

Update 8: Tuesday 10 November 2009

* INDONESIA * PHILIPPINES * VIETNAM * SAMOA * INDIA *

Habitat for Humanity moves into repairing and rebuilding phase in five disaster-ravaged countries in Asia

AFTERMATH: INDONESIA EARTHQUAKES (SUMATRA, WEST JAVA)

SUMATRA, INDONESIA: Habitat for Humanity Indonesia is building a model permanent 'core house' to be completed by November 20 when the West Sumatra Disaster Response Project will be officially launched. A cornerstone will be laid for a second house to be witnessed by guests from government, donor and international agencies.

This is Habitat's first rebuilding project following the powerful earthquake which struck Sumatra at the end of September. HFH Indonesia plans to build an initial 200 houses in Pasa Bali Kudu village, in the V Koto Timur sub-district. The village is about 120 km from the city of Padang.

The design is for an 18 sq. m. earthquake-resilient core house that can be expanded using salvaged materials. HFH Indonesia successfully used this design in rebuilding after an earlier earthquake in Yogyakarta, and it is being used in the post-earthquake rebuilding program in West Java.

Community dialogue and organizing are progressing through the village construction committee known locally as *Komite Pembangunan*. Committee members are elected through community elections and represent various sectors including women and the elderly. The committee will help in conducting proper family selection; identifying skilled and unskilled workers for training; allocating sites for warehouses; as well as being ready to resolve any future conflicts arising from issues of which families get priority and land allocation.

HFH Indonesia will harness the cultural phenomenon known as *Gotong Royong* ("the spirit of helping each other") and sweat equity.

The government Department of Public Works has approved the house design and site. The department indicated a strong interest to work alongside with Habitat in other communities should



Community resiliency: Coping with the situation of houses severely damaged by the earthquake, families are rebuilding their own homes from salvaged materials and waiting for help.

additional funding be secured. The project will include training of skilled and unskilled workers on how to build earthquake-resilient housing. Trained workers will be then employed by the project.

HFH Indonesia continues to be actively working within shelter clusters and with other international agencies in developing a comprehensive community-based response approaches. The project office and staff house is located in Padang Pariaman sub-district.

HFH Indonesia is accepting local and international volunteer teams for the West Sumatra project. For more information, please email ap_info@habitat.org.

Separately Habitat's disaster response team is working out the details of potential large-scale international volunteer initiative with Christian Aid Ministries to fund and build 200 to 250 core houses. HFH Bangladesh worked with CAM last year on a similar scheme in rebuilding after Cyclone Sidr.

HFH Indonesia program envisages raising more than US\$7.5 million to build 2,500 core houses. The funds will also assist 1,000 families, through a cash-for-work component to clear debris, and the provision of toolkits. The plan includes the establishment of community water points.

The 7.6-magnitude earthquake hit the Indonesian city of Padang in West Sumatra on 30th September. Some 1,117 people were reported killed. The earthquake devastated the provincial capital of Padang. Latest figures from the Indonesian government indicate that over 200,000 houses have been severely or moderately damaged.

WEST JAVA, INDONESIA: The first of Global Village volunteers, from Singapore, will be going to West Java later this month to help build as part of Habitat for Humanity Indonesia's response after an earthquake hit West Java in early September. HFH Indonesia plans to host three volunteer teams a month from next year.



New beginnings: 51-year-old widow Ibu Eeng's house was destroyed by the earthquake that hit West Java. She now stands on the foundation of her new house (right). She has three children and ran a small store in her old house. She plans to re-open her store once her new house is finished. Ibu Eeng is the first of two home partners to receive houses from Habitat for Humanity's West Java Disaster Response Project.

Habitat plans to build 1,000 earthquake-resistant 'core houses' with latrine and schools in one year. The first two houses are under construction. Seventy-six are due to be finished by the end of November.

To date, funds amounting to US\$115,000 has been received or committed from corporations and individuals including US\$62,000 from Habitat home partner repayments.

HFH Indonesia has formed partnerships with the International Federation of Red Cross, the government Department of Public Works, Assosiasi Pertektilan Indonesia (Textile Association of Indonesia), local government units and a community agency, Tempe Foundation.

