

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY HAITI

**REPORT ON “CORE HOUSES” BUILT AS DISASTER
RESPONSE**

**SAFE, DECENT, AFFORDABLE HOMES FOR 28 FAMILIES
AFFECTED BY DISASTERS**

SEPTEMBER 2009



**HABITAT POUR
L'HUMANITE
HAITI**

Current Report on 'Core Houses' built with the support of Habitat For Humanity, Lafayette, Indianapolis

Introduction

This report covers the period from January 2009 to September 2009 and reflects the sound collaboration existing between Habitat For Humanity Lafayette and its partners and supporters.

Haiti was just recovering from a devastating hurricane season after four (4) deadly successive hurricanes hit the country when HFH Lafayette made available at HFH disposal a total amount of USD 75,000.00 to allow us help affected families rehabilitate and recover after the disaster. In this context, a construction program was implemented through a new product called "Core House". These houses have a 24m² surface, including a sanitary block for each, comprising a latrine and a shower.

In this report, we find:

- the total number of "Core houses" built and lessons learned during the implementation phase ;
- the outcomes of the project implementation in Cabaret ;
- the perspectives for the replication of this type of housing.

Administrative Summary

Significant progress was made during this specific period covering January 2009 thru September 2009 in terms of housing solutions delivered. In spite of all the efforts made, the gap noted between housing offer and demand still remains huge. Finding the necessary funds to develop a reasonable planning that will enable HFH respond to the numerous requests of families affected from natural disasters is a real challenge, calling for solutions. Habitat for Humanity Haiti engaged, from its part, actions to strengthen the organizational capacity of the institution. Our Program & Administrative departments have been restructured and new projects launched in support to families in dire situation.

In this perspective, our field teams have ensured, on a regular basis, the delivery of training packages in "Disaster Preparedness & Mitigation" as well as in "Financial Education". With the implementation of a new structure called "Building & Training Center (BTC)" established in Cap-Haitian after Gonaïves, trainings in construction trades have been reinforced. Globally, in addition to the 187 housing solutions delivered during



Fiscal Year 2009, the BTC just completed the graduation of 248 students in building trades (181 in masonry and timber works besides 63 others last year). At the same time, 815 people have been trained in the basics of "Disaster Preparedness" (with 63 in Mitigation Techniques), while 509 others have been trained in "Financial Education".

Brief summary of "Core Houses" construction



The first construction operations related to emergency measures and referring to "core houses" were launched in Ti Place, Cabaret, in January 2009, where five (5) "core houses" units were built. Two types of this model were implemented: the first with concrete block walls and metal sheet roof and the other with walls made in "clissage" (with palm

wood). It was an opportunity for HFHH to bring a response to families in need, recently affected by the disaster. Involving the beneficiaries in the works from the beginning brought a higher level of community mobilization.



We continued to experiment this new technology in building core houses, using a mixture of soil and sand with little cement (adobe) to make long bricks stacked upon each other, while bringing solutions to families in need. Two other houses of 24 m² with sanitary units were built using this technique.

By doing so, HFHH transferred to the population of this area, a strong will to improve their living conditions, as they became aware of their critical situation, compared to the level of quality of the simple and decent constructions provided by Habitat.

This new product was well adapted to vulnerable and low income families. After being implemented in Ti Place it has proved to be effective and cost-efficient and it was decided to replicate this experience on a larger scale. Sixteen (16) new core houses were started and are all completed to date.

Globally, a total of 28 families have been provided with an opportunity to improve their housing conditions with the extension of this type of construction in the Commune of Cabaret.



These constructions resulted into two (2) main positive outcomes:

- the economic activity was spurred in the locality through the creation of income generating jobs
- local capacities were strengthened through appropriate training.

Income generating jobs

One of the positive outcomes of the implementation of the project was jobs creation. Local non-skilled workers have been hired for construction works and local materials used, creating economic opportunities for the population. To mention those, gravel was extracted in the surroundings of the community and women supplied food for workers during the construction periods. Local economic activities have been enhanced.



Strengthening local capacities



Along with the implementation of these construction works, training sessions were conducted for members of the community, whether HFHH served families or not. The two main topics were 'disaster preparedness and mitigation' and 'financial education'. Families were sensitized and prepared to cope with natural disasters in a more organized manner.

Through this intervention at Ti Place, other families who were not affected by the disaster also benefitted from the expertise of HFHH, enabling them to improve their houses. HFHH presence in this area was strengthened while extending its contacts and relationships within the community and integrating new members to the big Habitat Family.



Perspectives for Fiscal Year 2010

HFHH perspectives for this current fiscal year in terms of housing solutions – 600 to be delivered – will involve all our intervention areas, with emphasis on Cabaret and Gonaives, where “core houses” will be built - 24 m² surface units. These two areas have been prioritized taking into account the scope of damage resulting from the last hurricane season from one hand, and on the other hand because of the available existing land reserves which have been estimated to about 64500 square meters in both regions. Globally, Habitat intends to deliver “core houses” to 200 families among those affected last year.

HFHH will bring innovation to the construction method of “core houses”. The organization intends to increase the quality of these constructions and enhance the security level of houses with the new technology of “concrete panel” which provides a more solid windproof roof for the same cost of an iron sheet roof.

Besides, HPHH will ensure the training of 527 people in construction techniques, 500 people in financial education and 1200 others in disaster preparedness.