

# El Salvador

## Habitat for Humanity in El Salvador

Habitat for Humanity El Salvador was established in 1992 and, since then, it has empowered individuals by developing housing solutions that families can use to build or improve their homes. We focus on serving more than 1.3 million families living in inadequate conditions in El Salvador. For more information, visit: [www.habitatelsalvador.org.sv](http://www.habitatelsalvador.org.sv)

## The housing need in El Salvador

El Salvador is the smallest and most populated country in Central America, with a population of approximately 6.5 million people. Eight of every 10 Salvadorians live in inadequate conditions (INCAE-HPHI, 2016) and 3 of every 10 families live in extreme poverty (PNUD, 2015). Many of these families do not have access to sanitation, drinking water, education, funding to improve their homes, land tenure, or the opportunity of living in a safe, healthy and stable place.

El Salvador is one of the most vulnerable countries in the world, in face of threats such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, floods and tropical storms. In January of 2001, two earthquakes affected El Salvador, one month apart; they caused destruction and human losses. Risks of natural disasters, along with migration, and a slow economic and social growth pose a challenge for the country's sustainable development.

## Habitat's contribution in El Salvador

Persons or communities that need help to build or improve their houses seek help from Habitat for Humanity El Salvador to achieve such goal. Families build their houses along with volunteers and donors. In addition, they pay a loan with accessible installments and terms according to their possibilities. Families now live with the self-reliance and stability they need to build a better future. Habitat El Salvador has worked together with Salvadorans for more than 26 years through housing, community, risk management and financial education projects, among others.



### COUNTRY FACTS\*

<b>Capital</b>	San Salvador
<b>Date of independence or creation of the state</b>	Sept. 15, 1821
<b>Population</b>	6.4 million
<b>Urbanization (percentage of people in cities vs. rural zones)</b>	62.3%
<b>Life expectancy</b>	72.6*
<b>Unemployment rate</b>	7%
<b>Percent of the population living below the poverty line</b>	31.9%

\* Source: UNDP, 2014

### HABITAT FACTS

<b>Date when Habitat started working in the country</b>	1992
<b>Individuals served in FY18</b>	112,040*
<b>Volunteers hosted in FY18</b>	5,860
<b>Housing solutions</b>	New, rehab, repairs, incrementals

\* 69,950 served through market development and 22,455 through professional services

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



## Our programs

### Building homes and communities

Habitat El Salvador builds affordable homes and enables improvements, based on each family's needs. Further, each project is carried out under national and international construction standards. There is a catalogue with house designs and three funding modalities: Credit, Credit-Subsidy and Subsidy. These last two modalities are supported by national and international donors.

### Community projects

Community projects aim at strengthening comprehensive development and expand our work with the help of local and international volunteers, partners and allies, to create long-term impact on families and communities. The projects allow for comprehensive community progress, income generation, health, education and basic infrastructure. These efforts support community development, turning them into safe, decent and lively places for current and future neighbors.

### Risk management

Risk Management and Disaster Response assistance and education is provided. We support families and communities during natural disaster preparation, mitigation, response and reconstruction stages. Habitat El Salvador is founding member of the Humanitarian Country Team, formed by a group of organizations that get organized in case of an emergency.

### Housing access services

Habitat El Salvador gives training in financial education, construction, risk management and community development. Strengthening these abilities and knowledge enables building a solid foundation for long-term success.

### Meet a Habitat family

"I am motivated to give my entire life. Sometimes I want to cry and I have cried... but I know I am not alone. God is with me, and many other people who, without knowing me, have lent a hand", commented Ana Gloribel, owner of a Habitat El Salvador house, the day she received the keys to her new home.

Ana Gloribel started building her house one morning in May, filled with gratitude, happiness and hope, despite the difficulties she has had to face by not having a safe place to live with her sons Carlos José, Anderson Roberto and Jeremy Orlando.

Now it is a different story. She is one of the first women to be part of the Mujeres Construyendo Viviendas para la Paz (Women Building Houses

for Peace) project in Candelaria de la Frontera. When her father passed away, Gloribel inherited a piece of land, where she built her own house. She imagined every detail: the color of the walls, the plants of her garden, the place where her sons would play soccer. Every detail is a gift from God, as she says.

Her motivation is her kids' future. She is determined to provide the best to her family: a place that will always be theirs. Therefore, she works very hard every day in a second-hand clothing stall she owns at the local market. Ana Gloribel enjoys her work and is proud of being an entrepreneur, showing her sons that one "can work honestly and fulfill your dreams."

### What can you do?

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

#### DONATE

If you wish to donate, please go to the following link:  
[www.habitat sv](http://www.habitat sv)

#### 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](http://habitat.org/gv/catalog/lac)

#### HABITAT'S OFFICE

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

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