Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure Infrastructure Resilience Accelerator Fund PROJECT ANNUAL REPORT





Project Title:	Revision of the Haitian National Building Code	Project ID:	00140544
Recipient Participating Organisation:	Build Change	Total Approved Budget [in USD]:	499 752,43
Project Start Date:	12.01.2024	Total Budget Received [in USD]:	349 826,4
Project End Date ¹ :	31.12.2025	Annual Expenditure [in USD]:	\$164 421,85
Reporting Period:	12.01.2024 to 31.12. 2024	Cumulative Expenditure [in USD]:	\$164 421,85
Details of Budget Revision [<i>if applicable</i>]		Utilisation [%]: 47.0%	Delivery Rate [%] 32.9%

QUARTERLY Report Submitted by:	Date of Submission:			
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Government ²	Government			
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¹ If there has been an extension, then the revised, approved end date should be reflected here. If there has been no extension approved, then the current end date is the same as the original end date. The end date is the operational closure date when all activities must have been completed ² In case of a multi-country project, all governments are recipients of the Project Quarterly Report.



Part 1. Overall Project Progress

Summary:

The revision of the National Building Code progressed well in 2024 despite numerous challenges, mostly due to political and socio-economic instability throughout the year. One of the major achievements has been the creation and successful implementation of a National Steering Committee, led by the Ministry of Public Works, Transport, and Communication (MTPTC), which gathers key stakeholders from the construction and housing sectors, including government institutions, the private sector, academia, and civil society.

Despite these challenges, approximately sixty percent (60%) of the code has been developed, peer-reviewed, and satisfactorily approved by the steering committee. The work plan has been adjusted, and additional resources have been mobilized to enable parallel efforts and maintain project deadlines.

Close collaboration with the MTPTC and the steering committee has been critical to this progress. Communication between all parties has been efficient and well-coordinated, fostering trust and alignment among stakeholders. This high level of collaboration has led to significant stakeholder satisfaction, reflecting the shared commitment to finalizing the code. As a result, the project remains on track to complete the revision by April 2025, with approval anticipated in May 2025

Implementation status:

Overall progress rating: On-Track with minor delays

The project is progressing on track with minor delays. Indeed according to the original work plan the project has 2 months of delays for the first outcome but should not affect the project final deadline. As of now, 60% of the code revision has been completed and approved by the Steering Committee. The remaining sections are well-positioned to be finalized and presented during the next Steering Committee sessions, scheduled for the first quarter of 2025. The dissemination phase will start at the end of Q2 and should be completed before the end of 2025.

The project faced significant challenges during its inception phase, primarily due to delays in establishing a National Steering Committee, caused by the political transition and socio-economic crisis affecting the country. The first Steering Committee meeting, held on July 31, was three months behind the original schedule.

Another major challenge was the need for additional technical reviews, which were not fully anticipated at the start of the project, to ensure the quality of the code revision. Discussions with local and international stakeholders and experts identified critical issues in the code that needed to be addressed during this revision. For instance, it was decided to continue the adoption of International Construction Code (ICC) standards by incorporating a Code Application Document. This document will apply to all building categories, marking an essential first step toward developing a comprehensive, Haiti-specific ICC-based code while maintaining the code's global coherence.

A substantial additional effort was also made to revise the seismic hazard data included in the code and required as the basis of all structural design. While the revision does not include new seismic maps, it introduces an updated risk calculation methodology to align with current international standards. These enhancements reflect the project's commitment to ensuring the code meets both local and international best practices.

Relevance/Revisions:

The current socio-political and economic crisis affecting Haiti has impacted the implementation of the project and its inception phase but does not diminish the importance of revising the Code and disseminating it among construction



stakeholders. The recent change in government and the Minister of Public Works, Transportation, and Communication has not reduced the Ministry's strong commitment to carrying out this revision, which remains essential for the country.

Part II. Narrative of Progress by Project Outcomes and Outputs

Project Outcome 1: Haiti has an increased access to knowledge and resources to increase the resilience and inclusivity of their existing and future critical infrastructure systems.

