This study was designed to identify challenges during the Haiti disaster response. Methods: Qualitative and quantitative study of injured patients carried out six months after the January 2010 earthquake in Haiti to review the surgical inputs of foreign medical teams. Results: Study findings revealed a need during the response for improved medical records and data gathering for regulation, quality assurance, coordination and resource allocation; wider adherence to standard patient referral mechanisms and protocols linking surgical service provision with appropriate hospital and community care. January 2010, a major earthquake struck Haiti, destroying the city of Port-au-Prince and causing massive casualties. We present here a case study that describes the experience of a team of Haitian and American nationals working for an international health care organization, Partners in Health (PIH), in mounting a response to the earthquake focused on mental health. The organizations involved can include national governmental bodies, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), academic medical centers, universities, and corporations—all seeking to support long-term development of mental health programs in a chaotic, postdisaster setting.