

# Country profile

# COLOMBIA



## Habitat for Humanity in Colombia

Habitat for Humanity Colombia enables vulnerable communities to gain access to adequate housing through holistic programs for neighborhood improvement and home improvement in poor settlements.

Learn more at [hphcolombia.org](http://hphcolombia.org)

## The housing need in Colombia

In recent years, the economic growth of Colombia has placed the country among the world's "emerging economies," but nearly 34 percent of the population still lives in poor conditions (DANE, 2005). Colombia also is the world's seventh most inequitable country (Banco Mundial, 2012).

Colombia has been experiencing violent internal conflict for more than 50 years. Since 1985, 5.9 million Colombians have been violently displaced as a result of this conflict (CODHES, 2014).

In search of safety and a better future, the displaced population migrates to urban areas, and informal settlements proliferate on the cities' periphery. As a result, 3.8 million households, or 29.1 percent of all households in Colombia, do not have adequate housing (according to Ministry of Housing estimates from 2013), and 662,146 families, or 5 percent, are homeless.

## Habitat's contribution in Colombia

Challenges posed by the informal settlements include lack of secure tenure; lack of access to basic services; poor structural quality; low accessibility to resources for the progressive construction of a house; and unequal access to educational equipment, social and health services, and employment possibilities.

Habitat Colombia enables holistic slum improvement projects led by the communities, with the active participation of public and private partners, donors and volunteers. The goal is to reduce the qualitative housing deficit in urban zones by 10 percent by 2018. This is performed through strategies at the community, sectorial and societal levels.

## COUNTRY FACTS

<b>Capital</b>	Bogota
<b>Date of Independence or creation of the state:</b>	July 20, 1810
<b>Population</b>	47.661.000
<b>Life expectancy</b>	77 years
<b>Unemployment rate</b>	9.65 percent
<b>Percent of the population living below the line of poverty</b>	34 percent, with 9.6 percent living in extreme poverty

\*Sources: CIA World Factbook, World Bank, UN

## HABITAT FACTS

### Date when Habitat started working in the country

November 28, 1994

### Families served

3.700

### Volunteers hosted

1.200

### Housing solutions

3.700



## Our Programs:

### Community: Housing solutions and housing access services

Through participatory territorial diagnoses, construction technical assistance, training, and workshops that promote community self-management, Habitat Colombia enables the construction of progressive housing and the improvement of community infrastructure in informal settlements.

### Sector: Territorial Development of Markets and Advocacy

Habitat Colombia seeks to create the necessary market knowledge for the private sector to develop affordable and high-quality products and services for home improvement in informal settlements. Likewise, Habitat Colombia advocates for home improvement, secure tenure, access to basic services and the improvement of collective infrastructure.

### Society: Awareness and mobilization

Habitat Colombia designs and implements campaigns, events and actions to raise awareness, share experiences and promote adequate housing access alternatives for vulnerable populations.

Through our construction and nonconstruction volunteer opportunities, we support the growth of communities. National and international volunteers can donate time, work and talent to help families access a decent and adequate home.

Habitat Colombia also saw the need to diversify our local funding sources by seeking donations with a good level of commitment and frequency. We are continually expanding our communication channels with donors, making our collection processes more transparent, developing management and transparency reports on the contributions, demonstrating that the investment is managed efficiently and reliably, inviting donors to participate in our projects, and showing them the great work Habitat Colombia is doing.

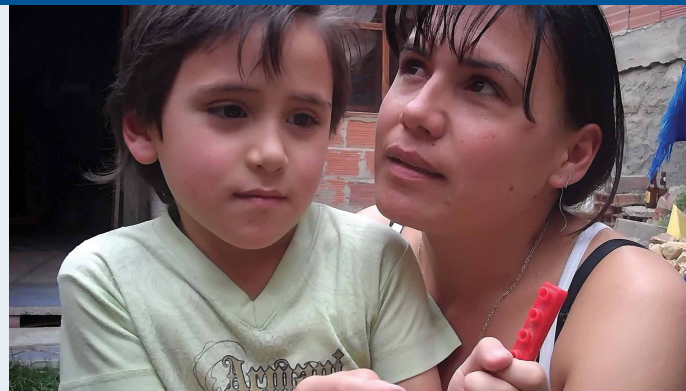
### Meet a Habitat family

Yeimy Pachón started building her house in 2010 with one room and a bathroom, but she could not live there with her children, Zuly, 11, and Harvey, 7, who has autism.

Habitat for Humanity sent 13 volunteers from the Global Village program to the country in November 2013 to help Pachón improve her house with a new roof, hydro-sanitary installation, a kitchen, another room and a finished floor.

“Each thing a person does for others is then multiplied,” Pachón said.

After the Global Village project, Pachón built two more rooms, and she is currently building a second story.



To learn more about Habitat projects in Colombia or in other parts of the region, please contact us.

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### What you can do

You can help needy Colombian families who live in unhealthy, cold and overcrowded homes by taking one or more of the following actions:

#### DONATE

URL to receive donations in line or to obtain more information on how to help Habitat in the country: <http://bit.ly/1v1OB41>

#### VOLUNTEER

Join one of the scheduled Global Village trips to Colombia or lead your own. For more information go to: [habitat.org/gv/catalog/lac](http://habitat.org/gv/catalog/lac)

#### TITHE

Establish a strong and rewarding tithe partnership to help build houses globally! Quote 821500, Colombia HFH on your checks sent to: Habitat for Humanity International, Attn: Affiliate Tithe, 121 Habitat St., Americus, GA 31709