On-Track with significant results

Building codes are fundamental tools for ensuring the safety and resilience of structures in the face of natural hazards. By providing a set of minimum standards for design and construction, building codes help to safeguard human life, protect property, and ensure that buildings are equipped to withstand the forces they will encounter throughout their lifecycle. They establish a clear framework for building professionals to follow, ensuring the use of appropriate materials and techniques.

In a country like Haiti, where the impacts of climate change, seismic activity, and strong winds are increasingly felt, a strong and up-to-date building code is an essential component of disaster risk reduction and sustainable development. While this revised version of the code is not yet finalized, it is expected to be completed in May 2025. This revised CNBH will include significant expansions and revisions of the original provisions, making the code more comprehensive and user-friendly, particularly regarding these key components. It will incorporate provisions for high-wind resistance to enhance the ability of buildings to withstand strong winds and reduce structural damage during hurricanes. The revised code will also provide guidance on retrofitting small existing masonry buildings to improve their resilience against both seismic and hurricane events. Additionally, it will include different typologies, such as timber frame houses for vernacular rural construction. The new Code and its dissemination will not only guide current construction practices but also serve as a critical tool for reducing vulnerability and building a safer, more resilient future for all Haitians.

Project Output 1 : The National Building Code (CNBH) is revised, approved and published

Key output indicators achieved:

- 169 individuals were engaged , representing 42 organizations
- 60% of the content of the new CNBH has been produced, reviewed and approved by the Steering Committee. Main revisions achieved so far include the update of local hazard data (cyclonic, flood and seismic hazard), the Code Application Document for IBC 2021, local material requirements, and the basis of design for new construction.

Key outputs remaining

- 40% of the content of the new CNBH needs to be produced, reviewed and approved by the Steering Committee
- Final Approval and publication of the CNBH 2025 postponed to May 2025.

On-Track with minor delays

During the inception phase, the project aimed to gather diverse perspectives and requirements for the revision of the National Building Code of Haiti (CNBH) and to collaboratively identify gaps and areas for improvement to reduce the



vulnerability of small buildings to natural hazards. Despite the challenging socio-political context, significant progress was made, meeting and exceeding initial targets:

During the stakeholder consultations, a total of 169 individuals were engaged, exceeding the initial target of 100. This group included 157 stakeholders within Haiti and 12 international experts, representing 42 organizations. These organizations ranged from civil society groups and educational institutions to governmental agencies, engineering and architectural firms, constructors, and material suppliers.

The engagement process relied heavily on presentation meetings and surveys. Surveys were distributed to stakeholders and results showed that the CNBH is a critical resource in Haiti, with 90% of respondents acknowledging its use in construction practices. While 65% rated the code as effective and relevant, they emphasized the importance of its revision to address areas of improvement. Key concerns raised include disaster resistance for seismic and cyclonic risks, flood mitigation measures, and WASH considerations. Additionally, the survey highlighted the need to address challenges such as unqualified workers, limited access to training, availability of quality materials, and insufficient knowledge of building regulations. The ongoing code revision will directly address these areas, making the CNBH more comprehensive and actionable while promoting safer and more resilient construction practices.

Under the leadership of MTPTC, the Steering Committee has played a crucial role in ensuring the active participation of its members and their respective institutions. The first Steering Committee meeting, held on July 31, 2024, marked the formal conclusion of the initial engagement phase. However, stakeholder involvement will continue through the committee's review process and the public consultation of the revised code, ensuring broader participation and inclusivity.

The creation and implementation of the National Steering Committee for the revision of the national building code is a significant achievement, especially considering that the CNBH was last revised in 2012. This project successfully established a solid Steering Committee despite a political crisis, demonstrating stakeholder commitment to resilient housing in a challenging context. While the process has not yet been fully institutionalized, an official letter from the Minister formalized the committee, and its role will be inscribed in the CNBH 2025. This has provided a structured framework for high-level discussions on resilient housing with all relevant stakeholders, fostering a more inclusive and coordinated revision process.

