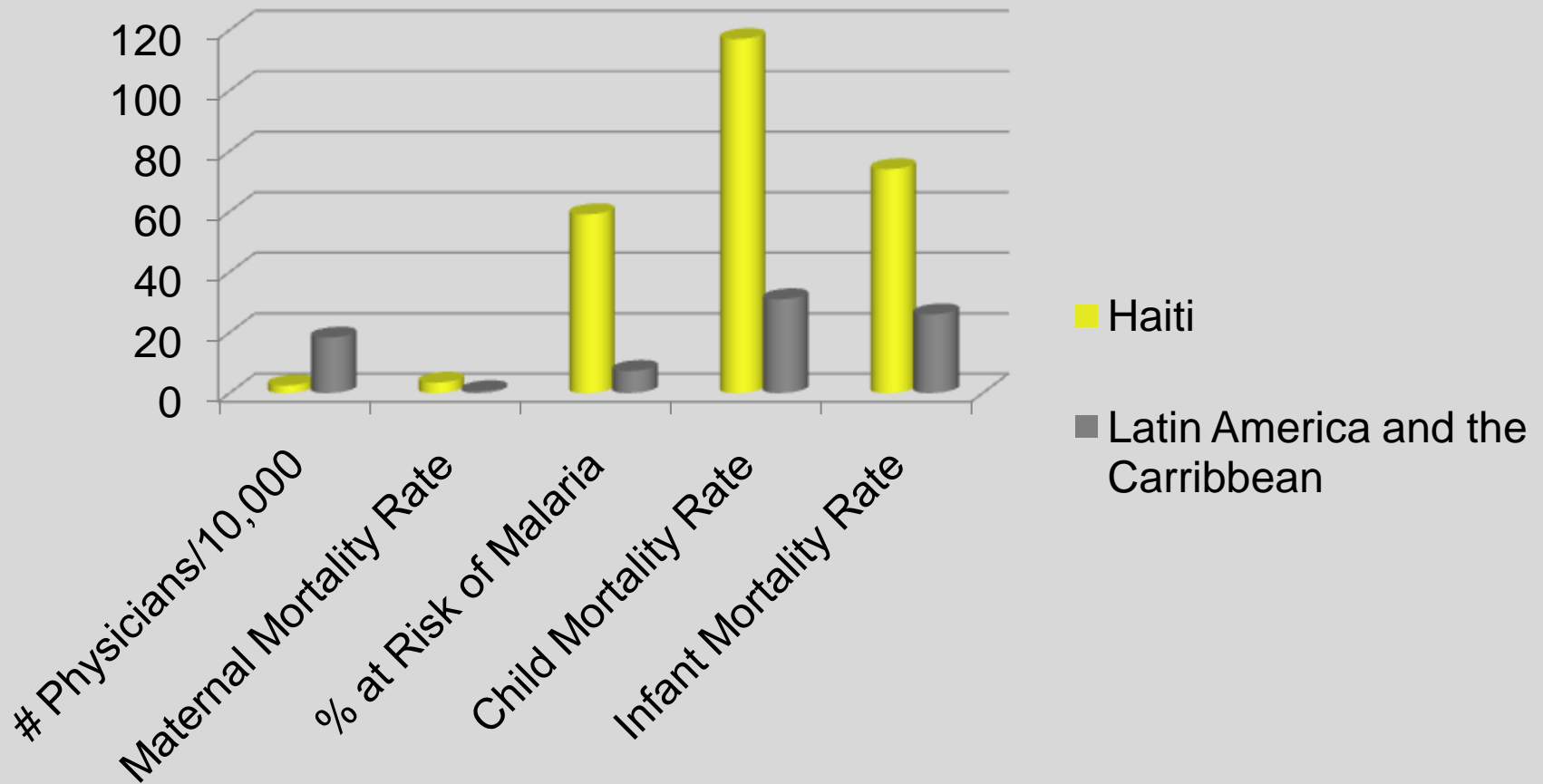


Comparing the Earthquakes in Chile and Haiti

Although the Chile earthquake was **500 times stronger** than the Haiti earthquake, Haiti suffered **230 times more mortality**.



Basic Health Indicators in Haiti



Source: Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), Health Situation in the Americas: Basic Indicators 2005.

