

Disaster Resilience and Recovery Shelter Catalogue

# Pursuing Partnerships





# Thank you

**We are thankful** to those within the Habitat for Humanity network who contributed content and submissions for this publication: Ziaur Rahman, Joao Figueiredo, Francis Medina, Andrés Cruz, Jaime Mok, Javier Cidón and Annika Grafweg.

**We are grateful** to the following donors whose financial support made the work described within this publication possible: Aktion Deutschland Hilft, Alwaleed Philanthropies, American Nicaraguan Foundation, Arcelor Mittal, Arroyo Water Purification Company, CAMO, The Canada Fund for Local Initiatives, Cargill, Glasswing International, CEMEX Nicaragua, Club Rotario de Choloma, Club Rotario San Pedro Sula, Coca-Cola Nicaragua, Dole PLC, Government of Ecuador, Gilles & Morel, Habitat for Humanity Germany, Habitat for Humanity Great Britain, Habitat for Humanity International, Habitat for Humanity Ireland, Habitat for Humanity Korea, Habitat for Humanity Netherlands, Henkel, HOLCIM Foundation, Honduran Red Cross, Iglesia Evangélica Morava, individual donors, James Hardie, Lutheran World Relief, McLean County Affiliate, Ministry of Housing and Buildings (MIVED), Moravian Evangelical Church, Municipalities of Honduras, Pranic Sandores, private donors, ShelterBox International, Swiss Development Corporation, UN CERF Funding, USAID/BHA, World Food Programme, and World Vision.

**A grateful recognition** to Habitat's national organizations, affiliates and partners, particularly their field staff, who have always showed extreme dedication and commitment to work in challenging post-disaster environments, making all the work described here possible. Finally, our thoughts also go out to those families and communities who participated in these projects.

## OVERALL SUPERVISION BY

Mario Flores

## COMPILATION COORDINATED BY

Javier Cidón

## EDITORIAL COORDINATION

Laura E. Peluso

## GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Kai A. Porter

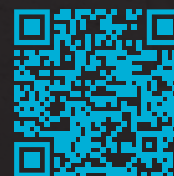
## EDITOR

Adam Smith

## ART DIRECTOR

Laurie Steele

Shelter  
Catalogue  
Collection



♥ In memory of **Laurie Steele**.

# Foreword

In August 1992, hundreds of homes were obliterated by Hurricane Andrew in south Florida, USA. Significantly, 27 homes built by Habitat for Humanity in Dade County weathered the storm with window damage and water intrusion but no structural damage. This was the first encounter between Habitat for Humanity and a major disaster event. In 1998, Habitat started responding to disasters, beginning with hurricanes Mitch and Georges in Central America and the Caribbean. Since then, Habitat has responded to more than a hundred disaster events and has implemented dozens of resilience-building projects in varied contexts around the world.

---

Habitat focuses its responses along the shelter continuum, providing a path for disaster-affected people and communities to envision an incremental process of reconstructing both homes and lives. We call this holistic approach “Pathways to Permanence.”

---

Over the past several decades, Habitat has helped thousands of disaster-impacted families transform feelings of grief, despair and loss into active participation and agency of their own recovery through the distribution of shelter materials and tools; training; facilitation of transitional accommodations; home repairs; the construction of new, resilient homes; and the provision of technical assistance.

Habitat has continued to adapt to the changing needs of survivors. Recognizing that responding to disasters is not enough, Habitat also has implemented initiatives to build the resilience and preparedness of communities before a disaster strikes. Every home built by Habitat strives to follow best practices and code compliance to mitigate the impact of natural hazards and includes adaptations to the changing climate and environmental conditions. The same applies to home improvement projects in existing communities and settlements. Issues around land tenure and property are also addressed, as these constitute key components of a resilient housing solution.



# Introduction



**Dominican Republic:** Household representatives receive emergency shelter kits.

Published in 2013, the first edition of the Habitat for Humanity Disaster Response Shelter Catalogue collected more than 60 case studies describing a breadth of Habitat disaster response projects around the world. To account for disaster risk reduction and response projects implemented since 2013, we have designed a series of five thematic editions. This is the second of the series, dedicated to Habitat's housing disaster resilience and recovery work implemented through operational and technical partnerships.

Working in partnership opens opportunities for Habitat to respond in locations where there is no viable presence of a Habitat affiliated organization. It also provides for technical and operational surge capacity as reinforcement or complementarity of the existing capabilities of a Habitat national organization. In many cases, it allows a division of labor in which, for example, a partner organization with expertise in humanitarian shelter can undertake emergency response activities while Habitat participates in the early recovery and long-

term reconstruction phases. This is particularly important as we look to integrate short-term interventions with long-term programs across the humanitarian-development nexus, a distinct comparative advantage for Habitat under our Pathways to Permanence approach.

In pursuing these partnerships, Habitat has signed several global agreements with reputable organizations and private-sector entities, including the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, ShelterBox, Rotary International, Catholic Relief Services, CEMEX and Miyamoto International. Other project-based partnerships have enhanced specific disaster recovery initiatives, as evidenced by the case studies featured in this catalogue. The benefits of partnerships go beyond the provision of surge capacity to Habitat. They also allow for mutual learning; knowledge sharing; joint shelter-sector positioning; and advocacy for sustainable, durable shelter and settlements solutions.

# Lessons learned

We can identify several avenues of learning from the disaster risk reduction and response work Habitat has implemented through meaningful partnerships. The case studies presented in this edition demonstrate the following:

- **Clearly defining the roles and responsibilities of partners is key for successful project implementation.** A clear understanding of the division of work and the implementation modality needs to be part of every project implemented in partnership. This approach enhances the complementarity of skills and capabilities that each partner brings to collaborative work, resulting in a better response. As illustrated in these case studies, a well-established relationship between project partners is key for understanding and solving problems in the field, especially when this relationship is based on the complementarity of approaches.
- **Working in partnerships should reinforce the implementation of core humanitarian and programmatic principles and standards.** Globally accepted and recognized standards should serve as an umbrella to ensure quality delivery of programmatic outputs and outcomes. A partnership operation runs smoothly when all partners have a basic agreement on the principles and standards that underlie implementation in areas such as protection, safeguarding, safety and security, and minimum technical components.
- **Partnerships that involve local stakeholders work best.** Project activities such as the definition of vulnerability criteria, the selection of beneficiaries, and community participation in the design and implementation of shelter

interventions succeeded because of support from community leaders, local partners and authorities, and local project teams composed of technical and community engagement staff who worked together with clear, common goals and objectives. Working with partners also should always have a goal of building the capacity of local and community-based organizations involved in the project.

- **Anticipatory action and well-defined pre-agreements with partners contribute to enhanced joint implementation of projects.** Pursuing partnership agreements at the global level advances the necessary work for basic understanding of the partners' ethos, programmatic approaches and capacities. In addition, fundamental programmatic principles for cross-cutting issues such as protection, inclusion, safeguarding, safety and security can be agreed on and promoted even before a specific project begins.

The case studies presented in this edition describe how Habitat implemented shelter and settlements projects through meaningful partnerships. We hope that the successes and lessons learned through these projects will inform new interventions as we face new challenges to expand our reach to serve disaster-affected families in our pursuit of a world where everyone has a decent place to live.

