

# Trinidad & Tobago

## Habitat for Humanity in Trinidad & Tobago

Since 1997, Habitat Trinidad & Tobago has provided 593 shelter solutions and served more than 6,000 individuals through housing initiatives (UN Household Data), credit management training, basic construction techniques and disaster risk reduction programs.

To learn more, visit: [habitat-tt.org](http://habitat-tt.org).

## The housing need in Trinidad & Tobago

The government's Ministry of Housing estimates that some 200,000 people live in informal settlements, approximately 19 percent of the population; the waiting list for government subsidized housing is approximately 107,000 people, some waiting for up to 25 years. The main housing demand stems from inequity and population growth.

## Habitat's contribution in Trinidad & Tobago

Habitat Trinidad & Tobago partners with donor entities, government and private agencies, civil society organizations and individual citizens to promote access to government subsidies for construction, land, and housing for low-income families, reducing the country's housing deficit. We also support disaster risk reduction and recovery locally and in the English-speaking Caribbean.

### COUNTRY FACTS\*

<b>Capital</b>	Port of Spain
<b>Date of independence or creation of the state</b>	1962
<b>Population</b>	1.36 million (2016)
<b>Urbanization (percentage of people in cities vs. rural zones)</b>	14%
<b>Life expectancy</b>	70.1 years
<b>Unemployment rate</b>	3.9% (Q1 2013)
<b>Percent of the population living below the poverty line</b>	16.7% (2005)

### HABITAT FACTS

<b>Date when Habitat started working in the country</b>	1997
<b>Individuals served in FY17</b>	535
<b>Volunteers hosted in FY17</b>	1,031
<b>Housing solutions</b>	Repairs, incremental



## Our programs

### Sustainable impact programs

- Construction: New homes, repairs, renovations, completions, material supplies.
- Homeowner training: Construction, maintenance, financial literacy.
- Technical assistance: Surveys, subdivisions, architectural drawings, valuations, legal services.
- Land tenure advocacy.
- Neighborhood revitalization and upgrades.

### National program

The average Habitat house in Trinidad & Tobago measures 27 x 21 square feet. Monthly mortgage payments over a 30-year period averages TT\$600 (US\$100), which represents a much more affordable cost than the average rent in the local real estate market. Habitat houses are built using the culturally preferred materials for construction: treated wood, two and three-bedroom concrete blocks and galvanized roofs, or preengineered steel frames with concrete boards.

### Disaster response and recovery programs

- Technical assistance: Disaster-resilient roofs and houses.
- Training in disaster risk mitigation.
- Post-disaster structural assessments, national shelter reconstruction and retrofitting.
- Disaster mitigation and response for the English-speaking Caribbean region: Construction materials, shelter kits, skilled volunteers.

### Fundraising

Habitat Trinidad & Tobago raises funds to provide housing solutions for some of the most vulnerable and marginalized communities in the country. We receive donations of money, materials and in-kind gifts, which support our shelter and training programs. With our no-profit policy, Habitat compares favorably with initiatives offered by traditional lending institutions, since these do not usually reach low-income families.

### Meet a Habitat family

Sumintra's dream was to have all three of her children together with her in their own home. Before coming to Habitat, she lived in a small, dark and crowded two-room apartment in Central Trinidad. Her elder children - Analdo, 13 and Annalisa, 7 – lived with their father during the week. "It's true that we have our own challenges, but we try hard to work together for the sake of the children, and he is really a good daddy to them both," Sumintra said.

Baby Nathan, an active toddler, stays with his mother. "It's hard saying good bye to them, it's hard sleeping at night without them nearby. Sumintra said of her older children. "I was working all kinds of overtime to try to put something aside to build, but it was almost impossible. Without Habitat, and without the volunteers and financial and moral support from SAGICOR (a regional insurance conglomerate), the students from the University of the West Indies and everyone who helped, who knows if we could have ever been together again!"



### What can you do?

We build strength, stability and self-reliance through shelter. You can help us with those actions:

#### DONATE

We accept online donations at our website is

[www.habitat-tt.org/donate-now](http://www.habitat-tt.org/donate-now)

We accept tax deductible donations through wire transfers. Please contact our Resource Development Officer at:

[donate@habitat-tt.org](mailto:donate@habitat-tt.org) for our details.

#### VOLUNTEER

Join one of the scheduled Global Village trips to Trinidad & Tobago or lead your own.

For more information, go to: [www.habitat.org/gv/catalog/lac](http://www.habitat.org/gv/catalog/lac)

or email us at: [volunteers@habitat-tt.org](mailto:volunteers@habitat-tt.org)

#### HABITAT'S OFFICE

To learn more about Habitat's projects in Trinidad & Tobago, please contact:

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