

Extreme Earth

Learning Objective:

To explore how people around the world respond to natural disasters.


NEXT



We have all seen terrible pictures in the news about areas affected by natural disasters. People lose their homes, their businesses and their loved ones and must try to rebuild their lives. We hear about each disaster for a few days but then the news moves on to something else. What we sometimes forget is that it can take years, sometimes even a generation, for these areas to get back to normal.

BACK

NEXT

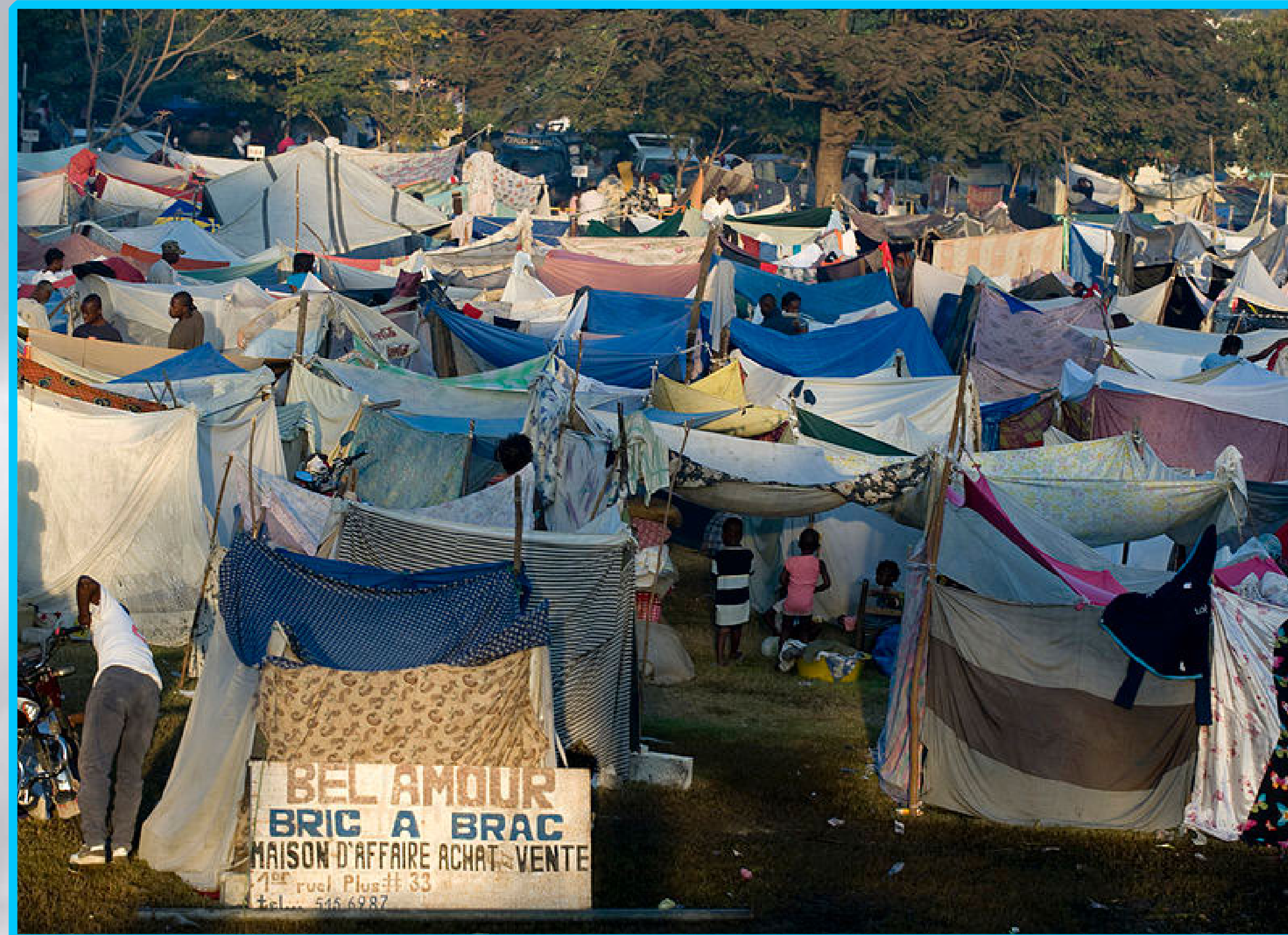


What problems do you think are faced by people trying to rebuild their lives after a natural disaster?

BACK

NEXT

One of the biggest problems is displacement. If thousands of people have lost their homes, they have nowhere to stay and no shelter to protect them. They have to make do as best they can with temporary shelters. These have no running water, no toilets, no heating and none of the simple comforts of home, such as beds or cosy chairs.



BACK

NEXT

Disease is often a major issue following a natural disaster. With people living close together in camps with little sanitation, food or water, diseases can spread very quickly. Healthcare can be very limited too. If hospitals are destroyed, there are limitations on where people can be treated. Add this to the number of people who need treatment for injuries following the disaster and you are left with a very difficult situation.



