



Haiti Reconstruction Fund
A Fund for Recovery, Reconstruction and Development of Haiti



Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HAITI: HOUSES FOR 50,000 PEOPLE AND ROADS, WATER AND SANITATION FOR 210,000

- **HRF APPROVES A US\$65 MILLION GRANT**

PORT-AU-PRINCE, 19th of January 2011. Today, the Haiti Reconstruction Fund (HRF) approved US\$65 million for rebuilding and restoring earthquake-damaged houses in Haiti. This will allow 50,000 people to return to their homes and benefit a total of 210,000 people with improved roads, and water and sanitation services.

The new funding will expand a community-based housing program run by the Government of Haiti and supervised by the World Bank, building on a successful pilot experience which began in October 2010.

"Thousands of Haitians and their families will be able to return from camps to safe houses in safe neighborhoods. This additional financing is supporting their own efforts to rebuild," noted **World Bank Vice President for Latin American & the Caribbean, Pamela Cox.**

The Neighborhood Housing Reconstruction Project will work in some of the most severely affected areas of metropolitan Port-au-Prince to:

- Remove debris from critical areas through cash for work and local contractors, as well as safely demolish houses that cannot be repaired

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- Provide cash grants for repair of structurally-solid dwellings and reconstruction of houses either destroyed or severely damaged
- Repair and improve roads, drainage, water, and sanitation.
- Undertake urban planning, risk mapping and community based mapping exercises through community reconstruction centers

The January 12 earthquake destroyed 115,000 houses and severely damaged 14,500 buildings in and around Port-au-Prince.

About 1 million people continue to live in tent camps and depend on aid organizations for water, food, sanitation, health, and education services. Rebuilding their homes and neighborhoods is a reconstruction priority for the Government of Haiti but it has been underfinanced.

The **Haiti Reconstruction Fund** is a partnership between the international community and the Government of Haiti to help finance post-earthquake reconstruction. The HRF mobilizes, coordinates and allocates contributions from bilateral and other donors to finance high-priority projects, programs and budget support.

"The HRF has enabled the pooling of resources resulting in a reduction of our transaction costs," said **Haitian Finance Minister Ronald Baudin**, who is also Chairperson of the Fund's Steering Committee. *"However, the most important thing is that the Government now has access to the largest flexible source of funds for reconstruction."*

Of the US\$500 million international donors pledged to the HRF in June of last year, US\$267 million was received, of which 83% (\$193 million) has already been allocated. Gabriel Verret, the Executive Director of the Interim Haiti Recovery Commission (IHRC), proposed that donors contribute an additional \$750 million.

For more information: www.haitireconstructionfund.org

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