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Dear Friends and Supporters,

I recently read *What Storm, What Thunder* by Haitian author Myriam J.A. Chancy. Although fictional, the scenes that depict the 2010 Haiti earthquake felt harrowingly real, not just for this particular disaster, but also for the traumatic earthquakes and storms that occurred earlier this year in Turkey, Morocco, and Libya.

Children crying out under collapsed buildings while parents frantically tried in vain to save them. Having had my second child this year, it hit particularly hard. Memories of my post-earthquake visits to Haiti, Indonesia, and China came flooding back. I had to put the book down mid-sentence multiple times. I also couldn't stop thinking of the entire families that were swiped away into the ocean in Libya. It is especially heartbreaking knowing that most of these deaths and extreme suffering were preventable.

My ray of hope is that these disasters will motivate action to build resilience in at-risk communities. **Natural hazard events do not have to turn into widespread, devastating disasters.** Catastrophic collapse of buildings and dams, killing those inside or downstream, is not inevitable. We know how to design and construct buildings and infrastructure so that they keep people safe, even during hazard events like strong earthquakes and storms.

These disasters affirm why we do what we do. The key to saving lives and protecting people is in **taking action in advance**, and in **sustaining efforts** even as other pressing issues and demands arise over the years. It requires continuously working towards resilient communities long after everyone forgets about the last devastating disaster. Climate change is only making this work all the more urgent. This is why we take a proactive, long-term approach.

With your support, we will shine light and spark action NOW in places that are at risk from future disasters. Our enclosed Annual Report shows some examples of this essential ongoing work. Thank you for making this possible.

Deeply inspired to encourage others to join us, our Board of Trustees generously put together a **\$70,000 challenge grant** to match your donation through December 31. You can contribute today at www.geohaz.org/donate or by using the enclosed envelope.

With gratitude,



Veronica Cedillos
President & CEO