

Not a lot done to rebuild Haiti

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been cleared of rubble, the buildings remain in shambles.

She expects that today's will likely see demonstrations in Cite Soleil.

"It's a little odd," Babcock said, "and I say odd only because I'm not sure if people know how to feel.

"Of course, there's definitely going to be some sadness, because, a year later, there are so many people living in tents, but also there's the craziness around the election."

Babcock said that when it comes to the controversial election, "people get a little ... wild."

A demonstration is inevitable, she explained, "because a year has gone by and nothing has really changed, or, if anything, has gotten worse."

Residents are still living in tents, and probably will have to remain in them for some time, she said.

"What really gets under my skin is a lot of people come in and they bring in a Band-Aid, they bring in a temporary fix, but nothing here is temporary, I'll tell you that," Babcock said.

"They really need to start thinking more (about) permanent (solutions)."

Babcock said she was hoping to see aid money help 200 Haitians build permanent housing rather than help 2,000 residents with temporary housing.

"I bet it costs less to fix what they've got already than to give them something temporary, you know?" she said.

As for the clinic, Babcock said the group is still \$7,000 shy of completing its construction. Initially, the clinic was to cost \$28,000, but Babcock believes that it will now take about \$60,000 to build since the earthquake made supplies costlier.

While the outside of the two-storey structure is built, it still doesn't have a floor and many other necessities, and it still has to be outfitted.

In fact, the clinic is now storing construction materials until the rest of the funding can be raised.

Babcock has been exploring gaining funding through the United Nations office

located there. Two years ago, the UN told Babcock they would kick in around \$25,000 for the clinic. She met with officials on this trip.

"I'm really hoping they're going to cut a cheque for us," said Babcock, who works at Queen's University.

If the UN money comes through, that will allow the group to finish the clinic and purchase the plot of land next to it for its next project: a school.

"We really feel like we have to address the situation," she explained. "It's the only way people are going to feel comfortable coming to Cite Soleil."

The school, she said, would teach the slum's residents skills and trades, such as woodworking and engine repair.

"We have a lot of research to do between now and then," she said, and is already excited about the idea.

Even though she hadn't planned it, Babcock said she was also excited to be spending the sombre anniversary in Cite Soleil.

"You know what? I have a hard time sleeping at night because I'm not ready to go to sleep yet. ... I've been here almost a week and I still feel just as inspired, just as excited," said Babcock, who first visited Haiti in 2008.

"Usually a lot of things happen in Cite Soleil. Sometimes it's discouraging -- you're hungry, you're tired and things like that. All of these things make you, I don't want to say angry, but maybe a little discouraged. "I am nowhere close to that."

Help Tammy Help Haiti

What: Fundraiser to complete a medical clinic in Haiti's Cite Soleil.

When: Jan. 24, from 7 to 10 p.m.

Where: Cloverleaf Lanes, 10 Bath Rd.

Cost: \$3 per person per game, including shoes. Donations will be accepted at the door, with those worth more than \$20 eligible for an income tax receipt (the organization became a registered charity just before Christmas).

More information:

www.helptammyhelphaiti.com