The development of the updated Code has been moving forward with 60% of the technical content already developed, peer-reviewed by the Technical Committee, and satisfactorily approved by the Steering Committee.

To ensure the technical accuracy and relevance of the revised CNBH, new content is produced and reviewed jointly by Build Change and MTPTC experts to align the code with current best practices. Local experts have been contracted to ensure a deep peer review for each section, depending on their level of expertise ensuring each expert is competent and available to provide valuable insights. Experts are consulted regularly to address any technical concerns, and discussions are anticipated to align the revision direction.

Engagement with the Steering Committee is essential, and three sessions have been organized in 2024. The first, on July 31, provided an opportunity to discuss and approve the general strategy, highlight the proposed key areas for revision, and present the execution timeline. The second Steering Committee meeting was held on October 31, during which the updated cyclonic, flood and seismic hazard data were approved, as well as the Code Application Document for IBC 2021 and the basis of design for small buildings. To ensure strong commitment from the Steering Committee, a clear agenda is sent two weeks before the meetings, along with relevant documents for review, giving members ample time to prepare. The meetings focus on summarizing the main changes to the code and facilitating discussions to ensure full adherence to the revisions. Meeting minutes are shared to capture comments and finalize revisions. So far, the organization of the Steering Committee and the relationships between members have been excellent, as reported by Pierre Wilfrid Sanon, Director of AHEC (Haitian Construction Entrepreneurs Association), during the second Steering Committee meeting: *"Today, I feel proud to have participated in this Steering Committee. My sincere compliments [...] We are on the right track. Every intervention from the members receives a response, and the*



welcome is excellent [...] The commitment of this Steering Committee must continue and serve as an example for the future of the Ministry and for the improvements that Haiti is striving for [...] We must maintain the same enthusiasm so that, in the end, the product is completed and has the approval and agreement of all its members."

Project Output 2 : Training conducted and knowledge products disseminated for integration of best practices from the revised CNBN

Activities to achieve this output have not started yet and will occur in the second half of 2025.

Project Output 3 : Project results shared for increased resilience and inclusivity of their critical infrastructure systems

Activities to achieve this output have not started yet and will occur in the second half of 2025.

Part III. Cross Cutting Components

National ownership and sustainability:

The project's national ownership is guaranteed by the commitment of the Ministry of Public Works, Transportation, and Communication, as well as the Steering Committee, to provide Haiti with a new Construction Code aimed at improving the resilience of construction and housing in particular. During the first Steering Committee meeting on July 31, Minister Raphael Hosty claimed that *"this National Building Code will be an indispensable tool enabling the design and construction of resilient buildings throughout the country,"* demonstrating the full commitment of the government of Haiti to the revision of this Code.

The Steering Committee is also bringing together the main stakeholders in Haiti (educational sector, government bodies, private sector, etc.), ensuring that the new code will be known by everyone involved in construction. Additionally, Build Change is engaging civil society and shelter cluster organizations, ensuring that this revised code will be effective for everyone. During the survey, we also noted that 90% of construction professionals already know the Code, meaning this tool is already the main construction reference, and its updates will be more easily disseminated.

Additionally, the mechanisms for the future revision of the code have been outlined in the CNBH to enable the Steering Committee to continue the revision work in the future.

The direct beneficiaries will be those trained during the dissemination of the new CNBH, with a target of 1,000 people, including engineers, architects, students, teachers, builders, local governments, and governmental bodies. Additionally, awareness campaigns aim to reach 100,000 people, including homeowners and the Haitian population in general.

The proposed revision of the National Haitian Building Code will also have an indirect impact on the entire population of the country (11.9 million inhabitants), particularly the vast majority living in small buildings, which will be fully covered under this code.

Catalytic effect:

The project led to additional financing around 30,000 \$US from Catholic Relief Services for a complementary study conducted by CRAterre on timber frame and vernacular construction, aimed at developing alternatives not included in the original scope of work. This support may continue during the dissemination of the Revised Code for Timber Frame Structures with Masonry Infill.