Conditions 2 Months Later

- 1.3 million people were left homeless by the earthquake
- Today, only 300,000 (less than one third) of those have received “some form of emergency shelter materials” from the International Red Cross Federation.



Source: "More Quake Victims in Haiti Getting Shelter" by Lisa Schlein, 3/16/2010



Flooding in Les Cayes after torrential rains on March 1, 2010

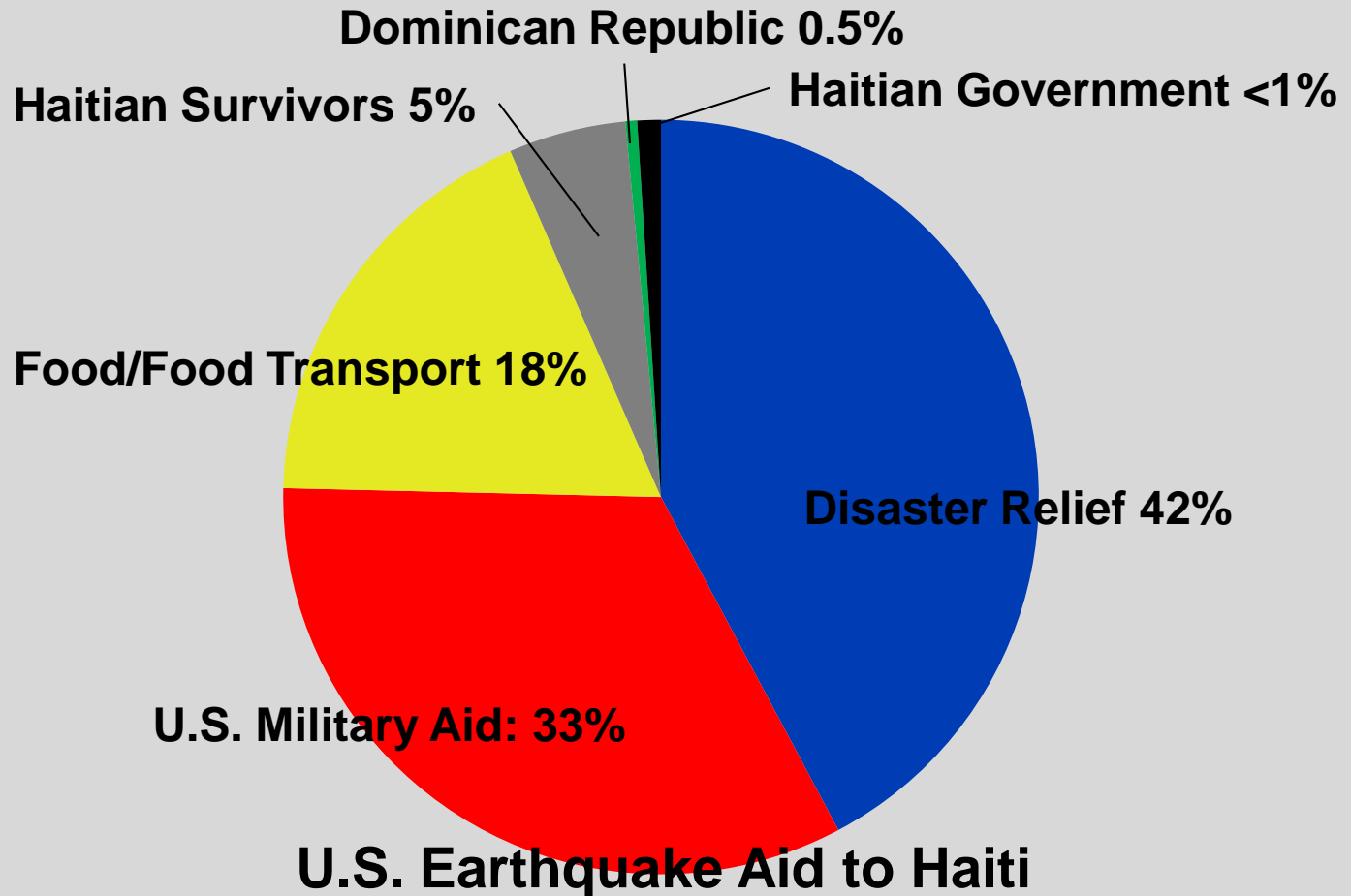
“When the rainy season starts, it’s not that people will get wet, but that they will get washed away.” –Alberto Wilde, Cooperative Housing Foundation

The rainy season will bring with it increased disease burden and suffering for the hundreds of thousands of Haitians still without shelter.

