Dear Friends,

This September, we are excited to be celebrating Habitat for Humanity Haiti’s 35th Anniversary! Since we began working in Haiti in 1984, we have helped over 60,000 families have a decent and affordable place to call home. It is through your dedicated support that we can continue to reach more families in 2019 and beyond.

As we celebrate this anniversary milestone, we are excited about this time of transition through the launching and expansion of several key areas of work. We have received new funding to expand our disaster relief work in the South, help tackle the complicated issues around land tenures in urban areas and evaluate new and innovative construction materials. With your support, we can leverage institutional funding to reach more families.

It was a pleasure to meet so many of you at the 2019 Affiliate Conference in March. Thank you to all of you who took the time to introduce yourself or attend one of our events. It’s always great to connect with you and learn more about the work you are doing in your communities. We are proud to be a part of Habitat’s global network and to be able to share highlights, discuss challenges, and support each other.

As always, I would like to share our sincere thanks for your support in changing lives and building hope in Haiti. Please reach out with any questions. We are always available to provide you with the information you need.

Blessings,
Jean Frenel Tham
National Director
Habitat Haiti Kicks off New Projects

Habitat Haiti is excited to announce the launch of several new projects in 2019! In January, we received funding from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to focus on resolving land tenure issues. Through this project, referred to as “Leveraging Land in Haiti,” we will address barriers to clear land rights and serve Haitian families by assisting them through the legal process to help formalize their land title. This is important step for families in their ability to secure a loan and benefit from the full value of their land.

We have launched a new round of home construction in the south. Over the next four months, Habitat Haiti will build 75 core houses for families who lost their homes in the Hurricane Matthew-affected communities of Corail, Pestel, and Beaumont. We have previously constructed 192 new homes in this region.

We are also launching a program through funding from the European Union, which will look at new and innovative construction materials. In Haiti, there are limited options for building with most families choosing to use concrete blocks, which are often of poor quality. The project will partner with local institutions to look for solutions. we can’t wait to share more with you as the work progresses!

Ange stands in front of his new home in the south of Haiti

A Habitat Haiti staff member records notes during the launch of the second round of home construction in the communities affected by Hurricane Matthew

A home being built in the south of Haiti through Habitat Haiti’s ongoing response to Hurricane Matthew

Country Director, Jean Frenel Tham, speaks at the launch of the Leveraging Land in Haiti project
Meet a Habitat Family:

Roselene (left) and her family are one of over 200 families who have received new homes in the south of Haiti through Habitat Haiti’s response to Hurricane Matthew. Following the hurricane, the family lived in a small tent for over a year. Today, Roselene has a house to call home and her children have a safe place to study and play.

Masons Trained in the South

Our newly trained masons are ready to get to work! Habitat Haiti is excited to partner with Koral, a Haitian organization, to train 30 professionals in construction techniques. As part of their training, the masons built the home featured in these photos (right).

The trainings equip masons to use local, available building materials in safer, more durable ways. Providing masons with the training to simply and effectively strengthen their current building methods rather than implementing new processes helps ensure the long-term sustainability of the techniques within the communities and reduce vulnerability to disasters.

Habitat Haiti will kick off a new round of training next month with 15 professionals based in Les Cayes. We look forward to following along!
Did you know Habitat Haiti has over 50 full time staff members working in Haiti? We’re excited to start introducing you to the talented members who make up our hardworking team!

**Staff Spotlight:**

Aruna Mane

Program Director

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*Where are you from?* I’m from Guinea-Bissau, a small country of approximately 2 million inhabitants in West Africa. Guinea-Bissau is bordered by Senegal and Guinea-Conakry.

*How long have you been with Habitat Haiti?* Since October 2017.

*What are your primary job responsibilities?* I’m primarily responsible for providing strategic direction and leadership to our programs in Haiti. I lead the identification of new initiatives and opportunities and support resource mobilization. I also ensure robust design, monitoring, and evaluation systems are in place and used as a decision-making tool.

*What is the biggest difference between Guinea-Bissau and Haiti?* There is a lot of similarities between Haiti and Guinea-Bissau. Both are low-income counties and face similar social and economic issues. A particular difference is the perception of levels of insecurity and consequent restriction of movement, which is higher in Haiti.

*Is there anything that surprised you about life in Haiti?* I was impressed with the levels of similarity in everyday life to Haiti and Africa in general. Although the majority of the Haitian population is of African origin, I did not expect that after several centuries, communities, especially in rural areas, would preserve much of the customs and way of life as it is lived in rural communities in Africa.

*What is your favorite memory of your time with Habitat?* The hospitality and the feeling of being welcomed to the team since the first moment I arrived!