



Habitat for Humanity Program in Côte d'Ivoire

Habitat for Humanity Côte d'Ivoire

NEWS LETTER

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US Embassy Holds Interfaith Day Service



Donation of US Embassy (Wanda L. Nesbitt, Ambassador) to HFHCI (Richard YAO, ND)

asking U.S. Embassy staff worldwide to organize interfaith community service activities to commemorate the attacks of September 11. President Obama has called on Americans throughout the United States to reach out to others by volunteering a day of their time to their local communities.

Barbara Ensslin, US Embassy volunteer coordinator, said: "This Interfaith Day of Service is a global initiative aimed to encourage understanding and cooperation between peoples of diverse cultures and faiths to promote a durable peace. I invite the community of Kplessou to work together for peace building".

On behalf of the Embassy of the United States, she thanks the population of Kplessou and HFHCI for the opportunity offered to demonstrate their interest in peace building and reconciliation by inviting families to contribute physical labour to build their neighbours' houses to contribute to a sense of forgiveness and reconciliation.

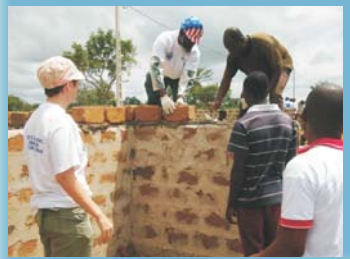
The U.S. Embassy in Côte d'Ivoire has decided to hold its first Interfaith Day of Service in Kplessou, on October 17, 2009. The day-long activity offered some 15 volunteers from the embassy and three Ivorian religious leaders from different groups the opportunity to help the people of Kplessou to work on the houses sponsored by Northern Ireland HFH. Organized in close collaboration with Habitat for Humanity the Interfaith Day of Service was designed to foster understanding and collaboration among local communities. The day was set aside by the Department of State, following recommendations from the White House,



US Embassy volunteers



HFHCI Staff and Volunteers wish you a blessed Happy New Year 2010



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A BETTER ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL

Northern Ireland helped Increase multi-ethnic community reconciliation

The project 'Re-Building Rural Communities in Côte d'Ivoire' focused on improving the health of 6 low-income farmers families in the central region to contribute to the reconstruction and reconciliation process in rural communities by helping farming families (approx 42 individuals) to build safe, healthy and durable homes and latrines, and by providing micro-credit loans and construction expertise and encouraging families to physically work together.

This project partnership with Northern Ireland HFH is the first project of the community of Kplessou after the set up of their local organization 5 months ago. Starting a new HFH community project is always a bit of a challenge. Most of the time family believe that HFH will build their house for them without provide their labor participation.

Families selected for this project are six (6) farmers from the village of Kplessou. The houses are under construction. Some families that were approached by HFH Cote d'Ivoire initially because of their bad housing situation, proved to be not very suitable to the Habitat program because of a lack of initiative which resulted in the war zone post conflict situation.

They were difficulties for people to work with each over and trust each over. Therefore the selection process takes time to be implementing in the community of Kplessou. The



selection process held in 2009 has permitted to select families applying with the support of village chief who were more suitable and motivated to take active part of the building activities and the reconciliation process.

Families selected will be trained on peace and reconciliation to help them rebuild their live and peace in the community. Families need more specific training in basic construction to enable them to learn new skills and work on their house.

With the Interfaith Day of Service organized in collaboration with US Embassy Kplessou population now have started experience the benefit of working together to develop their community.

The training of the community leaders in peace building and reconciliation will certainly reinforce and motivate families to maximize their contribution to improve the living conditions of their children and ensure the sustainability of their same future.

Collier County HFH sponsored 6 houses in rural communities

Alla is a farmer of Tougbokro's village. She has 11 children. On the advice of her children, she decided to approach the local committee to benefit from the project.

She is one of the 6 homeowners of the project sponsored by Collier County HFH in 2009. She had collecting bricks for her house for years hoping that one day she would be able to build a new house. The house they were living in was constructed of old material and woods. Insects and rats had freely access to the house. The family uses the bush as latrines. With the support of family and friends the family worked on the house until it was finally finished.

"I am very happy to be selected and I am happy to partner with Habitat for Humanity Côte. Thanks also to Collier County for its help in the construction of my new live. I am very pleased to be a HFHCI homeowner. I did not know that I could be one day selected. The first time that I had taken part in a meeting of HFHCI the Affiliate Supervisor said that HFH builds house for all without discrimination. But I did not believe. She said.