Source: "Rain pours fresh misery on quake-struck Haiti," Rueters, February 11, 2010

Less than 1 Cent per Dollar

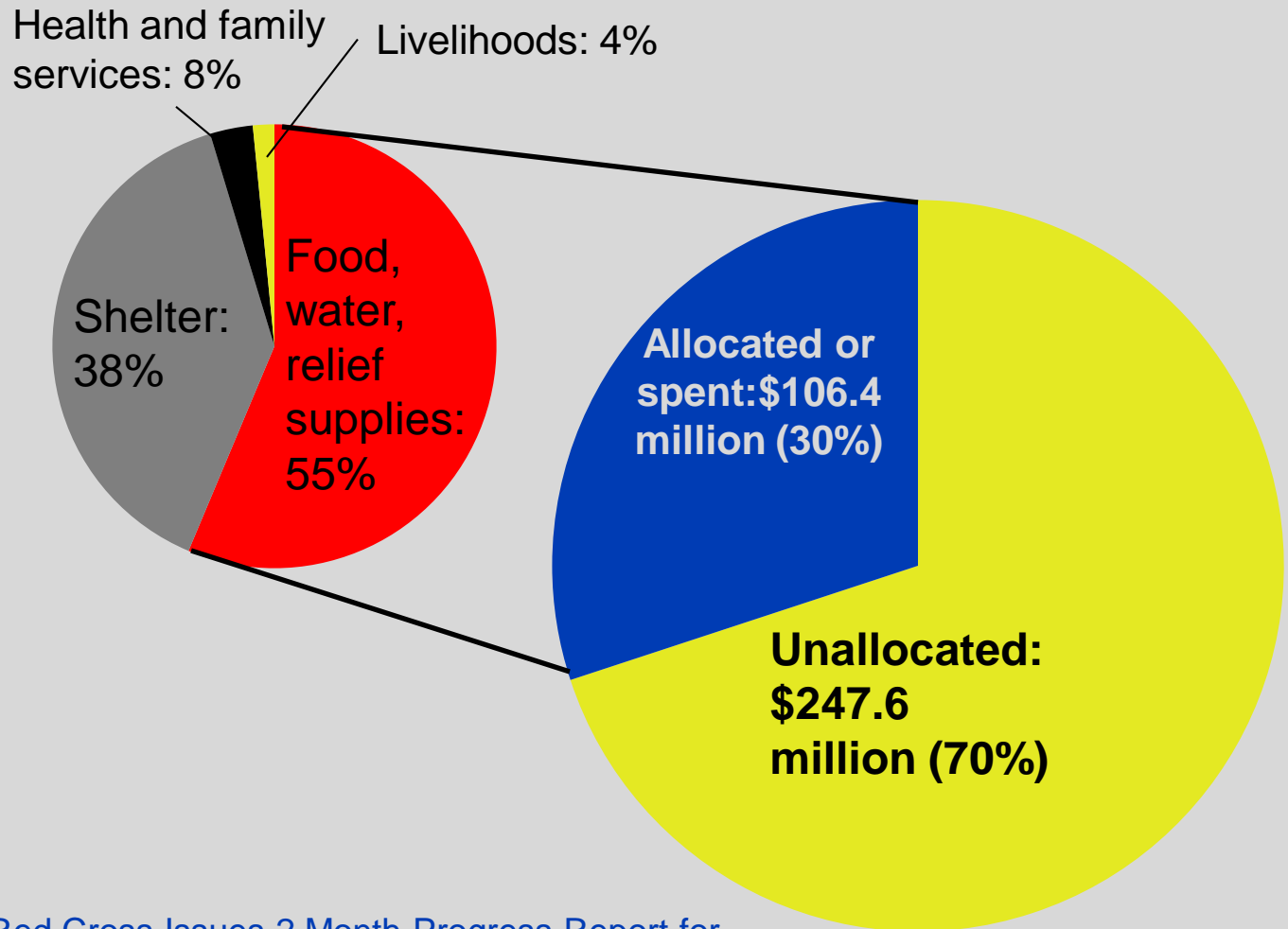
“The U.S. government money is part of close to \$2 billion in relief aid flowing into Haiti - almost all of it managed by organizations other than the Haitian government”



