

Colombia

Habitat for Humanity in Colombia

Habitat Colombia began operations in 1984 and since then has worked with more than 3,800 families to achieve their dream of decent housing. Habitat Colombia seeks to contribute to solving the problem of the qualitative housing deficit in the country.

To learn more visit: www.hphcolombia.org

The housing need in Colombia

According to National Statistics Department's 2014 survey, Colombia is made up of 13.5 million households, of which a quarter (24.6 percent) do not have adequate housing conditions. Of that figure, 9.3 percent do not have a decent place to live and 15.3 percent live in housing that does not meet adequate standards. This means that the need for improvement or expansion of existing housing surpasses the need to produce new housing.

The causes of inadequate housing in Colombia are a combination of factors: a) insufficient and ineffective public policy, b) market failures, and c) mass migration driven by economic reasons and displacement caused by the armed conflict, all of which have created the conditions for those living in the poorest places to turn to informal mechanisms of land access and housing construction.

Habitat's contribution in Colombia

Habitat for Humanity Colombia believes in decent housing as a catalyst for the transformation of communities. It has, therefore, focused on the Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative, a type of territorial intervention that values the achievements of communities in their process of self-construction.

COUNTRY FACTS*

Capital	Bogota
Date of independence or creation of the state	1810
Population	48,582,000
Urbanization (percentage of people in cities vs. rural zones)	78.17%
Life expectancy	73.78 years
Unemployment rate	8.9%
Percent of the population living below the poverty line	28.5%

HABITAT FACTS

Date when Habitat started working in the country	1994
Individuals served in FY16	7,130
Volunteers hosted in FY16	449
Housing Solutions	New, Improvements



Our programs

Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative

Habitat Colombia set a goal to build a model of urban intervention for overall improvement of neighborhoods, which includes both housing and infrastructure (sports areas and backstreets). The strategy is developed through two pilot projects: Ciudadela Sucre in Soacha and Comuna 15 in Cali, covering a total population of 100,000.

Volunteerism

Habitat Colombia has three types of volunteerism:

1. Corporate: providing organizations the opportunity to encourage teamwork, improve relationships among co-workers and sensitize employees about the importance of adequate housing.
2. Habitat's Global Village program: It gives people the opportunity to travel to Colombia to work on home improvements, high impact brigades and participate in public policy advocacy events.
3. Individual volunteerism: an opportunity to support Habitat Colombia's operational management.

Housing solutions

Habitat Colombia makes home improvements in the municipality of Soacha, but also constructs some new homes.

Through its housing access services, Habitat Colombia has facilitated technical assistance and training, as well as neighborhood diagnosis. The purpose of empowering families is that they can acquire good habits and practices and improve their quality of life and their environment.

Meet a Habitat family

Ibeth Cecilia's family was displaced by armed conflict that has raged in Colombia since 1964. She is a housewife and lives with her husband and three children. The eldest daughter is 18 and attends college, her second daughter is 13 and attends high school and her third child is a 9-year-old boy who has a degenerative disease and is disabled.

For this reason, Ibeth has been dedicated to raising and caring for her son, while her husband takes care of family finances.

Their home improvement was conducted in May 2015 with the support of P&G. "Thank God we now have a house that gives more security and stability for my children," said Ibeth.



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What can you do?

You can help families living in unsanitary and overcrowded conditions in Colombia, by one or more of the following:

DONATE

If you wish to donate please use the following link:

<http://hphcolombia.org>
<https://hph.onlinepaymenthub.com/>

VOLUNTEER

Join one of Habitat's scheduled Global Village volunteer trips to Colombia or organize your own brigade. For more information, please visit:

habitat.org/gv/catalog/lac

HABITAT'S OFFICE

To learn more about Habitat Colombia's programs, please contact:

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