

El Salvador

Habitat for Humanity in El Salvador

Habitat for Humanity was founded in El Salvador in 1992, and has provided housing solutions for 25,764 families. Our goal is to continue serving 944,000 families that make up the housing deficit in El Salvador. For more information visit: <http://www.habitatelsalvador.org.sv/>

The housing need in El Salvador

El Salvador is, at once, the smallest and the most densely populated country in Central America. Approximately 3 million Salvadorans left the country in search of better opportunities abroad, and every day more people continue to do so. The housing shortage affects more than 944,000 families and continues to grow as the population increases.

That statistic means that 6 out of 10 families live in inadequate housing. With approximately 31.9 percent of the population living in relative or extreme poverty, many families do not have access to financing to improve their homes. Salvadoran families and their homes are vulnerable to threats such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and floods. In addition, a 12-year civil war resulted in the loss of some 75,000 lives and the displacement of many families. Decades later, complications with land legalization limit access to adequate housing.

In addition, social violence is prompting many families to leave their homes and communities.

Habitat's contribution in El Salvador

Habitat for Humanity El Salvador advocates adequate housing and promotes sustainable and transformative community development.

Through accessible loans, Habitat El Salvador uses housing as a means to help families overcome poverty. For low-income families, access to decent housing through housing construction or improvements can be a catalyst that contributes to the integral development of the family, for the benefit of their welfare, education and health.



COUNTRY FACTS*

Capital	San Salvador
Date of independence or creation of the state	Sept. 15, 1821
Population	6,401,415
Urbanization (percentage of people in cities vs. rural zones)	62.3%
Life expectancy	72.6*
Unemployment rate	7.0%
Percent of the population living below the poverty line	31.9%

* Source: UNDP, 2014

HABITAT FACTS

Date when Habitat started working in the country	1992
Individuals served in FY16	54,145
Volunteers hosted in FY16	4,761
Housing Solutions	New, Rehab, Repairs, Improvements



Our programs

Building homes and communities

Habitat El Salvador offers a variety of housing solutions to meet the needs of Salvadoran families, including: assistance in the legalization of land, construction and improvement of homes, houses that can be progressively extended and lighting kits that include solar panels. Families help build their own permanent homes, working alongside dedicated national and international volunteers. Our community projects promote the integral development of groups of landless families, who are in extreme poverty and that, therefore, require long-term intervention. A total of eight community projects have been developed in association with agents such as local governments, foundations, private companies, churches, etc. These projects include land, housing, basic services, social infrastructure, vocational and business training, among others.

Building hope

Habitat El Salvador has worked in partnership with other organizations to respond to families affected by natural disasters through home improvement, building houses, and the provision of permanent health solutions. We continue to work with various sectors of civil society, including churches, to defend housing as a basic human right that contributes to the transformation of individuals, families and communities.

Capability development

Recognizing that poverty is a multidimensional phenomenon, Habitat El Salvador offers Services to Access Housing (Servicios de Acceso a la Vivienda - SAV), a series of training sessions that strengthen the knowledge and skills of families to properly manage the limited resources available to them. Topics include: financial education, construction, risk management and community development. During the construction or improvement of their homes, it provides families technical assistance in construction, in order to ensure efficient investment of family resources and construction quality, reduce or mitigate the risks of disaster, and offer alternatives for progressive improvement.

Meet a Habitat family

Prudencio and Margarita Ayala Corvera are two senior siblings in the municipality of Tecoluca, department of San Vicente. They are a low-income family who had to leave their hometown because of the civil war that engulfed El Salvador in the 1980s. For more than 20 years they had no access to a home. They lived in different cities in rented houses. For two years they have lived in an inadequate house of 4x4 meters, which had a leaking roof and dirt floors. The Congregation of the Franciscan Sisters met the case of Corvera siblings and contacted Habitat El Salvador to provide an adequate

housing solution. The siblings were granted a full subsidy because of the extreme poverty conditions in which they lived.

In January 2016, Habitat for Humanity El Salvador delivered the house to Prudencio and Margarita. They are deeply grateful for all the support, which enabled them to have access to a decent place to live.

What can you do?

You can help families in El Salvador living in inadequate houses by taking one or more of the following actions:

DONATE

If you wish to donate, please go to the following link:
<http://www.habitatelsalvador.org.sv/donar-ahora/>

VOLUNTEER

Join one of the Global Village's regular trips to El Salvador or organize your own group. For more information, visit:
habitat.org/gv/catalog/lac

HABITAT'S OFFICE

To learn more about projects in El Salvador, please contact:
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