

TOR for Structural Engineers

Background

The January 12th earthquake in Haiti added yet another dimension to the already-crushing humanitarian crisis and poverty conditions faced by the country. Because of the great need, Habitat for Humanity is planning an aggressive response to help low-income families get into decent, secure housing as soon as possible. Habitat has been working in Haiti for 26 years, serving more than 2,000 families with a variety of housing solutions. Given the scale of homes damaged and destroyed, we anticipate a multi-year response, meaning that long after the cameras have left, we will still be on the ground rebuilding homes and hope with families desperate for both. Elements of our planned response will include assisting families with repairs and immediate shelter needs, implementing a transitional shelter program, and establishing Habitat Resource Centers (HRC) to help address housing. An important element of the HRCs is to analysis the gaps which exist in the community to deliver simple, decent and affordable housing. One of the gaps identified initially by the disaster response team is related to the lack of seismic knowledge and experience of engineers in the country – partially due to the fact that Haiti has not had a serious earthquake in over 200 years.

Scope of Work

The intent is to have teams of structural engineers comprising of international, regional and national representatives. These representatives would form quality assessment teams that can address national concerns in a professional manner yet communicate the results of the assessment at a layman's level in order to remove fears and inspire individuals to reclaim the confidence to return to their home with the right amount of retrofits, repairs etc.

Activities of the expert team would include:

- 3-4 day training that we will open up for local Haitian engineers (advertised either via the shelter cluster or other local institutes) to provide the theory, field work and practical sessions on assessing structural damage to property. This links into HFH's strategy of being a TECHNICAL RESOURCE to Haitian citizens and our UN cluster partners.
- To technically assess the homes of Habitat for Humanity staff members (local and international) housing and volunteer accommodation.
- To conduct individual household assessments in the town of cabaret, approximately 3,500 units. The assessment will be a damage and structural assessment and the outcome will be to: a) provide families assurance if they can enter into their home safely; b) provide HFH assessment information which will be used for family selection in order to implement the CHF transitional shelter project (600 transitional shelters). It is expected that GIS mapping is conducted of all units assessed.
- Where appropriate and possible be able to provide technical assistance to communities that received shelter kits
- Finalize all training material / assessment methodology with Habitat for Humanity Haiti in order for the Habitat Recourse Centre to replicate the training in the future

Required

- Be prepared to work with other structural engineers from within the region and locally
- Seismic experts on small – medium shelters

Preferred

- French speaking

Timeline

- With the right skill set we will like to start by 8th February 2010 and would run for four weeks allowing us to use 4-6 International SE's, 4-6 regional SE's and 1-2 National SE's

Arrangements

- Volunteers would have to find their way to Dominican Republic and Habitat for Humanity would support the crossing to Haiti.
- Housing would be provided by Habitat NB. Rooms will be shared.
- Meals would be the responsibility of Habitat.
- Transportation and security would be Habitat's responsibility.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact:

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