

SOLID GROUND

LAND IS THE FOUNDATION FOR LIFE

Understanding that the global need for adequate shelter is far too great to be met through building alone, Habitat for Humanity launched its first global advocacy campaign, Solid Ground, in March 2016. Through advocacy efforts that influence policies and systems, the four-year campaign has improved the way more than 3 million people in countries around the world access land, ensuring that more people have a decent place to call home.

Why land rights?

Millions of people worldwide lack the most basic physical, economic and psychological security of adequate shelter. Housing accounts for more than 70% of land use in most cities, yet approximately 1 billion people in cities around the world lack secure land rights. As a result, households are forced to operate in complex informal arrangements, making them vulnerable to displacement and loss of livelihoods and unable to reap social and economic benefits. Access to land is

important for combating inequality and poverty. Without land, there can be no housing, and housing is the key to stability and opportunity.

Key achievements

- More than 40 countries where Habitat for Humanity organizations and partners are committed to improving policies to increase access to land for shelter.
- 12 countries that have seen successful land policy improvements during the campaign.
- 17 global campaign partners who have shared support, knowledge and best practices to increase access to safe and secure land.
- More than 3 million people with increased access to land, the foundation for better housing.



SECURE TENURE:

75% of people lack the proper documentation for the land on which they live. Millions of people live in constant fear of eviction, unwilling to leave their homes in case they are never able to return. With freedom from fear of eviction, people are more likely to invest in their families, homes and futures.



GENDER EQUALITY:

Women are half the world's population, yet are routinely and systematically denied their right to land. Improving the property rights of women has a catalytic effect, elevating the standards of living for entire communities.



SLUM UPGRADING:

Today, 1.6 billion people live without adequate shelter, and 1 billion of them live in slums. Rapid urbanization is expected to push this number to reach 2 billion by 2030. Slum upgrading means improving the living conditions of informal settlements in a responsible manner, providing access to decent housing in the short term and the long term.



DISASTER RESILIENCE:

When a disaster strikes a community without proper land laws in place, people lose their homes and their ability to recover. Disaster resilience enables communities to better prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters, predictable or otherwise.

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

71,215

people with improved access to land for shelter

In recent years, as Habitat for Humanity Côte d'Ivoire has worked with families to build new homes, it recognized the need for the development of a more accessible land registration system. This led Habitat Côte d'Ivoire to support the development of a localized land registration system. In fiscal year 2019 alone, land documents were issued to 5,648 households, bringing the total number of people with increased land tenure to over 70,000. This number was reached thanks to the government relations efforts of Habitat Côte d'Ivoire over the past two years.

HONDURAS

1,060,155

people with improved access to land for shelter

Habitat for Humanity Honduras is addressing barriers to secure land tenure and housing by advocating at the municipal level and empowering local actors through a bottom-up advocacy approach. According to Habitat Honduras' guidelines, housing and land policies should be incorporated into the longer-term, strategic municipal development plans, with clear implementation strategies and budgets. To achieve this, Habitat Honduras is bringing together civil society, corporate sector representatives, elected officials and community members to create, negotiate and monitor implementation of housing policies in each community. Habitat Honduras and its partners have created 227 new land and housing policies since beginning this approach, with an additional 13 awaiting approval, and have unlocked US\$50 million from municipal governments in fiscal year 2019.

JAMAICA

10,000

people with improved access to land for shelter

In Jamaica, Habitat for Humanity is working to improve tenure security and increase disaster resilience for residents of urban informal settlements. Through the Building Resilience and Capacities for Emerging Disasters, or BRACED, program, Habitat for Humanity has partnered with local entities, community members and the governmental Land Agency to implement a pilot project to improve housing and land-related policies. With strengthened tenure security, families are more likely to invest in their homes, specifically by making improvements that increase resiliency to disasters. Through



the BRACED project, Habitat for Humanity has impacted the lives of 10,000 people and has the potential to impact up to 675,000. The use of drones to draw images for digitalized land maps, rather than manual drawings, proved to be cost-effective, provided opportunity for employment, and led to integrated cooperation between governmental bodies and community members.

BANGLADESH

68,500

people with improved access to land for shelter

Habitat for Humanity Bangladesh has been working to increase the resilience of slum communities in Dhaka through the completion of vulnerability assessments, community action planning, urban informal settlement mapping, water and sanitation infrastructure, housing repairs, and capacity building. Data collected by Habitat Bangladesh are accessible to all urban stakeholders, in particular local governments, as a basis for their respective programming, advocacy and policy initiatives, thus promoting optimum resource allocation. In fiscal year 2019, efforts led by Habitat Bangladesh resulted in improved access to land for shelter for 68,500 people.



SOLID GROUND CAMPAIGN

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