



SIX-MONTH REPORT

# PROGRESS IN HAITI



**Rebuild Haiti  
Rebati Ayiti**

## REAL NEED...

Six months after a magnitude-7.0 earthquake destroyed nearly 190,000 homes and left more than 1.5 million survivors in need of shelter, the need in Haiti is great and undeniable. Haitian hearts still mourn for family, friends, homes and jobs lost on Jan. 12.

The scale of cleanup and rubble removal remains daunting. Displaced families crowd into urban tent cities, survive in their own makeshift shelters, or seek refuge in other parts of the country. And now the summer rainy season has begun, highlighting almost daily the urgent need for safe, healthy shelter.

## REAL FAMILIES...

At the same time, life goes on. The resilience of Haiti's people is evident everywhere. Businesses reopen in front of collapsed buildings. Families work to clear rubble where their homes once stood, and worship on Sunday inside churches still missing front doors.

Many families are partnering with Habitat for Humanity to provide safe, healthy housing for themselves and their children. Please meet:

- **ROSE FLORE CHARLES AND HER THREE CHILDREN**, who now live in a Habitat transitional shelter. "This is not just a transitional shelter for me," Charles says. "It is a home." (See next page)
- **GRANDMOTHER ANOLISE SIMON**, who can continue to look after her flock of relatives in a new Habitat core house. (See page 5)
- **ELYCÉ MÉDILIE**, who received construction training from Habitat so he can help rebuild his hometown. (See page 6)

## REAL PROGRESS...

Over the next five years, Habitat aims to serve 50,000 earthquake-affected families, helping Haitians move toward safer, more secure, permanent places to call home.

Just six months after the earthquake, Habitat is:

- Constructing about 70 transitional shelters a week—in places like Cabaret, below—providing safe, dry housing for Haitians living in unhealthy, vulnerable conditions.
- Working through Habitat Resource Centers to train and employ local workers in building efforts—and supplying families with courses in disaster mitigation and financial literacy.
- Providing more than 21,000 emergency shelter kits, conducting structural damage assessments in affected houses, repairing homes, and advocating for land-tenure policies to protect families' property rights as they rebuild.

Read on to learn about the strength of Haiti's families—and how you can help Habitat help Haiti.



Top: After the earthquake, the Charles family lived in an unhealthy makeshift structure. Bottom: Today, the Charles family lives in a new Habitat transitional shelter.



## THE CHARLES FAMILY: Thirsting for a house

Rose Flore Charles and her three young children spent Jan. 12, 2010, at the Léogâne home of Charles' mother. They were not in their small apartment across town at 4:53 p.m. when the building collapsed during the earthquake, killing three of their neighbors. In that minute, nearly 90 percent of Léogâne was destroyed.

For 16 straight nights, Charles and her children slept outside. Charles soon created a makeshift shelter near her mother's damaged home. Made mostly of bedsheets, with metal gates propped together to provide a façade of strength, the structure has only a green coat-hanger wire to hold a scrap door tight.

In Haiti's rainy season—which brings even more malaria-carrying mosquitoes—Charles' children suffered. "Sleeping in the old shelter, the rain always got in," Charles says. "We have to go to the health center and ask for help when their fevers get very bad."

As she speaks, a light rain leaves beads of water on her shoulders and on her 2-year-old daughter, Guallina Delva. But soon the Charles family will have a new place to take refuge: a Habitat transitional shelter.

"I am thirsting for this house," Charles says, smiling as she watches the wood-frame shelter being built.

Charles' family received one of the first 25 Habitat transitional shelters built in this community within Léogâne, about 18 miles west of Port-au-Prince and very near the epicenter of the January earthquake. By training and employing Haitians in communities hit hardest by the earthquake, Habitat is now constructing about 70 transitional shelters a week. Families help, too; Charles helped clear the ground for her shelter and hammered in nails.

"This is not just a transitional shelter for me. It is a home."





