



Country profile

Haiti

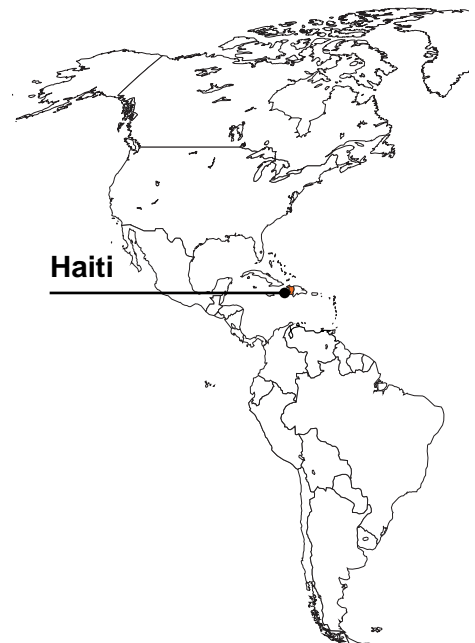
The housing need in Haiti

Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, with 58.5% of the population living on less than US\$2.42 per day. Political instability, food shortages, unemployment, natural disasters and a lack of basic infrastructure have kept most Haitians locked in a cycle of poverty for generations. Access to housing is equally desperate. Before the 2010 earthquake, Haiti already faced a severe shortage of houses.

The earthquake damaged nearly 190,000 houses and 105,000 more were destroyed, adding to the pre-existing backlog of 300,000 houses required to meet the growing shelter needs of the country. Combined with Hurricane Matthew that directly hit the southern area in 2016, the housing needs have dramatically increased.

HABITAT FACTS:

- Habitat began working in Haiti in 1984.
- **Individuals served in FY2019 – 9,060**
 - Through new construction – 1,470
 - Through incremental building – 1,700
 - Through repairs – 5,890
- **Volunteers hosted in FY2019 – 98**



COUNTRY FACTS:

- Capital city -- Port-au-Prince**
- Population -- 10.8 million**
- Life expectancy – 64.6 years**
- Unemployment rate – 40.6%**
- Below poverty line – 58.5%**

How Habitat addresses the need

Simon-Pelé

Simon-Pelé is a densely populated informal set of five communities of approximately 30,000 residents north of downtown Port-au-Prince. The area is characterized by low-quality, self-built housing, inadequate public infrastructure, high unemployment and violence. Despite the challenges, there are strengths, including strong social ties, human capital, a vibrant commercial main street and de facto security of tenure. Habitat is working on a water, sanitation and hygiene, or WASH, project to improve drainage, water, sanitation and resident hygiene practices. Through this program, Habitat has built latrines and handwashing stations in schools and individuals have been sensitized to proper hygiene practices.

Disaster response

Category 4 Hurricane Matthew violently struck southwestern Haiti on October 4, 2016, bringing heavy rainfall in the south, southeast and the northwest and creating the largest humanitarian emergency in the country since the 2010 earthquake. The hurricane caused considerable damage to the housing sector. Through the response program, severely damaged houses have been repaired and new homes have been constructed. Habitat also responded to the earthquake which struck the northwest of Haiti on October 6, 2018, through home building and construction training.

Habitat is committed to training masons in the region to improve local, construction techniques and reduce vulnerability to disasters.

Land tenure

Major barriers to land tenure in Haiti include lack of official land documentation, low exchange value of lands, and a lack of an efficient land information system. In early 2019, Habitat Haiti launched a program in partnership with USAID aimed at proving tenure security to households in three municipalities and increasing the number of parcels registered in the land administration systems.

What you can do

DONATE

<https://www.habitat.org/donate/?link=802>

TITHE

Habitat affiliates in the U.S. can establish a tithe partnership to help build houses. Quote HAITI on checks sent to: Habitat for Humanity International, Attn: Affiliate Tithe, 322 West Lamar St., Americus, GA 31709

CONTACT

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