

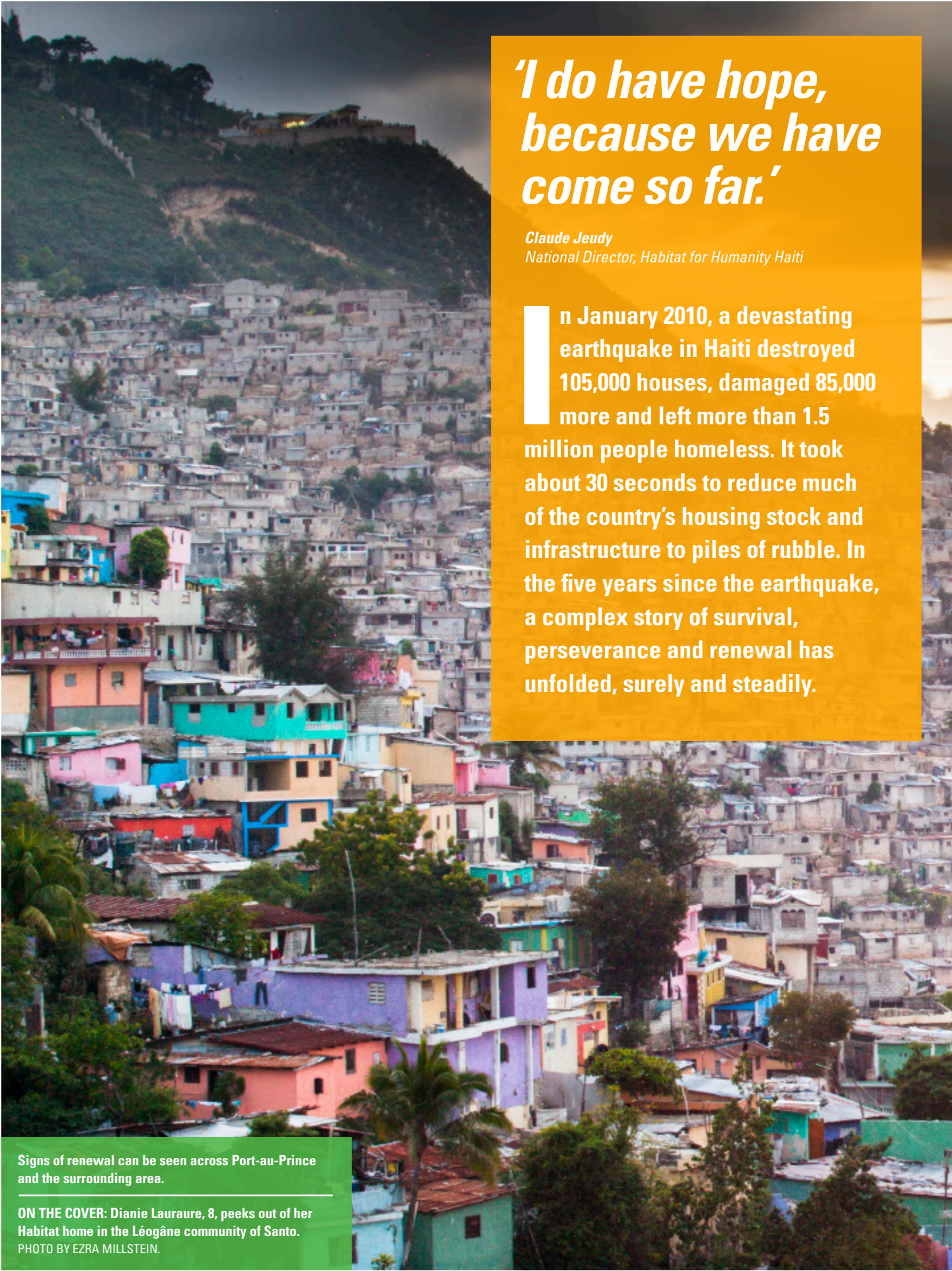


Habitat for Humanity®
Habitat pour l'humanité®
Haïti



**5 YEARS
LATER:**

THE **NEW** STORY OF
HAITI



*'I do have hope,
because we have
come so far.'*

Claude Jeudy

National Director, Habitat for Humanity Haiti

In January 2010, a devastating earthquake in Haiti destroyed 105,000 houses, damaged 85,000 more and left more than 1.5 million people homeless. It took about 30 seconds to reduce much of the country's housing stock and infrastructure to piles of rubble. In the five years since the earthquake, a complex story of survival, perseverance and renewal has unfolded, surely and steadily.