## MARIO C. FLORES

### Director, International Field Operations

Housing Disaster Resilience and Recovery  
Habitat for Humanity International



# Reflection



**Bangladesh:** The Rohingya refugee camp in Cox's Bazar after the fire.



**Bangladesh:** A considerable number of the shelters are situated on sloping terrain, which presents challenges related to accessibility and safety.



**Central America:** Transitional shelters with solid foundations were built in safe locations.



**Worldwide:** Habitat has collaborated with UN agencies on several response and recovery projects.



**Haiti:** Since the earthquake response in 2010, Habitat has provided shelter technical advice to several humanitarian agencies.



**Colombia:** Habitat partnered with World Vision and provided technical housing support.





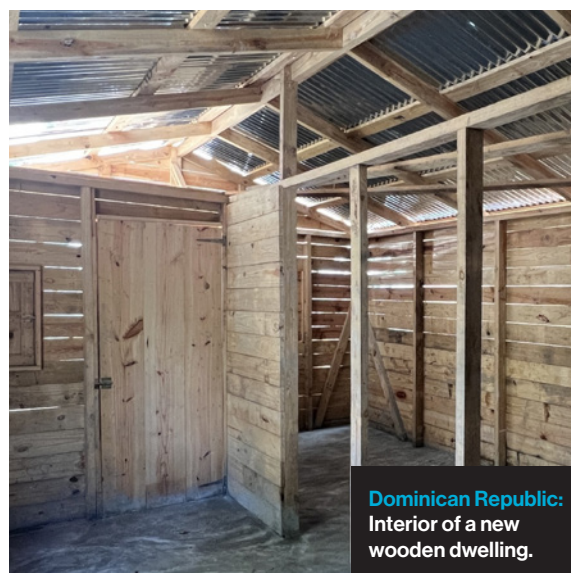
**Commonwealth of Dominica:** Experienced carpenters from other Caribbean countries led teams of local workers trained by the joint initiative between IOM and Habitat.



**Commonwealth of Dominica:** A poster announces the construction training program.



**Dominican Republic:** New hurricane-resistant wooden houses were built in partnership with UNDP.



**Dominican Republic:** Interior of a new wooden dwelling.



**Paraguay:** Habitat worked with ShelterBox and the Red Cross to distribute non-food items.



# Countries where Habitat currently works

Argentina	North Macedonia
Armenia	Paraguay
Australia	Philippines
Bangladesh	Poland
Bolivia	Puerto Rico
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Romania
Brazil	Samoa
Bulgaria	Singapore
Cambodia	Slovakia
Canada	South Africa
Chile	South Korea
Colombia	Sri Lanka
Costa Rica	Tanzania
Côte d'Ivoire	Trinidad and Tobago
Dominican Republic	Türkiye
Egypt	Uganda
El Salvador	Ukraine
Ethiopia	United Kingdom
Fiji	United States of America
Germany	Vanuatu
Ghana	Vietnam
Guatemala	Zambia
Haiti	
Honduras	
Hong Kong, SAR China	
Hungary	
India	
Indonesia	
Ireland	
Japan	
Jordan	
Kenya	
Lebanon	
Lesotho	
Malawi	
Malaysia	
Mexico	
Myanmar	
Nepal	
Netherlands	
New Zealand	
Nicaragua	







# Intervention types

Each case study in this report details intervention types that fall into the following broad categories, denoted by the icons in the table below.

Icon	Intervention category
	<b>Non-Food Items (NFIs) Distribution</b>
	<b>Temporary Shelter Support</b>
	<b>Technical Assistance</b>
	<b>Construction</b>
	<b>Basic Services and Community Infrastructure</b>
	<b>Capacity Building</b>
	<b>Market-Based Interventions</b>
	<b>Influence</b>
	<b>Livelihoods</b>



# Rohingya Refugee Camp Fire • 2023

 **Camp 11 • Ukhiya Upazilla, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh**

## Types of intervention



**Construction**



**Capacity Building**

## Project targets

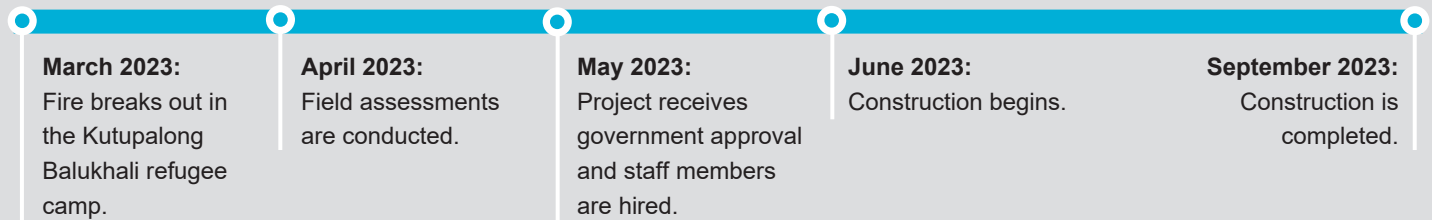
- **83 households** (461 individuals).
- **110 mid-term shelters** (MTSs).
- **Shelter/housing solution size:** 13.92 square meters.

## Stakeholders

- **Implementing organization:** Habitat for Humanity Bangladesh
- **Partners:** World Vision



## Timeline



## Summary

Habitat for Humanity Bangladesh responded to a fire that broke out in Rohingya refugee Camp 11, in Cox's Bazar District. With the support of its partner World Vision, Habitat helped 83 families rebuild 110 mid-term shelters, or MTSs, assisting a total of 461 people.

The beneficiary selection process was coordinated with the lead agencies in Camp 11: Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, or BDRCS; the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, or IFRC; and the International Organization of Migration, or IOM. Two local contractors were recruited to build 55 shelters each, employing 30 refugee volunteers per contractor.



## Background

The humanitarian situation in the region bordering Myanmar saw a significant increase in August 2017, resulting in a substantial outflow of approximately 740,000 individuals seeking refuge in Bangladesh. By October 2022, over 943,000 Rohingya refugees were registered in 33 camps in the Ukhiya and Teknaf Upazilas of Cox's Bazar District, collectively the world's largest refugee settlement.

These camps have a history of fire incidents, with 222 recorded between January 2021 and December 2022, including 60 arson cases, linked to overcrowding and flammable shelter materials. On March 5, 2023, the Kutupalong Balukhali

camp experienced a devastating fire that destroyed approximately 2,800 shelters and left around 15,000 refugees homeless and without essential items. Recognizing the ongoing vulnerabilities, Habitat for Humanity was already active in the area, implementing a project focused on shelter repairs and basic water and sanitation infrastructure.

## Project programming

---

Habitat for Humanity's project programming in the aftermath of the fire followed a comprehensive and collaborative approach. The initial phase involved meticulous partnership development, identifying and engaging local organizations to leverage their existing expertise and resources. Concurrent to this, Habitat actively coordinated with other shelter agencies to ensure a cohesive and efficient response.

To ensure aid reached those most in need, thorough field assessments were conducted to identify the most vulnerable households and prioritize support. A significant component of the project was capacity building, which included providing training to both community members on construction techniques and partner staff on essential project management and logistical skills. This groundwork paved the way for the core activity of shelter construction, resulting in the building of mid-term shelters designed to offer safe and dignified housing for the displaced families.

Throughout the project, rigorous monitoring and evaluation processes were implemented to oversee construction quality, track progress against objectives, measure the overall impact, and identify any areas requiring adjustments or improvement.