Today, she has been selected to have a house. Alla family participated to the construction of the new house. While her children helped in the transportation of bricks and water; she prepared food for the volunteers working on the building site.

"I have never slept in a comfortable house made with bricks. I was afraid of the rainy season or winds. Today I have safe and decent place to live with my children. My children will not be afraid of rain and winds as we used to be. I am happy and proud. May God bless Collier County for this support." She said.

Since the beginning of this project partnership 39 safe and decent houses have been built in the regions of Lakota, Issia and Djébonoua. Over the past 3 years, HFH Côte d'Ivoire has helped, with the fund provide by Collier County, to shelter more than 281 persons in 4 communities. Due to the project partnership with Collier County a total of 155 children, 63 women and 63 men moved into safe, decent and affordable homes. The project with the collaboration of local committee members, family members and local authorities.



US Embassy volunteers and the populations of Kplessou

World Habitat Day Celebration

The World Habitat Day in Côte d'Ivoire was celebrated on Monday October 05, 2009. This event was held at the District Hall of Plateau in Abidjan. 202 persons participated, the US Embassy, the administrative authorities and civil society, the Deputy Director of Urban Housing representing the Minister of Construction and Urban Development, the representative of the Ministry of Health and Public Hygiene, The representative of the Archbishop of the Catholic Church, Sociomat Sales Manager HFHCI Advisory

affected by heavy rains."

The National Director of Habitat for Humanity Côte d'Ivoire has advocated on behalf of the national organization asking the government to establish an ambitious program of social housing in cities and villages in partnership with local communities. Non Governmental Organizations that have proven that they can provide housing solutions for low income families on the field. The Deputy Director of Urban Housing representing the Minister of Housing said that "the Minister of construction is very happy for the work and the effort of Habitat for Humanity Côte



Committee members all the stakeholders involved in the building activities and the media and national television.

According to HFHCI National Director first speaker at this event, "Everywhere in Côte d'Ivoire, there is a lot of people living in bad environmental conditions. Poverty has reached a record level of 49% according to a study conducted by the National Institute of Statistics (INS) in 2009. People with low incomes have not access to decent housing built in areas authorized by legal authorities. They are sometimes obliged to build houses on unauthorized areas and high risk areas. The security of land tenure is not sufficient for the most vulnerable. What policies do we have today to live in decent conditions and respect the minimum standards of security of land of people living with low income?"

For him: "If we do not find solutions to this issue, we will continue to see people building their houses in high risk areas. And in June 2010 a lot of people in urban slum in Abidjan will die because they will build their houses in high risk areas and will be

d'Ivoire to participate in the eradication of poverty housing in Côte d'Ivoire. The Ministry is very interesting to support HFHCI to implement a building program in Côte d'Ivoire for people in need and vulnerable populations. The government through the ministry of construction is developing in partnership with village chiefs, in

Abidjan areas and rural areas, land access program to population in need of secure land.

With the participation of 202 persons to the World Habitat day organized by HFHCI, the national organization has reached its objectives of advocating for secure tenure in the country. The lack of security to property is a key barrier to improve housing in Côte d'Ivoire. HFHCI is committed to give its voice to allow more people to access to decent and affordable housing. This event will certainly urge the government to take actions to support efforts that improve poor people's access to property and in turn help to improve housing conditions in Côte d'Ivoire.



Citigroup Helped provide Water & Sanitation for rural farmers

The project partnership with Citigroup began in December 2005 when Citigroup foundation has approved HFHCI first building project in Zanzan region.

The project was set up in close collaboration with local committee members, family members and local authorities. The main objective of this project partnership was to improved living conditions for 6 low-income farmer's families and women-headed households in two communities in the central region of Côte d'Ivoire by providing safe, healthy and affordable homes and 18 mosquito nets to decrease malaria rates in rural areas (an average of 3/household), providing basic infrastructure such as access to water for an estimated 400 people and educating 2 farmer communities on access to credit.

This project is a real motivation for poor people in rural communities of Côte d'Ivoire. Citigroup involvement in the opening ceremony of the project presentation to public contributed toward highlighting the plight of poverty housing in rural areas. Mrs Abo, a community member of Zanzansou (Daoukro) said that: "This project contributed to break the cycle of poverty between the rich and the poor". Due to the project partnership implemented people are aware that the living condition of poor farmers and their family must be improved.