## THE JOSEPH FAMILY: Return to living

Today, Sainte Hélen Joseph's family feels a security they hadn't felt in the past six months. Their new Habitat transitional shelter stands among a row of six built in Cabaret's Bercy community, just north of Port-au-Prince. A feeling of renewal has formed among families who lost everything in the earthquake. Joseph and her husband are farming once again, growing plantains and eggplants as they save to rebuild a permanent home.

From her new Habitat shelter, Joseph, 28, can see the makeshift structure that she, her husband and their four children—including Derlince, at left—called home for four months. Used cloth, bedsheets and bags formed walls that came nowhere near the ground, leaving the family vulnerable to many types of intruders.

“We really needed this. To me, compared to what we were living in, this is a house. Our old shelter—that wasn't living.”

## THE BLANC FAMILY: Safe at home

Voltaire Blanc had traveled to Gonaïves, further north in Haiti, to be with a brother undergoing surgery on Jan. 12. A motorcycle-taxi driver, he had no idea of the severity of the earthquake until he rode back down to Cabaret.

“I was just so surprised,” he says. “Everything was in the streets, and dust and blocks everywhere. I got home, and my house was destroyed. But my family was safe. Thank God that they're OK.”

Voltaire and his wife, Médilia, now live in a new transitional shelter built by Habitat. Médilia, who has the same shy smile as her 4-year-old son, Johnley, stays home and watches after their two children and a niece.

Voltaire comes home at least once each day to check on his family.

“I love seeing my children playing again,” he says.



# PATHWAYS TO PERMANENCE

Habitat works in many ways to improve the long-term living conditions of Haitian families in need.

### Emergency shelter kits

Habitat assembled more than 21,000 emergency shelter kits for partner aid groups in Haiti. These partners distribute the kits to families that have received little shelter assistance since the quake.

The kits include tools—such as hammers, pliers, chisels, work gloves, rope and tarps—useful for creating emergency shelter, cleaning up debris and repairing damaged houses.

Myrline Byron, 30, worked at a T-shirt factory in Port-au-Prince before the earthquake. She is unemployed now, but her husband works as a handicraft artist. They hope to repair their home in Carrefour, and recently received a Habitat emergency shelter kit.

“I can't tell you how hard it was to deal with our daily needs,” Byron said. “Receiving this kit tells me that hope really never dies.”

### House assessments

Habitat has also been entrusted with doing structural damage assessments in affected houses. Habitat engineers have completed 2,000 assessments—advising families whether their home is livable, needs repairs or should be demolished. Thanks to a UN-Human Settlements

Programme grant, Habitat plans to assess 15,000 houses by the end of 2010 in areas hit hard by the earthquake: Port-au-Prince, Léogâne, Cabaret and Jacmel.

### Secure tenure: A foundation for housing

Habitat's ultimate, long-term goal is to create permanent homes in partnership with families in need. That can only happen as cleanup efforts progress and land and property rights can be established.

*The problem:* According to U.N. estimates, less than 5 percent of Haiti's land is legally registered. To move from transitional shelters to building permanent homes, establishing secure tenure for partner families is essential. Without secure tenure, families could be evicted from their new homes and have no legal recourse.

*The solution:* Secure tenure is a key issue that Habitat advocates for worldwide. By working closely with fellow aid organizations, along with the U.S. and Haitian governments, Habitat will help establish systems that ensure land and property rights.

*The future:* Where cleanup allows and families have security of tenure, Habitat will build permanent housing. In rural Ti Place, for example, just outside Cabaret, Habitat is already building core houses with families. Core houses are small, permanent homes built with earthquake-resistant features. Built to accommodate families of five, these core homes can add new rooms over time.

## THE SIMON FAMILY: Survivors together

In two years, Anolise Simon, 54, has suffered the destruction of two homes in Ti Place by two natural disasters.

In 2008, Hurricane Ike brought flooding along the Ti Place River. During the flood, Simon clung to a mango tree with one hand while holding a grandchild in her other arm. More than 70 people died, but her family survived.

