

FY25



Annual Report 2024-2025

Building Hope Empowering Communities



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Message from the National Director

Dear Partners, Friends, and Supporters,

As we reflect on this past year, I am filled with deep gratitude and pride in what we have accomplished together. At Habitat for Humanity Côte d'Ivoire (HFHCI), we remain steadfast in our mission: to build strength, stability, and self-reliance through shelter. Despite the challenges that our communities continue to face

—economic hardship, climate vulnerability, and rapid urbanization—our teams and partners have worked with resilience and hope.

In 2024-2025, we continue to scaled up our impact across our program's areas. From rural villages to the dense neighborhoods of Abidjan, thousands of lives were touched—homes were built, families empowered, and entire communities mobilized, through local volunteers.

The approval of a second KOICA-funded project represents a significant milestone for HFHCI, underscoring the growing trust and strategic alignment between our organization and this valued donor. This renewed partnership not only affirms the relevance of our mission in Côte d'Ivoire but also opens new avenues to scale impactful solutions for housing and basic services in vulnerable communities. At the same time, the implementation of the Africa Area Office Adaptation Fund Project in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana positions HFHCI at the forefront of climate resilience efforts on the continent. Through this initiative, we are contributing to innovative, community-driven solutions that integrate housing, ecosystem protection, and disaster preparedness—empowering households to adapt to the realities of a changing climate while promoting inclusive development at the local level.

We continued to strengthen our partnerships with government institutions, local authorities, donors, and community-based organizations. Through this collective effort, HFHCI advanced innovative and climate-resilient approaches to housing and infrastructure, including solar water systems, gender-sensitive design, and participatory planning with residents. We also invested in building the internal capacities needed to grow our programs responsibly and sustainably.

As we look ahead, we are committed to deepening our impact, strengthening our collaborations, and advocating for the right to adequate housing for all. We believe that every person deserves a safe and dignified place to live—and we will continue to work tirelessly to turn that belief into reality.

Thank you for walking with us on this journey.

With appreciation and solidarity,

Jean-Jacques Yao, National Director

Introduction | Who We Are

Our mission

Habitat for Humanity Côte d'Ivoire (HFHCI) is part of the global Habitat for Humanity network, a non-profit Christian housing organization founded on the conviction that everyone deserves a decent place to live.

Our mission is to bring people together to build homes, communities, and hope.

Our vision is a world where everyone has a decent place to live. In Côte d'Ivoire, this vision is reflected in our commitment to supporting low-income and vulnerable populations through sustainable housing, habitability improvement, and access to basic services.

Our values

We are guided by the foundational principles of Habitat for Humanity International, which shape our work with communities, partners, and each other:

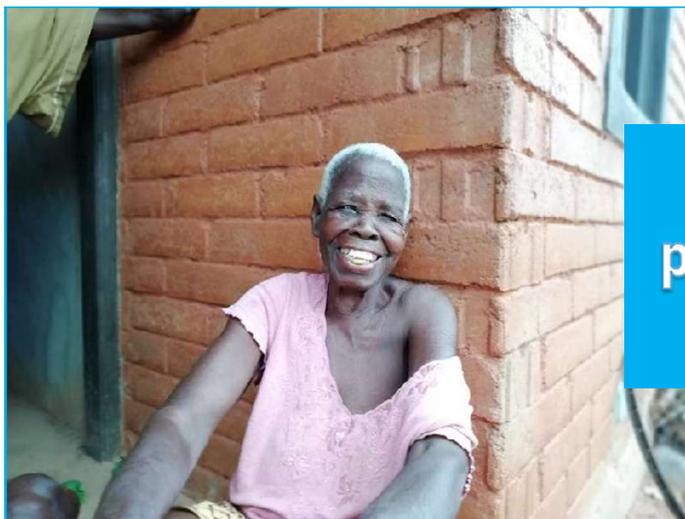
- Demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ – We act in accordance with our Christian principles by serving others in need and expressing our faith through action.
- Focus on shelter – We are dedicated to helping families obtain safe, decent, and affordable housing as a means of building strength, stability, and self-reliance.
- Advocate for affordable housing – We believe housing is a basic human right and work to influence policies and systems to expand access to adequate shelter.
- Promote dignity and hope – We recognize the inherent worth of every individual and strive to uplift communities through respect and compassion.
- Support sustainable and transformational development – We are committed to long-term solutions that empower people and promote responsible stewardship of resources.



HFHCI's Strategic Focus Areas

HFHCI's work in Côte d'Ivoire is structured around three interconnected strategic areas:

1. **Affordable Housing Development for Low-Income Families** – Building and improving housing for families living in precarious conditions, with a focus on ownership, affordability, and safety.
2. **Climate Resilience and Sustainability**
This program supports communities in facing the effects of climate change through eco-friendly housing, solar energy, climate-resilient agriculture, and sustainable resource management. It focuses on training youth and women to strengthen local skills and create sustainable economic opportunities.
3. **Access to Basic Services** – Expanding access to essential services such as water, sanitation, hygiene (WASH), and solar-powered systems, particularly in informal and underserved settlements.



Advocates for policies that promote access to land, secure tenure, and housing rights.

Snapshot of Our Theory of Change

HFHCI's Theory of Change is rooted in the belief that adequate housing is foundational to breaking the cycle of poverty and strengthening community resilience. We work through a holistic and participatory approach that:

- Empowers households through housing support, technical assistance, and tenure security;
- Mobilizes communities to take ownership of their development process;
- Builds partnerships with local government, civil society, and the private sector;
- Advocates for policies that promote access to land, secure tenure, and housing rights;
- Integrates climate adaptation, social inclusion, and disaster risk reduction into every phase of implementation.

