



IOM HAITI Shelter



Above: 28 August 2010/Commune of Croix des Bouquets, Corail: Part of the completed transitional shelters out of the 650 currently under construction .

Overview

The most long lasting consequence of earthquake has been the homelessness it created. IOM's Haiti Shelter Program works closely with the government of Haiti, relevant partners and clusters in addressing the shelter needs for people and institutions. **The Program aims to provide 8,110 shelter units to internally displaced populations** in the most affected regions of Haiti. Appropriate non food items (NFI) packs will be provided along with the transitional shelters to assist beneficiaries to build their asset base and have basic items for household use. Another key component of the Program is community outreach which is meant to raise awareness among the affected populations on shelter interventions. The Program is funded by three donors, Japan, SIDA and ERF.

Shelter intervention

Of the **8,110** shelters, **360** transitional shelters are being constructed at medical institutions whilst **7,450** transitional shelters are being constructed for *household use* in pre-earthquake and relocation sites and a further **300** permanent shelters for those families with long term land tenure for their plots. As at the end of August 2010, the Program has successfully built 465 transitional shelters. Of these, **407** are for household use and the other **58** are constructed at medical institutions. An additional **1,048** transitional shelters are at different stages of construction. Assessments and discussions with municipalities are still ongoing to select the ideal locations for erecting permanent houses.

Shelter construction related activities

In addition to providing shelters, the Program is **clearing rubbles from identified pieces of land and constructing retaining walls for site stabilization** (as is the case in Morn Larze – Petion Ville and Mangeoire). These strategies are being pursued to make land available for shelter construction and facilitate the safe return of IDPs to their places of origin. As part of strategies to **facilitate the safe return of IDPs**, the Program is also rehabilitating key infrastructure such as major drainage systems and water facilities and constructing sanitation facilities (eco-san toilets in Mangeoire - Port au Prince and Biogas system in Santo 17 -Croix-des-Bouquets). The Program is currently undertaking assessments to **identify the most appropriate forms of livelihood activities** that the affected population groups could engage in to revitalize their local economies and contribute to their early recovery strategies.

Community Outreach

The Shelter Program, working in close collaboration with IOM's Media Unit has produced a number of awareness raising materials on shelter construction:

- Posters providing techniques on how to reinforce emergency shelters. This poster was developed within the Shelter Cluster Outreach working group and was pre-tested with the support of the IOM Community mobilizers. This document is part of the DPC campaign on hurricane preparedness.

Community Outreach (continued)

- Public Service Announcement (PSA), in line with the information provided in the posters (reinforcing emergency shelters). The PSA was created with a community living in an IDP camp in Vallée de Bourdon, and the non-profit organization FilmAid International. This PSA was screened on national TV during the World Cup and has also been shown in IDP camps.
- Illustrative guides on building transitional shelters. These guides will be distributed to the local contractors and workers who are building the transitional shelters.
- The programme has also been informing the population on the objectives and activities of IOM's on going shelter program through local media coverage. Additionally, the Programme has a team of community mobilisers working in the affected communities and disseminating essential messages on shelter construction.



Constructing emergency shelters: part of the awareness raising materials produced and disseminated by the programme.

Challenges and Solutions

The Programme has **faced some challenges** in the provision of transitional shelters. Below are the main challenges and the solutions sought to address the challenges:

- **Rubble** on identified shelter construction sites – the programme has been encouraging beneficiaries to clear their own plots whilst at the same time partnering with agencies implementing cash for work programmes to clear the rubbles. The Programme is also destroying the MTPTC-red-marked buildings and clearing rubbles in Morne Larze.
- **Land tenure** - The Programme has a Land Tenure Expert actively lobbying with relevant government departments, municipalities and land owners to secure the legal rights to construct shelters.



Construction of a retaining wall, Port-au-Prince, July 2010.

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