The project could leverage additional funds for future revisions of the CNBH through the Steering Committee established under this initiative. The Ministry aims to incorporate regular code updates—at least every five years—into



national government objectives and plans. Securing funding for these revisions will be facilitated by the institutionalization of the National Steering Committee and its defined role in the CNBH 2025. By establishing a clear and recognized framework, future revisions will be easier to implement, saving significant time and effort.

In particular the project is preparing a concept note for the revision of the seismic hazard maps to support the Steering Committee in securing financing for this initiative in the future.

Lessons learnt:

Lesson Learned 1: Anticipating socioeconomic and political challenges: The worsening socioeconomic situation had a significant impact on the project, particularly affecting the engagement of stakeholders and the initiation of steering committee activities. Installation of improved communications infrastructure as part of this project has greatly supported the success of the project, allowing regular, uninterrupted communication online with the Build Change team who are working remotely. It has also allowed key Ministry focal points to work effectively from home when it is unsafe to commute to the office. A key lesson learned is the importance of preparing all necessary documents and approvals in advance, as delays in government involvement can hinder the official start of project activities in political crisis time.

Lesson Learned 2: Addressing gaps in existing data and flexibility in the scope of work for revision : During the revision process, it became clear that there were inconsistencies in the Code that needed to be addressed, even if they went beyond the scope of work of the proposal. In particular, it was raised that a solution should be found to ensure global coherence of the Code for buildings outside the scope of small housing structures through the development of a Code Application Document for IBC 2021. Additionally, the revised seismic hazard calculation methodology, which was not initially included in the project's scope of work, was also addressed. Given the critical importance of seismic hazard considerations in building code design, the decision was made to incorporate functional corrections into the update. It is essential to conduct a thorough analysis of data gaps prior to project initiation, as this helps identify potential challenges early on and enables more effective planning. That said, it's very important to maintain some flexibility in the project design, to accommodate changes as they arise.

Lesson Learned 3: Anticipating coordination challenges with international standards organization : Integrating the national building code into the international code framework presented unforeseen challenges, particularly regarding coordination with external standards organizations. The need for licensing agreements and aligning with global code standards required significant additional effort and needs to be undertaken as early as possible, if possible before the project starts. *However, this significant effort will be a major accomplishment and the first step for future revisions of the code.*

Lesson Learned 4: National adoption of international codes should be complemented by local context specific code chapters. The drafting of a complete set of standards for Haiti and the development of a locally adapted ICC in Haiti is a very long and costly process that may not address the priorities of local stakeholders. Indeed, local construction practices often differ from international standards, with many materials and methods not being locally available. This is why it is crucial to develop ad hoc solutions that take into account current practices while also anticipating the future evolution of the country in aligning with international standards. Such solutions should propose methods that, while not widely used today, could become more prevalent in the future.

The approach defined by the project meets both objectives: ensuring the global coherence of the code with international standards through the development of a simple Code Application Document for IBC 2021, while also creating alternative directives—conforming to the code—for small housing, which can be directly implemented by local professionals without the need to refer to the ICC.

Lesson Learned 5: Adapting international standards to a context where local materials and construction techniques are limited presents significant challenges. This requires the development of flexible and pragmatic solutions that



extend beyond the strict application of the standards. Directives must strike a balance: they should be sufficiently rigorous to ensure the resilience of buildings and respect international standards while remaining feasible based on locally available resources and achievable practices. At the same time, more advanced techniques and higher-quality materials, while not immediately common in the country, should be introduced as recommendations to encourage gradual improvement in construction practices.

Lesson Learned 6: Local participation of engineers is fundamental to ensuring the quality of the technical content in the new standards. Local engineering resources should be professionally mobilized, going beyond voluntary contributions. One of the project's main strengths lies in the significant involvement of MTPTC engineering teams and Haitian peer reviewers, whose expertise ensures that all standards meet the country's expectations, are well-adapted to the local context, and are technically appropriate.

