

CASE STUDY

WILDFIRE

AUSTRALIA

2019

Population

25.5 million

GDP per person (average amount of wealth)

\$57,374

People who live below the poverty line

12%

Climate

Frequent droughts
and extreme heat



Fairfax Media | Getty Images

WHAT HAPPENED?

After record-breaking temperatures in 2019 and a long period of drought, fires raged throughout Australia from summer 2019 to early 2020.

Torrential rain in January and February helped to extinguish some of the fires but also caused flash floods.

WHAT WAS THE RESPONSE?

- The government co-ordinated a response across the country to control the fires
- The National Bushfire Recovery Agency was formed to help provide money for the response
- People were told to evacuate (leave) the affected areas
- 3,700 firefighters tackled the fires at any one time
- Huge aircrafts dropped water onto affected areas
- Individuals around the world, including many celebrities, gave money to support relief efforts and help to protect wildlife
- The prime minister faced criticism for how he handled the crisis. People felt he didn't anticipate the fires and hadn't done enough to tackle climate-change. He announced \$2 billion Australian dollars in aid to help the country recover and promised to do more about climate-change

WHAT WAS THE IMPACT?

- An estimated 27 million hectares of land were destroyed
- 2,500 homes were destroyed
- 29 people died
- Around 1.25 billion animals died
- Ecosystems will suffer long-term damage
- The economic damage is estimated to cost \$4.4 billion to fix

CASE STUDY

HURRICANE

HAITI

2016

Population

11.4 million

GDP per person (average amount of wealth)

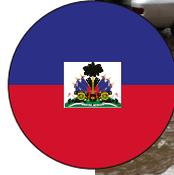
\$868

People who live below the poverty line

53%

Climate

Often experiences
tropical storms



WHAT HAPPENED?

In October, 2016 a hurricane hit Haiti that brought torrential rain and powerful winds.

Many homes were destroyed and roads, bridges and communication lines were wiped out. Food crops that fed the local people and were exported for money were also obliterated.

WHAT WAS THE RESPONSE?

- In the days before the hurricane, the government ordered people on smaller islands to be evacuated (to leave), and it banned boat trips
- The government was criticised for being slow to respond and many citizens were angry that they were not provided with relief
- International aid organisations such as the American Red Cross and the World Food Programme (WFP) helped to provide aid and organise relief efforts
- Individuals around the world donated money to emergency appeals
- International governments provided support. For example, the USA funded materials for emergency shelters and the UK Department for International Development (DFID) contributed aid and sent experts to help organise the response

WHAT WAS THE IMPACT?

- An estimated 900 people died
- Over 2.1 million people were affected
- Over 1.4 million people needed support that included shelter, food, clean water and access to toilets
- Farms were destroyed so people didn't have a food supply and businesses suffered
- The damage was estimated to have cost \$2.8 billion to fix