Programs description | Affordable Housing development

Justification & Objectives: In Côte d'Ivoire, many low-income families live in substandard housing or lack access to secure and decent shelter altogether. The country is rapidly urbanizing, with the urbanization rate rising from 42.5% in 1998 to 52.5% in 2021 and over 15 million people now living in urban areas. Abidjan alone hosts 36% of this population, and the number of large cities has more than doubled.

The country faces a severe housing crisis, with a current deficit of 800,000 units, projected to exceed 2 million within a decade. Abidjan accounts for 500,000 of the current shortfall, and regions like Poro, Tchologo, and Bounkani are also heavily affected. Low-income families, youth, and large households are the most vulnerable, often relying on informal housing.

Component & Strategy

HFHCI's affordable housing program for low-income families aims to improve access to safe and sustainable homes by facilitating land tenure—especially for women—and working closely with communities and local authorities. The strategy combines secure land access,

improved living conditions, and inclusive governance to ensure long-term impact, while promoting the active participation of vulnerable groups in housing and development decisions. The program also includes advocacy at the local and national levels for more inclusive land and housing policies. Local artisans and construction workers are engaged to stimulate local economies and ensure community participation in the housing process.

Expected Results & Sustainability Strategy

The program is expected to result in increased access to decent housing for low-income families, improved legal awareness of land rights, and expanded financial tools for affordable home construction. At least 50% of land titles will be secured in favor of women to promote gender equity. Sustainability is ensured through local capacity building, the use of local materials, community involvement in the construction process, and ongoing partnerships with local governments and financial institutions.



Programs description | Sustainability and resilience Housing

to a cycle of vulnerability and illness. This program addresses the urgent need to improve existing housing conditions through sustainable and health-promoting interventions. The main objective is to enhance the safety, dignity, and resilience of vulnerable households by



Justification & Objectives: In sub-Saharan Africa, upgrading housing conditions has been proven to significantly improve public health outcomes. Studies show that living in modern, well-constructed homes reduces the risk of malaria infection by up to 47%, with clinical malaria cases dropping between 45% and 65%. Specific housing features such as screened windows, sealed eaves, and ceilings contribute to a 25–50% decrease in malaria, anemia, and related health issues. Informal settlements often suffer from overcrowding, poor ventilation, and inadequate drainage, which increase residents' vulnerability not only to malaria but also to respiratory and waterborne diseases.

Many vulnerable families in informal settlements live in deteriorated housing that poses significant health and safety risks. Poor ventilation, damaged roofs, lack of sanitation facilities, and overcrowded conditions contribute

upgrading their homes and empowering them with practical knowledge and skills for ongoing maintenance.

Component & Strategy

Interventions include the rehabilitation of housing structures by improving roofs, floors, ventilation systems, and sanitation facilities. Solar lighting and other energy-efficient solutions are introduced to improve energy access and reduce household costs.

Vocational training programs are provided to youth in construction-related trades, such as masonry, carpentry, and sustainable building techniques, to support employment and community-based service provision. Women and youth are also supported with income-generating activities.

Justification & Objectives: Access to essential services such as clean water, sanitation, electricity, and basic infrastructure remains limited in many vulnerable neighborhoods, especially in informal and peri-urban areas. These service gaps undermine public health, deepen inequality, and increase exposure to risks such as waterborne diseases and fires from unsafe energy sources. Disparities also exist in access to drinking water: 29% of urban households and 54% of rural households lack

hygiene education, are conducted in schools and communities. Solar electrification projects are implemented to extend access to clean energy in off-grid areas. In addition, roads, schools, and health centers are rehabilitated to improve service delivery and mobility. The program also strengthens local governance by training water committees and community groups in infrastructure management, financial accountability, and conflict resolution related to service access.



year-round access to safe water. Access to improved sanitation remains low, with 61.5% of urban households having improved toilets (e.g., pit latrines or flush toilets), compared to only 19.4% in rural areas. The rainwater drainage system is inadequate—only 38.3% of urban households have access to secure drainage (cesspools, sewers, or watertight pits).

Components & Strategy: The program involves the installation of solar-powered water supply systems, community latrines, and improved waste management infrastructure. Hygiene promotion campaigns, including menstrual

Sustainability Strategy:

Expected outcomes include increased access to safe drinking water, improved sanitation coverage, better hygiene practices, and enhanced energy access in targeted communities. The program will also improve service reliability and community trust in local systems. Sustainability is promoted through the establishment of local management structures, training for long-term maintenance, and participatory planning that ensures community ownership. Partnerships with municipalities and ministries will facilitate integration into long-term urban development plans and secure institutional support for infrastructure upkeep.

Inclusive Gender-Responsive Development



Habitat for Humanity Côte d'Ivoire (HFHCI) is a trusted and experienced development actor with a strong track record in improving access to basic services—such as water, sanitation, hygiene (WASH), energy, and housing—for vulnerable communities across rural and urban settings. Our approach is anchored in community participation, systems strengthening, and inclusive development, ensuring that no one is left behind, especially women and marginalized groups.

In the area of Basic Services, HFHCI has implemented over a dozen projects in partnership with donors such as KOICA, Lions Club, Cargill, and HFH Canada. These interventions have included the installation and rehabilitation of water points and latrines, construction of community infrastructure, and behavior change campaigns related to hygiene, menstrual health, and energy efficiency. HFHCI works closely with local authorities, schools, and community-based organizations to ensure sustainability through capacity building and the establishment of local management committees.