Lesson Learned 7: Effective, flexible and frequent communication with the Steering Committee members is essential to ensure good participation and a smooth approval process. In Haiti, communication can be challenging due to limited internet access and informality in language and communication. To address this, it is important to use practical solutions, adapted to each message. For example, WhatsApp for quick exchanges, visioncall made possible thanks to satellite internet, and online platforms where everyone can review and comment on documents. Documents should be shared well in advance with clear acknowledgment minutes of meeting at allow time for review and responses. In-person participatory meetings are also essential to encourage discussions and alignment of steering committee members reinforcing the appropriation feeling. Approvals should be done progressively and provisionally to allow for adjustments as needed.

Lesson Learned 8: Managing Licensing Agreements with International Standards Organizations and Project Intellectual Rights : Securing licensing agreements with international standards organizations is essential for integrating global best practices into national codes, significantly reducing the time required for code development. These agreements allow for reproduction and translation but come with specific intellectual property conditions, keeping ownership of the resource. A clear understanding of these conditions and flexibility regarding Project Intellectual Rights are important to ensure proper resource utilization that meets the needs of all parties. Exploring broader licensing options for future access to standards can help make valuable resources more locally available.

Risk Management:

The project has faced several risks that could have impacted the achievement of its results, and measures have been implemented to mitigate these risks.

The first significant risk is the social and political instability in Haiti, which could affect in-person activities, particularly dissemination events and training. To address this, the output 1 of the project is designed to be carried out entirely remotely, and not significant delays have occurred, except for the inception phase. Output 2 which is the most exposed to this risk, has been planned with flexibility, including buffer periods to allow for rescheduling activities in case of disruptions. Additionally, virtual training for engineers and architects is being considered, and in-person activities may be focused on areas with better security.

The risk of limited stakeholder ownership of the new code was also addressed by ensuring that the MTPTC is directly involved in drafting and revising the new standards, leading the technical committee. The Steering Committee, which includes key stakeholders in Haiti, is reviewing and approving the new standards. Furthermore, a public review will be opened to gather comments and feedback from the professional community, ensuring their perspectives are considered in the revision process.

Lastly, the risk of under-delivery of the budget, due to delays in organizing the first Steering Committee and the inclusion of additional revisions not initially planned, has been mitigated by accelerating the production of the standards.



Additional resources are being allocated to work in parallel on different parts of the CNBH revision, and deadlines are being closely monitored using a project management tool. Despite the delays, the project timeline has been adjusted, and the dissemination phase is expected to proceed as planned, with training materials being developed in parallel.

Gender Equality Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI):

Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) provisions have been integrated into the CNBH revision by including new provisions for vernacular houses that are home to the most vulnerable populations, WASH specifications including gender-specific requirements, mixed-use buildings allowing women-led small businesses in their homes, and accessibility for all people. The Code Application Document for IBC 2021 incorporates GEDSI initiatives, such as accessibility, space requirements, and bathroom and water supply standards for all buildings, with ICC standards as the reference. Accessibility standards for small buildings are included in the prescriptive directives, and water and sanitation provisions will be revised in 2025 to ensure equitable access to safe, hygienic facilities for women.

Communications:

Communication activities have focused on engaging stakeholders to gather their perspectives on the CNBH revision, with a general survey conducted to collect feedback and regular meetings within the shelter cluster, where CDRI Coalition was presented as the project partner and funder of the project. In addition, a library was published through the Shelter Cluster.

Social media coverage was provided for the first Steering Committee meeting held by the MTPTC minister, and a radio interview is in preparation in the first national radio to mark the 15th anniversary of the 2010 earthquake.

At an international level, Build Change has been sharing project updates via our social media platforms³ and during speaking engagements at international conferences, including COP29, the 12th World Urban Forum, New York Climate Week, and the inaugural Buildings & Climate Global Forum.

³ <u>LinkedIn</u> and <u>Instagram</u>.



