

# Bolivia

## Habitat for Humanity in Bolivia

Habitat for Humanity Bolivia began its mission on May 4, 1985, in response to the needs of families in precarious situations in Sapecho, Alto Beni (La Paz). To date, we have provided more than 12,891 housing solutions to marginalized and vulnerable families all over the country. We invite you to learn more about our activities at:

[www.habitatbolivia.org/](http://www.habitatbolivia.org/)

## The housing need in Bolivia

Bolivia has a high housing deficit. However, there have been significant reductions in extreme poverty in the country (from 38 percent in 2005 to 25 percent in 2010). In the same period, moderate poverty was reduced from 60 percent to 49 percent.

The housing deficit increases by 30,000 homes per year (63.8 percent of the Bolivian population in urban areas and 36.2 percent in the rural areas do not own a home). Moreover, 31 percent of the population have homes built with inadequate materials (buildings requiring repairs, renovations and/or renewals) and 64.8 percent of the population own homes with insufficient space.

## Habitat's contribution in Bolivia

For more than 30 years, Habitat for Humanity Bolivia has helped families living in substandard and unhealthy conditions and has provided housing solutions that improved the lives of more than 12,891 families across the country.



### COUNTRY FACTS\*

<b>Capital</b>	Sucre
<b>Date of independence or creation of the state</b>	Aug. 6, 1825
<b>Population</b>	10.06 million*
<b>Urbanization (percentage of people in cities vs. rural zones)</b>	67.5%
<b>Life expectancy</b>	67.91 years (2013)
<b>Unemployment rate</b>	3.2% **
<b>Percent of the population living below the poverty line</b>	17.7%

\* Source: Census, 2012

\*\* Source: INE, 2012

### HABITAT FACTS

<b>Date when Habitat started working in the country</b>	1985
<b>Individuals served in FY18</b>	5,400*
<b>Volunteers hosted in FY18</b>	94
<b>Housing solutions</b>	New, repairs

\* 4,895 individuals served through market development

**FY** stands for fiscal year 2018, which starts on July 2017 and ends on June 2018.



## Our programs

Habitat for Humanity Bolivia is a non-governmental and non-profit development organization that seeks to promote access to adequate housing for all Bolivians. To that end, it set out three basic areas of activity: advocacy, advisory services and volunteerism.

### Advocacy

Habitat Bolivia aims to sensitize the Bolivian population on the right to decent and affordable housing to break the cycle of poverty. Therefore, it leads the National Network of Human Settlements (RENASEH in Spanish), that advocates for change and/or reform of public and private policies that facilitate access to social housing and better quality of life.

### Technical assistance services

Habitat Bolivia provides technical assistance services for self-construction of new homes, repairs, improvements and rehabilitations, according to the particular needs of each family. Houses are built with families. Families also receive training on construction and finances.

### Volunteerism

Habitat Bolivia mobilizes both local and international volunteers to work with partner families in achieving their dream of a decent place to live. More than 1,000 volunteers from the United States, Canada, Switzerland, France, Italy, Australia and England have come to Bolivia to donate their time and efforts to help solve the housing deficit in the country.

### Meet a Habitat family

Maria is a Bolivian mother of two. Her son Limberth (9) has autism and Deyvi (6) also has cognitive limitations. The three live with Maria's mother and grandmother, in a small house with two rooms.

Caused by his autism, Limberth shows aggressive attitudes. Therefore, sharing a room with his brother is not possible. A store owned by Maria and located in another zone of El Alto helps support the family; however, the earnings are not enough to cover all the medical and education costs of her sons.

Maria's family is one of 18 in El Alto, Bolivia, that allied with Habitat for Humanity Bolivia to improve their houses in a project that includes the cooperation of the Housing Government Agency and

local artists. All participating families had a member with intellectual disability or hearing impairment.

The project not only includes creating decent spaces for disabled persons, but also their participation in the process. As part of the improvements made to the rooms, the artists painted murals with soothing colors.

In Maria's case, the improvement included a room, a kitchen, a bathroom and a reception area. Although there are still improvements to work on, this is an important push to continue caring for her family. "I really appreciate your help, because you have lifted my burden; I couldn't do it anymore," Maria said.

### What can you do?

We build strength, stability and self-reliance through shelter. You can help us do it with the following actions:

#### DONATE

Go to this website for more information:  
<http://habitatbolivia.org/donar-ahora/>

#### VOLUNTEER

We are always looking for volunteers who can make use of their time, skills and abilities to enable others to live in better conditions. Join one of the trips scheduled by Global Village to Bolivia or organize your own brigade. Contact us to learn how you can help, visit:  
<http://habitatbolivia.org/aldea-global/>

#### HABITAT'S OFFICE

To learn more about Habitat for Humanity's programs in Bolivia, please contact us:

#### Habitat for Humanity Bolivia

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