

# HAITI: HOPE AFTER TRAGEDY





At the Department of Grand' Anse, also in the affected area, 20 houses are under construction and preparations are underway for 20 more, for a total of 40 of the 60 houses planned for this area. The poor state of the roads, communication challenges, and political unrest have delayed the construction in Grand' Anse.

To ensure the project's completion in early 2023, new strategies have been employed: the technical coordinator (engineer) will have a greater presence in the field to better animate the teams of forepersons and masons,

**The Jesuits in Haiti are accompanying vulnerable families affected by the August 2021 earthquake with construction of housing in the south of Haiti. Below is an *interim report* on the work accomplished so far. CJI is supporting this work thanks to the generosity of Canadians.**

Despite the socio-political unrest and continuing security crisis in Haiti, the reconstruction efforts by the Jesuits and marginalized communities south of the country following the August 14, 2021, earthquake is making considerable progress.

Six months after the project was launched in February 2022, twenty of the most vulnerable families have been rehoused with dignity in new homes in Sucrerie Henri and Ducis Department of the South, according to an interim report sent to Canadian Jesuits International (CJI), which supports the project.

Another 20 houses will be ready for families to move in this fall, which brings a total of 40 of the 60 new homes planned for the area.



*Above: New homes will be built to replace the ramshackle dwelling of vulnerable families.*

*Below: House under construction at the Department of Grand' Anse. Photos by Compagnie de Jésus – Territoire d'Haïti*

and to respond more easily to their needs.

About 800,000 people were affected by the 7.2 magnitude earthquake, which also left more than 2,200 dead, and over 12,000 others injured, according to UNICEF.

Shortly after, Tropical Depression Grace unleashed torrential rain on earthquake-damaged communities, further cutting off access to water, sanitation, and shelter.

“This project is an opportunity to transform a tragedy into an opportunity for human and socio-economic development for the most vulnerable,” said Fr. Kawas François, SJ, director of The Jesuit Commission for Intervention in the Greater South of Haiti.

### Disaster and risk management

The second major component of the project, training and awareness raising has also been set in motion. A total of 240 men and women from the beneficiary families have participated in a two-day training workshop on risk and disaster management.

Families learned how to protect themselves in the event of earthquakes, hurricanes, and other disasters. They learned about water management and other ecology and reforestation practices. They also had access to psychosocial, economic, and spiritual support.

“Unfortunately, the socio-political unrest has somewhat disrupted the pace of these workshops. We are making appropriate arrangements so that all the selected families can benefit from this activity,” said Fr. Kawas.



Photo by Compagnie de Jésus – Territoire d'Haïti

**USD\$1,675,935**

Total Project Cost

**USD\$119,000**

Local contribution

Contribution from international partners

**USD\$1,556,935**

Contribution from Canadian Jesuits International

**CAD\$150,000+**

Beneficiary Contribution

**Labour, project support, and land for construction provided by members of 120 families**



Expenses so far

**USD\$507,335**



120 families  
(856 people)

Beneficiaries



604 women and girls;  
252 men and boys

Beneficiary families and their relatives, many of whom are abandoned by the government, have given the project a warm welcome. They have been enthusiastic in their support for mobilizing communities to address such themes as protection against natural disasters, the urgency of dealing with environmental challenges, and dealing with individual and collective psychosocial consequences of disasters.

“These communities publicly express their gratitude to the Jesuits and their international donors for their solidarity and support,” said Fr. Kawas.



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P. KAWAS FRANÇOIS, SJ, THE COMPAGNIE DE JÉSUS – TERRITOIRE D’HAÏTI (JESUITS IN HAITI).



*The most vulnerable families in the Departments of the South and Grand' Anse will be rehoused in new homes equipped with anti-seismic and anti-cyclonic features. Photos by Compagnie de Jésus – Territoire d'Haïti*