On gender equity, HFHCI applies a gender-transformative lens in all its programs. Women and girls are not only beneficiaries but also agents of change. Projects consistently promote the leadership of women in community structures, prioritize women's access to land and property rights, and support women-led income-generating activities. HFHCI integrates menstrual hygiene education into school WASH programs, supports women's cooperatives, and actively engages men and boys to challenge harmful norms and promote shared responsibility.

Projects Highlights at a Glance

- **Greenfield Project – Housing Assistance for Vulnerable Groups (USD 125,000)**

Several targeted interventions were implemented to address the multidimensional needs of the community. Ten durable homes were constructed using climate-appropriate materials to provide safe and dignified shelter for families in need. To improve access to clean water, a solar-powered borehole was installed, ensuring sustainable water supply for both domestic and community use. Ten young people received hands-on training and equipment for the production of Stabilized Soil Blocks Bricks (SSBB), allowing them to enter the construction sector with practical skills. This project was implemented with a budget of USD 125,000.

Additionally, 100 youth participated in financial literacy training to enhance their capacity for managing personal and household finances. Another 100 families were trained in basic home

maintenance to ensure the long-term upkeep of their new or improved dwellings. Lastly, the project facilitated legal land tenure for 100 individuals, with half of the titles secured in the name of women to promote equitable access to property rights.

Sustainability Strategy

Sustainability was built into every aspect of the project, from the selection of construction materials to the empowerment of local actors. The use of CSEB and the training of youth in its production not only reduced environmental impact but also created lasting livelihood opportunities. Training sessions on home maintenance helped families take ownership of their living environments, fostering a culture of care and prevention. The solar-powered water system was installed with basic maintenance knowledge transferred to community members, ensuring its continued operation. Securing land tenure—particularly for women—was a critical step in promoting long-term stability, enabling



beneficiaries to invest in their homes without fear of displacement. The integration of local labor, materials, and expertise further reinforced the project's alignment with sustainable, community-driven development.

Impact

The project brought meaningful transformation to the lives of over 100 households, particularly those living in extreme vulnerability. Families who once lacked stable housing now live in safe, well-constructed homes with access to clean water. Youth beneficiaries are now equipped with marketable skills that can lead to income generation and future employment, while families report increased confidence and autonomy in managing their homes and finances.

Women, who gained secure access to land for the first time, expressed a renewed sense of security and empowerment. Overall, the project enhanced dignity, reduced household vulnerability, and laid the foundation for longer-term development in the community.

Results

The Greenfield Project delivered tangible results that will endure well beyond the project timeline. 10 homes were built and handed over to families in need, while a solar-powered borehole now provides clean water to the local population. Ten youth completed training in sustainable construction and were equipped to enter the workforce. A total of 100 young people improved their financial knowledge through structured training. Another 100 families now possess the skills to maintain and preserve their homes.

Importantly, 100 individuals—50 of whom are women—received formal documentation securing their rights to land. These outcomes collectively demonstrate the power of integrated, community-focused interventions in driving meaningful and lasting change. activities—were fully included as beneficiaries and actors in the project.





Project Objectives

The HFH Canada WASH Project is implemented with the goal of strengthening the resilience of cocoa-producing communities in the regions of GOH and Jöh-Djiboua through improved access to water, sanitation, hygiene, food security, and livelihoods. Funded by HFH Canada, and Peter Gilgan foundation, the project recognized the interconnectedness between health, education, and productivity, and sought to address systemic gaps in WASH infrastructure and hygiene awareness that disproportionately affect rural households. A special emphasis was placed on gender equality and youth engagement to ensure that girls and women—who bear the brunt of water insecurity and poor sanitation—benefited from safe, inclusive interventions.

Key Interventions

This 3 years project (2024–2027), aims to foster sustainable, community-led change by training

90 community hygiene trainers—10 in each of the nine targeted villages—who will lead local hygiene awareness efforts. These trainers will sensitize 1,800 community members, including men, women, and children, on best hygiene practices. In the education sector, the project will build the capacity of 54 teachers from nine schools to promote good hygiene behaviors in classrooms and educate 1,854 students, with attention to gender equity, on hygiene and sanitation. To address menstrual health as a barrier to girls' education, 900 schoolgirls will receive dedicated training on menstrual hygiene management. The project will also establish nine school-based hygiene clubs to institutionalize hygiene education and peer engagement.

Additionally, critical WASH infrastructure improvements will be made through the construction of nine boreholes and nine latrine blocks in schools, directly enhancing the school environment and supporting increased attendance, particularly among girls.

Sustainability Strategy

Sustainability was embedded through capacity building, infrastructure ownership, and local empowerment. By training local residents as hygiene promoters, the project created a decentralized network of facilitators capable of continuing awareness efforts beyond the project lifecycle. Hygiene clubs in schools served as a platform to institutionalize knowledge-sharing and foster leadership among students. Teachers were empowered to integrate hygiene education into their routine teaching practices. The boreholes and latrines were constructed with community input and linked to school and village management committees, who were trained to oversee regular maintenance.

Impact

For the first-year implementation, the project had a transformative impact on health, education, and dignity across the 3 targeted communities, impacting 9,000 individuals. The availability of clean water in schools not only improved student hygiene and well-being but also significantly reduced absenteeism due to water-related illnesses. Overall, the project

enhanced community resilience by addressing WASH as a foundation for development.

Project Objectives

The Basic Services Project was designed to strengthen the resilience and inclusion of 32,000 vulnerable populations living in precarious neighborhoods within the Abobo District of Abidjan. Guided by the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme (PSUP) approach, the project aimed to improve access to essential services while empowering communities to engage actively in the planning and management of their urban environment. The overarching goal was to reduce the vulnerability of underserved populations through improved infrastructure management, awareness raising, and enhanced local governance.