Simon talks easily about the flood, but shakes her head and exhales slowly when asked about the earthquake: “It was a powerless feeling. With a flood I can run away, or at least see it coming, but with an earthquake, I can't outrun it.”

Simon is a mother to many in her community, taking

in relatives in need and children without parents. That is why she is thankful to partner with Habitat to build a core house for the many people who will live with her.

“Without Habitat,” she says, “my family would be spread out, not able to be together. That is what I am most happy about.”



## HOW HABITAT RESPONDS:

With Haiti's rainy season here—and hundreds of thousands of Haitians still homeless—Habitat's urgent, primary focus is providing safe transitional shelters to families left most vulnerable by the January earthquake.

### Transitional shelters with a future

- Wood- or steel-frame structures with diagonal crossbeams, metal strapping and concrete post foundations provide stability.
- All Habitat transitional shelters are either recyclable—made with materials that can be reused in a permanent

home—or can be upgraded to become permanent houses over time. Habitat will help families upgrade.

- A galvanized tin roof and durable tarp walls protect families from the rain.
- Three windows are provided in each shelter, allowing breezes to flow through.

- Families are provided with access to a detached, ventilated latrine.
- When possible, transitional shelters are built on the foundation of a family's former house. If that's not possible, crushed rock and sand are used to create a dry floor inside the shelter.

## GETTING TO WORK

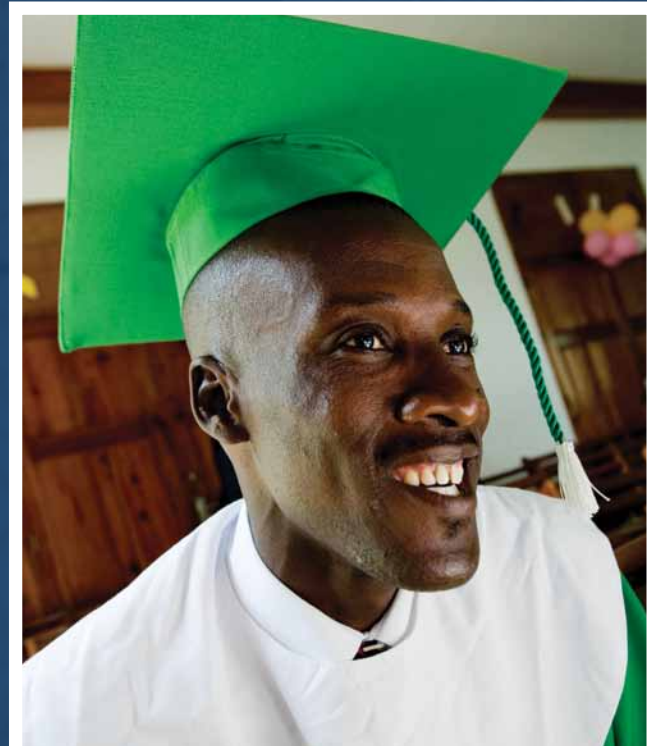
The earthquake that struck Haiti not only destroyed homes and lives; it also left survivors without the means to rebuild and without jobs to make a living. Haiti's unemployment rate is above 60 percent.

That's why Habitat's work in Haiti includes training and employing Haitians whose livelihoods have been affected by the earthquake.

### Homework

Elycé Médilien, 26, is one of more than 100 local workers who have been trained to build Habitat's transitional shelters in Cabaret. It is important, he says, that young men are equipped to contribute to their community's renewal.

"For us, Habitat is also giving us something to do," Médilien says, taking a break from building a transitional shelter during an afternoon thunderstorm. "We pride ourselves on being able to help rebuild. People forget, but young men are victims here, too. We are out of school and don't have anything to do. It is hard to find jobs. There is need here for homes and for work. We can help."



### Ready to build

Formal construction training courses supply graduates with new skills to acquire better, well-paying construction jobs. The courses also provide trained and trusted workers for Habitat projects.

