

# Côte d'Ivoire

## Habitat for Humanity in Côte d'Ivoire

Established in 1999, Habitat for Humanity Côte d'Ivoire works with homeowners to build safe, dry and secure homes, with decent sanitation.

## The housing need in Côte d'Ivoire

In 2015, the cumulative housing deficit in Cote d'Ivoire was estimated at 1 million. In the city of Abidjan alone, the housing deficit grows from 40,000 to 50,000 units per year. In Abidjan, 3,000 units are supplied annually. The government stopped subsidizing housing in 1995, contributing to the acute housing deficit.

In rural areas, 90 percent of the people live in temporary structures, which require extensive upkeep and repair. Walls are typically made of mud in a wooden frame and they often crack, causing leaks and eventually falling apart. Thatch-roof houses harbor numerous disease-carrying insects, such as malarial mosquitoes and the tsetse fly, which can spread eye disease. The lack of latrines and water facilities were found to be a major challenge. Only 18.1 percent of the households possess a pit latrine, 39 percent practice open defecation, and 92.5 percent use unsafe drinking water (MICS 2016). In schools, disabled children do not drink or even eat all day to avoid going to toilet (MOE, 2013). Côte d'Ivoire has one of the highest adult HIV prevalence rates in West Africa, estimated at 3.7 percent. HIV-related orphans and vulnerable children or, OVC, are estimated to number 440,000. There are 61,000 children living with HIV, including 10,863 OVC in primary schools (Ministry of Education, School Statistics 2016-2017).

## Habitat's contribution in Côte d'Ivoire

Habitat Côte d'Ivoire's work focuses on water, sanitation and hygiene. Habitat in Côte d'Ivoire builds houses and latrines using appropriate technology and local building materials. The designs are simple and spacious, and cater to the individual families' needs, while remaining affordable for the homeowners. Houses consist of two or three bedrooms and a hall.



## COUNTRY FACTS\*

<b>Capital</b>	Yamoussoukro
<b>Date of independence</b>	1960
<b>Population</b>	23.1 million
<b>Urbanization</b>	49.7%
<b>Life expectancy</b>	58 years
<b>Unemployment rate</b>	6.9%
<b>Population living below the poverty line</b>	46.3%

\*Find more country facts on:  
**CIA The World Factbook – Cote d'Ivoire**

## HABITAT FACTS

**Date when Habitat started working in the country**  
1999

**Individuals served in FY18**  
62,315

**Volunteers hosted in FY18**  
5,630

**Housing solutions**  
New homes, incremental, repairs



# Our programs

## Housing Orphans in Protected Environments, or HOPE

This project aims to protect the inheritance rights and to improve the living conditions of disabled, orphans and vulnerable children, affected or infected by HIV/AIDS and families through housing and related support services. These services include psychosocial support, household economic strengthening, financial education, legal protection, shelter and care (such as house repair, clothes, bedding; caregiver training or support, placement of children with family in a safe and secure environment), technical and vocational training in construction trades; health and education in sanitation and hygiene.

## Save and build housing program

The Save and Build, or S&B, initiative focuses on mobilizing communities to form saving groups for housing purposes. Habitat Côte d'Ivoire encourages partnerships with local financial institutions and other partners to finance decent housing. Families usually form groups to save the cost of their house, obtain microloans from financial institutions using savings as collateral, or financial sponsorship. Habitat Côte d'Ivoire collaborates with small-scale contractors for house construction and rehabilitation activities. Homeowners also receive financial education to improve knowledge on family income management.

## Water, sanitation and hygiene

The overall goal of this program is to provide sustainable and secure solutions for improving access to clean drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, or WASH, in the central and northern regions. The program supports the construction and rehabilitation of water pumps and water quality testing, the construction of appropriate latrines and handwashing facilities in schools, and provides training to schoolchildren on good hygiene practices for preventing water-borne diseases. Habitat Côte d'Ivoire conducts hygiene promotion activities, where community members are trained in safe water practices. A water committee is formed and trained to maintain the facility. School girls and teachers receive training and engage in activities aimed at ensuring they have adequate knowledge on menstrual hygiene management. Under this program Habitat Côte d'Ivoire mobilizes communities through Community-Led Total Sanitation, or CLTS, under a strong partnership established with the Ministry of Construction and Sanitation. CLTS is an innovative methodology for mobilizing communities to eliminate open defecation.

Since 2017, Habitat Côte d'Ivoire has supported 46 villages to be certified open defecation free and has supported the construction of 3,084 latrines.



## Meet a Habitat family

N'Guessan lives in Troumambo, a small village located in the central region of Côte d'Ivoire. She is a housewife and mother of five children. The village has only one water point, installed 20 years ago. When the pump is broken, N'Guessan, like many families in the community, has to walk nearly two miles to get unsanitary water from the river Bandama. When the government installed the old pump, there was no water point committee set up. This situation meant that when the water pump broke, nobody knew how to repair it.

When Habitat started the rehabilitation of the broken water pump, N'Guessan said it was one of the most beautiful days in her life. She decided to be a member of the water pump committee. Her role is to ensure good hygiene practices and safety of the water pump. She is pleased to participate.

“With the water points rehabilitated, my children can go to school. The conditions of life of the population of Troumambo, mostly children have been improved”, she said.

## What you can do

You can help families in Côte d'Ivoire improve their living conditions by taking one or more of the following actions:

**Donate** Go to [habitat.org/donate](https://www.habitat.org/donate) and designate your gift to Habitat Côte d'Ivoire.

**Volunteer** Join one of the scheduled Global Village trips to Europe, Middle East and Africa or lead your own. Contact us to learn more.

**Tithe** All affiliate tithe gifts are sent internationally to serve families outside of the United States.

To support the work of Habitat **COTE d'IVOIRE**, please send your tithe to: Habitat for Humanity International P.O. Box 6598 Americus, GA 31709-3498

**Contact** To learn more about Habitat projects in Côte d'Ivoire, please contact us.

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To learn more about volunteering opportunities in Côte d'Ivoire, please contact [gv.emea@habitat.org](mailto:gv.emea@habitat.org)