## Implementation

---

The implementation of the shelter reconstruction project was a collaborative effort led by Habitat for Humanity Bangladesh and World Vision. Working in close coordination with the lead agencies in the camp: Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and the International Organization of Migration.

The initial phase involved a comprehensive assessment of the fire-affected areas. This assessment was characterized by meticulously planned field visits and extensive community consultations. Recognizing the importance of diverse perspectives, the teams engaged with a wide range of community members, including women, men, people with disabilities, older people, and adolescents. The valuable feedback gathered during these consultations directly informed the subsequent shelter designs and site planning, ensuring that considerations for temporary relocation and plot allocation were appropriately addressed.

To accelerate the construction phase, Habitat Bangladesh and World Vision engaged two contractors, each tasked with the construction of 55 shelters. These professional teams were further supported by the active participation of 30 refugee volunteers, fostering a sense of ownership and community involvement in the rebuilding process.

A dedicated technical team composed of staff members from both Habitat Bangladesh and World Vision maintained a daily presence on the construction sites, rigorously monitoring progress to guarantee the quality of work and adherence to established standards.

## Lessons learned and promising practices

---

- **Settlement improvement:** To ensure a smooth and efficient reconstruction process, it is crucial to conduct thorough site assessments before rebuilding shelters. These assessments should identify and address infrastructure needs, such as improving layout, drainage, access roads, and spacing between shelters. By prioritizing these infrastructure improvements, we can create safer and more resilient settlements for the affected communities.
- **Community engagement:** Effective community engagement is essential for successful disaster recovery efforts. By involving camp stakeholders and households in the design and reconstruction process, we can ensure that the new shelters meet their specific needs and preferences. Clear communication and a participatory approach will build trust and foster a sense of ownership among the affected communities.



# Ecuador Earthquake Response • 2016

## Portoviejo and Manabí Provinces • Ecuador

### Types of intervention



**Non-food items distribution**



**Construction**



**Technical assistance**

### Project targets

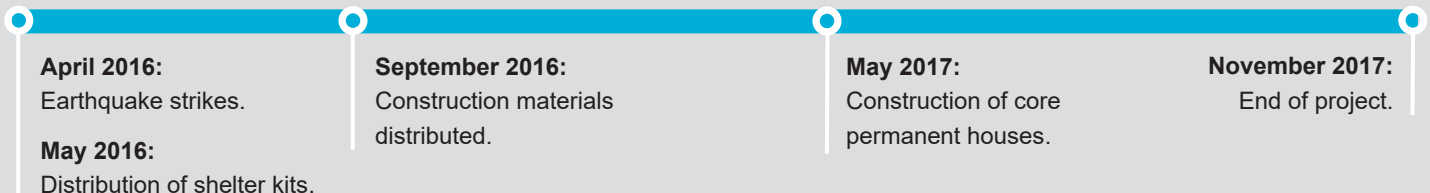
- **Phase 1:** 3,710 households received shelter NFI kits.
- **Phase 2:** 220 households received additional construction materials.
- **Phase 3:** 70 families were supported in their transition to core homes.
- **Shelter/housing solution size:**
  - Temporary shelter: 24 square meters.
  - Core homes: 39 square meters.

### Stakeholders

- **Implementing organization:** PROGAD.
- **Partners:** ShelterBox International, local authorities, Housing and Urban Development Ministry – MIDUVI.



### Timeline



## Summary

The project, a collaborative effort between a local organization and two international ones, aimed to provide immediate relief and support long-term recovery for earthquake-affected communities. The initial phase involved distributing emergency shelter items. Subsequently, vulnerable households received additional construction materials, training and labor to enhance their shelters. By empowering communities and fostering partnerships, the project aimed to build resilience and facilitate the transition to permanent housing solutions.



## Background

On April 16, 2016, a magnitude-7.8 earthquake struck off the coast of Ecuador. This event caused more than 670 fatalities, damaged more than 45,000 houses, and affected nearly 100,000 people.

Habitat for Humanity International allied with PROGAD, a local partner, and with ShelterBox International to deploy an emergency response operation in rural and peri-urban communities in Portoviejo, a city in the Manabí province.

The project areas were carefully chosen in collaboration with national and local governments and housing sector coordinators according to need. This project was the only housing initiative in the area, and the pre-established relationships between the local partner and the target communities ensured immediate impact and effective assistance.

## Project programming

---

In Phase 1, responders used locally available, low-technology materials and taught simple construction techniques to facilitate the instruction and participation of community members. PROGAD representatives were trained in the use of the emergency shelter kits, such as standardized techniques for fixing tarpaulins to timber, bamboo and rope. These techniques were in line with Global Shelter Cluster guidance.

The next phases were designed to build on the first one to support households in their recovery efforts and focused on only a percentage of the first caseload. In Phase 2, extremely vulnerable families received additional construction materials to improve the quality of their temporary shelters. Demonstration shelters also were constructed to serve as models for the community.

Phase 3 focused on transitioning to permanent core homes, mostly securing access to government funding but also directly supporting a small group of the most vulnerable families who did not meet the government's selection criteria.

## Implementation

---

The project primarily relied on local implementation with PROGAD, the local partner, which deployed approximately 10 staff members. Habitat and ShelterBox provided remote support and a limited number of on-the-ground staff members. ShelterBox initially conducted training for trainers on shelter kit usage and distribution methods, while PROGAD subsequently oversaw technical supervision and community engagement. This training program empowered representatives to act as focal points in their communities, enabling beneficiaries to receive clear guidance from local leaders rather than from external agencies. This approach aimed to develop a sense of community ownership over self-recovery.

The selection of beneficiary households was based on government damage assessments, prioritizing those with the most severe damage. Distributions were carried out at community centers, and local residents were informed well in advance of the date and time. Project partners ensured a high level of community representation, with community members distributing many items themselves. The distribution process also included a training component that taught beneficiaries how to use the contents of the kits that they received.

In the second phase of the project, additional support was provided to 220 particularly vulnerable households, including those headed by women, those with individuals with disabilities, and families with young children or elderly members. These households from two parishes received supplementary construction materials, labor support and training to enhance their shelter solutions. According to the different needs and land typologies, two different kits were designed: In Crucita, a coastal parish, the design considered the use of the shelter kit provided in advance and included bamboo structures and a concrete floor. The other type of materials kit was designed for Rio Chico, a parish affected by seasonal floods, and allowed the households to raise their shelters with a bamboo structure and wooden floors. This temporary shelter could be used as a storage unit in the future. Every kit included tarpaulins that could be used for walls and coverings. Families were instructed not to use permanent materials for their temporary shelters, as it would potentially disqualify them from future government support toward a permanent house and add weight to the limited loadbearing structure.

During the third phase, 70 families were supported in their transition to government-funded basic homes, including eight households that required additional support to build a permanent home because of their vulnerable situation.





## Lessons learned and promising practices

---

### Strengths

- **Well-established relationships and complementarity among project partners are key.** ShelterBox focused on immediate emergency shelter needs, while Habitat prioritized longer-term recovery and reconstruction. PROGAD had excellent community-level relationships and knowledge of the local reality.
- **Capacity building components and community ownership** were demonstrated by the cascade-style training of trainers, which reinforced community recovery efforts.
- A sustained **focus on one geographic location reduced the likelihood of a possible overextension of project resources** and staff capacity.

