

Our Social Commitment

Haiti – Supporting the Relief Effort

Hirco has linked up with Habitat for Humanity to provide practical support to the relief effort helping Haiti recover from the devastating January 2010 earthquake that left an estimated 230,000 people dead, 300,000 injured and a further 1,000,000 homeless.

Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit organisation devoted to building 'simple, decent, and affordable' housing using volunteer labour. In Haiti, they are constructing 500 core homes for the IDB (Inter American Development Bank) Project.

As part of Hirco's sponsorship, one of our senior civil engineers, Mr R Saravanan, who has 20 years' experience both in conventional and cost-effective technologies, initially spent 10 weeks' in Haiti and after a short break returned for a further 10 weeks work on the project.

Hirco's contribution has taken two forms. One has been the practical contribution of physically building new homes or rebuilding damaged homes, but more valuable in the long term has been the transfer of knowledge.

- During his first visit, Mr. Saravanan completed six core houses at Cabaret, about 40 km from the capital Port-au-Prince.
- He contributed ideas in the design and execution of 440 transitional wooden shelters.
- He trained local artisans and Haitian engineers on the techniques for retrofitting.
- He taught the local people some basic building skills and how to repair different types of cracks.

- He introduced retro-fitting technology to the core houses, to make the structure earthquake resistant.
- He played an active role in preparing a manual on repairs and retrofits in Haiti.



Hirco's R. Saravanan in Haiti



Green space and replanting are core features of Hirco's environmental planning for its townships.

