FAST FACTS

UN joint debris projects, rubble feeds into urban upgrade





Situation

The 12 January 2010 earthquake created an estimated 10 million cubic metres of debris from which more than 75% have now been cleared thanks to the Government of Haiti (GoH) - identifying debris removal and management as one of the top priorities for the recovery process – and to the Haitian people for taking an active part in it. The United Nations, as an active member of the Debris Management Working Group (DMWG) - a coordination platform for international and national actors working in debris management - is maintaining its support to the GoH for the implementation of the National Debris Management Strategy and in establishing adequate information, standardization and tracking mechanisms for debris removal and recycling. The successful outputs of debris recycling along 2012, both in terms of urban upgrading and housing opportunities, have constituted strong milestones of UN support to national institutions.



One of the chief use of debris has been the rehabilitation of corridors in steep neighbourhoods. Here in Carrefour-Feuilles, Port-au-Prince © UNDP-Haiti, 2012

Debris volume numbers

Close to 75% of debris have been cleared as of mid September 2012 by all actors MTPTC, DMWG, private sector, households...



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Coordination and other achievements

UN facilitation of the DMWG has allowed coordination between the different actors supporting debris management: GoH, local authorities, NGOs, UN Agencies and private sector partners. The definition of standard operating procedures, harmonisation of approaches, management of a debris stock exchange have all helped reduce transport costs, increase quantity of debris removed, and facilitates usage of recycled debris. As a result, more than 50,000 cubic meters of debris have have been recycled since January 2012. Other chief accomplishments include:

- **1 Validation of the Debris Management National Strategy** by Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Communication (MTPTC), acting as a standard for debris management activities at the national level for the future
- 2 Estimation of debris removed numbers through unique sampling study - in collaboration with MTPTC - giving a more accurate estimation of the remaining amount and also a rough estimation of the location of these remaining amount of debris.
- **3 Better debris management policy** (debris to development) as a debris management chain from removal to reuse and recycling through:
 - The implementation of the MTPTC / UN crushing centre in the downtown of Port-au-Prince minimizing transport costs to Truitier landfill far away for the affected areas by the earthquake.
 - Support of recycling initiatives through providing 50,000 m³ of crushed and non-crushed debris in addition to 150,000 pavement blocks made with recycled debris for reuse (landscape projects, neighborhood rehabilitation, better drainage systems preventing floods and other natural crisis...)

What we do

Since the 12 January 2010 earthquake, the UN has accompanied the GoH in its efforts to remove the debris from the earthquake-affected areas to, amongst other goals, facilitate the return of displaced populations from camps to their neighbourhoods of origin. UN-supported cash for work programmes initiated days after the earthquake mainly focused on promoting community level rubble removal and the creation of short-term employment opportunities. Along with removing rubble, short term jobs are today also found in recycling activities like adoquin and roof tile crafting and urban landscape remodelling.

Thanks to the lessons learned from these projects, the UN was able to devise a comprehensive debris management approach together with the GoH and the affected communities. This approach combines the use of heavy machinery and high intensity



The Harry Truman Boulevard UN managed crushing centre, located on Port-au-Prince's coast, not far from the city's centre © UNDP-Haïti, 2012

labour (HIMO) to remove and recycle the remaining debris in the most effective and efficient way possible. The UN is currently implementing three comprehensive debris management projects in Port-au-Prince, Carrefour and Léogâne with a total budget of around US\$ 50 million.

UN debris management interventions 2010-2012 as of May 2012



In the communes of Port-au-Prince, Pétionville and Delmas, the following activities are underway and planned



How do we do it

Key elements of the UN debris management approach

Return and voluntary relocation of IDP

Demolishing unsafe structures and removing debris helps to clear land for the reconstruction of temporary and permanent housing, thereby

supporting the voluntary return of Internally Displaced People (IDP) to their communities of origin.

Community participation

With the community empowerment approach used in debris management projects, communities are leading their own reconstruction. This helps ensure recovery activities are sustainable.

Job creation

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Debris management is a chief source of short-term employment and vocational training. With the support of adequate machinery, communities

3 participate providing HIMO to demolish unsafe structures and handle debris in areas difficult to access. This approach creates short-term employment and contributes to long-term income generating opportunities, notably by supporting small and medium business in the targeted areas.

Environment

Debris recycling converts rubble into assets that can be used by affected families for house repair or reconstruction and rehabilitation of urban

4 landscape or canals. It also reduces the quantity of debris to be deposited in dump sites. Debris recycling in situ helps to reduce transportation costs and to create revenues for communities.

Strengthen the role of local authorities

Through these initiatives, the UN also aims to strengthen the leadership and coordination skills of national and local authorities by linking debris management activities to local urban planning and community development planning.



A worker is crafting a roof tile made from recycled debris, Carrefour-Feuilles, Port-au-Prince © UNDP-Haiti, 2012

Results from the Léogâne project



This map illustrates the UN joint debris project working areas in the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince. The Léogâne area is missing as it is out of this map's extent.



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