



BRACED-Jamaica

Building Resilience and Capacities for Emerging Disaster



Changing lives and building hope



Inadequate sanitation facilities and waste disposal



Houses built with unsafe materials and not up to code



Improper drainage

History of Habitat

Habitat for Humanity (HFHI), founded in 1976 and now operating in nearly 90 countries, has helped build over 500,000 decent, affordable houses and served 2.5 million people in 3,000 communities worldwide. Since 1999, Habitat has served over 120,000 disaster affected families with direct shelter assistance and another 43,000 through trainings and community-based DRR activities. HFHI's experience in Jamaica spans 13 years (1992-2005), involving many community networks and partners, who remain a part of HFHI's collaborative partnership in the Caribbean region. HFHI retains a network of local partner agencies and collaborative stakeholders at the municipal, parish, and National level, and benefits from a strong relationship with ADRA-Jamaica. This coupled with previous experience implementing replicable DRR programming in the Caribbean bring a distinct advantage to the BRACED program.

Who we are?

The BRACED project was developed by Habitat International through collaborative partnerships with local actors, specifically local ADRA staff, key informants at all levels of government and the Portmore Municipality. It is funded through United States Agency International Development (USAID) and is scheduled to be in operation over a 33 months period.

What is the Goal?

The main goal of the project is to support, innovate and provide proven ways to reduce the risk of disasters; to populations living in hazard-prone, marginalized and vulnerable URBAN neighborhoods. This will be done through applying the Neighborhood Approach, which is a collective effort between the Habitat and the communities to implement the activities of the project.

Who are the beneficiaries?

We are targeting the residents of urban settlements facing high levels of exposure to natural and man-made hazards in the neighborhoods of Gregory Park, Newlands and Naggo Head. The total number of beneficiaries targeted are: direct 6,386 and indirect 65,000.

What are the components?

There are three (3) components:

Component 1. Shelter and Settlements (DRR) - objective to increase structural resilience and decrease vulnerability to hazards. It is executed mainly by Habitat

Component 2. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene – is being led by ADRA/Jamaica and other national agencies with an objective to reduce collective risk to urban water and sanitation assets, infrastructure, and resources through planning, upgrades, and technical assistance.

Component 3. Risk Management Policy and Practice – objective to reinforce community coalitions and risk reducing redevelopment initiatives through sustainable and meaningful public-private partnerships. Implementation is being led by Habitat and the Municipality.

What are the phases?

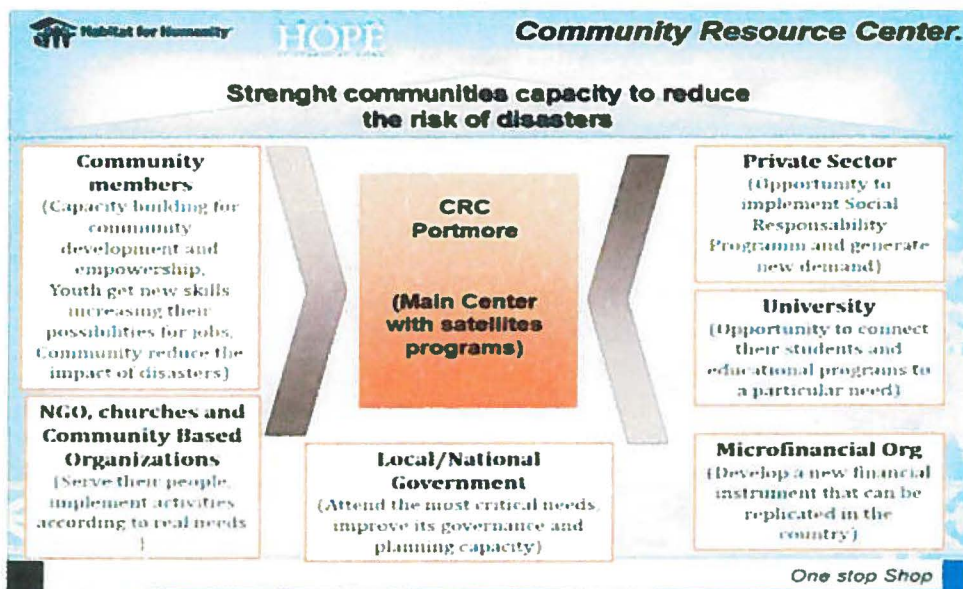
Phase 1: Participatory Approach for Safe Shelter Awareness (PASSA): PASSA is both a training and information sharing model that provides appropriate technical guidance, promoting a forum for communities to identify solutions and designate appropriate and realistic strategies to address relevant challenges facing their own shelter and settlement context.

Phase 2: Comprehensive Risk and Hazard Mapping (sub-communities only): Following the completion of the PASSA exercise, HFHI/ADRA will work with Terra Tek to conduct the participatory risk assessment and mapping in the selected program sub-communities.

Phase 3: Professional Construction Skills Training: HFHI will work with the HEART Trust/NTA. Through this partnership, BRACED will provide 48 residents (16 from each of the three targeted neighborhoods) with comprehensive and professionalized training in three construction fields: plumbing, masonry, and carpentry. Construction training programs within HEART are also designed to promote risk reduction and hazard mitigation strategies, reinforcing theories and concepts of safe and appropriate building. Trainees will be selected in consultation with community members, and according to criteria established by HEART and reinforced by the outcomes of the PASSA process. There will be another type of training that will be provided to the community by the Habitat technical team.

What is the Intervention?

BRACED proposes a neighborhood-based approach emphasizing hazard risk reduction in land designation and use practices in human settlements, decreasing vulnerability through improved construction techniques. The proposed Community Resource Center (CRC) model, the nexus of the BRACED project, is an adaptable mobilization and capacity building approach that has successfully consolidated the strengths, capabilities, and motivation of local communities worldwide to increase resistance to natural hazards, particularly through the installation of seismically appropriate construction practices and retrofitting capability.



Who are the partners?

USAID OFDA, ODPM (Office of Disaster Preparedness & Emergency Management), Parish and Portmore Disaster Coordinators, Chairman of the Portmore Disaster Committee, PORTMORE MAYOR, Social Development Council of Portmore/CDC/PDC. COMMUNITIES COUNCILORS, Community Representatives in the field, Members of Parliament (MPs) (Mr. Browe and Mr. Jackson), JAMAICA RED CROSS - HelpAge NGO- Women Resource Outreach Centre, ADRA (Adventist Development and Relief Agency), JCC (Jamaica Council of Churches), UNIVERSITY OF WEST INDIES (Regional DRR Centre), HEART (The Human Employment and Resource Training Agency), CCCL (Caribbean Cement Company Limited_ TCL), NHT (National Housing Trust)/HAJ (Housing Agency for Jamaica), JSIF (Jamaica Social Investment Fund), NSWMA (National Solid Waste Management Agency), NWC (National Water Commission)

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