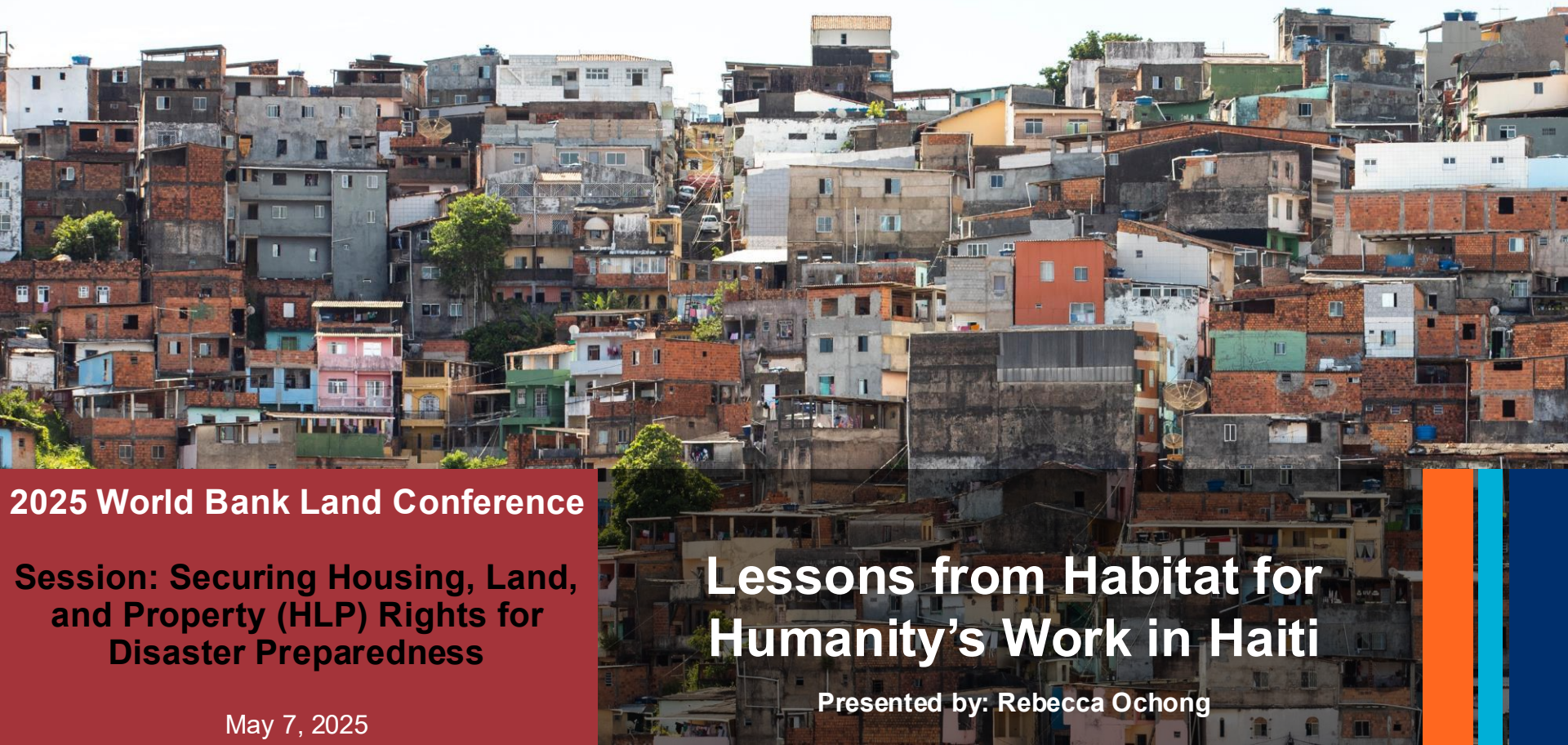




2025 World Bank Land Conference

**Session: Securing Housing, Land,
and Property (HLP) Rights for
Disaster Preparedness**

May 7, 2025

Lessons from Habitat for Humanity's Work in Haiti

Presented by: Rebecca Ochong

Context:

- Haiti suffers from **geographic vulnerability** to hurricanes, droughts, and earthquakes. Germanwatch Global Climate Risk Index **ranked Haiti 3rd** in 2021.
- The latest disasters include the **2010 earthquake in central Haiti** with over **220,000 people killed** and **1.5 million homeless**, **Hurricane Matthew** in 2016 with **more than 500 people dead** and **1.4 million people in need of humanitarian assistance** and the 2021 earthquake in the south where **2,200 people lost their lives**.
- Habitat for Humanity began working in Haiti in 1984 and has since served over **70,000 families** through a variety of housing solutions.



Transition to Recovery – Land as barrier

Complex legal framework

- Land transactions are complex and costly.
- Legal counsel is not accessible to everyone.
- Roles of some actors are not well-delineated/duplication.
- Informal practices are not aligned with formal system.
- Prevalence of manual processes.

