

One of the poorest and least developed countries in the world, Haiti in recent years has struggled with problems ranging from near-constant political upheaval, health crises, severe environmental degradation and an annual barrage of hurricanes.

Moving day in Haiti.

Haiti's government and foreign aid agencies started to move thousands of earthquake survivors living in makeshift homes to a safer refuge to avoid the risk of mudslides and flooding during the rainy season. More than a million people were left homeless by the devastating January twelfth earthquake. Over the next ten to twelve days, up to seventy-five hundred quake survivors now living on the grounds of a golf club will be given the option to relocate, either with host families or at a new settlement set up about twelve miles north of Port-au-Prince.

US actor Sean Penn, who set up a charity to help Haiti, was on hand to help with the move.

"Well, I think it should be difficult every day, because, ya know, especially as we move into larger numbers, um, starting with concerns about child protection and so on, and making sure people don't get separated", [said Penn.]

Haitian president René Préval said special settlements were being set up by the government with the help of the United Nations and other organizations to house quake survivors now living in tent camps. Préval welcomed residents at the new camp.

"You can see that this is an area which is high up. It is not a low zone. That is the main reason we chose this. It is not an area that will get flooded", [said Préval].

And many of the transferred Haitians like Jamela Erasteed seemed cautiously pleased with the new location.

"Here is better than I was before, but it's not the same because the first place was close to the city, and now the city's far away from us", [said Erasteed].

With hurricane season starting in June, aid workers say that unless safer, more secure shelter is found for hundreds of thousands of homeless quake victims, there could be another humanitarian catastrophe.

Deborah Lutterbeck, Reuters.