Key Interventions

The project focused on both community capacity-building and institutional engagement. Two local management committees were established and trained in infrastructure management, safety, and community coordination. These committees became the cornerstone of grassroots governance in the targeted neighborhoods. Capacity-building workshops were also organized for municipal authorities in Abobo to strengthen their understanding of inclusive urban development and participatory planning. At the community level, 60 members of local groups were trained as trainers on hygiene, energy efficiency, and financial literacy—enabling them to replicate learning within their networks. The project also supported the repairs of 50 houses, the establishment of waste recollection units, the rehabilitation of dumpsites and the rehabilitation of the roads.

Sustainability Strategy

A core pillar of the project's sustainability approach was the establishment of local structures with the capacity to manage and sustain interventions beyond the project period. The management committees were formed with clear mandates and trained to oversee infrastructure use, promote safety, and liaise with local government. Engagement with municipal authorities created stronger

institutional linkages and integrate project outcomes into the broader urban planning framework. The participatory nature of the project, grounded in the PSUP methodology, ensured community ownership and relevance of the solutions delivered.

Impact

The project is still ongoing, and will significantly contribute to improving the resilience of vulnerable populations in Abobo. 32,000 residents will gain increased knowledge and practical skills to manage their environment, improve household practices, and engage with local authorities. The project also played a catalytic role in raising the profile of slum upgrading issues within broader public and policy debates, with HFHCI's participation in housing forums helping to reinforce the importance of inclusive urban development.





Project Objectives

The Cargill WASH Project was implemented to promote safe, healthy, and dignified environments in the rural communities of Gobéri and Douseba through improved access to water, sanitation, and hygiene services. Recognizing the critical links between health, education, gender equity, and economic empowerment, the project aimed not only to address immediate WASH needs, particularly in schools, but also to enhance food security and community livelihoods—especially for women and girls.

Key Interventions

The project delivered a set of integrated and gender-responsive interventions. Two solar-powered boreholes were installed to ensure continuous access to clean water for schools and surrounding communities. Handwashing stations were established to reinforce hygiene practices, especially among school-aged children. A total of 3,800

individuals, including 1,900 women, received training on essential hygiene practices to prevent disease and promote behavioral change. Additionally, 200 adolescent girls were trained in menstrual hygiene management, equipping them with knowledge and tools to manage their health with dignity and reduce school absenteeism. The project also promoted women's economic empowerment by creating two village savings groups and training 20 women in cooperative management. These efforts were further supported by the development of community-based vegetable gardens and the installation of irrigation water systems, contributing to improved nutrition and household income.

Sustainability Strategy

Sustainability was ensured through community ownership, skills development, and income-generating components. Hygiene education sessions were designed to be replicable, with local leaders and school authorities equipped to continue promoting best practices. The savings groups and agricultural activities helped diversify household incomes, empowering women to sustain both economic and health-related outcomes. Cooperative training built the foundation for long-term group organization and business planning. Water points and sanitation facilities were handed over to locally designated management groups trained in basic maintenance and governance, securing their continued operation.

Impact

The project created a measurable improvement in both school and community well-being. School environments became more inclusive, especially for girls, who reported greater confidence and consistency in attendance thanks to menstrual hygiene education and access to proper facilities.



Project Objectives

This project was launched to significantly improve sanitation access and living conditions for people with disabilities and other vulnerable groups in rural areas of the N’Zi region. By targeting both school environments and community infrastructure, the project aimed to promote inclusivity, health, and dignity while fostering local ownership of water and hygiene services. Particular attention was given to vulnerable populations who often face multiple barriers to accessing essential services.

Key Interventions

The project implemented a broad range of actions aimed at infrastructure improvement, community training, and awareness raising. It included the construction and rehabilitation of 29 boreholes and the building of 5 blocks of school latrines, directly addressing the water and sanitation needs of schools and surrounding

trained in good hygiene practices, while students were engaged through the 3-star approach, a method for educating youth on hygiene and waterborne diseases in a fun and interactive way. Awareness campaigns reinforced hygiene behaviors throughout the target areas. The project also formed and trained 21 local water management committees to oversee the long-term maintenance of the boreholes. Local participation was further encouraged through the “Sweat Sharing” model, which promotes community contribution during implementation, and the active engagement of local volunteers. A major focus was placed on advocating for improved living standards for persons with disabilities, helping to increase awareness and reduce stigma.

Sustainability Strategy

Sustainability was embedded into the project through community governance, volunteerism, and inclusive training. The local committees trained in pump management now serve as custodians of water infrastructure, ensuring proper use and repair. Hygiene awareness efforts were designed to be replicable and community-led, helping to sustain improved behaviors beyond the project lifespan. By promoting the engagement of local volunteers and encouraging community investment through Sweat Sharing, the project fostered a sense of shared responsibility. Advocacy efforts also contributed to long-term inclusion, helping to integrate the needs of people with disabilities into local development planning.

Impact

The project successfully created safer, cleaner, and more inclusive environments for hundreds of families across the N’Zi region. Schoolchildren now benefit from access to clean water and latrines, which has helped reduce disease prevalence and improve school attendance, especially among girls and children with

• KOICA WASH Project – Côte d'Ivoire (USD 2 million – Launched in May 2025)

🎯 Project Objectives

The KOICA-funded 3 years project (2025-2027) officially launched on May 30, 2025, marks a new milestone in improving WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) infrastructure and behaviors in the regions of N'Zi and Béliér. With a total budget of USD 2 million, the initiative aims to create safer and healthier environments for schoolchildren and surrounding communities. Key interventions include the construction of 9 boreholes and 10 blocks of school latrines, as well as 900 individual latrines through the Community-led Total Sanitation (CITS) approach. To promote

attendance, and healthier living conditions across target areas.