### Weaknesses

- **The decision to use minimal staff** for the project likely lengthened the time scale for the project.
- **The integration of community volunteers was lower than expected**, primarily because of a lack of monitoring capacity.
- **Implementation by local leaders was not always consistent with the training and advice given** by project partners. This was mainly due to a lack of project staff at the site level.

### Lessons learned

- **Foster ownership by using a community-based approach and engaging local leaders from the beginning.** Local leaders were responsible for different activities, and they supported and encouraged communities toward recovery.
- **Continued dialogue between Habitat and ShelterBox** at the global level outside of times of calamity will lead to increased coordination and partnerships at the field level.
- **Working alongside and aiming to build the capacity of local organizations** provides access to affected communities and can lead to a longer presence in the area.

### Wider impacts of the project

- **The project encouraged communities to assume local ownership of their recovery.** By avoiding displacement, most beneficiaries were able to continue living and working in their communities. Because of the shelter intervention, they were able to focus on other critical needs beyond housing.
- **The intervention led to increased capacities**, both within the local organization and the communities, in terms of dealing with shelter issues in response to a disaster. Such capacities are both hard and soft, as communities now have clear systems and focal points for working together after a crisis. The relationships between the communities and the local organization also were strengthened.

# Hurricane Maria • 2017

## Commonwealth of Dominica

### Types of intervention



**Technical assistance**



**Livelihoods**

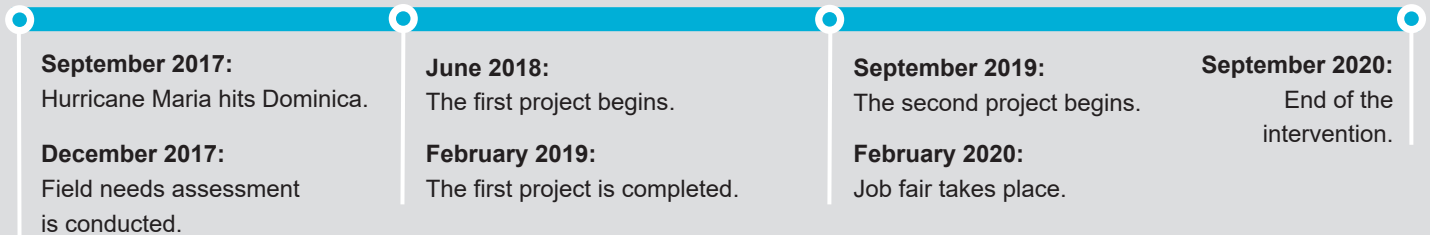
### Project targets

- **Carpentry training:** 123 individuals trained, including 95 men and 28 women.
- **Job fair:** 243 attendees, including 214 men and 29 women.
- **Core houses:** 215 people housed, including 109 men and 106 women.

### Stakeholders

- **Implementing organizations:** Habitat for Humanity Trinidad and Tobago and Habitat for Humanity International.
- **Partners:** International Organization for Migration (IOM).

### Timeline



## Summary

This project aimed to address the critical shortage of construction workers on the small island nation of Dominica. Initially, Habitat partnered with humanitarian agencies to bring in skilled builders from neighboring countries. Afterward, Habitat trained unskilled local workers who were then hired by these agencies for early recovery activities. For long-term reconstruction, Habitat facilitated the matching of labor supply and demand in the country's private sector.

The project, implemented by the Habitat Caribbean resilience network in a country with no previous Habitat presence, mobilized capacity and transferred expertise from other countries in the region.



## Background

In September 2017, a Category 5 hurricane named Maria caused widespread destruction in the Commonwealth of Dominica, a Caribbean island nation with a population of approximately 71,000 people. The hurricane affected more than 90% of the country's housing and left more than 70% of the population without adequate shelter.



The country's economy relied primarily on the tourism industry, which suffered significant losses in the years after the disaster. As a result, many people lost their livelihoods.

Several humanitarian organizations arrived on the island to assist the government with stabilization and recovery efforts. Engineers and construction materials were brought from other countries, and sufficient funds were transferred. However, the limited availability of labor became a significant obstacle to scaling up construction.

Although Habitat for Humanity had no direct presence in the country before the disaster, it had recently established its Caribbean network — initially composed of national Habitat organizations in Jamaica, Haiti, Dominican Republic, and Trinidad and Tobago, along with Habitat for Humanity International's Latin America and the Caribbean area office — with the goal of responding to disasters in the region.

## Project programming

---

Initially, the response strategy aimed to provide shelter technical assistance to the government, humanitarian organizations and other stakeholders for rapid and efficient recovery and sustainable reconstruction. However, as the needs on the ground evolved, the intervention was adapted to address emerging priorities, particularly the shortage of the labor force in the construction sector.

To bridge this gap, Habitat facilitated the arrival of skilled workers from neighboring countries and invested in training local labor. This strategic approach not only supported the recovery efforts but also created employment opportunities within the construction sector.

With access to regional expertise, the project provided specialized housing technical assistance to all stakeholders involved in the disaster response. The project also funded the construction of safe roofs on 40 core houses built by a partner organization.

## Implementation

---

The entire intervention was managed primarily by a remote support team, with only one or two Habitat staff members deployed in Dominica simultaneously.

The development of the project timeline stretched for several months from field assessment to launch, during a period when the needs on the ground were shifting dramatically. A severe shortage of construction workers emerged as a major obstacle to nationwide recovery efforts. Based on this situation, the donor agreed to a significant change in the intervention.

### Project 1

To address the critical shortage of labor, Habitat began working with the International Organization for Migration, or IOM, to recruit skilled builders from neighboring Caribbean countries. This pragmatic partnership led to the establishment of a national carpentry training program. Habitat provided an experienced architect to conduct the training, while IOM funded the initiative and then hired trainees who worked alongside the deployed skilled builders and learned valuable skills from them. This collaborative approach, which also involved other organizations such as Caritas and IsraAid, significantly increased the capacity of the local workforce and contributed to the overall success of the housing recovery effort.

As part of this first project, some funds were available for construction activities. Habitat attempted to identify local partners to repair or build houses but found none with the necessary implementation capacity. Since IOM had already established a shelter construction program and the partnership had matured, Habitat decided to use the allocated funds to finance resilient roofing for IOM core houses.

## Project 2

Building on the success of the first project, the same donor invited Habitat to embark on a second phase a few months later, focusing on livelihood-related activities. Habitat's initial plan was to expand the construction training program, but by the time the project began, there was a saturation of similar initiatives. In addition, many humanitarian partners had completed their shelter recovery initiatives, leaving a surplus of trained construction workers without jobs. Realizing that government and private construction companies had an urgent need for skilled labor to begin the reconstruction phase, Habitat quickly pivoted its approach to match labor supply with demand. A comprehensive stakeholder mapping exercise was conducted to identify skilled construction workers, potential employers and government representatives from relevant sectors. This diverse group was brought together to meet and participate in a well-organized job fair in the nation's capital, effectively connecting potential employers with eager job seekers.



## Lessons learned and promising practices

---

### Programmatic

- Identifying and addressing a gap in the overall response was a successful and impactful strategy.
- The two projects underwent significant adjustments during implementation because of changing contextual needs, which the donor appreciated, as it made the interventions much more relevant to the community's needs.
- The project demonstrated the livelihood opportunities offered by the construction sector in the aftermath of a disaster.