The 7.3 magnitude earthquake left at least 81 people dead and displaced over 210,000 people. About 100,000 homes, 3,000 schools and 500 office buildings were damaged, according to figures by the National Agency for Disaster Management. The Indonesian government is allocating US\$150 million for reconstruction and rehabilitation.

AFTERMATH: TYPHOON KETSANA (PHILIPPINES, VIETNAM)

PHILIPPINES: Habitat for Humanity Philippines is targeting to help repair 10,000 homes through the distribution of shelter repair kits at US\$150 per unit and the assistance of volunteers over the next six months. HFH Philippines also plans to build 2,000 transitional shelters and, later, 4,000 'core house' shelters which will be constructed in relocation areas or in-situ where it is safe and legal to rebuild.

The distribution of initial 100 shelter repair kits to typhoon-affected families in Nangka and Malanday, Marikina City, Metro Manila has started. Another 200 units are expected to be distributed this week.



Collecting shelter repair kits

The HFH Philippines team is also assessing what can be done to help in other areas: Pangasinan (2,000 damaged homes), Marikina City (2,000 damaged homes), Laguna (1,500 damaged), Bulacan (1,500 damaged), Quezon City (1,500 damaged), Muntinlupa (1,000 damaged), San Mateo, Rizal (1,000 damaged), Cainta (1,000 damaged), and Pasig (500 damaged).



Shelter repair: A total of one hundred families in Malanday, Marikina City, whose houses were damaged by Typhoon Ketsana, collect home repair/shelter kits to help them rebuild.

The shelter cluster inter-agency standing committee has adopted Habitat's proposal on shelter kits; Habitat has also submitted designs for transitional shelters.

Donations and firm commitments have reached at least US\$800,000. The government's Department of Social Welfare and Development has committed to provide a 2:1 match for Habitat funds for house repairs. A US\$3.2 million Habitat proposal is also included in the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) Philippines Flash Appeal.

Typhoon Ketsana, locally known as "Ondoy", slammed in Metro Manila and parts of Central and Southern Luzon on 26th September, bringing a month's worth of rain in just 12 hours, putting about 80 per cent of Manila underwater. The impact of the devastating typhoon caused the deaths of some 454 people and affected over 4.3 million people. More than 153,000 houses have been partially or totally damaged.

A week later, Typhoon Parma, locally known as “Pepeng,” belted Luzon, the largest of the Philippines islands on 3rd October. It caused 465 deaths and affected 4.4 million people. The typhoon brought on relentless rains, which set off landslides in the mountains and flooding elsewhere. About 56,800 houses were totally or partially damaged.

Then, a third typhoon, Mirinae, locally known as “Santi” hit the country on 28th October affecting Eastern Luzon, Metro Manila and its surrounding provinces. These three successive typhoons affected more than two million families. Some 938 people were reported to have been killed, 742 injured and 87 were missing. At least 42,594 families are still living in 557 evacuation centers since their places homes remain submerged. In terms of shelter, at least 37,000 homes were totally damaged and another 240,000 partially damaged.

VIETNAM: Habitat for Humanity’s plan in Vietnam is to assist around 1,000 families with repairs of roofing in five communes. The main donors are UNDP OCHA, Holcim Cement and Exxon Mobil. Total donations are approximately US\$130,000. The project is expected to begin on 11th November and will be finished by mid-December.

To date, 250 local volunteers from these target communes have been trained to fit roofs and repair homes. Five depots have been identified as distribution centers with supervisors responsible for the distribution and transportation of material to the villages. These supervisors have been trained by HFH Vietnam.

HFH Vietnam is currently in talks with three international community development NGOs to scale up repair and renovation works, and to build disaster-resistant model houses in subsequent longer-term phases.



HFH Vietnam conduct training for local volunteers who will assist with the repair of roofing damaged by Typhoon Ketsana in five communes.

Typhoon Ketsana struck the central coast of Vietnam on 29th September, following a devastating passage across the Philippines. The storm center made landfall about 80 km south of Danang, Vietnam's fourth largest city. High winds and torrential rains damaged and flooded nearly 600,000 houses in eight coastal and central highland provinces, according to the government's Central Committee for Flood and Storm Control. In Quang Nam province, more than 15,000 houses collapsed and 155,000 houses suffered roof damage from the storm.

