



The Armenia Earthquake Harvard Case Solution & Analysis

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THE EARTHQUAKE

- January 25, 1999- earthquake measuring 6.0 on Richter scale hits Armenia. With over 300 aftershocks, it killed 1,185 people and left 160,000 homeless
- Radio, television, and telephone networks all cut off, and infrastructure damaged.
- Fire and police departments destroyed and unable to respond.
- Over 40,000 buildings affected.

Initial Assessments & Mobilization of Resources

- Lack of protocol for such a catastrophe, and lack of expertise for disaster relief. However information gathered from radios, press, and people on the ground.
- Financial resources came mainly from the National Fund for Calamities, Red Cross, and the Social Solidarity Network.
- Volunteers flooded the area.

Organizational Set-up/ Coordination

- The RSS was tasked by President to handle initial coordination of response, but no experience in this area.
- There were also some logistics and reduction coordinators, but decentralized approach.

Donations

- Aid was sent on mass from within the country and abroad, but much of it was unusuable.

Transportation

- Streets were covered with rubble, some villages were blocked
- El Eden airport was partially destroyed
- Supplies were being sent to CATAM
- 350 ambulances came - were slowing down traffic

Tracking and Tracing

- Shipments were usually tracked manually