



# Honduras

## Capacity Overview

Habitat for Humanity has worked in Honduras since 1989, focusing on the social housing sector. Habitat has worked with 32,000 families as they build or improve their homes, helping around 160,000 people achieve a better quality of life through safe, secure housing.

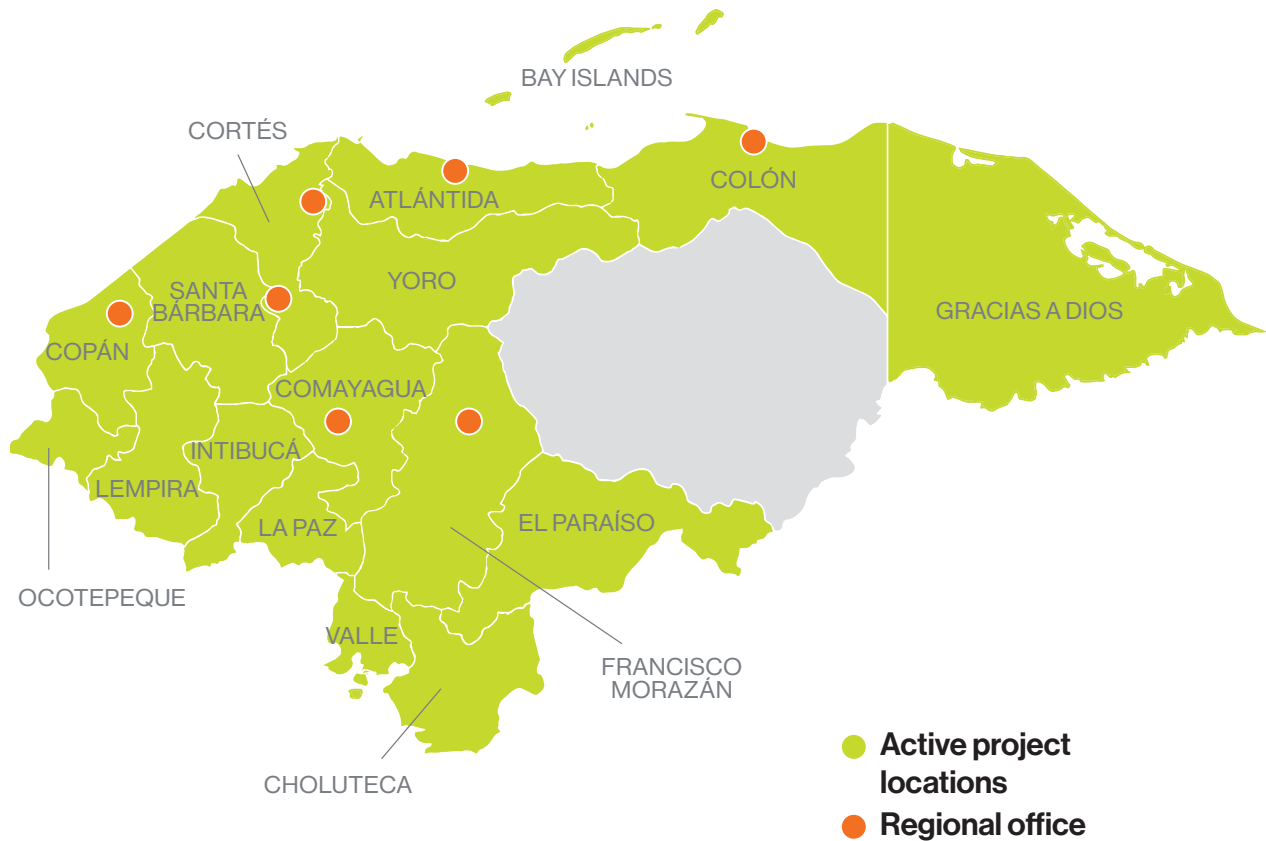
Habitat has partnered with families to build nearly 13,000 homes; repaired or improved up to 20,000 homes; and supplied more than 12,500 water, sanitation and hygiene, or WASH, solutions – such as safe water supply systems, latrines, sewage systems and septic tanks – to reduce the spread of waterborne disease. Habitat also has helped unleash community leadership skills, supported disaster risk prevention capabilities, and reduced the housing deficit.

Habitat has invested more than US\$57 million on housing development in the country, creating more than 68,000 direct construction-related jobs and more than 180,000 indirect ones through services such as transportation and hospitality.

Among the local donors and organizations that have partnered with Habitat in Honduras are the Center of Studies and Action for Development of Honduras, the San Alonzo Rodríguez Foundation, the Association of Research for Ecological and Socioeconomic Development, Sur en Acción, Hermandad en Honduras, the Association for the Integrated Management of the La Paz and Comayagua Watersheds, the Ethnic Community Development Organization, the Institute for Cooperation and Self-Development, the Human Development Center Honduras, the Non-Governmental Organizations Association of Honduras, Corazón a Corazón, and the Organization for Youth Empowerment.

Habitat's international partners in Honduras have included GOAL, Children International, Global Communities, ShelterBox, the International Federation of the Red Cross, Taiwanese Cooperation, Rotary Club International, and the United Nations World Food Program.