### Implementation-related

- A lack of presence in the country during the first months of the emergency resulted in lost funding opportunities.
- Habitat faced the problem of transferring funds to a country where it was not registered.
- Leveraging the combined experience and capacity of several Habitat entities in the region provided a unique advantage over other humanitarian actors operating in the country.
- A yearlong deployment of a key staff member to an international location without a comprehensive succession plan proved challenging.



# Hurricanes Eta and Iota • 2020

## 📍 Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua

### Types of intervention



**Non-food items distribution**



**Construction**



**Capacity building**

### Project targets

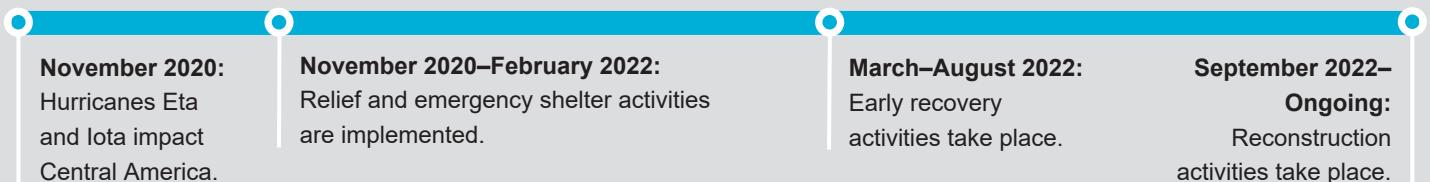
- **Guatemala:** 48 households (240 individuals).
- **Honduras:** 3,208 households (14,264 individuals).
- **Nicaragua:** 374 households and businesses (1,770 individuals).
- **Shelter/housing solution size:**
  - Temporary shelter: 18 square meters.
  - Transitional shelter: 33 square meters.

### Stakeholders

- **Implementing organizations:** Habitat for Humanity Guatemala, Habitat for Humanity Nicaragua, Habitat for Humanity Honduras.
- **Partners:**
  - **Guatemala:** World Vision Guatemala.
  - **Nicaragua:** Foundation Against Hunger, Baptist Convention of Nicaragua, Fundación Casa Congo.
  - **Honduras:** ShelterBox International, Rotary Club of San Pedro Sula.
  - The three Habitat national organizations also worked with national and local governments in each country.



### Timeline



## Summary

The regional response strategy, guided by the Pathways to Permanence approach, aimed to provide emergency, mid- and long-term support. Through the distribution of essential supplies, the construction of transitional and durable shelter, and the strengthening of community capacity, the intervention aimed to increase the resilience of affected populations. Collaboration with governments, international and local NGOs, and community-based organizations was key to implementing this comprehensive response.



## Background

---

Central America is highly vulnerable to recurring natural hazards, with climatic events posing a significant threat. In November 2020, the region experienced the unprecedented double impact of hurricanes Eta and Iota, affecting over a million people — 590,000 in Guatemala, 450,000 in Honduras, and 350,000 in Nicaragua.

Before this disaster, Honduras, Guatemala and Nicaragua had already faced substantial socioeconomic challenges. Honduras grappled with high poverty rates, with 25.2% of the population living in extreme poverty. Guatemala and Nicaragua similarly confronted difficult economic conditions, necessitating regional alliances for more effective disaster response.

In Central America, Habitat for Humanity has national organizations in Nicaragua, Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, and the regional office for Latin America and the Caribbean is in Costa Rica.



## Project programming

---

The regional intervention strategy, guided by the Pathways to Permanence approach, provided immediate relief, temporary and transitional shelter, and long-term recovery. During the initial phase of the intervention, the Habitat organizations provided essential supplies such as hygiene kits and water filters, then distributed tarpaulins and toolkits to help families set up temporary shelter. The construction of transitional shelters was a key part of early recovery efforts. The final phase of the project focused on the reconstruction of homes and sanitation facilities in conjunction with capacity building to enhance community resilience and promote economic recovery. By adopting a comprehensive approach, the intervention aimed to empower affected families to rebuild their lives and reduce their vulnerability to future disasters.



## Implementation

---

The success of the intervention in each country was driven by joint strategic planning, strong partnerships, community engagement and innovative solutions.

### Guatemala

The response in Aldea Paquix provided immediate relief through 100 hygiene kits and long-term solutions for 48 families. This included housing improvements such as the construction of hybrid houses, block rooms, latrines, concrete floors and plastered areas. In addition, the project provided training and workshops on self-esteem, financial literacy, risk management and healthy homes. The project had a significant impact, especially considering the limited support from other stakeholders.

### Nicaragua

The project targeted 374 households in the regions of Bilwi, Waspan, Wiwilí and Tola. The initial phase sought to provide immediate relief by distributing hygiene kits and water filters to affected communities. The second phase involved the distribution of home repair kits, which enabled families to build temporary shelters. The final phase centered on the reconstruction of houses and sanitary units, with emphasis on economic rehabilitation through the restoration of productive areas.

### Honduras

Habitat Honduras, the Rotary Club of San Pedro Sula and ShelterBox worked together to provide emergency relief and temporary shelter to affected families. Their efforts included distributing emergency shelter kits that included tarps, tools and fasteners; providing construction materials; and conducting training sessions on safe building practices.



The selection of beneficiary families involved a collaborative effort between local governments and community leaders. Selection criteria were based on factors such as the severity of home damage, age, gender, marital status and economic conditions. The project also prioritized households who were transitioning from collective centers and in immediate need of shelter support. The distributed kits were tailored to specific needs, ensuring that families received the appropriate materials for repair or rebuilding.

Habitat cooperated with government agencies to relocate 26 vulnerable households to safer areas. Initially, transitional shelters were built on concrete foundations as a prelude to the construction of permanent homes on the same sites. This phased approach, along with ongoing efforts to secure additional funding, enabled the construction of permanent homes in subsequent years.

Interventions in the three countries faced several challenges, including the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, fluctuating costs of construction materials, and limited skilled labor. In addition, the governments' delay in declaring the emergency hampered access to international aid.



## Lessons learned and promising practices

---

### Project management

- **Effective partnerships:** Strong collaborations with local and international organizations were crucial for successful implementation.
- **Resource management:** Careful planning and efficient resource allocation were critical, particularly in the context of procurement challenges.
- **Adaptability:** The ability to adapt to changing circumstances and unforeseen challenges was essential for project success.

### Lessons from the ground

- **Early intervention:** Timely response and immediate relief were crucial in mitigating the impact of disasters.
- **Community-centered approach:** Prioritizing the needs and capacities of affected communities is essential. Involving community members in decision-making and implementation processes enhanced ownership and sustainability.
- **Capacity building:** Training and technical assistance for local teams and beneficiaries were essential for long-term impact.
- **Learning from experience:** Continually evaluating project outcomes and lessons learned can inform future interventions.

# Flooding, Northern Coast of Peru • 2017

 **Piura and Lambayeque Departments • Peru**

## Types of intervention



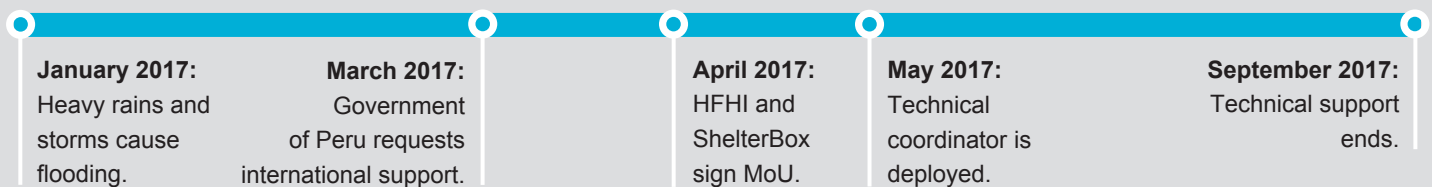
**Technical assistance**

## Stakeholders

- **Implementing organization:** Shelter Cluster Peru, led by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).
- **Partners:** ShelterBox International.



