

Haiti Housing Relief Strategies

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FCM is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3); 509(a)(1); 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) organization, able to receive private and public funding.

After reviewing the following information I would welcome the opportunity to provide additional information or meet and discuss in detail a plan to initiate my proposal.

Farsight Christian Mission, Inc. Background information. Haiti Projects: 1996-2010

Picture 1: A medical clinic, school, missionary housing, two bridges, and a church, all constructed in Seguin, Haiti (40 miles S.E. of epicenter) with American engineering concepts, withstood the January 12 quake and all the aftershocks. All the construction was done using U.S. volunteers (approx. 3,000 in teams of 10-15), mostly college students, working along side the Haitian people.

Seguin Bridge Project: Picture 2,3

A bridge was needed to cut walking time to the village by one hour and also provide for vehicles to reach the clinic. Span 40 ft., height above ravine bottom 30 ft.

Rebar bent and tied by hand.

Rock was broken into gravel for concrete by young boys. Sand was chiseled from a limestone quarry. Women and children carried the water for mixing concrete. The inverted pyramid, two layer bridge can handle a loaded 20 yd. dump truck. The men agreed to work for \$15/day after I explained to them that they got to keep the bridge.

Real life testing indicates that the design and quality of construction could withstand at least a one 7.1 earthquake along with the annual canyon flood waters.



Honduras Housing Project: April 2009

Challenges: Rough, rocky, steep terrain, very small parcels of land, and working with a very tight budget. The basic Honduras house is 16 ft. x 16 ft. with a single slope roof. The single slope roof aids in the collection of rain water; often the only water available at that location. The lumber was available locally in Honduras and the cost of all material averaged \$1,200 per house with all volunteer labor. A team could build one house per day.

This house typically serves a family of eight. Pictured at bottom right is a recent modification I added to the design; bunkbeds made from a material called Shadecolth. I used it in dorms in Haiti and Jamaica and found that it easily supports 200 lbs and provides an excellent sleeping experience.

Farsight Christian Mission has worked in seven different countries throughout the Caribbean and in the U.S. Our work has been well received in all of the countries and references are available from all of them. Countries worked in: Panama, Mexico, Haiti, Costa Rica, Jamaica, Barbados, Honduras, U.S.A.



Honduras Houses Adapted for Haiti Relief:

Three model designs. Progressing from the single unit model to a quad unit the units become more efficient and cost effective. Each quad unit saves enough lumber to build one additional single unit.

Multiple dwelling units would require an agreement between dwellers; no eviction, no renting, etc. Ideally, an extended family configuration would work well in Haiti.

Modifications to the structures for use in Haiti:

1. Ground anchors to allow some earth movement without causing collapse of the structure.
2. Hurricane strapping throughout to make the house resistant to moderate hurricane force winds.
3. Pressure Treated lumber to extend the life expectancy of the house to approximately 20 years.
4. Rainwater capture systems, one per unit, to provide water to the dwelling.
5. Shadecloth bunks added to each unit.
6. Diagonal bracing for additional strength.

Farsight Christian Mission, Inc. offers its in-country experience and positive relationship with the people of Haiti to assist you in developing a plan to provide long-term housing to thousands of homeless in Haiti.

FCM can put together ten 5-man teams of Haitian men to begin a construction program. We would like to start in the Jacmel region, the outskirts of the affected area, and work toward the worst areas. Each team should be able to construct one house/day to start and eventually construct two/day. As team leaders are trained and identified, additional teams can be added to the force.

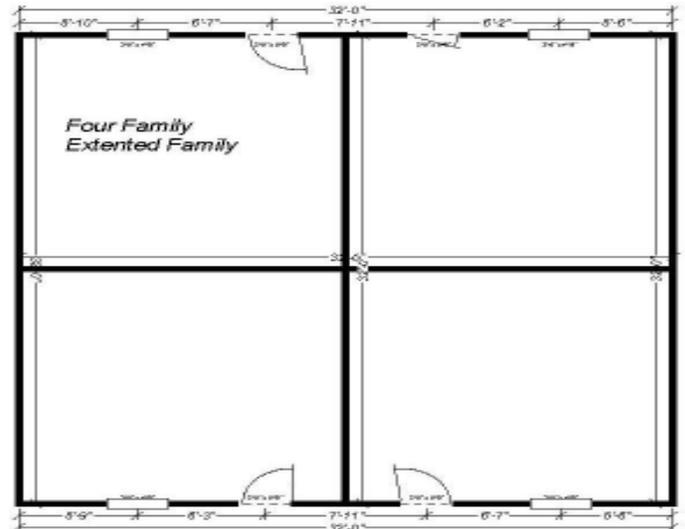
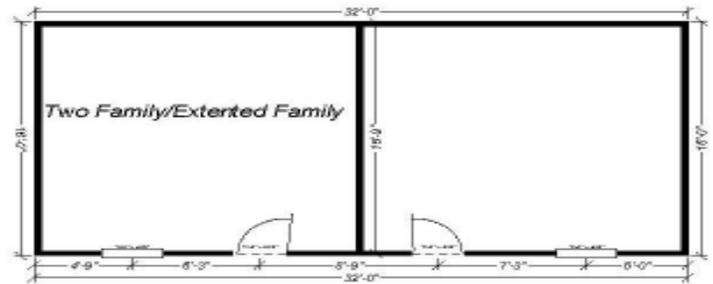
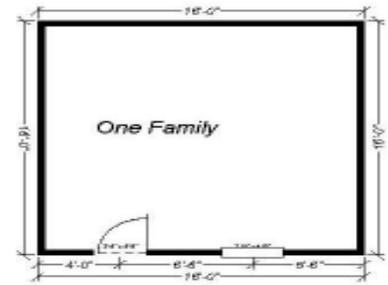
We would need help from you in the following:

1. Procurement from a major lumber supplier, containers of specific quantities and cuts of pressure treated lumber.
2. Shipping logistics to get the material and tools in-country.
3. In-country transportation.
4. Funding for Haitian laborers; minimum \$20/day to \$50/day.
5. Funding for; lumber, generators, saws, hammers, nails, straps, water barrels, water capture supplies, fuel, food, transportation.

Cost per housing unit is estimated at approximately \$2,500 with shipping and logistics being the greatest unknown.

Materials delivered to and secured at the Jacmel airport would work well. The Canadian military presence already there provides additional security and manpower.

The models pictured, right, are 3-D renditions. Actual houses would have metal roofs. The quad house gable roof divides the rainwater to supply each dwelling.



Proposal for sustainable food relief:

I would also recommend immediate focus and action in the procurement and distribution of seed. Carrot, cabbage, onion, beet, corn, peas, and sweet potatoes are all crops produced on the southern slopes and planting season is fast approaching. If the farmers knew they could get good seed without the expense they would probably till more area and in 90-108 days there would be an abundance of fresh vegetables for the markets.

Programs involving pigs, goats, rabbits, and chickens could also be started that would produce sustainable relief. I know people, Americans and Haitians, that are in-country right now that could manage the education and distribution of animals for this relief effort.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my ideas. I look forward to an opportunity to discuss in further detail the implementation of relief programs that can produce prompt measurable results that are both cost effective and have long-term implication.

Levern Halstead
Founder/Director
Farsight Christian Mission, Inc.



Seeing a need beyond our own and doing something about it.