



Bolivia

Capacity Overview

Since Habitat for Humanity began working in Bolivia in 1985, we have helped more than 130,000 people in the country build or improve their homes in coordination with local authorities, social organizations, the private sector and other strategic allies. Our interventions help vulnerable families improve their lives by eliminating the barriers that stand between them and a decent and healthy place to call home.

Habitat's programs in Bolivia improve living conditions, productivity and the health of families and individuals. They offer safe, affordable, sustainable, inclusive interventions that are customized to context and needs, reducing inequalities and fostering resilience to disaster and economic crises. This is achieved through home construction, upgrades and expansions, along with water and sanitation interventions, promotion of inclusive housing policies, and skill-development programs.

We know that adequate housing has grown even more critical during the COVID-19 pandemic and is a driver in achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, or SDGs. We place a special focus on inclusive housing and on water, sanitation and hygiene, or WASH.

Our local partners include BancoSol, Banco de Crédito, Banco Nacional, Banco de Desarrollo Productivo, Banco FIE, Farmacorp, Coca-Cola Bolivia, Tigre, Fancesa, Importadora Campero, Nacional de Seguros, Save the Children Bolivia, Water for People Bolivia, Compassion Bolivia, and the Fundación contra el Hambre Bolivia.

At the international level, Habitat has worked in Bolivia with partners such as UN-HABITAT, Cargill, UK Aid Direct, We Effect, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Goeasy, Scottish Development International, the World Bank,

Habitat works in **three of Bolivia's nine departments**. La Paz, Cochabamba and Santa Cruz are home to **more than 70% of the country's population**, including the largest concentration of migrants from rural to urban areas.

the Inter-American Development Bank, the U.S. Embassy, the Canadian Embassy and the Latin American, African and Asian Social Housing Service, or SELAVIP.

Habitat also is part of several networks led by communities, local governments and other nongovernmental organizations, or NGOs. They include the Platform of Canadian Civil Society Organizations in Bolivia, or COCAB; the National Network

of Human Settlements, or RENASEH; the Consortium of Humanitarian Agencies in Bolivia, or CAHB; the Habitat International Coalition for Latin America, or HIC-AL; and #BOLIVIAconAGUA (Bolivia with Water).

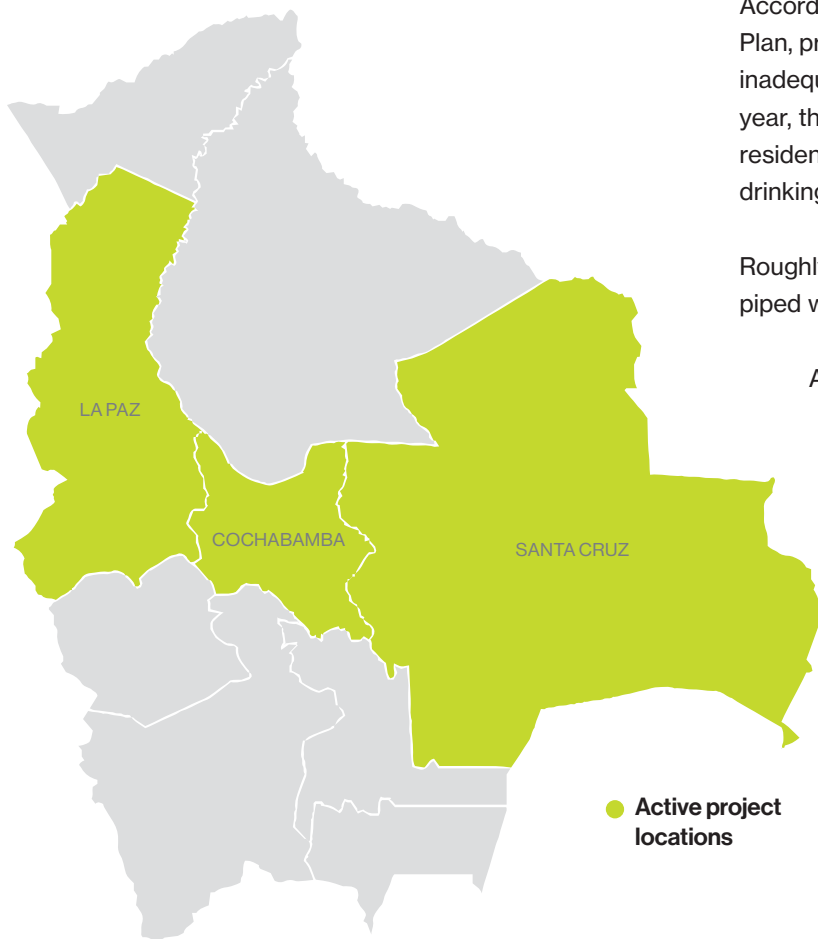
Country context

Bolivia has a population of more than 11 million, more than 67% of whom live in urban areas.