BACK

NEXT

There are also the problems of removing the tons of debris from collapsed buildings and rebuilding facilities. It is not just homes that are destroyed. Schools, banks, shops, offices and other buildings can all be affected.

This school in Iowa, USA was completely destroyed by a tornado.



BACK

NEXT

As well as facing the physical challenges of rebuilding after a disaster, people also have to cope with the emotional difficulties. They may have lost loved ones, either through death or simply not knowing what has happened to them. Finding people after a disaster can be very difficult and it can take a long time to reunite families.



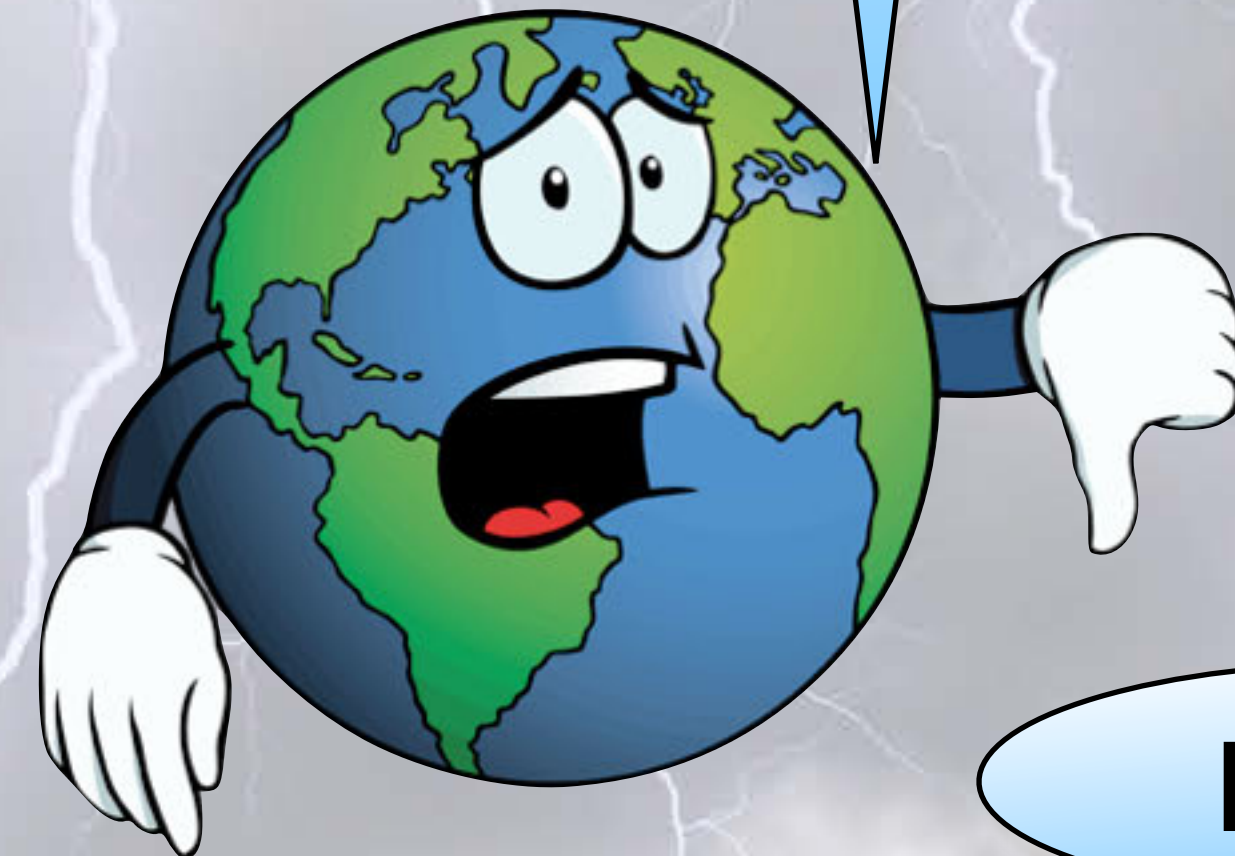
BACK

NEXT

Don't forget that people suffering the effects of a natural disaster are also coping with all the normal problems, diseases and events of life. People who were in hospital at the time still need treatment. Women who are pregnant still have to give birth. All the normal tasks of life still need to be faced amidst the chaos.



This baby was born just a few days after the 2010 earthquake in Haiti.



BACK

NEXT

In short, those affected by severe natural disasters can lose everything - their loved ones, their health, their homes, their possessions, their clothes, their pets, their livelihoods and their general stability.



Should we help these people? Why or why not?

How could we help them?

BACK

NEXT

There are many aid agencies and charities around the world who help when a natural disaster hits. Military aid can also be given as a first response or as a last resort (depending on where in the world a disaster strikes).