🌍 Impact

Designed to improve access to safe water and sanitation while fostering long-term hygiene behavior change, the project is directly benefiting schools, households, and wider communities. Although still in its initial implementation phase, the project has rapidly mobilized stakeholders and begun building essential infrastructure. Nine boreholes and ten school latrine blocks are being constructed, while 900 individual latrines are underway through the Community-led Total Sanitation (CITS) model—an approach that ensures community ownership from the outset.

Complementing these physical improvements



sustained hygiene practices, the project also involves training 2,000 students and 1,500 mothers on hygiene and waterborne diseases using the 3-star methodology, as well as training 60 teachers and 10 community pump management committees. Additionally, six major awareness campaigns are being carried out alongside efforts to engage local volunteers and promote the “Sweat Sharing” approach, fostering ownership and sustainability. Though still in its early stages, the project is already mobilizing community actors and laying a solid foundation for long-term behavior change, improved school

are wide-reaching training programs and awareness efforts. The formation and training of 10 pump management committees will strengthen local capacity for infrastructure maintenance, laying the groundwork for sustainability. The project's emphasis on community participation will help instill a culture of shared responsibility. As the initiative integrated approach is expected to lead to improved health outcomes, enhanced educational performance (especially for girls), and empowered local systems that can sustain WASH services over time.

- **Adaptation Fund Project – “Enhancing Climate Resilience in Coastal Communities” (USD 9 million)**

Project Objective

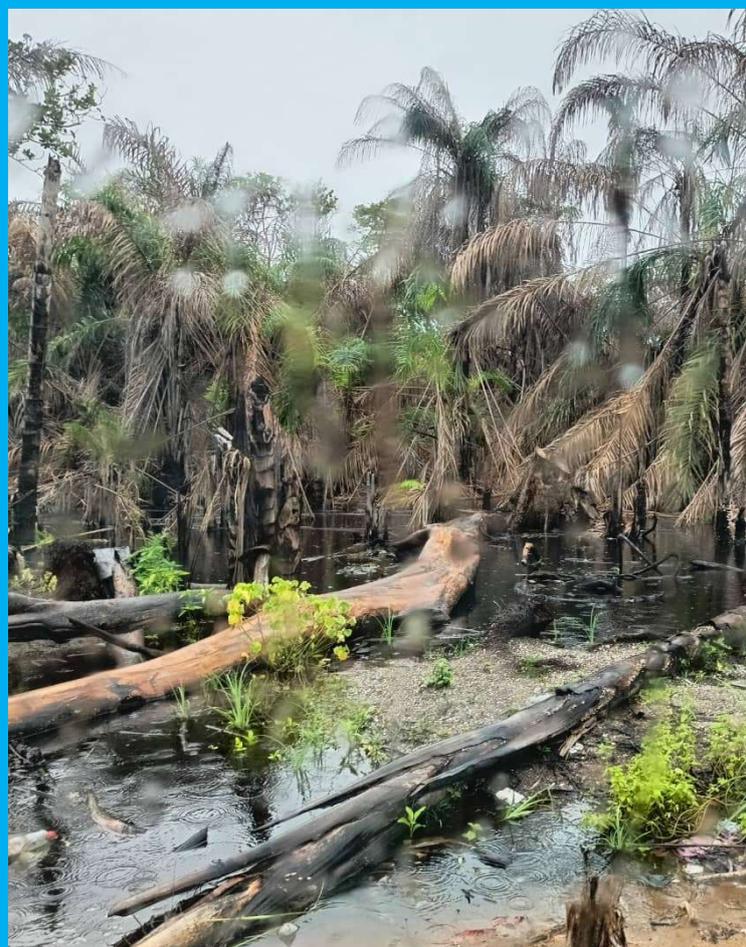
The “*Enhancing Climate Resilience in Coastal Communities*” project aims to strengthen the resilience of 21 vulnerable coastal settlements in Ghana and Côte d’Ivoire in the face of increasing climate threats, including coastal flooding, extreme rainfall events, and shifting weather patterns. With a holistic, community-driven approach, the project seeks to integrate nature-based solutions, early warning systems, and sustainable livelihoods to reduce vulnerability and build long-term adaptive capacity. This regional project is implemented by Habitat for Humanity’s Africa Area Office and actively supported by Habitat for Humanity Côte d’Ivoire (HFHCI), which plays a key role in facilitating project team local coordination, community engagement, and operational support in the target coastal areas.

