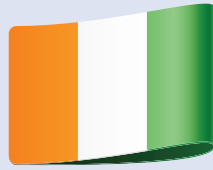


Country profile

COTE D'IVOIRE



Habitat for Humanity Côte d'Ivoire

Established in 1999, Habitat for Humanity Côte d'Ivoire seeks to break the cycle of poverty by working with homeowners to provide safe, dry and secure homes, with decent sanitation.

The housing need in Côte d'Ivoire

Among the world's largest producers and exporters of coffee and palm oil, Côte d'Ivoire once boasted the strongest economy in West Africa. Now, due to a devastating civil war and global economic pressure in 2002, the country contends with extreme poverty, and its exhausted infrastructure struggles to meet the growing needs of the people. In the city of Abidjan alone, the housing deficit is estimated to be 12,000 houses per year. Urbanization is adding to the problem, with almost half of the growing population now living in towns or cities.

In rural areas, the need is also immense. Many people live in temporary structures, which require extensive upkeep and repair and are vulnerable to fire. Walls are typically made of mud in a wooden frame and 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. With so many people living in poverty, substandard housing is an overwhelming challenge. Most families live in traditional homes made of mud walls and thatch roofs or inadequately constructed brick houses. Overcrowding exists in the majority of these houses, and lack of natural light and ventilation are common problems, causing illness and other problems.

How Habitat addresses the need in Côte d'Ivoire

HFHCI builds houses using appropriate technology and local building materials. The houses are made of brick and mortar, with corrugated iron roofing sheets. The designs are simple and spacious and cater to the individual families' needs, while remaining affordable for the homeowners. Houses consist of either two or three bedrooms and a hall. Smaller houses are currently planned, in order to reach families on the lowest income groups

COUNTRY FACTS*

Capital	Yamoussoukro
Main country facts	Gained independence in 1960
Population	22.8 million
Urbanization	51 percent live in cities
Life expectancy	58 years
Unemployment rate	N/A
Population living below poverty line	42 percent

*Sources: CIA World Factbook, World Bank, UN

HABITAT FACTS

When Habitat started in Côte d'Ivoire
1999

Families served
1,600

Programmatic line of business
Programmatic Lines of Business:
Vulnerable Groups housing; Watsan; Saving Groups for housing; Advocacy; Volunteer Builds; Resources Development.

Housing solutions
New homes for vulnerable groups
Renovations and repairs
Care and Support services for OVC



Project 1

Housing Orphans in Protected Environments (H.O.P.E)

This project helps protect the inheritance rights and improve the living conditions of families (Orphans and Vulnerable Children and their caregivers) through housing and related support services. Habitat for Humanity Côte d'Ivoire together with its implementing partners provide housing and Pit latrines, and trainings on inheritance rights and will making, and hygiene promotion. Through this project, HFH seek to change the attitude of community members by mobilizing community leaders, other NGOs and CBOs operating in the community to help uphold the rights of women and children.

Project 3

The Financial Education project

The Project aims to develop skills of youths, and women headed household in financial education. Financial literacy training is very practical, It's not compulsory to know how to read or how to write according to Financial literacy standards. If necessary local languages can be used. The training will target families struggling to make ends and families prepared to grow to help them to manage their revenue and to empower them to take care of their family. The training aims to achieve our goals of empowering participants with knowledge on market research, budgeting, savings and credit through a series of workshops.

Project 2

Healthy, decent homes for the River Blindness affected families

To improve living conditions for individuals affected by river blindness, HFH Côte d'Ivoire proposes a project that target communities in the central region. The intervention includes the construction and rehabilitation of safe and healthy houses. In the target communities, blind persons earn less than \$40 per month. To survive, they are often assisted by their relatives. Families typically live in mud houses or crumbling old structures. Most have leaking roofs and broken or cracked walls, which cannot keep out tropical downpours that recur during the rainy season. Often these houses collapse during a rainstorm, killing or wounding their occupants. The lack of sanitation facilities and general overcrowding is also extensive. Such living conditions cause poor health and reduce the capacity of the Blind to improve their living conditions and that of their families.

Project 4

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene project

To improve the living conditions of vulnerable population, HFH Côte d'Ivoire proposes a watsan project that will target rural communities and help to improve hygiene promotion and water points rehabilitation. HFH proposes to rehabilitate 100 water pumps per year that will increase access of an estimated 5,600 families to a safe water supply. To ensure that the intervention has long lasting benefits, community members will be trained in safe water practices and a Water Committee is formed to maintain the facility. The project will focus in the Central, Northern and Eastern regions of the country, areas heavily impacted by the civil war of 2002 and continued underinvestment.

Meet a Habitat family

Even with moonlight breaking through crumbling mud walls and a shredded scrap-tin roof, Amani Yao couldn't see the rodents that scurried across his dirt floor each evening. He didn't see the malaria-spreading mosquitoes either, before they descended to bite. The 54-year-old Ivorian has been blind since 2004, the result of too many bites from the black-flies that swarm the banks of the nearby Bandama River.

More than 100 of the town's 1,500 residents have watched their vision slowly disappear because of the disease. But five years ago, thanks to Habitat Cote d'Ivoire's "Healthy Homes" initiative, light returned to Amani's life. That's when Amani,

Vincent and five other relatives moved out of the darkness of a cramped, windowless home and into a house with a concrete floor, sun-soaked windows and secure doors. To Amani, it's more than a safe, comfortable place to sleep at night.

"I may be blind," Amani says, "but I can tell when there's light. I can feel the difference in me. I was frustrated in the old house, but I feel at ease here. I can feel the warmth. I feel the glow."

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. For more information go to: [habitat.org/gv](https://www.habitat.org/gv)

TITHE

Establish a strong and rewarding tithe partnership to help build houses globally! Quote **8xxxx COTE d'IVOIRE** on your checks sent to: Habitat for Humanity International, Attn: Affiliate Tithe, 121 Habitat St. Americus, GA 31709



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

Habitat for Humanity Côte d'Ivoire
hfhci@habitatci.org

Serge Andriamandimby, Program Manager
Habitat for Humanity Europe, Middle East and Africa
sandriamandimby@habitat.org