

# Behind the Numbers: American Red Cross Housing Solutions in Haiti

Spring 2017

The January 2010 earthquake dealt an immense blow to Haiti's infrastructure, and an estimated 2.3 million people—approximately one quarter of the nation's population—were displaced. Of those, 1.5 million were forced to seek shelter in makeshift camps. The earthquake's impact on Haiti's social, political, economic and infrastructure base has complicated the rebuilding process.

The American Red Cross provided more than 860,000 people with emergency shelter in the quake's immediate aftermath, but our shelter work didn't stop there.

Families who live in secure housing are safer, healthier and more resilient to future disasters. That's why the American Red Cross has committed 35% of the total donations received for earthquake relief on shelter solutions. Over the past seven years, we have funded projects that ensure families have a safe place to live. These projects include: helping owners repair and expand their homes, distributing rental subsidies, training masons to build earthquake-resilient houses, and investing in neighborhood infrastructure like roads and schools. We engage residents in reconstruction efforts every step of the way—from setting priorities to carrying out the work in their own communities.

Donations to the American Red Cross have helped more than 143,000 people through safe housing and neighborhood recovery. Our work continues today in helping to rebuild homes and neighborhoods.

Why didn't we build brand new homes in green space around Port-au-Prince? The answer is simple: When land upon which to build new homes was not readily available in places accessible to vital services and jobs, the Red Cross prioritized helping the most people possible to move out of camps and into a safe home—rather than spending all the donations on building new houses on undeveloped land for a much smaller number of people. We stand by this strategy, which is also endorsed by Haiti's own government.

Working with partners like UNOPS, Habitat for Humanity and Handicap International, we built thousands of transitional shelters that can last 5 years or more. Rental subsidies helped thousands of Haitians leave camps and move into rented homes. We also helped people repair and strengthen their homes and in some cases, add space to allow someone from a camp to live in it rent-free for one year.

The American Red Cross has fulfilled our promise to make sure tens of thousands of Haitians are back in homes. Neighborhood construction works remain in progress today.

## Fast Facts

- Haiti was the poorest country in the western hemisphere even before the earthquake.
- **\$13.5 billion** in international aid was pledged for Haiti after the earthquake.
- The American Red Cross received \$488 million in donations—less than **4 percent** of total of all aid committed to Haiti.
- The American Red Cross has spent or committed to spend **\$173 million**—35 percent of the total amount of received donations—on shelter in Haiti.
- The American Red Cross has helped **143,000 people** through housing and neighborhood recovery projects.
- Immediately after the earthquake, the American Red Cross provided emergency shelter for more than **860,000 people**.

Detailed breakdown of how the American Red Cross spent or committed \$173 million on shelter in Haiti, and how many households and people were helped:

	<b>Cost<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Households<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>People Reached</b>
<b>Emergency Shelter</b> <i>Includes tarps and tents in the immediate aftermath of the earthquake; short-term solution.</i>	\$33,013,920		More than 860,000 people <sup>3</sup>
<b>Repair/Reinforcement, Retrofit, Relocation, Rental Subsidies &amp; Construction</b> <i>Includes the repair/reinforcement/construction of thousands of houses; and the rent, retrofit for rental, and relocation subsidies for thousands of households.</i>	\$31,585,278	11,170	54,928
<b>Transitional Shelters</b> <i>These homes are considered transitional for two reasons: 1) land tenure clearance may not be resolved, so they were built with the potential to be dismantled and reassembled at another location if permanent land became available; 2) the structures could be easily expanded to create a permanent construction.</i>	\$35,205,732	6,170	31,344
<b>Upgrading/Progressive Shelters</b> <i>A progressive shelter is a type of shelter that has been designed from its conception to be upgraded with durable materials. This means that the foundation and structure of the house have already taken into account the future upgrades and are calculated to bear higher loads and the potential expansion.</i>	\$5,137,823	5,026	25,130
<b>Neighborhood Renovation/Development</b> <i>Includes rehabilitating neighborhoods by removing rubble, improving access to water, sanitation and electricity, demolishing unsafe homes identified by the Government of Haiti, upgrading and rehabilitating schools, constructing roads, pathways, retention walls, a bridge and other shared community assets; also training masons, foremen, and homeowners on safe construction practices.</i>	\$67,937,556		56,198
	<b>\$172,880,309</b>	<b>22,366</b>	<b>143,916</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes 9 percent for Management, General and Fundraising, and program support costs

<sup>2</sup> When individual beneficiary counts are not available, the American Red Cross uses a multiplier of five people to estimate the average size of a typical Haitian household which is considered a conservative multiplier.

<sup>3</sup> This figure is not included in the total 143,916 shelter beneficiary count nor is it included in the total beneficiary count for all American Red Cross programs in Haiti in order to avoid double-counting as these individuals received other American Red Cross services as well.