

MASTER PLANNING FOR HAITIAN CITIES

As the earthquake rubble is cleared away, rebuilding of structures destroyed in the earthquake must proceed in earnest – we must move Haitian refugees out of the tent cities and into safe permanent housing as quickly as possible, and government and business cannot return to full function until they are relocated back into permanent properly suited facilities.

It is imperative that as rebuilding proceeds, that it be done in accordance with a master plan and strategy for the future and in a manner that avoids future catastrophic damage in the event of a future natural disaster, whether it be an earthquake, hurricane, flood or other event.

The master plan must be comprehensive and broad scoped covering many areas including:

- Locations and plans for current and future infrastructure needs: Water, sewage, solid waste management, energy and communications
- Comprehensive zoning regulations for planned development that encourages optimal land use, and restricts construction in unsuitable locations such as steep slopes, unstable soils, drainage paths, etc. It should include creation of enterprise zones to stimulate new business and investment.
- Transportation and traffic planning including locations for new main traffic arteries within cities and to provide easy access to outlying areas to encourage movement of population to outer areas to relieve congestion within the cities.
- Adoption of internationally recognized building codes, implementation of inspection and regulation for the construction industry, and training in new methods and materials for construction
- Educational facilities and vocational training
- Emergency service planning
- Comprehensive health system
- Public works planning

Master planning for an entire city is an expensive proposition if carried out to the level that might be typical to a modern American or other city with complicated transportation and utility systems. However cities in Haiti are very unlike modern cities in that there is very little current infrastructure and minimal complex building structures to be addressed. Currently much of the cities are made up of a congested hodgepodge of small structures jammed together in a poorly planned fashion.



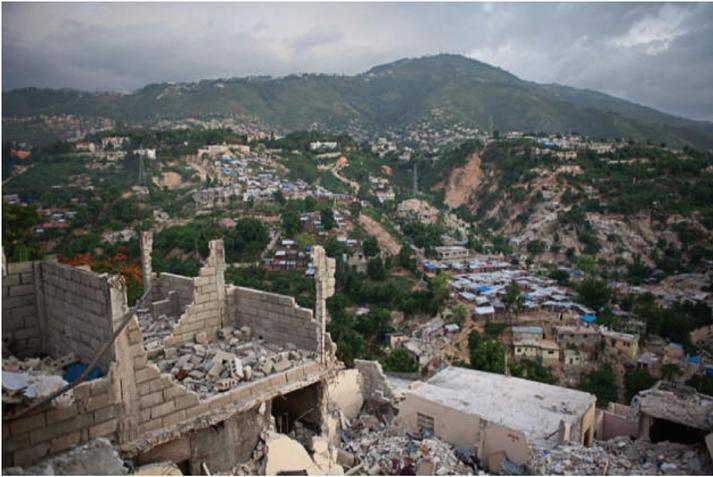
In this photo we are meeting with Dr. Robert Daniel, the assistant to Mayor Parent of Petion-ville. We are discussing their concepts for relocation housing and transportation issues.



Haiti Works, Incorporated

855 Main Street, 5th Floor • Bridgeport, CT 06604

T. 203-576-8493 • F. 203-337-4588 • www.haiti-works.org • info@haiti-works.org



Land use planning will prevent structures from being built in unsuitable areas such as these steep slopes and areas of unsuitable soils.

organizations, educational institutions and government organizations which includes cities outside of Haiti that have adopted Haitian cities in order to lend assistance*.

There is much that can be done without spending huge sums of money. What is needed is the seed money to get the basic plans started and implemented quickly – So instead of many millions of dollars being required, funding in the amount of several hundred thousand can make a huge difference for a city with a population of a million or more.

These cities are very different from U.S. cities we may be used to. For example, in one large city in Haiti, I was told the yearly operating budget is approximately \$2 / per capita – Compare this with a city in the U.S. which typically may have thousands of dollars per person.

We need plans that are in concert with the economic realities – just because there is a difficult economic reality doesn't mean planning is not required or can't be done; it just means it's a different type of planning, and a different type of partnership that can accomplish it. A combination of donated funds, donated labor and expertise, as well as private commercial businesses that can be paid to do the critical work that cannot be easily performed otherwise. Haiti will be rebuilding whether there is a master plan in place or not. It is urgent that a plan be put in place as soon as possible for all the major cities in Haiti. At Haiti Works! we can implement the creation of master plans for the cities by bringing together the necessary parties and coordinating the funding to create a workable master plan for all future rebuilding efforts.

Pursuit of an overly ambitious master plan at great expense may have the result that instead, no plan is implemented at all and reconstruction proceeds as it has in the past without plan, strategy or oversight.

At Haiti Works! we believe there is much that can be done to improve planning for the major cities in Haiti without a huge expenditure. There are many steps that can be taken to create an operational framework that can be expanded later as required as the city grows and transformation takes shape. For the immediate future, basic plans and strategies are needed for transportation, infrastructure, land use, construction regulation. These must be implemented quickly so that anything new that is built will fit in with the new master plan

The creation of a workable master plan does not have to be extremely expensive; in fact, it can be done quite economically if done with a combination of private enterprise, non-profit

* Examples of how sister cities can assist:

- Use their building department experts to review plans for construction in Haiti
- Send emergency service personnel to Haiti to train Haitians in operation of emergency equipment.
- Lend health officials for health education and planning in Haiti
- Share information from public works officials to help set up systems in Haiti



Haiti Works, Incorporated

855 Main Street, 5th Floor • Bridgeport, CT 06604

T. 203-576-8493 • F. 203-337-4588 • www.haiti-works.org • info@haiti-works.org