Source: "Haiti govt gets 1 penny of US quake aid dollar" By Yesica Fisch and Martha Mendoza (AP) January 27, 2010

Earthquake Aid from the American Red Cross

The American Red Cross has raised over \$350 million dollars for Haiti earthquake relief, but less than one third of that has actually been spent or even allocated for relief efforts.



Source: American Red Cross Issues 2 Month Progress Report for Haiti, March 12, 2010

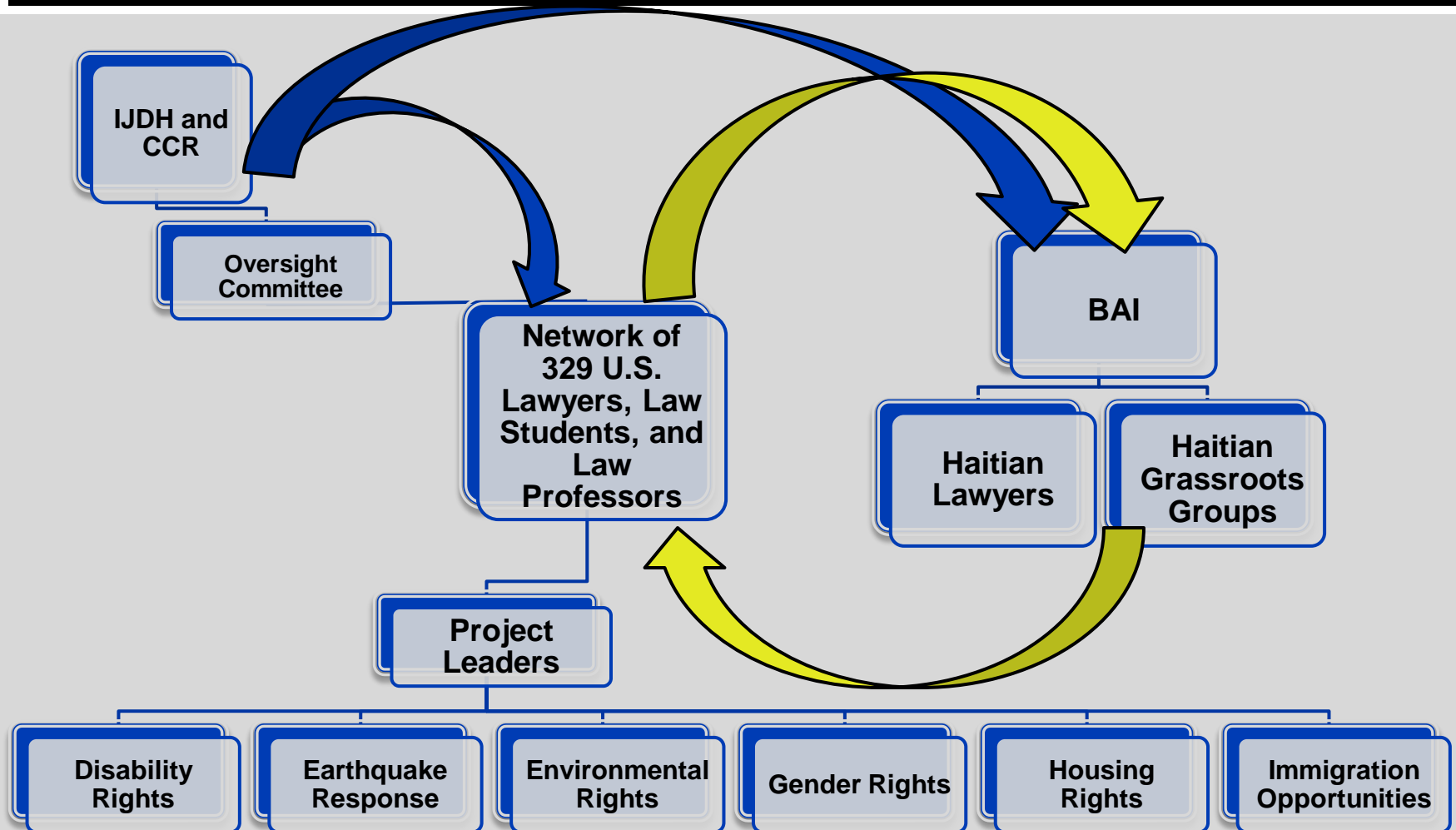
The Lawyers' Earthquake Response Network (LERN)