According to the government's Housing Deficit Reduction Plan, presented in 2019, 51% of families in Bolivia live in inadequate housing or lack a place to live. In the same year, the Ministry of Health reported that 94% of urban residents and 68% of rural residents had adequate drinking water.

Roughly 66% of households in Bolivia have access to piped water, and 47% are connected to a sewage system.

Access to land is inequitable, with an estimated 60% of the population facing challenges related to land rights, especially women. The unprecedented impact of the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated inequality and the vulnerability of families who do not have adequate housing as the first line of defense for their health and their lives.



Inclusive housing

Habitat for Humanity Bolivia has invested about US\$60 million in building 8,000 homes and improving 7,000 more, creating 46,000 direct construction-related jobs and more than 150,000 indirect jobs. Today the organization is helping improve the lives of at least 500 more highly vulnerable families through the improvement, expansion or construction of new homes. Our interventions prioritize people with disabilities or chronic illnesses, and in the process help empower targeted groups such as women through development of construction skills that can help with owner-driven home improvements as well as job skills.

Habitat Bolivia promotes the fundamental right to adequate housing within the framework of inclusion, equity and nondiscrimination. In coordination with the national government and municipal officials, and in partnership with international partners such as UN-HABITAT, we promote disaster risk reduction and sustainable urban planning in line with both the SDGs and national policies.

Habitat aided the creation of the country's 2020 Housing Policy, emphasizing the right to adequate housing and in particular promoting the inclusion of peri-urban neighborhoods.

As coordinator of the National Network of Human Settlements, known as the RENASEH network, Habitat Bolivia has helped establish a four-point influencing agenda:

- State recognition of urban communities, including housing cooperatives, and their inclusion in laws and policies.
- Financing policies for social housing that benefit those in greatest need.
- Implementation of effective policies and programs for land regularization and secure ownership.
- Access to water and sanitation for peri-urban neighborhoods.





Water, sanitation and hygiene

In Bolivia, 44 out of every 100 families lack access to safe water, and 57 out of every 100 do not have a decent sanitation system.

Since 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Habitat Bolivia has worked with a greater emphasis on families in peri-urban regions; female-headed households; families without access to safe water; and vulnerable people who have physical disabilities, chronic illnesses or face other significant barriers to exercising their rights.

Together with Water for People Bolivia and the FH Bolivia Foundation, Habitat initiated a four-year program in 2021 focused on access to safe water and basic sanitation. The goal is to provide access to water and sanitation to 4,000 highly vulnerable families in peri-urban and rural areas of Bolivia.

Habitat Bolivia also has equipped more than 700 families with training in hygiene supplies related to COVID-19 prevention. We also have partnered with communities, hospitals and schools to install portable hand-washing stations made from recycled materials.

Disaster risk reduction and response

Habitat Bolivia helps vulnerable families prepare for natural disasters by developing prevention and risk management skills. Our projects focus on education, awareness and best practices related to adequate and safe housing, and on the empowerment of women in vulnerable situations, with an average of 1,200 people attending the trainings per year.

Habitat Bolivia also has experience in humanitarian assistance, particularly emergency shelter. In 2007,

together with the NGO Compassion International, Habitat responded to the severe floods in the community of Chané, in Santa Cruz, building 19 wooden houses to help 95 people. And in 2013, Habitat responded to massive landslides and floods that affected Quillacollo and La Paz, building 25 complete houses, along with 20 bathrooms for collective use. This project was executed with the Vice Ministry of Housing and Urban Development's emergency housing unit and partner Compassion International.



The Habitat network

Habitat's work in Bolivia is supported by Habitat for Humanity International, an acclaimed global development organization that partners with a full range of stakeholders in more than 70 countries, implementing appropriate solutions for more than 5 million people per year in urban, peri-urban and rural areas. Habitat advocates for policies that bring adequate housing within reach for the estimated 1.6 billion people worldwide who currently lack decent shelter, and we help make housing market systems more responsive to their needs.

Habitat for Humanity International maintains a Latin America and the Caribbean area office in Costa Rica, through which we can multiply impact through regionally centralized programmatic support. The resources and expertise of the area office can be flexed into countries such as Bolivia to support programming and other services.



Accountability

Habitat Bolivia employs a robust monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning, or MEAL, system in all of its programs and projects. This system has been set up to continually track and, if needed, modify and refine

approaches. It begins at the design stage and ends when projects are transitioned to administration by families, communities or strategic partners.

We partner with state and local governments to ensure the sustainability of our programs. We consider it critical that communities be involved from the start in monitoring, evaluation and control of resources, spaces and results. That way they can help facilitate the inclusion of all key constituents, especially women and vulnerable families.

This commitment to MEAL is a hallmark of all Habitat for Humanity programs worldwide. It is used as an instrument not only for program quality assurance but also for continuous organizational learning. We have dedicated MEAL experts at the global, regional office and country levels, with a global leadership team steering and championing advancement of the MEAL approach in Habitat Bolivia's programs.



everyone

needs a place to call home

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