

Côte d'Ivoire

Habitat for Humanity in Côte d'Ivoire

Established in 1999, Habitat for Humanity Côte d'Ivoire seeks to break the cycle of poverty by working with homeowners to provide safe, dry and secure homes, with decent sanitation.

The housing need in Côte d'Ivoire

Among the world's largest producers and exporters of coffee and palm oil, Côte d'Ivoire once boasted the strongest economy in West Africa. Now, due to a devastating civil war and global economic pressure in 2002, the country contends with extreme poverty, and its exhausted infrastructure struggles to meet the growing needs of the people. In the city of Abidjan alone, the housing deficit is estimated to be 20,000 houses per year. Urbanization is adding to the problem, with almost half of the growing population now living in towns or cities. The cumulative deficit is estimated between 400,000 and 600,000 units in 2016. Also, the annual deficit is estimated from 40,000 to 50,000 units per year. In rural areas, the need is also immense. Many people live in temporary structures, which require extensive upkeep and repair and are vulnerable to fire. Walls are typically made of mud in a wooden frame and often crack, causing leaks and eventually falling apart. Thatch-roof houses harbor numerous disease-carrying insects, such as malarial mosquitoes and the tsetse fly, which can spread eye disease. With so many people living in poverty, substandard housing is an overwhelming challenge. Most families live in traditional homes made of mud walls and thatch roofs or inadequately constructed brick houses. Overcrowding exists in the majority of these houses, and lack of natural light and ventilation are common problems, causing illness and other problems.

How Habitat addresses the need in Côte d'Ivoire

Habitat Côte d'Ivoire builds houses using appropriate technology and local building materials. The houses are made of brick and mortar, with corrugated iron roofing sheets. The designs are simple and spacious and cater to the individual families' needs, while remaining affordable for the homeowners. Houses consist of either two or three bedrooms and a hall. Smaller houses are currently planned, in order to reach families on the lowest income groups.

COUNTRY FACTS*

Capital	Yamoussoukro
Main country facts	Independence in 1960
Population	23.1 million
Urbanization	49.7 percent live in cities
Life expectancy	58 years
Unemployment rate	6.9 percent
Population living below poverty line	46.3 percent

*Sources: Institut National de la Statistique (INS) – Enquête sur le Niveau de Vie des ménages (ENV) 2015

HABITAT FACTS

When Habitat started in Côte d'Ivoire
1999

Individuals served in FY16
7,810

Volunteers hosted in FY16
1,785

Housing solutions
New homes for vulnerable groups
Renovations and repairs
Water and sanitation
Care and support services for OVC
Advocacy



Housing orphans in protected environments (H.O.P.E.)

This project has helped to protect the inheritance rights and has permitted to improve the living conditions of families through housing and related support services. Habitat Côte d'Ivoire together with its implementing partners have provided housing and pit latrines; trainings on inheritance rights and will writing; and hygiene promotion. Through this project, Habitat has changed the attitude of community members by mobilizing community leaders, other NGOs and CBOs operating in the community to help uphold the rights of women and children. At the end of this project, more 50,000 orphans and vulnerable children have been served in care and support.

Financial education

The project aims to develop financial skills of youths and women-headed household. The training will target families struggling to make ends meet and families prepared to grow to help them to manage their revenue and to empower them to take care of their family. The training aims to empower participants with knowledge on market research, budgeting, savings and credit through a series of workshops. If necessary, local languages can be used. By this intervention, more than 20,000 persons have been trained and their capacities have been strengthened.

Decent housing for disabled and low-income families

The intervention includes the construction and rehabilitation of safe and healthy houses. In the target communities, disabled earn less than \$40 per month. To survive, they are often assisted by their relatives. Families typically live in mud houses or crumbling old structures. Most have leaking roofs and broken or cracked walls, which cannot keep out tropical downpours that recur during the rainy season. Often these houses collapse during a rainstorm, killing their occupants.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene

The project will target rural communities and help promote hygiene and water points rehabilitation. Habitat Côte d'Ivoire proposes to rehabilitate 100 water pumps per year that will increase access of an estimated 5,600 families to a safe water supply. Community members will be trained in safe water practices and a Water Committee will be formed to maintain the facility. At this time, Habitat Côte d'Ivoire has served more than 8,330 vulnerable families to clean drinking water.

Meet a Habitat family

N'GUESSAN Affoué lives in Troumambo, a small village located in the Central region of Côte d'Ivoire. She is a housewife and mother of five children. The village only has only one water point, installed 20 years ago. When the pump is broken, like many families in the community, N'Guessan has to walk 3 km to get unsanitary water from the river Bandama. When the government installed the old pump, there was no water point committee set up. This situation meant that when the water pump broke, nobody knew what to do.

When Habitat started the rehabilitation of the broken water pump, it was one of the most beautiful days in N'Guessan's life. She decided to be a member of the water pump committee. Her role is to ensure good hygiene practices and safety of the water pump. She is pleased to participate. *"With the water points rehabilitated, my children can go to school. The conditions of life of the population of Troumambo, mostly children have been improved,"* she said.

What you can do

You can help families in Côte d'Ivoire improve their living conditions by taking one or more of the following actions:

DONATE

Go to habitat.org/donate and designate your gift to Habitat Côte d'Ivoire.

VOLUNTEER

Join one of the scheduled Global Village trips to Europe, Middle East and Africa or lead your own. For more information go to: habitat.org/gv

TITHE

Establish a strong and rewarding tithe partnership to help build houses globally! Quote **862200, COTE d'IVOIRE** on your checks sent to: Habitat for Humanity International, Attn: Affiliate Tithe, 121 Habitat St. Americus, GA 31709

To learn more about Habitat projects in Côte d'Ivoire, please contact us.



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