Part IV. Indicators-based Performance Assessment

No.	Outcome/Output	Itcome/Output Indicator Baseline Achieved		ved	Target	Means of Verification		
				2024	2025	2026		
OP 1	The National Building Code (CNBH) is	Number of persons consulted	0	157			100	Survey results
	revised, approved and published	during the engagement phase						Minutes of Meetings
		for the revision of the CNBH						Database of stakeholders consulted
		% of revised code articles peer	0	60%			100%	Minutes of meeting of
		reviewed and approved by the						Technical Committee
		Technical Committee						Summary of Comments
		% of revised code articles	0	60%			80%	Minutes of meeting of
		submitted by the Technical						Steering Committee
		Committee approved by the						
		Steering Committee						
		Number of copies of approved	0	0			150	Invoice of printing of the
		CNBH published and						copies
		distributed						
OP 2	Training conducted and knowledge	Awareness and training plan	0	0			1	Awarness and Training Plan
	products disseminated for integration of	for dissemination of the						approved by the MTPTC
	best practices from the revised CNBH	approved CNBH						
		Number of updated guides	0	0			150	
		published and distributed						Invoice of printing the copies
		Number of persons	0	0			300	Attendance sheet
		participated in the exhibition,						collecting gender specific
		disaggregated by SAD						data
		Number of persons trained on	0	0			1000	Attendance sheet
		the approved CNBH,						collecting gender specific
		disaggregated by SAD						data



		Number of persons sensitized about resilient housing construction practices	0		10 000	Attendance sheet collecting gender specific data
OP 3	Project results shared for increased resilience and inclusivity of their critical	Report prepared and disseminated	0		1	Report on project results
	infrastructure systems	No. of outreach events, disaggregated by SIDS regions	0		1	Report on outreach activities
		No. of registered participants of the outreach events (conference, specific sessions), disaggregated by SAD	0		100	Attendance sheet for the session

Variance: If there is any variance from the agreed indicators and targets. Please provide an explanation and details of the revised indicators and targets.

Part V: Annual Financial Report

UNSDG Overall Budget & Expenditure

No.	Budget Line ⁴	AnnualCumulativeBudget Line⁴ExpenditureExpenditure[in USD][in USD]		Remarks
1.	Staff and other personnel	100 506,5	100 506,5	
2.	Supplies, commodities, materials	2 528,50	2 528,50	
3.	Equipment, vehicles and furniture incl. depreciation	0,00	0,00	
4.	Contractual services	43 677,82	43 677,82	
5.	Travel	0,00	0,00	
6.	Transfer and grants to counterparts	0,00	0,00	
7.	General Operating and other direct costs	6 979,45	6 979,45	
8.	Project cost (Sub-total)	153 318,05	153 318,05	
9.	Indirect support costs (7%)	10 729,53	10 729,53	

⁴ **1.Staff and other personnel costs**: Includes all related staff and temporary staff costs including base salary, post adjustment and all staff entitlements.

4. Contractual Services: Services contracted by an organization which follow the normal procurement processes. In IPSAS terminology this would be similar to exchange transactions. This could include contracts given to NGOs if they are more similar to procurement of services than a grant transfer.

5. Travel: includes staff and non-staff travel paid for by the organizations directly related to a project.

6. Transfers and Grants to Counterparts: Includes transfers to national counterparts and any other transfers given to an implementing partner (e.g. NGO) which is not similar to non-exchange transactions.

7. General Operating and Other Direct Costs: Includes general operating costs that can be directly attributed to the project implementation such as project telecommunications, project finance charges and other costs which cannot be mapped to other expenditure categories.

9. Indirect Support Costs: frequently referred to as "overhead expenses" that support the entire operations of the implementing organization. They typically include the implementing organization headquarters rent, utilities, equipment, and associated information systems and support and administrative staff such as HR, general finance, accounting, IT, and legal.

^{2.} Supplies, Commodities, Materials: Includes all direct and indirect costs (e.g. freight, transport, delivery, distribution) associated with procurement of supplies, commodities, and materials. Office supplies should be reported as "General Operating".

^{3.} Equipment, Vehicles and Furniture including Depreciation: For those reporting assets on UNSAS or modified UNSAS basis (i.e. expense up front) this would relate to all costs to put asset into service. For those who do donor reports according to IPSAS this would equal depreciation for period.

10. Total	164 421,85	164 421,85	
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