

Country profile 2016

COSTA RICA



Habitat for Humanity in Costa Rica

Since 1996, we have helped more than 2,700 Costa Rican families have access to adequate, proper and permanent housing. This remains our commitment to Costa Rican communities.

For more information visit our website: www.habitatcostarica.org

The housing need in Costa Rica

23.5% of the population lives in poverty or extreme poverty, which means that about a quarter of people living in the country do not have the chance to meet their needs.

It is estimated there is a housing deficit of 16.3% in Costa Rica. This means that more than 788,000 people do not have a place to call home. In addition, 40.4% of existing housing is not considered to be in good condition. Additionally to this, 43.5% of households in poverty and extreme poverty are headed by women.

Habitat's contribution in Costa Rica

Through our three offices, located in San Jose, Guanacaste and the Southern Zone, people can receive support both to build and improve their home; as well as to have access to technical information and training that helps them empower their skills and capabilities and improve their families' future.



COUNTRY FACTS

Capital	San Jose
Date of independence or creation of the state	September 15 th , 1821
Population	4,823,715*
Urbanization (percentage of people in cities vs. rural zones)	72.63%*
Life expectancy	79.3 years **
Unemployment rate	8.50%*
Percent of the population living below the poverty line	23.58%

* Source: National Household Survey 2015, INEC

** Source: Demographic Indicators Bulletin 2014

HABITAT FACTS

Date when Habitat started working in the country

June 16th, 1996

Families served

13,915

Volunteers hosted

3,924

Housing solutions

2,783



Our programs

Habitat for Humanity Costa Rica seeks to address the housing situation in the country in a comprehensive manner that tends to the different needs of families. A series of programs focused in areas such as construction, training, volunteering and positioning, and advocacy programs are implemented.

Community intervention

Habitat Costa Rica has a diverse range of training initiatives, always oriented to affect the quality of life of our beneficiary families. Among the topics covered are: managing family finances, healthy living (healthy housing maintenance, water use and management, structural and material quality, space use and distribution), risk prevention at home and cleaning up after floods.

Helping hands

Through various opportunities for constructive, administrative and community volunteering and internships, we have managed to motivate people in Costa Rica and other countries to share their time, knowledge and effort so that more families have an adequate place to live. Another of our programs is the Annual Fund, in which individuals contribute to the organization's sustainability, so that we can continue working and positioning the cause of adequate housing in the country. adequate housing in the country.

Housing for life

Habitat Costa Rica has two programs available to families according to their specific needs: construction of a new house and repair, expansion or improvement of existing homes.

Meet a Habitat family

Sandra Meza is a woman who lives in the community of La Laguna de Cartago with her father, Gerardo, her sister, Shirley, her children and grandchildren; all in all, 11 people with different needs inhabit the house. Beyond the overcrowding present in this home, there are circumstances that require special attention, since Gerardo is a senior citizen and Shirley suffers from a disability.

The former house only had a small bathroom, with a dirt floor and walls made with waste materials. This situation led the family to participate in Habitat for Humanity's programs for housing improvements. With the support of P&G, 20 families in the community improved their sanitation by remodeling their bathrooms. Today the Meza family has a spacious bathroom with ceiling, walls and floor, new toilet and sink and safety bars.

"I thought they were going to do something decent in my house because the bathroom I had was terrible. But they exceeded my expectations. Now when I'm bathing I cannot believe this is ours", Sandra said.

What you can do

You can help families in need of Costa Rica, currently living in unsanitary and overcrowded conditions, by one or more of the following:

DONATE

www.habitatcostarica.org
www.facebook.com/HPHCR

VOLUNTEER

Join one of Global Village's scheduled trips to Costa Rica or organize your own brigade. For more information please visit:
habitat.org/gv/catalog/lac

HABITAT'S OFFICE

To learn more about Habitat in Costa Rica's programs, please contact:

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