

Country profile 2016

# GUATEMALA



## Habitat for Humanity in Guatemala

Habitat for Humanity Guatemala is a nonprofit organization that aims to improve the quality of life of Guatemalan families through partial or full funding for the construction, improvement and repair of homes across the country. For more information, visit: [www.habitatguate.org](http://www.habitatguate.org)

## The housing need in Guatemala

According to the Central American Association for Housing (Asociación Centroamericana para la Vivienda - ACENVI), the housing deficit in Guatemala exceeds 1.6 million households, including dilapidated housing, rented and overcrowded. To this is also added the need for basic services such as potable water, sanitation, electricity, and families that still cook with open fires in rural areas.

## Habitat's contribution in Guatemala

Habitat Guatemala has contributed to the reduction of 4.6% of the country's housing deficit, both qualitative and quantitative. Our commitment is that all Guatemalans inhabit adequate housing. Until December 2015, they have helped a total of 75,605 families, with construction, improvement and home repairs, also covering the sector in extreme poverty with small but significant impact on family health solutions.



## COUNTRY FACTS

<b>Capital</b>	Guatemala City
<b>Date of independence or creation of the state</b>	September 15 <sup>th</sup> , 1821
<b>Population</b>	16,771,248
<b>Urbanization (percentage of people in cities vs. rural zones)</b>	48.5%*
<b>Life expectancy</b>	71.66 years **
<b>Unemployment rate</b>	2.7%***
<b>Percent of the population living below the poverty line</b>	54%

\* Source: LSMS, 2011

\*\* Source: World Bank, 2012

\*\*\* Source: ECLAC, 2013

## HABITAT FACTS

**Date when Habitat started working in the country**  
1979

**Families served**  
75,605

**Volunteers hosted**  
More than 26,000

**Housing solutions**  
75,605



## Our programs

### Volunteerism

1. **Local:** They are volunteers from local committees to promote community development representing their community to Habitat and representing Habitat in their communities.

2. **National Construction:** These are groups of people who have the desire to support families in the construction process with unskilled labor, usually working for six hours on weekends, can be open, from educational institutions, businesses, organizations, embassies, etc.

3. **International Construction:** These are groups of between 12 and 16 international volunteers working in the field 5 days, at least 8 hours a day. Without their support, the families would have to bear the cost of unskilled labor.

### Financing for housing

Funding for families is offered, with better benefits than the national financial system, with affordable installments, few requirements and ease of payments.

### Healthy House

It supports families to build, improve or repair their homes, meeting national quality standards and those proposed housing by Habitat for Humanity International. Monitoring of the construction process by way of monitoring visits by trained personnel is also offered. Quality materials and structural system that comply with the rules of AGIES (Guatemalan Association of Structural Engineers and Seismic) and ICCG (Institute of Cement and Concrete of Guatemala) are used.

### Extreme poverty

2011 saw the start of a program to support communities and families living in extreme poverty by providing partial subsidies to access products that improve their quality of life, this includes: improved stoves, ventilated pit latrines, water purifiers, water filters and training to change some habits that are affecting their quality of life.

## Meet a Habitat family

For more than 12 years, the Roman family rented a house and was eventually presented with the opportunity to buy land. Unfortunately the happiness of having their new plot of land was overshadowed when they were evicted from their rented home.

Without a place to move, the Roman family found a small cave near their lot, and not having the necessary inputs for the construction of their house, they made the difficult decision to live in it. For 12 months, the family found a place to shelter from inclement weather in this cave. The affiliate of Baja Verapaz was notified of this case, and when he realized the situation, began the process of construction, which had the support of more than 25 volunteers, family and friends, who in record time completed the construction.

Now the Roman family has adequate housing, knowing that with their effort and daily work, they can continue to improve their quality of life and thrive. By working pottery, every month they earn enough for the needs of their home, as well as the children's and youngsters studies.

"I am happy because I have my house, my children have a place to spend the night, we no longer sleep outside, and we no longer sleep in the street. Thanks also to Habitat, they always opened the door and that I will never forget, for as much help they have given me", said Juliana Roman.

## What you can do

Usted puede ayudar a las familias en necesidad de Guatemala que vivYou can help families in need in Guatemala, currently living in unsanitary and overcrowded conditions, by one or more of the following:

### DONATE

<https://www.habitatguate.org/payment/>  
[www.habitatguate.org](http://www.habitatguate.org)

### VOLUNTEER

Join one of Global Village's scheduled trips to Guatemala or organize your own brigade. For more information, go to:

<http://www.habitat.org/gv/catalog/lac>  
[http://www.habitat.org/gv/trip?region\\_id=5](http://www.habitat.org/gv/trip?region_id=5)

### HABITAT'S OFFICE

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