## Timeline



## Summary

The National Shelter Cluster was activated in March 2017 in response to flooding in Peru, primarily along the northern coast of the country.

Habitat for Humanity International, in partnership with ShelterBox International, seconded a technical adviser to the National Shelter Cluster to coordinate technical issues between humanitarian organizations and national and local governments responding to the disaster. This secondment strengthened the overall response and allowed Habitat and ShelterBox to participate in recovery work despite the organizations' lack of presence in Peru.



## Background

From January to March 2017, the climatic coastal phenomenon known as El Niño caused heavy rains and storms that triggered flooding and other weather events, including strong winds, hailstorms, thunderstorms and snowstorms. A total of 742,101 people were affected, and 90 people died.

An estimated 28,969 buildings were destroyed, and 164,386 were damaged. Some communities lost up to 80% of their housing stock. Given the extent of the damage, the national government requested international support in late March 2024 to assess needs and coordinate the response.

From the outset, ShelterBox and Habitat were in constant contact. After learning of the Peruvian government's request for technical assistance, the two organizations decided to pool resources and effectively support the disaster response.





## Project programming

---

The government of Peru was responsible for coordinating the response to the crisis. To help with this effort, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies sent a coordination expert. The IFRC is one of the leaders of the Global Shelter Cluster and the Shelter Cluster for the Americas. Habitat and ShelterBox also helped with coordination by seconding a technical adviser to the national shelter cluster. This cluster facilitated collaboration between humanitarian agencies and national and local authorities. It also provided support in several ways, such as assessing the damage and needs, planning, providing technical assistance, training, monitoring, and reporting.



## Implementation

---

- **National and subnational shelter cluster meetings:** The technical adviser assisted the shelter cluster coordinator in facilitating weekly national-level meetings and provided technical guidance to advance the development of temporary housing modules, or THMs, for affected families. Participating agencies included ADRA Peru, Alternativa, Ayuda en Acción, CARE Peru, CESAL, CESVI, CONADIS, Defensoría del Pueblo, Diaconía, IFRC, INDECI, the Ministry of Housing, OCHA, IOM, Plan International, UNDP, PREDES, Save the Children, Practical Action, USAID/OFDA and World Vision. At the regional level, the technical adviser offered recommendations to enhance coordination and data collection efforts on the ground.
- **Intercluster meetings:** These meetings brought together delegates from the sectoral clusters that were active in the response, including Shelter, Protection, Food Security and Health. There were two types of meetings; those between U.N. agencies to refine the proposals contained in the “flash appeal” and the Central Emergency Response Fund, or CERF, and those convened by the U.N. resident on the ground to discuss humanitarian topics, meet with the various agencies, and ensure that concerns reached the relevant government sectors.
- **Meetings with the national government:** The national government, led by the presidency of the Council of Ministers, convened sectoral clusters to gather technical input on response activities planned for the emergency and rehabilitation phases of the crisis. The technical adviser participated in these meetings, offering crucial guidance to ensure the proposed activities were effective and feasible.
- **Technical contributions:** Information on THMs was compiled and shared with shelter cluster partners. A technical specifications guide was developed to standardize module implementation based on previous disaster responses. A revised legal framework composed of reconstruction laws and a thorough interpretation of the authority of local governments clarified where THMs could be built.



## Lessons learned and promising practices

---

- **Innovative support strategies:** Because they had no previous presence in Peru, Habitat and ShelterBox explored new ways to contribute to the relief efforts beyond traditional non-food item and cash distribution.
- **Leveraged internal expertise:** The technical adviser, a seasoned Habitat expert with a strong background in disaster response and the Pathways to Permanence approach, was uniquely qualified for this role. His Peruvian heritage provided valuable cultural insights and local knowledge.
- **Strong partnership and synergies:** Building on their successful history of collaboration in NFI delivery, Habitat and ShelterBox seamlessly transitioned into a technical assistance role for the National Shelter Cluster in Peru. Regular global-level communication fostered deeper coordination and stronger partnerships at the field level.
- **Experience replicability:** Drawing on the lessons learned from this project, the consultant developed a guideline to empower Habitat national organizations to play a more strategic role in shelter coordination by seconding technical experts to shelter clusters.

# War in Ukraine • 2022 – Ongoing

## 📍 Kyiv, Kharkiv, Kherson and Odessa oblasts • Ukraine

### Types of intervention



**Non-food items distribution**



**Construction**



**Community infrastructure**

### Project targets

Two years after the full-scale invasion, Habitat and its partners completed:

- **619 home repairs** in the Kyiv and Kharkiv regions.
- **2 community infrastructure repairs** in Kharkiv.
- **16 multiapartment building upgrades**, benefiting over 2,700 individuals.

In addition:

- **10 collective centers** were assisted in Lviv and Czerasy, benefiting nearly 1,000 internally displaced people, many of whom were older adults.
- **740 solar-powered devices** were distributed.

### Stakeholders

- **Implementing organizations:** Habitat for Humanity International, Catholic Relief Services/Caritas Ukraine & Caritas Spes, Odessa Housing Union, Volunteer Corps, and METALAB/CO-HATY.
- **Partners:** Local and international entities, Ukrainian grassroots organizations, and government officials and civil society actors.



### Timeline

#### May 2022:

Non-food items distribution begins.

#### July 2022:

Potential implementing partners are identified.

#### January 2023:

Home repairs and upgrades program begins.

#### July 2024:

Long-term rental housing program begins.

#### September 2024:

A new Habitat branch office opens in Ukraine.

#### January 2025:

Response continues.



## Summary

In response to the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine, Habitat for Humanity responded to address critical shelter needs. Through strategic partnerships, the organization provided non-food items and supported repairs to damaged homes and community infrastructure. Habitat also planned mid- and long-term reconstruction efforts, with the goal of rebuilding more inclusive, sustainable and resilient communities.

## Background

---

The Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 significantly escalated the conflict between the two nations, leading to the destruction of infrastructure throughout the country, including residential areas. Many homes were destroyed or rendered uninhabitable, and millions of people were displaced. Harsh winter conditions, coupled with attacks on energy infrastructure and pre-existing housing energy inefficiencies, exacerbated the housing crisis.

Two years after the invasion, 10% of the total housing stock was estimated to be damaged or destroyed, which contributed to an existing housing shortage. Before the war, Ukraine faced significant housing challenges, including an almost complete absence of social and affordable housing options, along with high energy inefficiency in multifamily buildings that left many households unable to maintain adequate winter temperatures.

Habitat for Humanity had no direct presence in Ukraine before the invasion, although it did have a long-standing implementing partner in Odessa that was participating in a regional program on energy efficiency in housing.

