

Country profile 2016

# TRINIDAD & TOBAGO



## Habitat for Humanity in Trinidad & Tobago

Since 1997, Habitat Trinidad & Tobago has provided 418 housing solutions and served more than 6,000 individuals through housing initiatives, credit management training, basic construction techniques and disaster risk reduction programmes. 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% of the population; the waiting list for government subsidised 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 and citizens to promote access to government subsidies for construction, land, and housing for low-income families, reducing the country's housing deficit.



## COUNTRY FACTS

<b>Capital</b>	Port of Spain
<b>Date of independence or creation of the state</b>	1962
<b>Population</b>	1,317,714 (2013)
<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>	March 14 <sup>th</sup> , 1997
<b>Families served</b>	770
<b>Volunteers hosted</b>	1,160
<b>Housing solutions</b>	418



## Our programs

### World of Hope

Our 'World of Hope' capital campaign is an aggressive action plan to raise \$65 million TT to provide 500 housing solutions to local families between 2012 and 2017 through:

- 1. Housing Solutions:** Habitat Trinidad & Tobago will seek to build, renovate and repair homes for 500 families between 2012 and 2017 at a cost of \$46.4 million TT.
- 2. Community Development:** The campaign focuses on building capacity in high-risk communities that lack the necessary knowledge and skills for a sustainable future. The Community Development Fund requires \$7.7 million TT.
- 3. Caribbean Initiative:** The campaign will contribute \$6.5 million TT (one tenth) of its goal to Habitat's regional disaster risk reduction and preparedness program, Building Readiness and Capacities for Emerging Disasters (BRACED).
- 4. Annual Fund:** The campaign will also seek to increase revenue for Habitat Trinidad and Tobago's Circle of Friends program which falls under the Annual Fund. The fund covers Habitat's crucial operational expenses and requires \$4.4 million TT.

### National program

The average Habitat house in Trinidad and 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 pre-engineered steel frames with concrete boards.

### Fundraising

Habitat Trinidad and Tobago raises funds to provide critical housing solutions. We receive donations of money, materials and in-kind gifts from groups as diverse as corporations, organizations, individuals and others. With our no-profit policy, Habitat compares favourably with other programmes offered by traditional lending institutions that do not reach these low-income families.

### Meet a Habitat family

Carrie, a mother of nine, worked hard towards becoming a lawyer or flight attendant. But circumstances intervened and her future was cut short before it had a chance. Her living conditions were dire; the family lived in a condemned shell, spending most of their time in a dark, dank, mouldy room accessible only by a narrow plank. The new baby suffered from severe eczema, exacerbated by the unsanitary living conditions. Carrie's father gave her a lot of land which he inherited, and he was willing to pay the Habitat mortgage for his daughter. She finally had a chance to get a decent place to live. Today, her children are thriving and doing better at school, and her mother is hopeful about their future. "I want to be a good example for my kids, to show them that it is never too late, you can take back control of your life with the help of good people like Habitat."

### What you can do

You can help needy families in Trinidad & Tobago who live in unhealthy and overcrowded homes by taking one or more of the following actions:

#### DONATE

The HFHTT website is [www.habitt-tt.org](http://www.habitt-tt.org). 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 contact 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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