Low Institutional Capacity

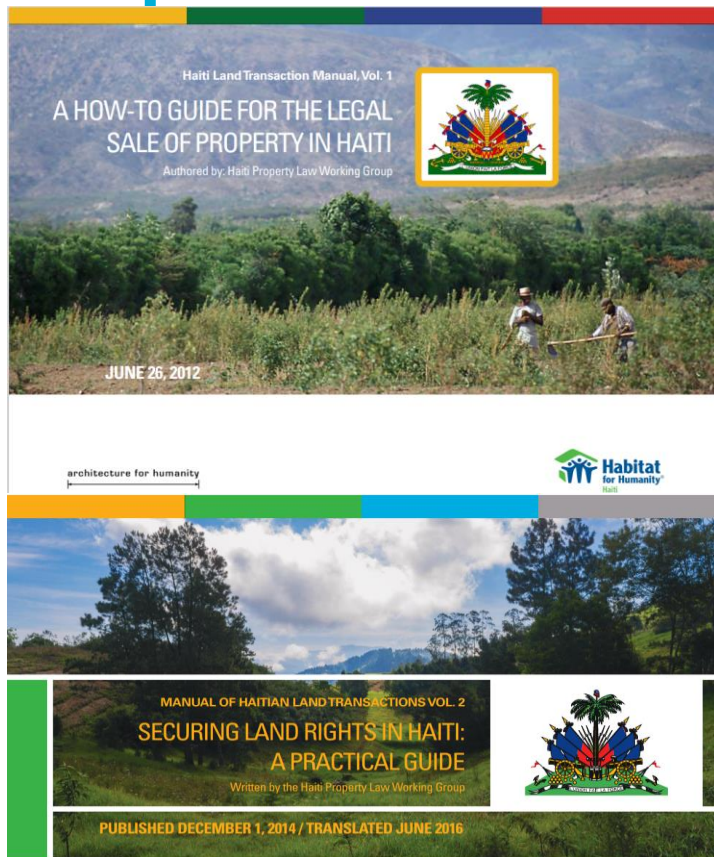
- Lack of a functional land information / management system (No e-cadastre).
- Lack of official and geo-referenced land documentation.
- Weakness of the law, justice and control systems.

Haiti Property Law Working Group - HPLWG

- Launched by Habitat in 2011
- Stakeholders: lawyers, notaries, gov't ministries, international orgs
- **Goals:** Clarify legal procedures, improve access to land documentation

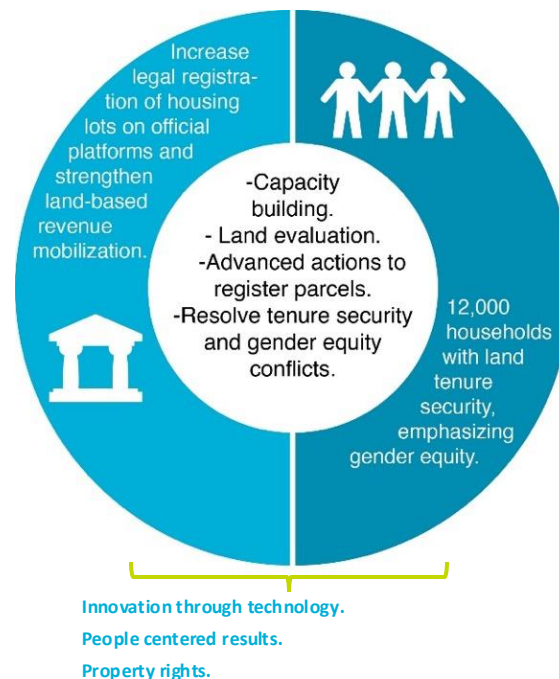
Practical tools and reforms

- Produced guidance documents on land tenure pathways
- Trainings for legal professionals and community leaders
- Helped streamline processes for informal and formal settlements.



Leveraging Land in Haiti project

- Support building, together with the authorities, a more efficient, transparent, and accessible **land tenure system** with a gender approach.
- **Train** development practitioners, researchers, decision-makers, community leaders and private enterprises **on land tenure system tools and best practices**.
- Register or incorporate **22,500 occupants** of public land into an **official data base** paired with a land-based revenue mobilization.
- **Increase** the number of **households with increased tenure security by 12,000** in the target municipalities.



Project Accomplishments

- Increased entries by **34,556** into two municipalities property tax Databases (**154%** of original 12k goal).
- **2,504** cadastral land surveys performed by Gov. Tax Authority.
- **23,238** residents received basic information on land security.
- **1,277** residents trained on land tenure regularization process.



Project Accomplishments

- Government **staff trained** in Field Data Collection / Analysis and legal tenure regularization process.
- Completed physical **demarcation for 97** kilometers of roadway in Canaan
- **New technology** handed to government institutions involved, such as satellite imagery, hardware, software.



Adeleine received legal documentation on her property by Jérémy Justin, Regional Director of Land Domain in Haiti.

Key Lessons

- HLP issues must be addressed early
- Tenure clarity = faster, more equitable recovery
- Local partnerships are essential
- HLP reforms can serve both emergency and long-term development goals



Thank you!

Questions/Comments