## Project programming

---

Habitat for Humanity's interventions have focused on supporting temporary shelter solutions and housing recovery within Ukraine's borders. These include:

- **Non-food items distribution:** Ten collective centers were supplied with furniture, repair materials and electric stoves. In response to the urgent need for heating during the harsh winters and frequent power outages, solid fuel stoves and solar-powered appliances were distributed to households.
- **Home repairs and winterization:** Vital light and medium repairs to damaged residential buildings were conducted, along with improvements to thermal insulation. Basements were upgraded to be used as safe shelters during bombing raids.
- **Community infrastructure support:** Small-scale community infrastructure, such as kindergartens, markets and community centers, also were repaired.
- **Looking ahead:** As the conflict in Ukraine continues, Habitat aims to increase its impact in the country and address urgent and long-term housing needs. For example, Habitat is piloting an affordable rental housing initiative, the refurbishment of a vacant building into microapartments that will serve as transitional housing from collective centers through a social rental formula. Once completed, the design of this project can be used as a model for other organizations seeking to increase affordable rental housing stock in the area.

## Implementation

---

- **Partnerships and collaboration:** Habitat, lacking a presence in Ukraine, forged partnerships with organizations possessing strong implementation capabilities. These partnerships, encompassing international and local entities, Ukrainian grassroots organizations, government officials, and civil society actors, aimed to leverage local expertise and ensure project sustainability. Rigorous due diligence processes were implemented to select the most suitable implementing partners. Habitat, while leading the development and management of the program, fostered collaborative partnerships. Its operational contribution included providing technical support in construction, housing legislation, safeguarding, and gender issues, along with actively participating in weekly meetings and municipal visits. Additionally, Habitat shared networks, exchanged knowledge and strengthened institutional capacity.
- **Non-food items:** The first donations of equipment for transit centers were made from Poland. Habitat then partnered with Volunteer Corps to manufacture 500 cost-effective solid fuel stoves for heating and cooking, which were distributed to vulnerable households in remote rural areas of Kharkiv and Kherson.
- **Home repair and upgrade program:** Habitat partnered with Catholic Relief Services to provide vital construction repairs in different oblasts through local Caritas counterparts. The selection of beneficiaries for shelter repair was based on vulnerability criteria and was supported by local authorities. Applicants were registered on-site by



engineers and village monitors using an information management system. Beneficiary households could choose between two modalities: receiving money or having the repairs done by a contractor. The contractor-led modality experienced some delays in the early stages of the project, although this time served to establish a robust bidding process. Leveraging its existing partnership with the Odessa Housing Union, Habitat for Humanity also modernized several apartment buildings in Odessa. The project focused on energy efficiency upgrades, including the installation of individual heating points, the insulation of heating pipes and attics, and the modernization of electrical systems.

- **Challenges:** The intervention faced significant challenges, especially access to conflict-affected areas. The widespread need for shelter assistance, coupled with limited resources, made it difficult to reach all of the most vulnerable groups. The existing regulatory environment made it difficult to implement innovative housing programs.
- **Looking ahead:** To expand its operations in the country, Habitat for Humanity officially opened a new branch office in Ukraine in September 2024. To rebuild damaged housing and facilitate access to safe and affordable housing, Habitat will foster partnerships with the public and private sectors and advocate for effective and inclusive housing policies, such as the repurposing of vacant buildings to house vulnerable and displaced populations. A pilot project for affordable longer-term rental housing in the western Hromada of Kalush is ongoing.



## Lessons learned and promising practices

---

- **By collaborating with trusted local partners,** Habitat for Humanity can effectively address complex shelter needs in Ukraine and contribute to long-term housing reconstruction efforts. Local partners possess in-depth knowledge of local conditions, strong community engagement, rapid response capabilities, regulatory expertise, and cost-effective operations, enabling efficient resource allocation. These partnerships not only maximize impact but also strengthen the capacity of local organizations to address future housing challenges.
- **Habitat's strategic vision encompasses the expansion of its impact** beyond the scope of direct community interventions through advocacy. The organization is engaged in the dissemination of housing practices that have been successfully implemented in neighboring countries, with the objective of creating opportunities to assess their efficacy in the Ukrainian context. Furthermore, Habitat is actively involved in the revision of housing legislation at the national level.



**Ukraine:** Housing block in Odessa.



**Ukraine:** Dwelling affected by military shelling in Korobochkyne, Kharkiv oblast.



# Hurricanes Eta and Iota • 2020

## 📍 San Andres, Providencia, and Santa Catalina • Colombia

### Types of intervention



**Technical assistance**

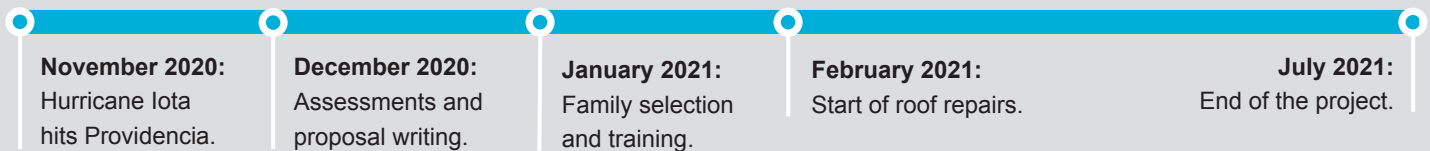
### Project targets

- **300 households** (about 1,500 individuals).
- **Shelter/housing solution size:** 32 square meters.

### Stakeholders

- **Implementing organizations:** World Vision Colombia and Habitat for Humanity International.
- **Partners:** United Nations Development Programme, Government of Colombia, International Organization for Migration Colombia, MSI Colombia Transforma.

### Timeline



## Summary

After the impact of hurricanes Eta and Iota in the archipelago of San Andres, Providencia and Santa Catalina in Colombia, Habitat for Humanity International and World Vision worked as regional strategic partners to implement development projects and support joint responses. Together, they contributed technical assistance in water, sanitation and hygiene, or WASH, and construction processes and provided temporary shelter to affected families through the reconstruction of 300 roofs under the “one safe room” approach of USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance, or USAID/BHA. More than 1,500 people from vulnerable communities in Providencia benefited from these initiatives.



## Background

Iota, a Category 5 hurricane, caused severe damage to the Colombian archipelago of San Andrés, Providencia and Santa Catalina, with particularly devastating effects on the island of Providencia.

Iota made landfall on Providencia on Nov. 15 and 16, 2020. The impact was catastrophic; the storm destroyed 80% of the island’s housing and damaged over 98% of structures on the island, including 15th-century buildings. Providencia’s water, sanitation, health and education infrastructure was also severely damaged. As a result, 95% of the island’s population — about 2,000 people — were affected by the hurricane.



San Andrés was less directly affected but still suffered significant damage. Many trees were uprooted, some of which fell on houses; several houses lost their roofs; major flooding occurred, with seawater rising to 3 meters; and about 60% of the island lost electricity.

The region was under a COVID-19 quarantine, which affected the assessment processes and travel of various supporting actors, including the government. Habitat and World Vision had to consider many preventive measures to carry out a “do no harm” response and avoid exposing the population to disease.

Habitat is present in the country through Habitat for Humanity Colombia, which implements projects indirectly through partners.

## Project programming

---

Following USAID/BHA’s “one safe room” approach, the core objective of the project was to provide temporary shelter for 300 affected households by improving existing structures that were in good condition for reuse.

The project built local capacity by training community members, construction companies and municipal government staff in resilient construction, disaster management, monitoring systems and weather event tracking.

