

A land in desperate need of hope — and help



Even before the quake:

- More than 80 percent of Haiti's people lived on less than US\$2 per day
- Fifty-five percent lived on less than US\$1 a day



Damage from the Jan. 12 earthquake in Haiti added yet another dimension to the already-crushing humanitarian crisis and poverty conditions faced by the country. Because of the great need, Habitat for Humanity is planning an aggressive response to help low-income families get into decent, secure housing as soon as possible. Given the scale of homes damaged and destroyed, we anticipate a multi-year response, meaning that long after the cameras have left, Habitat for Humanity still will be on the ground building houses and hope with families desperate for both. Elements of our planned response—and those for which we seek funding assistance—include:

Habitat for Humanity plans an aggressive response to help low-income families get into decent, secure housing—many for the first time.

Recovery starter kits

Recovery starter kits help families make immediate repairs and construct temporary shelter, typically at the site of their former homes. Among items in the kit are tarpaulins, wire, rope, pry bar, trowel, gloves, buckets, hacksaw, blades and hammer and nails. They are packed in a locked container that can be converted for other use later. Much-needed tools usually are in short supply after a disaster strikes; these non-food-item kits can quickly address that need.



Cleanup assistance/transitional shelter/rehabbing repairable homes



To clear the way for home repair and construction, Habitat will mobilize local people and provide them with tools such as shovels, wheelbarrows and crowbars to remove debris and to salvage materials that can be recycled into new shelter. The cleanup activities may include a “cash for work” component, providing a small influx of cash to help participants meet other basic needs during the recovery period. Our response in other disaster situations has demonstrated that such cleanup work contributes to mental health by providing an active opportunity for residents to help with recovery. As cleanup progresses, Habitat will assist in repair or rehabilitation of homes that were damaged in the quake but can be saved. A transitional-shelter program will be implemented where that is the best solution. Transitional housing meets basic shelter needs and is designed in a way that allows the materials or structure to be incorporated later into permanent housing. These units will comply with international Sphere standards for transitional shelter.

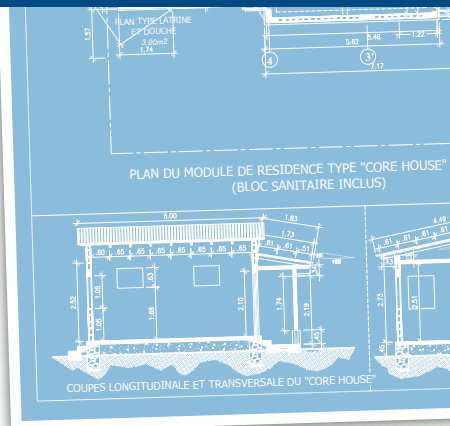
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Establishing Habitat Resource Centers

Habitat plans to implement its Haitian recovery project through a number of Habitat Resource Centers. These centers—utilized extensively and successfully in response to the Asian tsunami—support housing development and improvements, identifying gaps in the local supply of housing materials, designs, finance and skills, and addressing them in ways that support local livelihoods. Components may include training in construction skills, support to small enterprises, loan of tools or heavy equipment, and training to families in financial literacy and disaster-resistant home design. Through the centers, Habitat partners with local businesses, community-based organizations, governments and other international NGOs to further economic recovery and to help low-income families rebuild. The centers are contextualized to specific local needs, so no one center functions exactly like another.

Building core houses

As soon as conditions on the ground realistically allow, Habitat will begin replacing destroyed homes using a core housing model. Core houses are small, permanent, disaster-resistant homes that can be quickly built and to which families can make additions over time. These core houses will adhere to international Sphere standards, providing adequate living space and sanitation facilities for the average Haitian family of five. We believe thousands of core houses will be needed.



HOW TO HELP

To discuss corporate partnership opportunities, please contact: Karen Haycox, director of collaborative projects, resource development, at +313.909.6118

To discuss NGO partnership opportunities, please contact: Kip Scheidler, senior director, disaster response, at +404.962.3470

Individual donations to support Habitat's work may be made at www.habitat.org; by calling +229.924.6935; or by mail to 121 Habitat St., Americus, GA, 31709 USA



FAST FACTS

Habitat for Humanity has a long history of working in Haiti

We have worked in Haiti for 26 years, serving more than 2,000 families with a variety of housing solutions, and we will continue working there long after the spotlight has faded.

In addition to its work building houses, **Habitat Haiti has offered training** in construction skills, disaster mitigation and financial literacy.

Habitat for Humanity has extensive global experience in disaster-response work

We have been responding to disasters since **Hurricane Andrew in Florida in 1992**.

More recently, Habitat helped more than **23,000 families with shelter solutions after the 2004 Asian tsunami**; has helped build and repair more than **2,000 homes along the U.S. Gulf Coast** since hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005; and is at work building more than **700 homes to replace those lost to a 2008 earthquake in China**.



Habitat's disaster response team also focuses on **disaster mitigation and preparedness**, helping communities in disaster-prone areas protect themselves against future threats.

Estimated post-quake housing need

Early estimates show that **more than 200,000 houses were severely damaged** or destroyed in Haiti and that **1.2 million people face displacement or homelessness** due to the Jan. 12 earthquake. Because Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, few of those affected have the resources or access to financing to rebuild on their own.