AFTERMATH: PACIFIC TSUNAMI

SAMOA: Habitat for Humanity New Zealand has been chosen by the Samoan government to lead the rebuilding of approximately 350 *fales* (traditional Samoan houses) between now and mid-2010. The government will contribute \$18,000 Tala (NZ\$12,000 or US\$8,500) towards the cost of each house. Additional funding will be sought for the cost of site preparation and for building sanitation facilities. Caritas Samoa is funding 50 *fales* and has invited HFH New Zealand to project manage the rebuilding.

A team of 10 volunteer builders, electricians and plumbers from New Zealand is currently setting up a Habitat Resource Centre (HRC) in Lepa, on the southeast coast of Upolu where the tsunami hit hardest. The HRC will receive building materials from government-nominated suppliers and will develop core house kits to be trucked to final sites so that a *fale* can be built in a day or two.

More than 600 New Zealander volunteers have expressed interest to go to Samoa to help. HFH New Zealand plans to provide volunteer Kiwi skilled labor to facilitate and lead the rebuilding program.



First Habitat team of New Zealand volunteers in Samoa

Each week about 25 volunteers, who will pay their own way, will come to Samoa for a two-week period. In practice, build teams will comprise six to eight local Samoans working alongside two New Zealand skilled volunteers. Air New Zealand is providing substantial assistance with lower airfares, and the shipping of tools.

A leading heavy machinery manufacturer in New Zealand,

Cable Price, has offered to send a 12-ton digger to Samoa, and will cover shipping and all running costs, including bringing the equipment back to New Zealand after the project is finish. One of the 600 volunteers is a digger operator and has volunteered to help for three months.

HFH New Zealand will proceed to hire several staff in Samoa including a construction manager, a HRC manager, and a volunteer coordinator. In New Zealand, HFH has also hired a project manager and a volunteer coordinator.

The Samoan government has decided that 425 shelters will be built in the first round of construction following the deadly impact of the tsunami waves. The proposed *fales* will be 7.2 x 4.8 meters with a separate toilet, basin, shower unit and septic tank.

On 29th September, an earthquake of 8.3-magnitude triggered deadly tsunami waves that bashed into Samoa, American Samoa and Tonga. The tsunamis killed around 200 people on the three islands. Some 20 villages were destroyed in Samoa, leaving 3,500 people homeless.



Volunteers at work: Ten kiwi volunteers take the first steps to materialize HFH New Zealand's plan for a Habitat Resource Center and accommodation for future volunteers in Lepa, Western Samoa.



AFTERMATH: FLOODS IN INDIA

INDIA: Habitat for Humanity India plans to launch a disaster recovery project in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, two states badly hit by recent floods. In Karnataka, HFH India expects to raise up to US\$1

million from local corporate and donors to support their initiatives. These long-term plans include providing housing assistance, and water and sanitation facilities.

The current target is to repair or renovate 3,000 houses, build 3,000 permanent houses and provide water and sanitation services to 1,000 families. Total funding commitments so far are US\$392,000. HFH India expects to raise more funds from local corporate donors and other funds may be sourced from Andhra Pradesh's state housing board for 2,000 houses with a government grant of US\$1,400 per house.

Among the implementing partners are aid and social development agencies ANKITA, KROSS, Caritas and SNEHA. Partnerships are being developed for collaboration/technical support with community development NGOs - Seeds India, Sphere and Water Aid. Discussions are under way with the Danish humanitarian agency DanChurchAid in India to provide aid to flood-affected families.

The project is expected to commence in late November and completed by February 2010. A second phase for the construction of permanent housing with flood-mitigation components is expected to begin in the first quarter of 2010.

The worst floods in the states of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka in 100 years left a trail of destruction. In Andhra Pradesh, the floods were estimated to have caused enormous damage to the lives and properties of nearly 17 lakh (1.7 million) people.



oooOOOooo

FOR MORE INFORMATION

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY, ASIA-PACIFIC AREA OFFICE

Peter Witton, Director of Communications, Asia-Pacific

+66 86 105 1767 pwitton@habitat.org

Michele Soh, Communications Manager, Asia-Pacific

+65 9233 1544 msoh@habitat.org

Q House, 8th Floor, 38 Convent Road, Silom, Bangrak, Bangkok, Thailand 10500

Tel: +66-(0)2-6320415 Fax +66-(0)2-6320445

Email: ap_info@habitat.org

Website: www.habitat.org/ap

[For online donations: CLICK HERE](#)