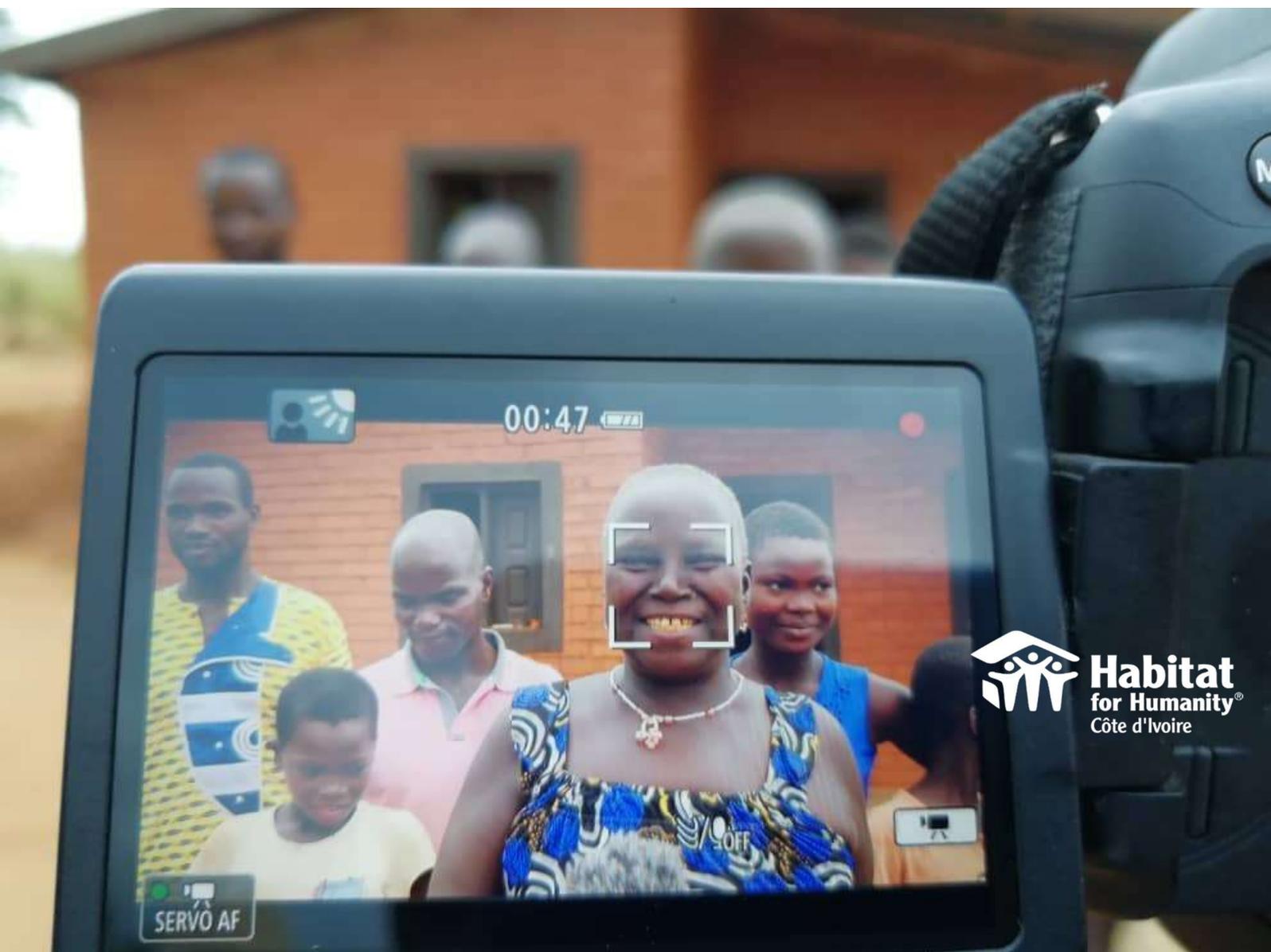
Project Impact

The project is expected to generate transformational change for thousands of residents in the target coastal zones. By establishing Early Warning Systems (EWS), communities will have access to timely, reliable information, enabling proactive responses that can save lives and reduce property damage. The implementation of Nature-Based Solutions—such as wetland restoration, reforestation, and natural floodplain creation—will provide ecological buffers that reduce the intensity of floods while restoring biodiversity.

Through training programs and the promotion of alternative climate-resilient livelihoods, such as agroecological farming and rainwater harvesting, the project will help reduce communities’ economic dependence on climate-sensitive sectors, thereby strengthening food security and financial stability. Community members, especially women and youth, will benefit from capacity-building initiatives that not only empower local leadership but also integrate indigenous knowledge with modern science. Moreover, by partnering with national and local governments, the project builds institutional capacity for climate adaptation planning and ensures that the benefits are mainstreamed into policy frameworks. Climate-resilient housing and infrastructure further protect lives and livelihoods from future shocks, while robust monitoring systems ensure accountability and learning.

Ultimately, the project will lead to safer, greener, and more self-reliant coastal communities that can serve as scalable models for climate adaptation across West Africa.





Habitat for Humanity Côte d'Ivoire (HFHCI) actively contributes to Habitat for Humanity International's strategic goal of **"Build More and Better Housing"** through context-specific programs that align with all three strategic priorities. Under **Priority 1.1 – Scale building, repair, and home improvement innovations**, HFHCI has implemented affordable housing initiatives targeting low-income and vulnerable populations, combining new home construction, housing repairs, and land tenure support. The Greenfield project, for example, integrates climate-adapted construction using compressed stabilized earth blocks (CSEB) with home maintenance training and livelihood components, exemplifying scalable, community-based innovations. HFHCI also supports **Priority 1.2 – Expand integration of energy efficiency and climate resilience strategies** by incorporating solar water systems, promoting disaster-resilient construction, and participating in the regional Adaptation Fund project to enhance climate resilience in coastal communities. These interventions demonstrate HFHCI's commitment to sustainability and climate adaptation in housing design and delivery. Furthermore, through WASH and disaster preparedness programming in rural and urban areas, HFHCI advances **Priority 1.3 – Strengthen Habitat's position in disaster resilience and recovery**. The organization actively supports community training, risk reduction, and infrastructure rehabilitation, while promoting inclusive planning that protects marginalized groups. By engaging with local governments, civil society, and donors, HFHCI is reinforcing Habitat's global positioning as a leader in integrated housing and resilience solutions.

Advocacy Engagement: Advancing Housing System Transformation

HFHI's strategic ambition to transform housing systems by demonstrating a replicable model that bridges innovation, finance, and policy influence. Through the construction of resilient homes using Stabilized Soil Blocks Bricks (SSBB)—a sustainable and cost-effective local material—the project showcases an innovative construction solution that lowers housing costs while adapting to climate realities.