The first job of any aid following a disaster is to save lives. Volunteers help search the rubble for survivors and provide medical support for injured people.



BACK

NEXT

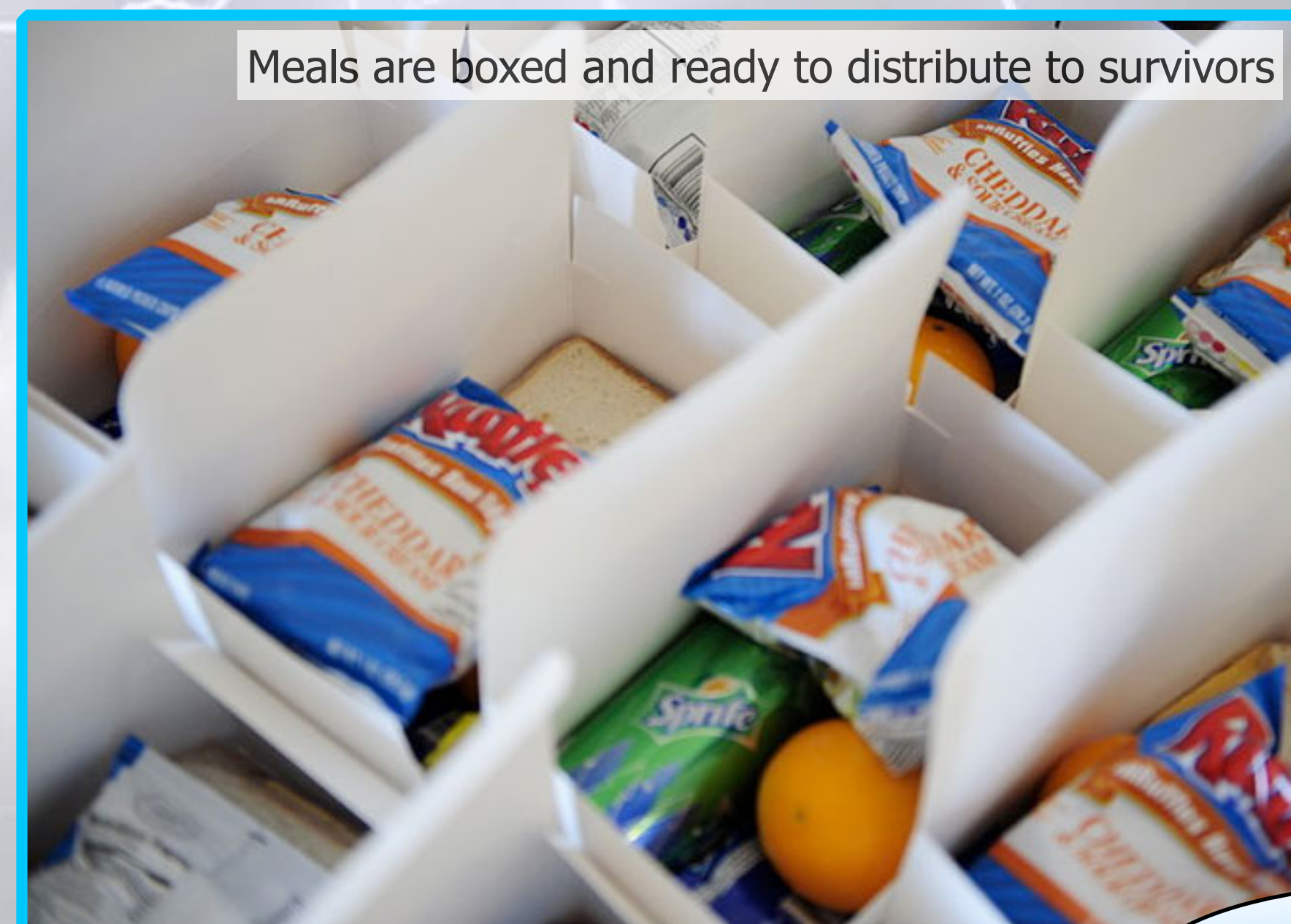
Aid workers from abroad also bring supplies, such as food, water and medical supplies. They work hard to ensure that they can provide these essential items to everyone who needs them.



A volunteer dispenses medicine



Soldiers collect and sort food and water that has been airdropped



Meals are boxed and ready to distribute to survivors

BACK

NEXT

Aid agencies also help to set up temporary camps for displaced people. They try to reunite people and to identify the bodies of those who have been killed. They can also evacuate people who need to be moved elsewhere if an area is still dangerous.



These people are being evacuated from Pakistan after severe flooding.



BACK

NEXT



As well as helping in the immediate days and weeks following a disaster, aid is also given in the long term to help rebuild an area. This can take many years. Volunteers clear rubble, rebuild homes and other buildings and continue to support the people affected by the disaster.

BACK

NEXT



If there was a natural disaster tomorrow, what **could** you do?

What do you think you **would** do?

BACK

NEXT