

Country profile

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC



Habitat for Humanity in Dominican Republic

Habitat seeks to improve the living conditions of low-income families through access to adequate housing. Since 1986, the organization has served more than 6,000 families with housing solutions. Visit us at www.habitatdominicana.org

The housing need in Dominican Republic

The housing deficit in the Dominican Republic exceeds 1.2 million units, about 60 percent of which is qualitative (UNDP 2010). This qualitative deficit, representing the number of inadequate houses, is greater than the quantitative deficit, and it is growing at an average of 50,000 to 60,000 homes per year. For this reason, Habitat Dominican Republic is focusing on housing improvements.

At a national level, the housing production system is autoproduction, or social production, which is the construction of housing by families and communities. The high cost of professional construction services and the low incomes of many families do not allow these families to access formal means of construction, and this aggravates the poor quality and lack of security of the homes.

Habitat's contribution in Dominican Republic

Habitat Dominican Republic has diversified the types of service it offers, focusing on rehabs and repairs with housing support services.

COUNTRY FACTS

Capital	Santo Domingo
Date of independence or creation of the state	Feb. 27, 1844
Population	9,445,281(ONE 2010)
Urbanization (percentage of people in cities vs. rural zones)	74.3 percent
Life expectancy	72.81 years
Unemployment rate	15 percent
Percent of the population living below the poverty line	10 percent

HABITAT FACTS

Date when Habitat started working in the country
1986

Families served
30,000

Housing solutions
More than 6,000



Our Programs:

Financial services

Habitat mobilizes new capital to provide microcredit for housing to low-income families, working in partnership with other organizations.

Volunteer mobilization

Habitat mobilizes volunteers to support construction and nonconstruction activities at the national, local and international levels to reduce costs, generate income and to promote the cause of adequate, affordable housing.

Housing support services

Habitat supports families with products and services that help them reach the goal of having an adequate house and converting that house into durable capital.

Disaster Risk Reduction

Habitat reduces vulnerability to disasters by enhancing risk reduction systems and restoring the habitat and means of subsistence in communities affected by disasters.

Meet a Habitat family

Francisco Montero lived for many years in an inadequate house made out of wood with a zinc roof in Los Alcarrizos.

Over time, Montero built a new block house, with support from Habitat for Humanity Dominican Republic. He received construction technical assistance, which allowed him to increase his carpentry skills.

“I received great advice from Habitat,” Montero said. “Before, I did things carelessly, but now I have the knowledge to make better carpentry, especially concerning the structure, so that it can withstand the load of concrete.”

With the microcredit he received, he completed the concrete roof, making the house ready for occupancy. After more than five years of work, he has a much safer place to live, with no fear of the weather.

“The simple fact of knowing that the hurricane season approaches is a concern for living in a house built of wood and zinc, as I had,” Montero said. “Now I no longer have this concern. We now live in a safe place.”

To learn more about Habitat projects in Dominican Republic please contact us.

Habitat for Humanity Dominican Republic

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What you can do

You can help Dominican families who live in inadequate housing and in overcrowded homes by taking one or more of the following actions:

DONATE

Full Individual House - Biolinado Model, 45mts² total structure of concrete blocks and concrete roof. (cost US\$13,400)

Prefabricates Model House - Distributed between 2 to 3 bedrooms, available from 35 mts² to 63 mts² depending on the family need. (cost ranges from US\$5,500 to US\$8,625)

Home rehabilitation: US\$4,000 cost for a total of US\$20,000

VOLUNTEER

Join one of the Global Village trips to the Dominican Republic or lead your own. For more information go to: habitat.org/gv/catalog/lac

TITHE

Establish a strong and rewarding tithe partnership to help build houses globally! Quote 823500, Dominican Republic HFH on your checks sent to: Habitat for Humanity International, Attn: Affiliate Tithe, 121 Habitat St., Americus, GA 31709