



TRANSFORMING LIVES IN URBAN AREAS

REBUILDING AND IMPROVING
NEIGHBOURHOODS

PROGRAMME FOR THE REHABILITATION AND PLANNING OF NEIGHBOURHOODS (PARAQ)

REBUILDING AND CHANGING NEIGHBOURHOODS

REGION
CARIBBEAN

COUNTRY
HAITI

FOCUS
POST CRISIS URBAN DEVELOPMENT

CONTEXT



The EU and its Member States consider that a holistic, integrated and place-based approach to urban development, together with a long term vision, is necessary in order to promote well-managed, liveable, socially inclusive and safe, resilient, resource-efficient and environmentally sustainable as well as economically prosperous cities of all sizes, as well as developing the capability to achieve them.

Promoting inclusive and safe cities is a key pillar of this approach.

BACKGROUND



Urban population in Haiti is growing extremely fast, doubling in size between 2000 and 2014. It has led to construction of informal settlements in both the fertile plains and the slopes of the mountains, each with its own set of risks of flooding, landslides, and seismic activity. These risks are heightened by the poor quality of construction, the reduction of green soil coverage, and the lack of proper drainage infrastructure. In addition, these neighbourhoods lack access to basic services and a proper road network, which further reduces the resilience of the population.

The 2010 earthquake struck in many of these vulnerable areas, reducing them to rubble. Makeshift camps were built, and humanitarian interventions worked on “camp to neighbourhood” transitions, ensuring a community and better living conditions for displaced people.

EXPECTED RESULTS



Building on post-earthquake humanitarian interventions the Directorate General for Humanitarian and civil protection (ECHO) and previous work by Agence Française pour le Développement, the EU has invested €56 million to rebuild and develop neighbourhoods in areas affected by the earthquake of January 12th 2010.

9 neighbourhoods totalling 170.000 people, including 7 in the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area, and 2 in Carrefour and Petit Goave, have benefitted of basic infrastructure, risk management interventions, basic services and new and improved housing.

To ensure an integrated approach, the program offers training and economic activities to the communities to strengthen their resilience. 4.000 jobs have been created, and 850 people have been trained in safe construction.

APPROACH

- PARAQ builds on the experiences of ECHO and AFD to link relief, rehabilitation and development in post-earthquake Haiti by:
 - Implementing a participatory planning process with the community in 9 neighbourhoods. These plans, approved by authorities, identified the risks and strengths of each neighbourhood, and the priority interventions.
 - Building basic infrastructures (drainage, public spaces, roads and corridors, water and sanitation) to improve the resilience and mobility within the neighbourhoods.
 - Community building and creating jobs through various modalities (community implemented works, construction firms with % of local hire, grants for revenue generating activities, loan and savings programs, training...) to improve the livelihood of the community.
 - Working with the Haitian government and UN Habitat to build capacity in terms of safe building practices, as well as providing training to professionals in the neighbourhoods of intervention.
 - Consolidating knowledge of the urban sector in Haiti through 2 grants to consortia of Haitian and Western Universities, an international workshop and a study of the institutional landscape.

LESSONS LEARNED

Combine risk protection works with uses that benefit the community:

in order to protect risk prone areas (ravines etc.) from informal settlements, creating walkways and public spaces ensures their protection and upkeep by local residents.

Start small works as soon as possible: the participatory planning phase is a moment of great involvement from the community, usually followed by a long phase of "silence" for preparing studies and tenders. In order to prevent loss of trust, engaging them through small community led works that improve the neighbourhood keeps the focus on the project.

MOVING FORWARD

Moving forward, the program will improve the disaster preparedness of the communities involved, as well as help Haitian authorities make better decisions through more accurate knowledge of their territory.

The EU has secured 80-100 million Euros in the 11th EDF for an urban development project, URBAYITI, which aims to scale up the scope of the PARAQ. On top of continuing to fund infrastructures identified as a priority in current planning tools, URBAYITI will tackle the institutional framework, in order to provide Haiti with an urban strategy at national level, and the regulatory tools as well as the skills to implement it.

“ The project was very good for me, and I’m not alone, it helped everyone in the neighbourhood. We remember when we were called “ravine squatters”.

- Now they do not say that anymore! Next to my house there’s a public square, and many people enjoy it at night thanks to the solar lights. I have to make my house as beautiful as the road it’s in. Now they call me Mr. HENRY, not “ravine squatter” anymore. I feel proud! I will help maintain these structures. ”

M. Henry Point Du Jour - Community representative from the area of Delmas 7, one of the neighbourhoods covered by the project.



TOTAL PROJECT VALUE
EUR 74.5 MILLION (INCLUDING EU CONTRIBUTION OF EUR 55.8 MILLION)

FUNDING SOURCE
10TH EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND (EDF)

TIMEFRAME
2011 – 2017

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