



Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project LÉOGÂNE, HAITI 2012  
A WORLD HABITAT DAY EVENT



## A tool for you to Build Louder

Thank you for sharing your time and resources in support of our mission and ongoing efforts to bring houses and hope to families in Haiti.

Each day of the 29th annual Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project focuses on a theme that provides a deeper understanding of the housing issues affecting Haiti and that is critical to Habitat's work around the world.

You will receive a fact sheet each day that corresponds with the daily theme and should serve as a tool to help assess some of the realities you observe and reflect on your experiences. By the end of your time in Haiti, you will be ready to stand up with Haiti and speak up for housing back home.



build louder



# Day 1: A year later

Since Carter Work Project volunteers were last in Haiti, government has stabilized, rubble piles have been reduced, and thousands of people have moved from camps to more durable shelter. While much work remains to be done, progress is visible.

## Context

- Last year, 500 volunteers, including Jimmy and Rosalyn Carter, saw firsthand the effects of a disaster that devastated 2 million families in Haiti.
- While nearly 400,000 survivors remain homeless today, more than 1 million people have been resettled and construction has begun on several projects, including roads, schools and hospitals.

## Habitat's response

- Through the efforts of Habitat, more than 5,000 families have received transitional or upgradable shelters, more than 350 houses have been repaired or rehabilitated, more than 12,000 housing damage assessments have been conducted, and more than 24,500 emergency shelters kits have been distributed.
- In 2011, CWP volunteers — along with volunteers from the Irish nonprofit Haven — worked alongside partner families to build 155 permanent houses in the Santo community. Residents were hired to prep the site, construct foundations, and build latrines and water points. The attention the project received helped bring renewed focus to the ongoing rebuilding efforts in Haiti.
- In Léogâne, families have moved in and are turning their new houses into homes. Concrete sanitary units, water points and solar-powered streetlights have added to the quality of life and security of the community. Efforts are now under way to assist families with sustainable, income-generating opportunities and to provide microfinance assistance for home improvements.

## Food for thought

- *What signs of improvement do you see around you?*
- *What types of housing do you see?*

## Day 2: One step at a time

With little cash to draw from, building a house room by room, one step at a time, is the way people in most of the world build their homes.

### Incremental housing

- Only about 20 percent of households in developing countries have access to the formal financial sector (World Bank, 2012). Many of the rest lack access to credit, savings, revolving funds, remittance links and/or mortgages.
- The majority of the world's poor build their homes themselves. (UN-HABITAT, 2010) This is certainly the case in Haiti — and most Haitians build their homes incrementally. Low-income families, constrained by lack of financing, experience housing as a process, not a product. This incremental approach gives families the flexibility to address their specific needs according to their timeline and available resources, and allows for the least amount of disruption. Family members typically do not relocate when they make improvements or additions.
- Research indicates people invest in a roof over their heads before investing in health and education. If supported properly, incremental housing can be an opportunity to offer guidance and direction to the informal development process and a means for social and economic development.

### Habitat's response

- Habitat for Humanity provides a diverse set of programs, including house construction, slum upgrading, water and sanitation, disaster risk reduction and response, housing microfinance, training in construction and financial literacy, facilitating families' access to fair and just housing opportunities through advocacy and partnerships, and other innovative approaches to providing relevant housing solutions.
- Housing microfinance is an approach that stands to help thousands of low-income families around the world obtain adequate housing, especially those with little or no access to the formal banking sector. MicroBuild I, a subsidiary of Habitat for Humanity International, will lend to select microfinance institutions around the world, which in turn will make housing microfinance loans to individual families. MicroBuild I will mobilize funding at the lowest possible cost and select intermediaries committed to fair pricing and sustainability.



## *Day 2 - continued*

- In the case of the Santo community, families begin with their Habitat “core” home, which comprises approximately 26 square meters (280 square feet), including the porch. From there, they can make incremental improvements as their finances allow. Habitat homeowners can build outbuildings to provide added space for their needs. Each family leverages their available resources to make improvements, when possible.