In Gonaïves and Cap-Haïtien, Habitat is in the midst of a three-year plan to graduate at least 540 construction students from its work force development program, a joint project with USAID's KATA program and CHF International. These graduates will be vital to Habitat's efforts to create housing solutions for earthquake-affected families throughout the country.

Willy René, 36, is the salutatorian of a recent Cap-Haïtien class of 65 masonry graduates. Graduation filled him with optimism. "Who knows what is in my future now," Rene says. "I am ready to go. I'm ready to build."

His 12-year-old daughter, Ruth, was with him for the ceremony: "This is my first time wearing a cap and gown," he says. "I feel proud to be wearing this in front of my daughter."

## HOW HABITAT RESPONDS:

In Haiti, Habitat's work on the ground is coordinated through Habitat Resource Centers, which develop shelter programs to fit local needs—and train and employ local workers to implement those programs.

Habitat Resource Centers are already in place in Léogâne, Cabaret, Gonaïves and Cap-Haïtien, with

additional centers planned for Carrefour, Croix-des-Bouquets and Jacmel.

### HABITAT RESOURCE CENTERS: What they do

- Train and employ Haitians, helping Habitat build capacity and provide local employment opportunities.
- Provide partner families with technical construction assistance, disaster-mitigation training and financial

## HELP REBUILD HAITI

Whether in Haiti's decimated capital of Port-au-Prince, or in cities and towns where families have fled seeking a new beginning, Habitat is committed to building better futures for at least 50,000 Haitian families over the next five years. To reach that bold goal, Habitat relies, as always, on the caring hearts of donors to support its ministry. Over the past decade, contributions have enabled Habitat to serve 60,000 families affected by disaster around the world—including families previously affected by hurricanes in Haiti.

Become a partner with Habitat and help rebuild Haiti: [habitat.org/haiti](http://habitat.org/haiti)



### THE LORMERA FAMILY: In search of peace

Sabine Lormera, 23, lights up when she remembers her husband. "He was a very affectionate man," she says. "He always gave me a lot of support, in whatever I did. He was a very good man."

Her husband, Lesley Dejean, was a bus driver; they met when she was a passenger on his route. On Jan. 12, Dejean had parked his bus outside a public utility company, waiting to pick up passengers heading home, when the earthquake struck. The building collapsed on top of his bus.

Four days after losing her husband—and her house—Lormera left her Port-au-Prince neighborhood for Gonaïves, a three-hour drive to the north. She moved—by bus—with her sister, niece and grandfather. Her grandfather has since died, adding to her grief. She now lives with seven other people in a small house rented by a cousin.

Lormera hopes to rebuild her life in Gonaïves and is one of more than 500 internally displaced people who have applied to partner with Habitat in Gonaïves. "I don't think I can go back there," she says of Port-au-Prince. "It's too sad."



# HELP HABITAT HELP HAITI

## Get involved

For complete information on how to get involved—including donations, advocacy efforts, 2011 volunteer opportunities, and the latest updates on Habitat's work in Haiti—visit [habitat.org/haiti](http://habitat.org/haiti).

You can donate:

- **ONLINE:** [habitat.org/haiti](http://habitat.org/haiti)
- **CELL PHONE:** Text "HABITAT" to 25383 to make a \$10 donation.
- You can also donate by **PHONE OR MAIL**, using the contact information at the bottom of the page.

## About Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry founded on the conviction that every man, woman and child deserves a safe, decent and affordable place to live. Since our founding in 1976, Habitat has helped provide simple, decent shelter for more than 1.75 million people.

Habitat has been at work in Haiti for more than 26 years. Habitat is also a member of the Haiti Shelter Cluster and works closely with its partners, the United Nations, and the U.S. and Haitian governments on shelter issues.



Worshippers enter Lot Kare Baptist Church in Léogâne, Haiti. Rose Flore Charles, who has received a Habitat transitional shelter, attends the church, which remains damaged from the January earthquake.

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