

Local Project Appraisal Committee (LPAC)

Project title: CARMEN – Centres d’Appui pour le Renforcement de Maisons Endommagées

1st July 2011

Opening

With the participation of the UNDP representatives and key members of the Housing and Planning working group, the session was opened by the UNDP deputy country director.

Key participants

- Marc Andre Franche, Deputy Country Director, UNDP Haiti
- M. Henri Morand, Head of Recovery, Livelihoods and Poverty reduction unit, UNDP Haiti
- M. Osian Jones, Head of Project Management Support Unit, UNDP Haiti
- M. Ugo Blanco, CARMEN project director, Recovery, Livelihoods and Poverty reduction unit, UNDP Haiti
- M. Jean Christophe Adrian, Country Representative, ONU HABITAT
- M. Alfred Piard, Public Works Director, MTPTC (absent)

Project presentation

CARMEN project director presented the context information, project rationale and methodology of the UNDP initiative to support self-repairs construction and demolition in earthquake affected areas. With the **purpose** of providing 1) technical expert assistance and training, 2) facilitating the use of adequate small equipment and tools, 3) facilitating access to good quality and certified materials and 4) facilitating access to seed grants, UNDP will establish Community Reconstruction Centers in four areas of PaP and one in Leogane trying to cover main affected communal sections and most relevant neighborhoods according to national priorities.

The proposed methodology combines direct support to families with sufficient technical support as well as monitoring of progress implementation.

Each CARMEN is composed by a coordinator, receptionist/finance, four engineers, legal and comms support staff and drivers. Other staff comprises personnel in charge of building maintenance.

The project has been presented to MTPTC and to all related local authorities. Key partners such as USAID, World Bank or ONU Habitat have also participated in the formulation of the current project.

Comments

Convenience of ensure strong collaboration with MTPTC in several aspects:

- Use of the same methodology for the evaluation of houses
- Information sharing with MTPTC, to contribute to consolidate their data base
- Chief of engineers should have previous working experience with MTPTC.
- CARMEN will play an active role in the distribution of MTPTC regulations and guidelines in the areas of intervention

Convenience of ensuring strong collaboration with local authorities

- Providing an office in each CARMEN for the representatives of the Mayor
- Sharing information about local authorities decisions
- Educating citizens about their rights and obligations
- Contributing to the establishment of a cadastre and registry or property titles

In order to properly manage beneficiaries' expectations, an adequate campaign of social mobilization and communications must be done. This would prevent long lines in front of the CARMENs and better workload management.

As CARMEN will manage information from about 10,000 families, the establishment of a solid data base is crucial. Enough resources and time must be allocated to this component.

Training programme should be established in collaboration with active partners in the sectors. Although discussions with many of them have already started, a specific training programme has to be elaborated.

With the purpose of providing legal support to beneficiaries, the legal team will be reinforced with legal support staff that will help to address basic demands and manage all cases. Complex demands will be dealt by the legal expert (part of the project management unit).

Certified hardware shops should be in areas of intervention, as close as possible to the priority neighborhoods and selection criteria should be clear to promote transparency in the sector.

Mobile Money component shouldn't be an obstacle for beneficiaries to use any mobile company operating in Haiti.

Detailed evaluations programme must take into account return strategies in the areas of interventions as well as hazard risk assessments.

As first CARMEN phase will already comprise 5 Centers and a central, logistics can be a challenge and dedicated skilled personnel must be appointed.

Conclusions

All participants in the meeting supported the immediate launching of CARMEN project emphasizing the complementarities with wider ongoing initiatives such the Housing Support Project and the 16/6 initiative. Coordination with national (MTPTC) and local authorities (Mairies de PaP, Delmas and Leogane) is key. Objectives for this initial pilot phase are very ambitious but feasible and will help to establish the basis for a possible phase II (until Dec. 2012).