Côte d’Ivoire

Habitat for Humanity in Côte d’Ivoire
Established in 1999, Habitat for Humanity Côte d’Ivoire (HFHCI) seeks to break the cycle of poverty by working with homeowners to provide safe, dry and secure homes, with decent sanitation.

The housing need in Côte d’Ivoire
Among the world’s largest producers and exporters of coffee and palm oil, Côte d’Ivoire once boasted the strongest economy in West Africa. Now, due to a devastating civil war and global economic pressure in 2002, the country contends with extreme poverty, and its exhausted infrastructure struggles to meet the growing needs of the people. In the city of Abidjan alone, the housing deficit is estimated to be 20,000 houses per year. Urbanization is adding to the problem, with almost half of the growing population now living in towns or cities. The cumulative deficit is estimated at than 1,000,000 units in 2012.

In rural areas, the need is also immense. Many people live in temporary structures, which require extensive upkeep and repair and are vulnerable to fire. Walls are typically made of mud in a wooden frame and often crack, causing leaks and eventually falling apart. Thatch-roof houses harbor numerous disease-carrying insects, such as malarial mosquitoes and the tsetse fly, which can spread eye disease. With so many people living in poverty, substandard housing is an overwhelming challenge. Most families live in traditional homes made of mud walls and thatch roofs or inadequately constructed brick houses. Overcrowding exists in the majority of these houses, and lack of natural light and ventilation are common problems, causing illness and other problems.

How Habitat addresses the need in Côte d’Ivoire
HFHCI builds houses using appropriate technology and local building materials. The houses are made of brick and mortar, with corrugated iron roofing sheets. The designs are simple and spacious and cater to the individual families’ needs, while remaining affordable for the homeowners. Houses consist of either two or three bedrooms and a hall. Smaller houses are currently planned, in order to reach families on the lowest income groups.

COUNTRY FACTS*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Capital</th>
<th>Yamoussoukro</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Main country facts</td>
<td>Gained independence in 1960</td>
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<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>23.3 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Urbanization</td>
<td>54.2 percent live in cities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Life expectancy</td>
<td>58.3 years</td>
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<td>Unemployment rate</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Population living below poverty line</td>
<td>42 percent</td>
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</tbody>
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*Sources: CIA World Factbook, World Bank, UN

HABITAT FACTS

When Habitat started in Côte d’Ivoire
1999

Families served
More than 1,800

Housing solutions
New homes for vulnerable groups
Renovations and repairs
Water and sanitation
Care and support services for OVC
Advocacy
Even with moonlight breaking through crumbling mud walls and a shredded scrap-tin roof, Amani Yao couldn’t see the rodents that scurried across his dirt floor each evening. He didn’t see the malaria-spreading mosquitoes either, before they descended to bite. The 54-year-old Ivorian has been blind since 2004, the result of too many bites from the blackflies that swarm the banks of the nearby Bandama River. More than 100 of the town’s 1,500 residents have watched their vision slowly disappear because of the disease. But five years ago, thanks to Habitat Côte d’Ivoire’s “Healthy Homes” initiative, light returned to Amani’s life. That’s when Amani, Vincent and five other relatives moved out of the darkness of a cramped, windowless home and into a house with a concrete floor, sun-soaked windows and secure doors. To Amani, it’s more than a safe, comfortable place to sleep at night. “I may be blind,” Amani says, “but I can tell when there’s light. I can feel the difference in me. I was frustrated in the old house, but I feel at ease here. I can feel the warmth. I feel the glow.”

What you can do

You can help families in Côte d’Ivoire improve their living conditions by taking one or more of the following actions:

DONATE
Go to habitat.org/donate and designate your gift to Habitat Côte d’Ivoire.

VOLUNTEER
Join one of the scheduled Global Village trips to Europe, Middle East and Africa or lead your own. For more information go to: habitat.org/gv

TITHE
Establish a strong and rewarding tithe partnership to help build houses globally! Quote 862200, COTE d’IVOIRE on your checks sent to: Habitat for Humanity International, Attn: Affiliate Tithe, 121 Habitat St. Americus, GA 31709

To learn more about Habitat projects in Côte d’Ivoire, please contact us.

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