Habitat provided technical, administrative, logistical and financial support. It also acted as a catalyst between all stakeholders — national and regional governments, United Nations agencies and USAID network operators — resulting in the leveraging of additional resources.

This early recovery intervention gave the Colombian government time to build permanent solutions for people in need.

## Implementation

---

USAID/BHA selected World Vision Colombia as a strategic partner to lead the recovery efforts on Providencia Island after Hurricane Iota. Recognizing the need for specialized shelter expertise for the proposed work, which included construction repairs, World Vision leveraged its existing regional partnership with Habitat for Humanity International’s Latin America and Caribbean area office.

Habitat deployed a shelter adviser with the United Nations Development Programme Colombia’s Disaster Risk Management Unit to help assess affected homes and to develop a proposal to repair 300 roofs. When funds were secured, Habitat provided technical support to the design of a basic model to be built by the World Vision technical team with community support. Habitat also supported the process of selecting and hiring local builders for implementation, along with the physical implementation of the project with local labor, which included supply chain processes, final delivery to users, and the completion of the infrastructure rehabilitation component.

## Lessons learned and promising practices

---

- **Clear roles and responsibilities:** A well-defined division of labor among consortium partners is essential for effective joint responses.
- **Logistical considerations:** Emergency responses on small islands require careful consideration of logistical challenges, particularly regarding transportation and resource constraints.
- **Community engagement:** Local governments should consult with affected communities to ensure that technical solutions align with their needs and preferences, a process that fosters community ownership and cohesion.

# Hurricane Fiona • 2022

📍 El Seibo, Miches and La Romana • Dominican Republic

## Types of intervention



Construction



Capacity building



Livelihoods

## Project targets

- 1,000 individuals.

## Stakeholders

- **Implementing organization:** Habitat for Humanity Dominican Republic.
- **Partners:** Ministry of Housing and Buildings, Vice Presidency of the Republic, local companies, World Vision International, and United Nations Development Programme.



## Timeline

**September 2022:**

Hurricane Fiona makes landfall.

Needs assessments are conducted.

**October 2022:**

Family selection process starts.

**October 2023:**

End of project.



## Summary

In the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Fiona, Habitat Dominican Republic partnered with government agencies and NGOs, especially World Vision, to assess damage and provide critical assistance to affected families. This included the distribution of essential supplies, home repairs and reconstruction. To ensure sustainable recovery, Habitat Dominican Republic collaborated with the United Nations Development Programme, or UNDP, to implement a three-pronged strategy: strengthening local governance, promoting economic resilience and building resilient infrastructure. By prioritizing community engagement, capacity building and innovative solutions, Habitat Dominican Republic played a vital role in helping affected communities recover and rebuild.



## Background

Fiona made landfall in the Dominican Republic on Sept. 19, 2022, as a Category 1 hurricane, bringing powerful winds of up to 150 kilometers per hour and torrential rainfall to the eastern part of the country.

The storm's impact was severe, causing widespread flooding, landslides and significant damage to infrastructure and housing. Over 13,760 people were forced to evacuate their homes. 8,708 houses were damaged, with 6,408 partially damaged and 2,300 destroyed. Forty-nine collective centers were established, including 25 in public schools; 1,551 people sought shelter in these designated spaces.

In response to the crisis, the president of the Dominican Republic declared a state of emergency in eight eastern provinces: La Altagracia, La Romana, El Seibo, Samaná, Hato Mayor, María Trinidad Sánchez, Duarte and Monte Plata<sup>1</sup>. This declaration aimed to facilitate rapid response and resource allocation to the most affected areas.

Habitat for Humanity had been present in the country since 1986.

## Project programming

---

Habitat for Humanity Dominican Republic implemented a comprehensive response to the impacts of the hurricane, focusing on providing shelter support to vulnerable families, stimulating local economic recovery and building long-term community resilience. The organization's approach combined immediate relief with sustainable development strategies by addressing both the urgent needs arising from the disaster and the underlying vulnerabilities in affected communities.

Habitat provided technical guidance to partner organizations on shelter issues, trained communities in safe housing practices and emergency preparedness, and repaired 200 damaged homes.

To stimulate the local economy, Habitat Dominican Republic created job opportunities through local labor recruitment and the provision of construction training.

The organization prioritized the province of El Seibo initially, and expanded to other government-declared emergency areas as funds and local partnerships became available.

## Implementation

---

Habitat Dominican Republic implemented a multistage response, working in collaboration with various partners. The project unfolded in three main stages:

- **Stage 1: Initial response and assessment:** Habitat Dominican Republic partnered with the Ministry of Housing and Buildings, or MIVED, and World Vision to support over 500 people affected by Hurricane Fiona in the eastern part of the country. The initial focus was on the communities of El Seibo and Miches, where efforts concentrated on home repair and reconstruction. During this stage, UNDP introduced the Housing and Building Damage Assessment, or HBDA, tool to MIVED. This tool proved crucial for collecting comprehensive data on damaged structures, informing decision-making processes, and prioritizing rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts. The HBDA tool was particularly valuable in Sabana de la Mar, Hato Mayor province, where there was a significant lack of information regarding resource allocation needs. Based on the HBDA findings and UNDP's experience, a three-pronged strategic intervention was proposed for building resilience in Sabana de la Mar: local governance enhancement; economic resilience of affected communities, with a focus on gender equality; and development of resilient infrastructure.
- **Stage 2: Expansion of relief efforts:** In the second stage, Habitat Dominican Republic expanded its reach to communities in La Romana. More than 300 additional people were assisted with shelter recovery support. This expansion allowed for a broader impact, addressing the needs of more hurricane-affected families across a wider geographical area.
- **Stage 3: UNDP partnership:** The third stage of the project, implemented in close collaboration with UNDP, focused on long-term recovery and building community resilience. Key initiatives included the reconstruction of 52 houses, prioritizing those that served as both homes and businesses. The project also provided training to 15 teachers in resilient construction techniques and supported the development of community response plans and emergency brigades. Additionally, the project indirectly benefited over 3,000 people through community empowerment efforts. This comprehensive approach aimed to not only restore damaged infrastructure but also strengthen community preparedness for future disasters.





## Lessons learned and promising practices

---

- **Effective partnerships:** Collaboration with government agencies, NGOs and local communities is essential for successful disaster response and recovery. Existing partnerships and agreements can facilitate a rapid and coordinated response. Strong partnerships can leverage resources, expertise and reach to maximize impact.
- **Community-centered approach:** Engaging with affected communities to understand their specific needs and priorities is crucial. Empowering communities through capacity building will enhance their resilience.
- **Flexible and adaptive response:** The ability to adapt to changing circumstances and emerging needs is essential in disaster response.
- **Building back better:** Strengthening the resilience of communities should be an essential part of recovery efforts, including investments in hazard-resistant housing and infrastructure.
- **Leveraging technology and innovation:** The use of technology for data collection, monitoring and communication can improve efficiency and effectiveness. Exploring innovative approaches to funding and implementation can accelerate recovery efforts.



**Paraguay:** Distribution of non-food items to internally displaced people. Joint operation between ShelterBox, the Red Cross and Habitat for Humanity.





285 Peachtree Center Ave. NE, Suite 2700, Atlanta, GA 30303-1220 USA  
322 W. Lamar St., Americus, GA 31709-3543 USA  
(800) 422-4828 fax (229) 410-7629 [publicinfo@habitat.org](mailto:publicinfo@habitat.org) [habitat.org](http://habitat.org)