Connecting U.S. and Haitian lawyers to
advance a rights-based response to the
earthquake.

What is LERN?

- Network of 329 lawyers in the U.S. working with Haitian lawyers and grassroots groups to implement a legal response to the earthquake.
- Employs a human rights-based approach
- Advocates for earthquake victims, especially displaced persons, women, and children.
- Works to enforce housing, labor, environmental, and immigration rights.
- Works to reduce Haiti's vulnerability to future natural, political, and economic disasters.

Structure and Organization of LERN



LERN Across the Globe

7 Organizations


329 Lawyers,
Law students,
and Law
Professors


69 Cities

10 Project
Leaders

6 Projects



 U.S. Based Organization

 Haiti Based Organization

 Project Leader

 LERN Member

LERN: Connecting U.S. Lawyers with the Haitian Grassroots



LERN in Action



Haitian students interview earthquake victims, collecting data on living conditions in the camps.



BAI Earthquake Response

- Empowering grassroots groups to advocate for themselves.
- Grassroots women attend training at the BAI to conduct needs assessment of their neighborhoods for advocacy.



Mass Funeral at Titanyen

The BAI and the Aristide Foundation organized a funeral ceremony at a mass grave site near Titanyen to honor the children lost in the January 12, 2010 earthquake.



Medical Clinic at the BAI

Following the earthquake, the BAI hosted a medical clinic in its courtyard and opened its doors to injured earthquake victims.



Media Advocacy



The New Media Advocacy Project (NMap) returns to Haiti to film after the earthquake.

The BAI's Mario Joseph is interviewed by Democracy Now!



The New York Times

ROOM FOR DEBATE

A Running Commentary on the News

January 14, 2010: The Help That Haiti Needs

Work with the Haitian Government

Haiti's lack of infrastructure and history of corruption should be considered in shaping the international response to Tuesday's earthquake. But these factors should be a reason for investing in infrastructure and good governance, not for bypassing Haiti's government.

Excluding the government now might expedite aid and relief in the short run, but it will also expedite the return of the disaster relief set when Haiti is unable to handle the next environmental stress.

Haiti's devastation exposed the disadvantages of an extremely limited government. The earthquake itself was a natural phenomenon, but its horrible toll was largely the product of manmade factors like the failure to prevent shoddy construction on precarious slopes (or provide safer housing) and a health care system already stretched to the breaking point. Sixteen months ago, and five years ago, similar factors produced high death tolls from tropical storms that hit neighboring countries harder but less lethally.

The international community should also be modest about our own aid and disaster response capability. We do not always execute relief well as seen in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. And there are inefficiencies: a joke in Haiti says a minister skimming 10 percent from a foreign aid project is corruption, a Washington consulting firm skimming 40 percent is overhead. Aid often conforms to needs of U.S. campaign donors over the needs of Haitian victims. Food aid, for example, reduces stockpiles of excess, subsidized U.S. corn better than it fights hunger. It sometimes even increases hunger in Haiti by undermining otherwise sustainable local farmers. When farmers cannot sell their grain because Uncle Sam is giving it away, they close down their farms and move — to a shoddy house on a precarious slope in the city.

An effective international response to the earthquake will minimize the damage of the next stress in Haiti, by including both short- and long-term measures to develop the government's capacity to provide basic, honest services to its citizens.

Brian Concannon Jr., a human rights lawyer, is director of the Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti. Source: <http://roomfordebate.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/01/14/>

IJDH Director Brian Concannon, Jr.'s opinion piece on "The Help That Haiti Needs" is published in the New York Times blog "Room for Debate."