



## Country profile

# Nicaragua

### The housing need in Nicaragua

Nicaragua has one of the largest qualitative and quantitative housing deficits in the Latin America and Caribbean region with a backlog of 957,000 units, according to the Chamber of Developers of Nicaragua.

Each year, about 20,000 new homes are required and more than half of existing homes need basic services or improvements. Private-sector efforts and public investment meet only 25% of the country's needs each year, so the deficit continues to grow.

#### HABITAT FACTS:

- Habitat began working in Nicaragua in 1984.
- **Individuals served in FY2021 – 48,180**
  - Through new construction – 285
  - Through incremental building – 1,095
  - Through repairs – 455
  - Through professional services – 360
  - Through market development – 45,985



#### COUNTRY FACTS:

**Capital city** – Managua  
**Population** – 6.3 million  
**Life expectancy** – 74 years  
**Unemployment rate** – 5%  
**Below poverty line** – 14.6%

# How Habitat addresses the need

## **Safe, stable homes**

Habitat Nicaragua works in partnership with various stakeholders to reduce the housing deficit through new home construction and progressive home improvements, construction of core housing that can be expanded as families' resources permit, water and sanitation solutions, repairs, and expansions.

## **Support services for housing**

Habitat believes in strengthening the capacity of families to continue their housing improvements. Currently, we provide training in financial education, safe housing, climate change, housing law, and property ownership, as well as community learning about healthy housing.

## **Financial services**

Habitat maintains a line of credit in microfinancing institutions to provide microloans for housing improvements with construction technical assistance. The microloans at market rates are provided to families with a monthly income of below US\$800.

## **Volunteer engagement**

Over the past 10 years, Habitat Nicaragua has mobilized national construction volunteers from high schools, universities, companies, and social organizations through different initiatives to support the communities where we work.

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# What you can do

## **SUPPORT**

Please contact us at [info@habitatnicaragua.org](mailto:info@habitatnicaragua.org) and our team will respond with information on ways you can support Nicaraguan families.

## **VOLUNTEER**

The Global Village program was suspended in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Please go to [habitat.org/gv](https://www.habitat.org/gv) for updates, including when and where the program will resume.

## **TITHE**

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

## **CONTACT**

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