Habitat Honduras is based in San Pedro Sula and has **seven regional offices**, located in Santa Cruz de Yojoa, San Pedro Sula, Siguatepeque, Tegucigalpa, La Ceiba, Copán and Aguán.



### Country context

Honduras is composed of 18 departments and 298 municipalities. It is the second-largest country in Central America and has a population of 9.3 million people.

The National Institute of Statistics says the adequate housing deficit in the country is around 62% as of 2020. Despite the existence of regulations in some municipalities, families continue to build where they can, often in unstable places and without following safe construction standards.

According to the Permanent Household Survey conducted in 2019, 59% of Honduran households live in poverty, and the rate is even higher in rural areas, at 68%. Lower-income households often live in homes built with waste materials and/or vegetation, with more than three people per room and no access to drinking water and basic sanitation.

Honduras also suffered a setback in 2020 when powerful hurricanes Eta and Iota hit just two weeks apart from each other, affecting approximately 4.7 million people.

# Access to adequate housing

Habitat Honduras works to help vulnerable families secure safe and resilient housing through products and services that respond to the reality of the country's housing deficit. This is achieved by building new homes, either as single-family houses or in the form of housing complexes. We also help families improve or repair existing houses to ensure that they have adequate conditions. Families can access these services either by paying a low-interest mortgage or, in some cases, by partial or total subsidies. Families working to upgrade their housing see benefits in the form of less-crowded living conditions, increased security, and reduced instances of respiratory and gastrointestinal diseases.

Habitat Honduras is currently promoting a social housing project that includes multistory buildings. This not only provides an affordable and dignified housing solution but also addresses the challenges families face in accessing suitable geographic conditions for residential

construction. This initiative has been implemented under Habitat's leadership and academic partners such as the Universidad Tecnológica Centroamericana, Universidad Católica de Honduras and the Centro de Desarrollo de Arquitectura, which oversaw the architectural design development of the project.

Habitat also has partnered with indigenous groups on more than 1,800 solutions for families, including new homes, house repairs, environmentally friendly stoves, drinking water systems, and basic sanitation facilities such as latrines.

One of Habitat's strengths in Honduras has been its administrative management, specializing in selection criteria that ensure the most vulnerable populations receive support first. This is complemented by the management of about US\$2 million in government housing vouchers for social housing each year.





## Disaster response and risk reduction

Habitat Honduras works with families living in areas vulnerable to disasters by applying international and national standards for disaster risk reduction. The first step is to ensure that areas identified for upgrades or new construction are adequate and safe for housing. Secondly, the actions are always coordinated with community and municipal organizations to guarantee that the projects are completed in concert with local needs and standards.

Habitat is an active member of the U.N.'s Red Humanitaria, coordinating with other civil society and international actors such as the Rotary Club of San Pedro

Sula, ShelterBox, the International Federation of the Red Cross, and the Global Shelter Cluster in response to natural disasters.

In 2020, in the wake of hurricanes Eta and Iota, Habitat provided safe water supply and storage, construction materials, household kits, and temporary shelter for more than 3,000 affected families, or around 15,000 people.

Habitat also has led housing projects in higher-risk areas, designing and building homes on stilts, for example, to help reduce flooding risk.

# Land tenure security and social housing

To ensure access to land and adequate housing, Habitat works in Honduras with partners from different sectors to promote public policies designed to increase the volume and availability of resources for social housing projects.

One result of this collaboration is the National Law on Housing and Human Settlements, which budgeted resources for municipal entities to support the construction and improvement of social housing units. It helped make land available for projects, along with in-kind materials and construction of public service systems in new social housing developments.

This law grew out of a close collaboration among government officials; Habitat Honduras; and partner organizations such as the Network of Solidarity Housing Development Organizations, or REDVISOL; the Institute for Cooperation and Development; the Mennonite Social Action Commission; the San Alonso Rodríguez Foundation; and the Commonwealths of Municipalities. As of 2021, 246 of Honduras' 298 municipalities have an approved municipal housing policy.

Municipalities have mobilized more than US\$108 million for social housing, impacting more than 700,000 people. Habitat Honduras has since committed to working with every municipality to bring those benefits to the country's entire population.

Habitat Honduras has had an impact beyond policies by empowering local communities to better understand their rights, the different ways of accessing government programs, and how to interact more effectively with local governments. This advocacy strategy leverages the capacity of local partner organizations to lead and expand the methodology in municipalities where Habitat does not have a physical presence.



# The Habitat network

Habitat's work in Honduras 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 its Latin America and Caribbean Area Office in Costa Rica, which allows Habitat to multiply impact through regionally centralized programmatic support. The resources and expertise from that office can be flexed to support programming and other services in countries such as Honduras.



## Accountability

As part of its work methodology, Habitat employs a robust monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning, or MEAL, system into all its programs and projects. This system not only provides us with data for demonstrating our impact and ensuring we live up to our values, but also includes financial responsibility; diversity and inclusion; and safeguarding policies to protect our employees, our partners, and the people we work with every day.



Accountability also is a central tenet of our work with state and local governments, which is essential to the sustainability of all programs. In this process, it is important to involve communities from the start in monitoring, evaluation and control of resources, spaces and results. We facilitate the inclusion of all key stakeholders, especially women, families and communities whose residents live in highly vulnerable conditions.

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 programs in Honduras.

# everyone

## needs a place to call home

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