### ***Food for thought***

- *Can you imagine building a house without access to credit?*
- *Have you ever renovated a kitchen or added a bathroom to your house? Have you ever thought about how the poor around the world build their houses and how it might be similar to that addition you have always wanted?*



# Day 3: Pathways to permanence

After disasters, families need a clear path to help them get back to permanent homes and communities.

## **An urgent dilemma**

- In 2010, 385 reported natural disasters killed more than 297,000 people, affected more than 217 million others and caused \$123.9 billion of damage. (Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters, 2011)
- Developing countries experienced 98 percent of these disasters and claimed nine out of 10 disaster-related deaths from 1991-2005. In the past five years, more than 14 million people have lost their homes to natural disasters. (International Displacement Center, 2011)

## **Rebuilding after disasters**

- Reconstruction for families begins the day of a disaster.
- Although immediate relief is necessary, success requires looking beyond initial humanitarian efforts to the long-term development needs of a country.
- Good reconstruction policy helps reactivate communities and empowers people to rebuild their housing, their lives and their livelihoods.
- Natural disasters can severely exacerbate concerns over land tenure. If deaths are not formally documented, claims on land by heirs are complicated, if not impossible. Organizations like Habitat for Humanity are unable to rebuild when the owner of the land is unclear.
- Rubble removal is also an enormous challenge in urban disasters. For example, the 2010 earthquake in Haiti produced about 33 million cubic meters of debris — enough to build the Hoover Dam seven times. Because urban areas are already densely populated and have scarce land, long-term housing reconstruction cannot begin until the debris is removed. (Ministère des Travaux Publics, Transports et Communications, 2011)



## Day 3 - continued

### Habitat's response

- Habitat for Humanity has a long history of responding to disasters around the world.
- Habitat supports broad repair and reconstruction activities that move families toward decent, simple, permanent housing. Habitat provides immediate relief after a disaster by distributing shelter kits that provide basic tools for home repair, constructing transitional and upgradable shelters for families in need, and setting up Habitat Resource Centers that provide materials, training and technical assistance.
- With long-term recovery efforts in mind, Habitat also works with the community to identify and prioritize needs, map neighborhoods to establish land ownership, and construct core homes that can be expanded over time. In the Simon-Pelé neighborhood of Port-au-Prince, for example, Habitat is helping families organize to identify, prioritize and act on their needs in order to improve their living conditions and gain access to critical services for their community. To date, 14 community-driven projects have been completed.
- Habitat's 2012 Shelter Report highlights the urgent need for disaster planning and long-term recovery, particularly in urban and developing areas with large populations that have grown rapidly. The report emphasizes strategic actions for building back better by adhering to specific standards and building codes for preparedness and risk reduction.

### Food for thought

- *Habitat's strategy Pathways to Permanence is defined as, "the process of reducing vulnerability as well as supporting disaster-affected families and communities using holistic program interventions that enable incremental progress toward the achievement of permanent, durable shelter and settlements." Have you seen examples of this during your time in Haiti so far?*
- *Throughout the rest of the week, look for ways in which this approach is being carried out.*

# Day 4: Housing and health

A safe and secure home provides more than just shelter from nature's harshest elements.

## Housing as prevention

- From Florence Nightingale to modern surgeons general, public health advocates recognize that a person's health is intrinsically tied to where they live. One recent U.S. surgeon general suggested, "A comprehensive, coordinated approach to healthy homes will result in the greatest public health impact."
- Poor building materials, overcrowded space, mud walls, open windows and thatch roofs have been linked to increased prevalence of malaria, Chagas disease and HIV/AIDS.
- As improved housing reduces the risk of disease, the reverse is also true: substandard housing, coupled with tainted water supplies, inadequate sanitation and poor access to public health, puts whole communities at risk.
- Nearly 10 million people die each year from preventable causes. Researchers at the World Bank and the University of California, Berkeley, found that something as simple as replacing dirt floors with concrete floors directly improved the health of children in Mexico, including a 20 percent reduction in parasitic infections, a 13 percent reduction in diarrhea, and a 20 percent reduction in anemia.
- Leaky roofs, mold and mildew in homes still lead to preventable respiratory conditions in the United States and Europe. Dampness and mold in homes account for more than one in five cases of asthma in the United States at an annual cost of \$3.5 billion. (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2009)
- Clean water is essential to healthy living. The World Health Organization estimates that 1.8 million people die each year from diarrheal diseases, about 88 percent of which are caused by unsafe water supply, sanitation and hygiene.
- Nearly 40 percent of the world's population, or 2.6 billion people, live without access to improved sanitation. (World Health Organization, 2008)