Signs of renewal can be seen across Port-au-Prince and the surrounding area.

ON THE COVER: Dianie Laure, 8, peeks out of her Habitat home in the Léogâne community of Santo.
PHOTO BY EZRA MILLSTEIN.

Habitat homeowner Samuel Georges works on the roof frame of his house in Léogâne.



Rebuilding has been complicated by many factors, including the fact that Haiti is one of the poorest nations in the world.

Even before the disaster, 3 out of 4 people lived on less than US\$2 a day. Without national building codes in place, much of the housing that existed was poorly built — often on precarious sites and without legal land title.

When so much of the country's housing crumbled that January day, people who already lived in dire conditions were at even greater risk. The sheer scale of the need challenged the best efforts of relief and humanitarian agencies from around the world.

The earthquake lasted half a minute, but true recovery will take years. The complexity of a post-disaster environment often requires much more time for a full recovery than is hoped for.

"We know Haitians are very resilient; the history of our country has shown this since our independence," said Claude Jeudy, national director of Habitat for Humanity Haiti. "We have demonstrated this capacity to restart our lives after devastation, time and again. Since the earthquake, we have made significant progress, but the work is far from over.

"I do have hope," he said, "because we have come so far."



Habitat's work in the Port-au-Prince neighborhood of Simon-Pelé has empowered residents to set their own priorities, making the area safer, healthier and more livable.

'Dieu est la' — 'God is here'



Ricardine and Roman Laventure's children (Batiste Enika, 11, Manace Estime, 2, and Jean Loui Lorica, 9) are healthier, happier and going to school since moving into their Habitat home in the Léogâne community of Santo.

Immediately after the earthquake, Habitat for Humanity staff members were on the scene, delivering emergency shelter kits to people in desperate need. But very quickly, Habitat's focus shifted back to what it does best, partnering with families and communities to deliver long-term shelter solutions, including 1,500 upgradable shelters. Constructed for families with secure land title, these structures feature timber frames, treated walls, tin roofs and concrete perimeter founda-

tions so families can upgrade them as their financial situation improves. Habitat also launched a program to repair homes in Cabaret and Port-au-Prince.

At the same time, Habitat began laying the groundwork for real, long-lasting transformation by helping to create a community council and building up capacity among the residents of a tent encampment in Léogâne, near the epicenter of the earthquake. And in 2011 and 2012, as part of Habitat's annual Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project, Habitat

volunteers, partner families and local workers constructed 300 permanent homes in the Léogâne community of Santo. These homes were funded in large part through the generosity of the Multilateral Investment Fund of the Inter-American Development Bank, *Samenwerkende Hulporganisaties*, and many other institutional and corporate donors, Habitat affiliates and individuals.

Now those 300 families have started to expand their homes, planted vegetables and flowers, and rebuilt their

lives. The community council recently opened the Community School of New Hope of Santo, turning former storage containers into a vibrant, bustling place for learning.

Hope is an intangible but powerful commodity. Once families have a healthy, safe, durable place to live, they can focus on finding better jobs, pursuing educational opportunities, and helping their community grow stronger.

On the front door of Ricardine Laventure's house in Santo are the words "Dieu est la" — in English, "God is here." Laventure runs a small sundries store out of a metal hut next to the house, and her husband, Roman, is an automobile mechanic.

Their four children are healthier and happier since moving into this home in February 2013. Batiste Enika, 11, dreams of becoming a nurse when she grows up, and 9-year-old Jean Loui Lorica wants to be a lawyer. Three-year-old Ezeckiel Estime is too young for career plans, and

2-year-old Manace Estime just started attending the community school.

"We have a Haitian proverb that says the kids of today are the adults of tomorrow," Laventure said. "If one of the children in this community grows up to be a city councilman or even president, that will make us all proud."

The 300 families of Santo represent what is possible after a disaster. A carefully planned, holistic, coordinated approach — in partnership with like-minded organizations and all levels of government — has resulted in a strong, self-sustaining community with a real future.