In terms of housing finance, the Greenfield Project lays the groundwork for expanded access to microfinance by integrating financial education for youth and promoting incremental improvements, which paves the way for introducing housing microfinance models in future programming.

Additionally, the project strengthens locally led advocacy efforts by addressing land tenure security, especially for women, and promoting community awareness of housing rights, thus encouraging policy attention to land and housing access. The integration of climate-smart practices, livelihood resilience, and local empowerment, HFHCI's Greenfield initiative contributes directly to Habitat's mission to reshape the broader housing system for equity and impact.



The launch of two major projects in 2024, in Jakota served not only as the operational start of Habitat for Humanity Côte d'Ivoire's (HFHCI) expanded WASH and livelihood programming— but also as a strategic advocacy initiative aimed at promoting stronger government engagement, public-private cooperation, and policy alignment in rural development.

Through these projects, HFHCI is addressing systemic barriers to resilient living conditions for cocoa farming families, with a focus on clean water access, hygiene infrastructure, food security, and alternative livelihoods. The event offered an important opportunity to:

- ✓ **Promote Local Government Ownership and Policy Alignment**

HFHCI used the launch to position WASH and livelihoods as essential pillars of rural resilience policy. Engaging officials from the Ministries of Hydraulics, Sanitation, Decentralization, HFHCI advocated for integrating these community-based approaches into local development plans. The Prefect of Jakota pledged administrative support and

recognized the initiatives as scalable models for public-sector investment.

- ✓ **Demonstrate Impact of Public-Private-Community Partnerships**

By highlighting the joint efforts of international donors (Cargill, GWC, HFH Canada, and PGF), cocoa cooperatives, and local authorities, HFHCI showcased how multi-stakeholder partnerships can accelerate access to basic services in underserved rural areas. This demonstration is meant to influence donor coordination and inspire replication in other cocoa-producing regions.

- ✓ **Elevate the Voices of Rural Communities** The participation of community leaders and beneficiaries underscored the value of community-led design and ownership in rural development interventions. Their presence and testimonies were integral to HFHCI's message that national policies must recognize and





respond to the lived realities and priorities of rural populations—especially women and children in cocoa farming households.

✓ **Catalyze National Dialogue on WASH and Livelihood Sustainability**

HFHCI positioned this event as a starting point for broader engagement with policymakers on sustainable rural infrastructure and economic resilience. HFHCI is driving a national conversation around the importance of combining WASH, food security, and livelihoods to achieve the SDGs—particularly Goals 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), 8 (Decent Work), and 11 (Sustainable Communities).

✓ **Encourage Institutional Commitment to Scale and Sustain Results**

Finally, HFHCI advocated for increased budgetary support and institutional coordination at the regional and national levels to sustain WASH infrastructure, enforce sanitation standards, and scale resilience programs. The commitment expressed by the Prefect and

sector ministries to monitor implementation and support community mobilization is a direct outcome of HFHCI's advocacy positioning.

"PROMOTE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO WATER AND SANITATION IS ADVOCACY FOR JUSTICE, DIGNITY, AND DEVELOPMENT. THROUGH THIS INITIATIVE, WE ARE NOT ONLY DELIVERING INFRASTRUCTURE—WE ARE INFLUENCING SYSTEMS AND POLICIES THAT SHAPE THE FUTURE OF RURAL COMMUNITIES AND THE SUSTAINABILITY OF THE COCOA SECTOR IN

— JEAN-JACQUES YAO, NATIONAL DIRECTOR, HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

- **Promote Resilient Livelihoods for Cocoa Farmers in Côte d'Ivoire**

Through speeches, media coverage, and community mobilization, HFHCI framed the initiative within Côte d'Ivoire's broader cocoa sustainability agenda. The intervention directly supports the achievement of SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 3 (Health), SDG 4 (Education), and SDG 11 (Sustainable Communities), reinforcing the critical role of WASH in sustainable agriculture and rural transformation.



- **From Infrastructure to Influence: Shaping Equitable Development in vulnerable communities**

Advancing Equity through Rural Infrastructure
The handover ceremony on February 22, 2025, in Ahali Kolié N'Zikro, served as a key moment for Habitat for Humanity Côte d'Ivoire (HFHCI) to advocate for more inclusive and equitable rural development. Through the delivery of critical WASH infrastructure—supported by the Lions Clubs International Foundation and local Lions Clubs—HFHCI showcased how strategic investments in water and sanitation can immediately improve living conditions for rural populations, especially women and children. By publicly centering these vulnerable groups in the narrative, HFHCI reinforced the message that access to clean water and sanitation is a fundamental right that must be prioritized in national and regional planning.

HFHCI used this platform to demonstrate the effectiveness of community-driven development models. The strong engagement of the community in managing water points and maintaining latrine infrastructure served as a living example of how local ownership strengthens sustainability.

Through dialogue with prefectural and regional officials present, HFHCI advocated for these community-led approaches to be formally integrated into regional and municipal development frameworks, positioning grassroots leadership as essential to public service delivery.

Centering Grassroots Voices to Shape Development

The heartfelt testimonies of local leaders, especially women from mutual development groups, served as a powerful tool to elevate grassroots voices within national development discourse. These expressions of gratitude, coupled with calls for greater investment in rural infrastructure, enabled HFHCI to advocate for policies that reflect the lived experiences of marginalized populations. Through this participatory approach, HFHCI highlighted that any effective WASH strategy must be grounded in the perspectives and needs of rural communities themselves.



- **The Basic Services Project to Support the Resilience of Vulnerable Communities in Abidjan,**

Officially launched in October 2024, embodies a transformative vision that extends far beyond infrastructure improvements. At its core, the project deploys a strategic advocacy and influence engagement framework designed to elevate the voices of vulnerable communities, drive institutional change, and promote inclusive urban policies at both local and national levels.



