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# Build Back Safer : Highlights

Rebuilding Haitian Communities by Improving Access to Shelter, Water and Sanitation Systems, Energy, and Economic Opportunities.



In the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew, there was much to be rebuilt.

The night the storm rolled in will not easily be forgotten by those who lived through it. On October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016, Hurricane Matthew, the strongest hurricane to have hit Haiti in the last 50 years, devastated thousands of homes and claimed 550 lives. In the communes of Chardonnières, Les Anglais, and Port-à-Piment, the storm damaged approximately 80% of housing and infrastructure, greatly affecting the population of 11,000.

## Stronger, Safer Shelter: A Market-based Approach

Many of the houses damaged by Hurricane Matthew had been constructed without the proper techniques to withstand high winds and heavy rainfall. During damage assessments, teams noticed low-strength masonry and a lack of hurricane straps, among other improper techniques.

To address the need for knowledge of proper techniques, the Build Back Safer (BBS) team conducted trainings and rebuilt 5,000 roofs using a **market-based approach**.

### By the Numbers

**5,000 roofs**

were repaired using Disaster Risk Reduction Techniques.

**6,425 people**

were trained in and/or assisted with BBS construction techniques.

**3,205** of those trained were women.

**606 youth**

also received training on BBS construction techniques.





Henriette received one of 5,000 BBS e-vouchers to pay to have the roof of her house rebuilt.

## What is a market-based approach?

A market-based approach uses existing market actors to deliver program activities.

1. Specialists conducted a post-disaster **damage assessment** of the communes and selected 5,000 beneficiaries for repairs.
2. BBS staff selected over 200 local foremen to receive training in **BBS Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) techniques**, such as using hurricane straps and building roofs with four slopes to enable better protection against strong winds and rains.
3. BBS staff selected eleven local vendors to be trained in **e-voucher system**, as well as in customer service, and maintaining quality control of construction supplies.
4. BBS staff **trained local beneficiaries, vendors, and foremen**.
5. Beneficiaries received e-vouchers to buy the proper supplies from vendors and pay for roof repairs by BBS foreman.

## Why is a market-based approach beneficial?

- It involves people in the community in deliverance of program activities
- It stimulates the local economy
- It increases capacity of community members
- It ensures sustainability and increases resilience and self-reliance.



Stéphanie Blaise participates in lightweight roofing training.



# “

“This training will help improve our way of building at Port-à-Piment. The houses will be more resilient to cyclones. It will be useful to me all my life. In addition, I am better prepared to invest in the job market. ”

– Stéphanie Blaise, one of two women who participated in the training course in lightweight roofing, which is better able to withstand strong winds.

“

I learned so much during those two days, it's like I was at university. I would like more carpenters here to have the chance to be trained solid roofs to help my brothers and sisters avoid dramas as terrible as the one we lived. " - Jonas, one of the 100 carpenters trained through BBS.

- Jonas was one of the 100 carpenters trained through BBS.



## BEFORE



## AFTER



*Over the life of the project, BBS program staff distributed 5,000 e-vouchers, which were used to purchase supplies and hire foreman to construct 5,000 roofs using Disaster Risk Reduction techniques.*

“

My husband could not afford to repair the roof of my house after hurricane Matthew. I slept under the plastic sheeting, sometimes the water filtered through it. But the BBS II project repaired it. I am so grateful. I do not fear the rain anymore. I sleep closely with my children.”



Louis-Jean Marie Jeanne received a new roof through BBS, as well as medicine and food for her baby at the BBS mobile clinic.



*Louis-Jean Marie Jeanne lives in downtown Chardonnières. Her roof was destroyed during Hurricane Matthew and her husband could not afford to repair it. Instead, she and her children slept under plastic sheeting, through which water sometimes leaked. The BBS program staff repaired her roof using techniques that would make it stronger and more resilient in the case of a future storm. Louis-Jean also received medical services from the BBS mobile clinic. She was given a medicine kit, and food for her child, who had not visited a doctor previously.*

## WASH for Wellness: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion Services

To combat damaged water systems, worsened hygiene, and the rise of cholera, BBS reconstructed water and sanitation facilities and educated local communities on good hygiene and sanitation upkeep practices. The BBS mobile clinic ran trainings in six different communities on handwashing, conserving water, managing children's health, and other topics.



*Josil Linot lives in the commune of Les Anglais and provides for the well-being of his family as much as he can, within his means. On this sunny day, he had come with his youngest daughter to receive a water filtration kit. After the damage caused by Hurricane Matthew, his house was also one of the 5,000 repaired by BBS.*

# By the Numbers



*BBS rehabilitated 16 sanitation facilities, reconstructing foundations and walls as needed and installing new fixtures and hand washing stations.*

Rebuilt **7 water points**

Improved **sanitation facilities in 16 institutions**

Trained **712 school children** on good hygiene practices

Operated **a mobile health clinic in 6 different communities**

**1700 people** learned about hygiene, sanitation, and child health

**120 malnourished children** received medical evaluations and feeding kits



**“I cannot buy milk for the baby. The baby is sick.”**

*Olita Simone Jeune learned about the presence of the mobile clinic and came with her baby. She was given milk, food, and prescription medication for the baby. The BBS project also repaired the roof of her house.*

# Access to Reliable Clean Energy



The electricity is back on in Les Anglais!

Without electricity, a community's activities are severely limited. In the event of a storm like Hurricane Matthew, energy becomes an even rarer and more valuable resource. In Haiti, the solar energy nonprofit EarthSpark International was supplying power infrastructure to Les Anglais and building another microgrid in Tiburon when Hurricane Matthew struck. BBS was able to award \$350,000 to EarthSpark International to repair their Les Anglais microgrid and fund the new grid construction in Tiburon.

Electricity provides safety and security and enables community members to participate in productive activities, such as selling their goods and services. In addition to being better for the environment, solar energy is also more reliable – Les Anglais received uninterrupted energy access during gas shortages. Solar energy also does not result in the respiratory complications caused by gas.

EarthSpark International also applies a gender lens to its operations and makes a commitment to hire women, while its prepaid payment system contributes to the sustainability of the energy supply. EarthSpark has also introduced the a store called Enèji Pwòp to supply Les Anglais with supplies, education, and training related to clean energy.

## By the Numbers

**418 homes connected to the microgrid** in Les Anglais and another **400 with access to electricity** in Tiburon  
**37 street lights** installed in Les Anglais and **50 street lights** in Tiburon.



The Les Anglais EarthSpark microgrid was rebuilt using BBS funds, providing reliable energy to 415 homes.



Damaged EarthSpark solar microgrid in Les Anglais.



The new solar microgrid in Tiburon has the capacity to provide energy to 400 households.