## Day 4 - continued

### Habitat's response

- Habitat ensures all new and rehabilitated homes it works on meet a series of housing quality standards including design, durability, secure tenure, water and sanitation.
- Habitat is working around the world on a number of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) initiatives including plumbing, taps, drains, latrines, septic systems, filters, watershed protection, community WASH systems and others.
- Habitat's 2011 Shelter Report, "Housing and Health: Partners Against Poverty," reviews a growing body of research demonstrating that substandard housing has a major effect on public health in poor and affluent countries alike. The report also makes recommendations to policymakers.

### Food for thought

- *What links between health and housing have you seen in Haiti?*
- *How do you use clean water in your house?*
- *What types of housing interventions do you think are necessary to improve one's health?*





# Day 5: The power of volunteerism

*"The broadest and maybe the most meaningful definition of volunteering: Doing more than you have to because you want to, in a cause you consider good."*

— Ivan Scheier, American pioneer of volunteerism.

## Volunteerism

- Conservative estimates produced by the Johns Hopkins University Center for Civil Society Studies show that approximately 971 million people volunteer in a typical year across the globe, either through organizations or directly to persons outside their household.
- Research demonstrates that there is a growing interest in the potential of international service to foster international understanding between peoples and nations and to promote global citizenship and intercultural cooperation. (The Brookings Institution, 2006)
- Studies suggest that international service develops skills, mindsets, behaviors and networks that prepare volunteers for living and working in a knowledge-based global economy. (Australian Volunteers International and Monash University, 2007)
- Each year organizations like Habitat for Humanity benefit collectively from volunteer efforts that are worth hundreds of billions of dollars. (United Way, 2008)

## Habitat and volunteers

- Volunteerism is at the center of our mission: "Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope." Habitat for Humanity estimates that it mobilizes more than 1 million volunteers annually.



## Day 5 - continued

### The right fit

- Habitat continues to grow and develop a volunteer continuum with opportunities for volunteers from grade school through retirement in communities nearby or around the world. It is our hope that people will always find a volunteer opportunity to fit their skills and interests as they progress through life.
- Habitat's new strategic plan calls us to mobilize volunteers like you as hearts, hands, and voices for the cause of adequate affordable housing
  - » **Hearts:** As volunteers, you personally care about housing as a critical issue and have a deeper understanding of housing as key foundation for breaking the cycle of poverty.
  - » **Hands:** You can have a connection to the larger movement of Habitat and have information and connections that allow you to continue and deepen your engagement with Habitat after your build experience.
  - » **Voices:** You are transformed to have the confidence, resources and abilities to become champions, advocates, to magnify Habitat's societal impact and increase resources available to execute on our mission.
- Although volunteerism is a key component of Habitat for Humanity's work, we are conscious that it is not always the most appropriate solution. For example, we have limited the use of volunteers in Haiti since the earthquake. This is because of the massive need for local jobs; some estimates cite the unemployment rate at more than 70 percent. With that in mind, Habitat has provided more than 700 Haitians with job opportunities through its main office and Habitat Resource Centers in Haiti, including employment for more than 200 Haitians to prepare the Santo site and build foundations.

### Food for thought

- *How has volunteering shaped your life?*
- *What impact have volunteers had on your community or the world globally?*
- *How will you take this experience home to continue to use your heart, hands and voice for the cause of adequate, affordable housing?*



# Day 6: Housing the bottom billion

Approximately 1 billion people live in slums without adequate housing, access to clean water, and sanitation. Global development agencies spend billions of dollars a year, yet few focus on housing.

