

ST. LUCIA'S RETROFITTING PROJECT IN ACTION

Home owners in the Lower income bracket in St. Lucia are those most at risk during a storm or a hurricane because many live in wooden houses that are generally in a state of disrepair and are not structurally sound. There is also, the added problem of these houses not being tied to the foundations nor do they have roof ties or hurricane clamps which are the main items required to make a structure more resistant to strong winds.

How Did It Get Started?

The idea of a project to improve the quality of housing owned by persons in the low income bracket in St. Lucia, thereby reducing their vulnerability to natural disasters was introduced in St. Lucia after a three day visit to Jamaica in May 1994 by a Technical team from The National Research and Development Foundation, CARITAS Antilles (a Roman Catholic Church Organisation concerned with Disaster Preparedness) & The Sir Arthur Lewis Community College in collaboration with the Organisation of American States(OAS).

A community survey was carried out to determine the need for a disaster mitigation programme. The survey report recommended that a pilot project be implemented in one town and two villages, namely Gros Islet, Dennery and Anse La Raye. If successfully implemented the project would be then be open to the entire country. The Project was officially launched on 3rd December 1994 by the OAS Representative, Mr. Todd Payne.

What exactly is being done to assist home owners?

There are three main components to the project, a public education, a training aspect and a credit scheme for home owners. CARITAS Antilles has embarked on a Community outreach programme to sensitize home-owners and to raise public awareness. Small loans are available to enable low income earners the opportunity to strengthen their homes.

a project designed to improve the quality of housing owned by persons in the low income bracket in St. Lucia, thereby reducing their vulnerability to natural disasters

Training

The project also involves training Artisans as well as builders and contractors in retrofitting and safer housing construction techniques so as to make homes less vulnerable to hurricanes. Two- day workshops in the area of retrofitting techniques and safer construction methods were conducted utilising the expertise of Mr. George Dujon and Mr. Thomas Boulogne, Building Lecturers at the Sir Arthur Lewis Community College as well as that of Mr. Stephen Hodges Executive Director of the Construction Resource and Development Centre(CRDC), Jamaica. Areas covered during the workshop

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UN Committee. Such monitoring may also be needed on a city level, perhaps through city fora and by NGOS through the existing NGO regional bodies. The IFG have planned a series of meetings beyond Habitat II to address the issue of implementation.

Informally many of the contacts that people made during the conference will be sustained and information that was shared will alter the ways in which things are done. Exchange visits between projects, along the lines of those which Homeless International have funded, may result, with the learning and development of support networks which accompanies them.

So Was It Just Another Summit?

Habitat II in itself is just one small part of a lengthy process. There were considerable preparations for Habitat and implementation activity will take place for many years to come.

Habitat II succeeded in getting a huge number of people together in the same place at the same time. There was the chance to meet with, and exchange experiences with, representatives from nearly every country in the world, to learn about successful projects, both small and large scale, and simply to observe the immense amount of activity and energy that is being channeled into fostering sustainable development worldwide. *

This Article, "An Overview" has been reproduced from the report Habitat II "The City Summit"-Just Another Summit?

It is inspiring to realize that in choosing our response to circumstance, we powerfully affect our circumstance. When we change one part of the chemical formula, we change the nature of the results.

Stephen R. Covey

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included, site safety, theory of roof ties- the importance of triangulation framing anchors, dry rot treatment and eradication. A practical session focused on the construction of a model roof and the installation of roof ties and framing anchors.

Certificates of attendance were given to the participants who took part in the workshop.

Upon completion of their training the Artisans were expected to return to their respective communities to apply their knowledge and the skills acquired.

Mr. George Dujon
Sir Arthur Lewis Community College

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project but still need to happen, need testing. This is gauge their importance, as they can be discarded if they are not important, or almost certain. If they are quite likely they are important and must be put into the Project Planning Matrix and monitored to see that they do happen. If, however, they are not likely, but important, **ZOPP** calls them Killer Assumptions, and the project is either doomed or must be redesigned to bypass the problem, or to carry out activities to make it a likely assumption.

The last stage is to break down the activities into the inputs, costs, time and specific responsibilities if there is more than one contributor to the project.

The PPM provides a one page summary, it outlines **Why** the project is carried out, **what** is expected to be

achieved, **how** it will achieve the results, **which** external factors are crucial for success, **how** to assess the success of the project, **where** to find the data to do this an **what** the project will cost.

Many projects are designed with the activities, goals and problems in mind, with many assumptions made and preconceptions about how best to work. One of the nicer aspects of a well run **ZOPP** is that the logic may lead off in directions one had not previously thought off, providing suggestions for workable projects different from ones preconceived ideas. This makes one realize that a process like **ZOPP** can help one think logically, and point to how best to solve ones problems . That is, in its own way, a miracle. ✨

Stephen Hodges
Construction Resource
and Development Centre



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