Today, the community council continues to play a critical leadership role in the future of Santo. With support from Habitat, it is pursuing opportunities and initiatives, such as microfinance loans to expand homes, a composting and sanitation program to generate much-needed revenue, and training to help families work together for the benefit of the entire community.



Habitat homeowners in Santo, Cirise Velenne (left) and Cheri Vena, celebrate the completion of their homes at a dedication ceremony.



Children are now learning at the Community School of New Hope of Santo — a long-held dream turned reality thanks to the determination of the community council and parents to build a better future for their children.

GEORGE L. HIPPLE

DOMINIQUE RATTNER

Residents now enjoy the safety of repaved roads in Simon-Pelé thanks to Habitat's community development program.

Renewal in a rapidly urbanizing world



Marie Gemma Donai, a widow, lives with her four children and a grandchild in a home retrofitted by Habitat in Simon-Pelé. A retrofit improves the original house by strengthening it against future natural disasters.

EZZA MILLSTEIN

Shortly after the earthquake, Habitat launched an ambitious urban renewal plan for Simon-Pelé, a densely populated informal settlement of more than 30,000 people near the airport in Port-au-Prince.

Habitat staff members and local residents began with an enumeration project, mapping and numbering 4,000 buildings and conducting 6,000 household surveys. That project served as a blueprint for the community-led revitalization program that has helped nearly everybody in Simon-Pelé improve their living conditions, learn livelihood skills and benefit from sweeping infrastructure enhancements.

Overall improvements include paved and repaired streets, walkways and footbridges; street lighting and signage; cleared drainage canals; kiosks for safe drinking water; improved sanitation at the local health clinic; and repaired recreational facilities.

Habitat also retrofitted more than 650 homes, improving the original structures so that they'll stand up better to any future disasters. Marie Gemma Donai is one of the homeowners living in a stronger, safer house, with her four children and one grandchild.

“Every day when I wake up, I raise my hands to thank God,” Donai said. “And I pray that Habitat will be able to help more people like me retrofit our homes.”

Training continues to be a major component of Habitat’s work in Simon-Pelé, with courses offered in vocational skills, basic and advanced construction, financial literacy, disaster-risk reduction, basic home maintenance, gender equality and conflict management.

In a nation with an unemployment rate estimated at 70 percent, training to help individuals find jobs is a critical part of our shelter and community work. Fortin Lucien, 31, completed Habitat’s construction training and has been gainfully employed ever since. His dream now is to take more training and become a civil engineer.

It is a dream he couldn’t have imagined before taking the course. And it’s especially important to him now that he and his wife have a son.

“Now we know how to build better,” Lucien said. “And we can take better care of our families. Haiti’s future depends on these kinds of changes.”

Habitat’s multiyear work in Simon-Pelé has been made possible by the generous support of UN-HABITAT; Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada; Habitat for Humanity Canada, its donors and local affiliates; the World Bank, and the Haitian government through the Bureau of Monetization of Development Aid Programs.



ERNA MILLSTEIN

Fortin Lucien, 31, credits Habitat construction training for new skills and new hope.

Along with offering classes in gender equality, Habitat’s goal is to train up to 2,000 women in Simon-Pelé as part of its efforts to empower women as equal members of the community.



TAMARA X. MINTZ

The Haiti Property Law Working Group is addressing the legal system of land tenure and promoting stable land development.

Groundbreaking work in land reform



A complex disaster requires a multifaceted, sustained response for a full and meaningful recovery. One of the primary reasons Habitat for Humanity has become such a respected part of the housing sector in Haiti is its long history in the country.

Habitat didn't just arrive on the scene when the 2010 earthquake hit; it has been providing shelter solutions in Haiti since 1984. Its community-driven, holistic approach has led to innovative projects that continue to evolve to meet Haitians' needs.

In addition to focusing on urban revitalization, training and capacity building, Habitat continues to devote

much of its energy and resources to advocacy work that is helping to rewrite land reform laws and guidelines that address long-standing issues that keep people from gaining secure tenure.

In 2011, Habitat chose to address head-on the largest single obstacle to earthquake recovery—an incomprehensible system of land ownership—by helping to create the Haiti Property Law Working Group. This collection of legal and policy experts, donor agencies, businesses, nongovernmental organizations and representatives from the Haitian government today comprises more than 260 members.

