

Golder/DWR Internal /Web Release

DWR - Disaster Waste Recovery in Haiti

Clinton visits Debris Project in Haiti

President Bill Clinton has visited the ongoing Disaster Waste Recovery (DWR) demolition and debris recycling project in Port-au-Prince to mark the anniversary of the devastating earthquake.

Gary Morris-Iveson, the project's manager, noted "with the focus of the 1 year anniversary being on the lack of progress in the aid effort, we are very pleased to be able to demonstrate that debris removal and recycling is possible at a local level."

On the eve of the first anniversary of the earthquake which made international media headlines on 12th January 2010, the DWR team were pleased to show the former US President the progress made in the clearing of damaged houses and subsequent recycling of debris into a material which can be used for reconstruction of buildings, roads and pavements.

The project is an example of a successful collaboration across the Atlantic, with Gary Morris-Iveson and Martin Bjerregaard from Golder in the UK and Wilston Etienne from our Atlanta office in the US.

The focus of DWR's project, financed by Oxfam GB with funding from the UK-based Disasters Emergency Committee, is in working locally in the neighbourhoods of Port-au-Prince supporting communities with the demolition of damaged buildings, clearing away debris so that people can return to their homes and in recycling debris into a valuable material that can be used in the reconstruction process. To do this, the project has procured two demolition excavators, a wheel loader, a crusher and screening plant. Haitian engineers, machine operators, supervisors and labourers are employed to implement the project.

Wilston has been in Port-au-Prince since February 2010, working flat out with DWR colleagues to improve the waste management situation in displaced people's camps and urban areas of Port-au-Prince, as well as supporting the local authorities on waste and debris management.

This project started within weeks following the earthquake and is now set to continue with additional funds provided by UNDP and others. Additional projects implemented by DWR in Haiti include waste management in camps and urban areas, institutional strengthening of the Ministry responsible for waste management and a recently started project funded by American Red Cross with Catholic Relief Services, focussed on providing waste collection from displaced people's camps which have no waste management support.



Wilston Etienne discusses progress with President Clinton at the WR debris recovery site

We would like to thank GAC for the generous donation of US\$10,000 in January 2010, allowing DWR to respond rapidly to the earthquake and to help the affected communities with waste and debris issues. This rapid response enabled DWR to secure the Oxfam GB funding and now we are looking at another year's funding for 2011.

For additional information:

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Background to Disaster Waste Recovery

Disaster Waste Recovery

DWR is a specialised UK-registered not-for-profit organisation that focuses on designing and implementing waste and debris management projects in post-disaster and post-conflict situations. These skills have been applied in a range of responses, including New Orleans (following Hurricane Katrina), Sri Lanka/the Maldives/Indonesia (Banda Aceh) following the Tsunami, the State of Tabasco in Mexico following severe flooding, Turkey following earthquake, Pakistan following earthquake, Bosnia/Kosovo/Croatia following Balkan wars, as well as the current work in Haiti.

More information can be gained from www.disasterwaste.org.