The rehabilitation of the water pump located in the community of Tiokonou (Daoukro) has been realized by CREPA. CREPA is an NGO that supports local development by providing potable water at low cost for rural communities. The community of Tiokonou with the rehabilitation of the water pump can now leave without fear of water diseases. They will not be afraid anymore because of malaria and other insects. Their children can now study in a better environment. The total population that benefited from clean water is estimated at 400 people. By providing training to 34 farmers, the training benefited to appreciatively 238 persons (seven persons per family). The training provides by ANADER will allow families to increase their income to enable them to pay their mortgages. ANADER is currently the prominent agency in charge of agriculture extension nationwide. They have trained farmers on how to increase their income-generating activities: financial literacy (budgeting, etc.); research market opportunities; developing local cooperatives.

The houses built for these farmers are their first asset. They are experience the dream to live in a safe environment and drinking potable water.



Homeowner story



GUSTAVE is a single farmer with two children. He lives with his mother, father and his brothers and sisters. They are 10 persons living in the same house. Gustave is the first son of his father. Before the arrival of his uncle family he was taking care of 6 persons: His two boys, his mother, his father, and two brothers. They lived in a house of 2 rooms. They expected to build a house on their own but they couldn't do it because of lack of

enough resources.

The difficult living condition of Gustave family has started with the war in Côte d'Ivoire. His uncle and children were obliged to leave their village near the City of Bouaké to join Gustave parents' house in Kplessou. His uncle's house has been destroyed by fire during the war.

Since 3 years Gustave has improved his farm product with the support of a local government project. The additional resources have permitted Gustave to save money in order to build a decent place of three (3) rooms where all the 2 families will live safely. He approached a local micro finance institution to help him build his house. But the repayment rate and the house loan period proposed by the institution was very unbearable for his small resources.

Gustave and other families were in the same boat. They decided to look for other organizations to help them own a decent house. When they heard about Habitat work in the Central region of Côte d'Ivoire, they approached HFHCI. Since 5 months HFHCI started educating the community about the work. Today Gustave's family is very happy about the loan condition. He will reimburse \$35 per year with a loan period of 5 years.

New families served last fiscal year: 173
 Total homes constructed/rehabilitated: 874
 Total homes constructed for disabled: 120
 Number of families to serve this fiscal year: 250

How to support our program

Donations can be made online:

<https://www.habitat.org/cd/giving/donate.aspx?link=1&r=r>

Make sure to choose **Côte d'Ivoire**, on the box "Designate your gift".

You can also mail your check to:

Habitat for Humanity International
 121 Habitat Street
 Americus, GA 31709-3498 USA

We would like to sincerely thank all our donors. Special thanks to the following donors who supported our most recent programs:

Northern Ireland HFH, HFH Nigeria, HFH Lebanon, HFH Uganda, River City HFH, DeKalb, Inc., HFH, Citigroup, UNDP, Cleveland HFH Greater, US Embassy, Kent County HFH, Collier County HFH, Navarro Co., Inc.; HFH of, Rutherford County Area HFH, HFH of West Virginia, Indian River County HFH, Pittsburgh, HFH of Greater, Great Britain HFH, Jersey Overseas Aid Commissions, Sir James Roll Charitable Trust.

How Habitat for Humanity Côte d'Ivoire Helps



Living conditions in rural area

Established in 1999, Habitat for Humanity Côte d'Ivoire seeks to break the cycle of poverty by working with homeowners to provide safe, dry and secure homes, with decent sanitation.

HFHCI builds houses using appropriate technology and local building materials. The houses are made of brick and mortar, with corrugated iron roofing sheets. The designs are simple and spacious and cater to the individual families' needs, while remaining affordable for the homeowners. Houses consist of either two or three bedrooms and a hall. Smaller houses are currently planned, in order to reach families on the lowest income groups.

By constructing latrines, Habitat for Humanity Côte d'Ivoire changes the physical environment of families in order to prevent the transmission of diseases. In real terms, environmental sanitation means access to sanitary disposal of human excreta and household wastes as well as changing their behaviour through hygiene education. HFH Côte d'Ivoire provides education in health and hygiene to homeowner's families so that everyone can use, clean and maintain their own toilet to improve their health and hygiene practices.



Building houses,
building hope

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