## The importance of housing

- More than four walls and a roof, adequate housing requires security of tenure and access to basic services, such as water and sanitation. A safe and secure home provides more than protection from the elements. For example, without an official address, families can be denied access to schools, medical care and financial services. Numerous studies have shown the positive impact of housing on an individual.
- The housing sector comprises 7 percent to 20 percent of a country's gross domestic product, according to UN-HABITAT. Without a healthy housing finance system and a well-functioning housing sector, a country's economy is likely to stagnate.
- Demand for housing remains extraordinarily high in the developing world. Asia, for example, is urbanizing most rapidly and will need to absorb 120,000 new residents every day into its cities. This translates into at least 20,000 housing units per day. (UN-HABITAT, 2010)

## Urbanization and housing

- In 2000, more than 150 heads of state ratified the United Nations' Millennium Declaration acknowledging the growth of slums and that managing their growth is critical in eradicating poverty. This was the first time that urban poverty reduction was recognized in an international development goal as essential to eliminating global poverty.
- Governments and local authorities remain wary of planning for systematic expansion of their cities for fear of attracting more people, despite little evidence that a lack of adequate housing, infrastructure and basic services has slowed the migration from rural to urban areas. People are primarily moving for jobs and economic opportunity.
- The number of those living in slums has increased from 776.7 million in 2000 to 827.6 million in 2010 according to UN-HABITAT. Much of the progress in upgrading slums has been in Asia, specifically China, while Africa, for example, has lagged behind.



## Day 6 - continued

### **Global development and housing**

- Governments in developing countries, and donors, are not effectively addressing the challenges presented by adequate housing and slums.
- The U.S. Agency for International Development has fewer than five staff members globally focused on housing and slums. Ninety percent of USAID's portfolio in Africa is health-focused funding.
- International development agencies can and should play a much greater role in developing, supporting and tackling issues of housing and slums.

### **Habitat's response**

- Habitat provides a diverse set of programs in nearly 80 countries including house construction, slum upgrading, water and sanitation, disaster response, housing microfinance, and advocacy.
- In the United States, Habitat is helping reform federal legislation governing global development because the laws have not been updated in decades. This draft legislation includes a specific chapter on housing.
- In Haiti, Habitat is leading a multi-sector group including the Haitian government, businesses and NGOs, in an effort to clarify and bring consistency to the process of buying and selling land and to make recommendations on land rights for the people of Haiti. This process is creating new opportunities for redevelopment, economic development and more secure land tenure.
- Habitat organizes Build Louder trips that give volunteers an opportunity to build and also learn about poverty housing by visiting slums and meeting with community leaders and government officials.

### ***Food for thought***

- *Why do global development agencies focus on health more than housing?*
- *What role does housing have in improving lives?*
- *What role does government have in increasing adequate housing globally?*



# Day 7: Stand up. Speak up. Take action.

*“In an area of the world where many people live in deplorable conditions, we have a chance to help families improve their housing.”*

— President Jimmy Carter

## **As you head home**

- This past week, walls have been raised, bonds have formed and lives have changed forever. In just seven days, incredible progress has been made in Haiti. But as you know, more needs to be done.
- Your Carter Work Project experience shouldn't end when you leave Haiti. In fact, it is critical to the success of Léogâne and to the future of this country that we build upon what has been accomplished. Even back home, you can continue to change lives in Haiti. Take action, advocate and share what you've seen, done and learned this week to inspire friends, civic groups, your elected officials and others to stand up with Haiti and speak up for housing.

## **Your response**

- Take action with Habitat for Humanity on issues that affect global shelter, property rights, foreign assistance reform, and water and sanitation by becoming an online advocate at [www.habitat.org/takeaction](http://www.habitat.org/takeaction). Once you're home, you will be invited to join Habitat's 92,000 online advocates committed to changing the systems, policies, attitudes and behaviors that lead to inadequate housing and homelessness.
- Use the online tools provided to you before your trip, and the additional post-trip resources you will be receiving, to help you recruit 10 of your colleagues, friends or family members to become online advocates.
- With Habitat for Humanity, we challenge you to ensure that shelter gets the attention it deserves on the global development agenda by speaking with your government representatives and key decision makers, writing an op-ed or signing a petition that calls for better housing policies and improved shelter solutions.

## **Food for thought**

- *How will you continue your Carter Work Project experience back home?*
- *What are the changes you believe we have the responsibility to advocate for?*



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