The working group researched, developed and published the first volume of “The Haiti Land Transaction

Manual,” which documents how to buy and sell land in Haiti. The manual helps Haitians, NGOs and international investors navigate the complex bureaucratic legal system and secure property—a critical first step to permanent reconstruction.

The group will soon publish its second manual on securing public and private land rights. This is especially important for families who have settled on land for many generations, yet still don't have the paperwork to prove their legal land title status. Without this paperwork, the right to their land is uncertain and securing loans to make home improvements is impossible. This situation also makes families more reluctant to make extensive personal investments in their home or land.

Habitat seeks to partner with more families

Moving forward, Habitat is exploring another opportunity to partner with families who no longer live in tent cities but are still very much affected by the 2010 earthquake.

Over the past few years, about 30,000 displaced families have resettled in Canaan, a vast area on the northern outskirts of Port-au-Prince. What used to be a wide-open hillside is rapidly developing into a city, but without the benefit of a formal urban development plan, technical assistance or joint decision-making with local authorities.

“It’s not a slum; it’s a new city,” said Mike Meaney, chief operating officer of Habitat for Humanity Haiti. “And we have a window of opportunity in the early life of this community to build on the work already started and

on the investments already made by the families.

“These people are spending their own money, but some are building back some of the same vulnerabilities that killed so many people.”

Habitat’s expertise in community engagement, technical assistance and training could help families make better design choices, find better-quality materials and hire more qualified laborers.

“Haiti has a very important story to tell,” Meaney said.

In five years, in one of the poorest countries on earth, roads have been repaved, infrastructure has been installed, schools are growing,

and new businesses are starting up as each family finds its own pathway to permanence.

For at least 30,000 families, that path has led to Canaan.

“Many of these families have a plot of land for the first time in their lives,” Meaney said. “It’s the first time they’re investing money into something that their children and future generations are going to own.”

Habitat has a critical role to play in that transformation, drawing from all the lessons learned in community-centric projects in Santo, in Simon-Pel   and elsewhere.

In Canaan, Habitat sees a window of opportunity for applying community development lessons learned in Santo, Simon-Pel   and elsewhere.



Parents Joseph and Dannie Saintil and their children, Wophline, 29, Lyncée, 23, and Marc Darlin Saintil, 33, operate a clothing business from their retrofitted home in Simon-Pelé. Wophline and Marc also took Habitat classes in disaster-risk reduction and financial literacy.



Milestones in recovery

Soon after the 2010 earthquake, Habitat for Humanity set a goal to serve 50,000 families affected by the earthquake over a five-year period. In 2013, Habitat met this goal, two years earlier than planned.

Overall through 2013:

- 24,600 emergency shelter kits were assembled and distributed in Port-au-Prince and Léogâne.
- 12,000 house damage assessments were conducted in Port-au-Prince and Cabaret.
- 1,500 upgradable shelters and 3,500 transitional shelters were built in Léogâne and Cabaret.
- 683 homes were repaired, rehabilitated or retrofitted in Port-au-Prince and Cabaret.
- 2,000 people in Léogâne were provided with access to clean water.
- 2,100 short-term job opportunities were created in Port-au-Prince, Léogâne and Cabaret.

- 6,600 people in Port-au-Prince, Léogâne and Cabaret were trained in construction techniques, financial literacy, damage assessments, disaster risk reduction, business development, and health and hygiene.
- 300 permanent core homes were built in Léogâne.

Since 2013, Habitat has continued to help families affected by the earthquake by focusing its efforts on long-term community development, reconstruction and retrofits, training, and capacity building in the Port-au-Prince neighborhood of Simon-Pelé.

Community participation is key to Habitat's work in Haiti. Habitat community engagement coordinator Walnord Similien leads a meeting with families.





Thank You

Juvenson Laureau, 4, is one of about 1,000 children in the Santo community of Léogâne.

Habitat for Humanity Haiti is very thankful for the donors, partners and volunteers who have contributed directly to our work in Haiti since January 2010.

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*Many others, including private family foundations and individuals, have supported Habitat's work in Haiti over the past five years. Continued support is needed as we seek to partner with more families and communities in the years to come. Every donation makes a difference. **Thank you for playing a role!***



Lush gardens of flowers and vegetables have transformed Santo from a construction zone to a vibrant community with a real future.

To stay current on Habitat's progress in Haiti or to make a donation, visit Habitat.org/Haiti.



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