



Habitat for Humanity®



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HAITI RECONSTRUCTION – HOW YOU can help

The scale of destruction caused by the earthquake in Haiti on 12th January is becoming more apparent with each passing day. Latest estimates are that 200,000 people could have lost their lives, and up to 3 million, that's almost 30% of the population, are homeless or injured, all in a country little bigger than Wales.

Currently the focus is on humanitarian aid. But if a bigger disaster is to be averted, shelter and reconstruction will soon become the focus of need.

Habitat for Humanity is an international housing charity. We have helped over 1.75 million people living in poverty housing in 92 countries to have a safe, decent place to live. We have worked in Haiti for 26 years, so have experienced local staff on the ground (all our staff are safe, although our rented office collapsed). We also have offices and staff in neighbouring countries poised to assist. We have extensive expertise in reconstruction and repair of houses following disasters: we helped over 25,000 families following the 2004 Asian Tsunami to rebuild or repair their homes, and have been actively involved in repair or rebuilding in dozens of other disasters since, including Haiti in 2008 when hurricanes destroyed 50,000 homes.

News reports have observed that Haiti has no building standards, and the collapse of badly constructed buildings has undoubtedly contributed to the loss of life. But all the homes that **Habitat for Humanity** has built already in Haiti are built to good standards, and have survived the earthquake. In addition, **Habitat for Humanity** has been working with RICS (the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors) for the past year to establish building regulations in Haiti.

Habitat for Humanity is ideally placed to help the people of Haiti to rebuild their homes.

Whilst some detail may change as we get clarity of the situation, our current plan consists of:

Stage 1: Early Recovery

Starter Kit: The hurricane season will hit Haiti in May, so it's essential to get people out of tents and into more robust shelter, until their

homes can be properly rebuilt or repaired. We will provide families with Starter Kits of tools and materials, enabling them repair less badly damaged homes or to build robust temporary shelters under supervision of our staff and partners who have been trained in disaster response and construction techniques.

Re-establish operations: As part of our immediate response, it will be vital to assist Habitat Haiti in restoring its capacity to fully participate in the recovery efforts.

Stage 2: Rehabilitation and cleanup

Habitat for Humanity will organise the community into groups, equip them with tools and help them to clean up debris, salvaging good materials that can be reused in rebuilding. This will help the Haitians to contribute positively to their own recovery and keep building costs down (many of Haiti's building materials have to be imported).

Stage 3: Reconstruction and Recovery

Core homes: Destroyed homes will be replaced with core homes, small but adequately sized permanent, disaster resistant homes which are quick to build but which are also easy for families to extend in due course. These will adhere to international Sphere standards, providing adequate living space and sanitation facilities for the average family of five.

Habitat Resource Centres: These centres are based on the proven solution we developed after the 2004 Tsunami in Asia. We will develop a number of Resource Centres, tailored to local need. Through them we will identify gaps in the local supply of housing materials, architectural, finance and construction skills and address them in ways that support local livelihoods.

Through all aspects of the work, **Habitat for Humanity** will cultivate partnerships with local residents and other charities and humanitarian groups that can leverage the effectiveness of the response.

