BUILD BETTER BEFORE
SAVES LIVES AFTER
FOR YEARS WE ONLY COULD BUILD BACK BETTER. NOW WE CAN BUILD BETTER BEFORE.
Every day, families around the world wake up in their homes to make breakfast, get ready for the day, and head off to work or school. Unfortunately, some of them face the highest risks from disasters. Their substandard homes are under threat from earthquakes, floods, landslides or hurricanes.
Over the last 25 years, disasters have claimed 1.3 million lives and resulted in untold damage around the world. Across the developing world, the number of people that will need access to better homes could reach 3 billion by 2030. Disasters will be more frequent, damaging, and deadly — particularly for the poor.
The supply of formal, affordable and safe housing has not kept pace with unprecedented rates of urbanization. For years, governments have focused on helping families buy a new home with a mortgage or rebuilding homes after a disaster.
But what about poorer families that cannot afford new homes and mortgages? How can we save their lives and spare them from the trauma caused by disasters? And how can we help governments expand their infrastructures instead of constantly having to rebuild after the most recent flood, storm or earthquake?
Until very recently, this was a problem without a solution. Not anymore. The Global Program for Resilient Housing helps countries—in a fraction of the time, at a fraction of the cost—secure economic investment, boost local construction industries, spare communities from some of the trauma of these disasters, and most importantly save countless lives.
OUR 5-STEP SOLUTION

#BUILD BETTER BEFORE THE DISASTER BY CREATING RESILIENT HOUSING!

STEP 1 Using cameras and drones, we go into cities and map neighborhoods and homes.

STEP 2 We use machine learning algorithms to extract critical information—house by house and neighborhood by neighborhood—identifying vulnerable structures that can pose risks to families.
STEP 3

The data is aggregated on a one-stop housing portal containing actionable knowledge to design and implement housing plans as well as to activate construction, credit, and insurance markets. We show who needs a new home in a safer place, which homes need to be studied in more detail, and which are ideal for easy, affordable retrofit.
STEP 4  We work with countries to maximize finance for resilient housing. How? By designing successful housing programs that connect families with local construction companies and financial institutions that can provide them loans or insurances. Drawing on successful international examples, we adapt best practices and solutions to common pitfalls to the local context.
STEP 5 Governments can save (and improve lives), protect assets and shield economies.
Everybody wants safe homes. Families want their lives, efforts and investments to be safe. And governments—from Housing Ministers (who have to respond to disasters) to Finance Ministers (who pay for the reconstruction)—want resilient housing too.
Join the governments that are already making resilience a central part of their housing strategies!

COLOMBIA, GUATEMALA, INDONESIA, MEXICO, PERU, SAINT LUCIA, SINT MAARTEN
WHY CAN
RESILIENT HOUSING
CHANGE THE WORLD?

#BUILDBETTERBEFORE
URBANIZATION – AN UNSTOPPABLE TRENDS

More than 50% of the population in urban areas by 2015.

- URBAN AREAS
- RURAL AREAS
1.6 MILLION PEOPLE
MOVE TO CITIES EVERY WEEK.
UNLESS WE START DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY, MORE FAMILIES WILL CONTINUE TO BUILD IN DANGEROUS AREAS.

POPULATION GROWTH (1970-2010):

+87%

IN FLOOD PLAINS:

+114%

IN CYCLONE-PRONE COASTLINES:

+192%
HOMES ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT ASSET IN MOST PEOPLE’S LIVES.

THEY REPRESENT BETWEEN 50% AND 90% OF FAMILIES’ ASSETS.
RESILIENT HOUSING IS WHAT MOST PEOPLE NEED!

80%

OF THE FAMILIES LIVING WITH A HOUSING DEFICIT NEED A BETTER HOME, NOT A NEW HOME.
RESILIENT HOUSING IS WHAT MOST PEOPLE NEED!

FAMILIES INVEST IN IMPROVING THEIR HOMES MORE THAN 30 TIMES WHAT GOVERNMENTS INVEST IN HOUSING SUBSIDIES.
RESILIENT HOUSING CAN SAVE THOUSANDS OF LIVES.

60% OF DEATHS FROM DISASTERS ARE CAUSED BY EARTHQUAKES*.

*EARTHQUAKES ARE ONLY 4% OF ALL DISASTERS.
GOVERNMENTS UNDERSTAND IT!

RECONSTRUCTION **COSTS MORE THAN 10 TIMES** WHAT PREVENTION COSTS. THE BILL IS PAID BY THE GOVERNMENT.
GOVERNMENTS UNDERSTAND IT!

RESILIENT HOUSING IS KEY TO ACHIEVING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS.

IT IS NOT ONLY AT THE CORE OF HUMAN DIGNITY BUT ALSO AT THE CORE OF HUMAN SAFETY.