- ✓ **Positioning Urban Resilience as a Political Priority**

Through speeches by local authorities, development partners, and ministry representatives, the event galvanized public attention around the urgent need for resilient and inclusive urban planning. The presence of strategic stakeholders like the Ministry of Construction, the African Development Bank, and UN-Habitat helped solidify the legitimacy of the project and opened direct channels for policy

influence. By creating a shared narrative that frames access to basic services as a human right and a cornerstone of national development, the project cultivates political will for broader systemic reform.

- ✓ **Mobilizing Stakeholders through a Common Vision**

The advocacy approach adopted by HFHCI and its partners emphasizes coalition-building and stakeholder convergence. The event served as a platform to unify development actors, community leaders, municipal authorities, and government institutions around a shared vision of equitable urban development. This common platform promotes synergies, reinforces coordination mechanisms, and lays the

groundwork for future advocacy campaigns at municipal and inter-ministerial levels. It also strengthens multi-actor accountability for the project's outcomes.

3. Promoting Community-Led Development Models

A central tenet of the project's influence strategy is the promotion of community-led resilience as a viable and scalable model for slum upgrading. HFHCI, AVSI, and UN-Habitat advocate for participatory planning and co-implementation approaches that treat residents not as beneficiaries, but as co-developers of their neighborhoods. Through training,

capacity building, and structured community consultations, the project empowers local voices and helps build a new narrative in policy circles—one that values grassroots leadership as essential to sustainable urban change.

- ✓ **Strengthening Institutional Partnerships for Policy Update**

Through its engagement with ministries and donors, the project contributes to the alignment of national urban development frameworks with international standards, including the New

Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Specifically, the project supports SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) and SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), advocating for stronger policy coherence in urban infrastructure planning, climate adaptation, and social equity. By working with institutional actors, the project influences the design of future urban renewal programs and contributes to the drafting of urban policy frameworks that integrate resilience, participation, and sustainability.

✓ **Inspiring Replication and Scaling**

By establishing a strong visibility and influence presence, this ceremony aims to inspire the replication of its model across other precarious neighborhoods in Abidjan and other urban centers in Côte d'Ivoire. Its advocacy campaign, paired with well-documented success stories and testimonies from beneficiaries, creates momentum for scaling up interventions. This influence effort targets not only policy makers but also donors, private sector actors, and civil society organizations who can contribute to expanding the impact and geographic reach of similar initiatives.



"Urban resilience cannot be imported—it must be built with the people, by the people, and for the people. This project is not only about infrastructure; it is about dignity, inclusion, and shaping a new urban future where every voice matters."





The high-level engagement held on September 25, 2024, between HFHCI and the Ministry of Environment marked a significant turning point in the strategic advocacy and influence efforts of HFHCI. This meeting was not merely a courtesy call—it represented a deliberate effort to institutionalize collaboration, align sectoral agendas, and anchor housing within national climate resilience priorities.

✓ Positioning Housing as a Climate Solution By engaging the Ministry of Environment at a senior level, HFHCI successfully advanced its advocacy objective of framing housing as an essential component of climate adaptation and environmental sustainability. The discussion connected HFHCI's work on resilient shelter and basic services to national environmental goals, thereby broadening the scope of what constitutes "climate action" in the eyes of public policy stakeholders.

This is a strategic reframing: housing is no longer viewed only as a social issue but as a climate imperative, especially in vulnerable urban and peri-urban areas. Through this lens, HFHCI elevated its role from an implementer to a thought partner in national climate strategy.

2. Formalizing Influence through Policy Instruments

The mutual agreement to pursue a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) represents a major advocacy achievement. It signals a shift from informal collaboration to a structured and strategic institutional alliance. Such formalization ensures that HFHCI's voice and experience will be consistently integrated into government-led planning, funding proposals (e.g., Green Climate Fund, Adaptation Fund), and local implementation frameworks.

The MoU will also create a platform for joint resource mobilization, reinforcing HFHCI's positioning as a trusted and credible actor in climate and development finance.

3. at the Regional Level

The presence of Rudo Kayombo, Habitat for Humanity's Vice President for Africa, amplified the influence of this engagement. It demonstrated to the Ministry that HFHCI operates within a regional and global ecosystem, capable of mobilizing knowledge, technical expertise, and networks that extend beyond national borders. This elevated HFHCI's credibility as a strategic entry point for scaling community-based resilience initiatives in Côte d'Ivoire and potentially influencing regional programs.

Her call to "scale up our impact through formalized partnership" sent a clear message: HFH is ready to invest, co-create, and expand. This reinforced the perception of HFHCI not just as an NGO, but as a long-term development partner.

From Dialogue to Structured Influence

The September meeting stands as a milestone in HFHCI's advocacy trajectory. It demonstrates how targeted, high-level engagement can translate into institutional recognition, formal policy access, and collaborative scaling pathways.

The commitment to a formal MoU will not only deepen the partnership with the Ministry of Environment but will also enhance HFHCI's ability to shape the policy and investment landscape for climate-resilient housing and basic services in Côte d'Ivoire.

Ultimately, this engagement has laid the foundation for lasting, systemic influence, ensuring that vulnerable communities are not only beneficiaries of environmental initiatives—but active participants and drivers of national resilience strategies.

"By placing sustainable housing at the center of the national climate agenda, this meeting marked more than a partnership—it signaled a shift toward recognizing vulnerable communities as key actors in driving environmental resilience in Côte d'Ivoire."



- ## Launch of Adaptation Fund Project: Advancing Climate Resilience in Coastal Communities in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana

On September 2024, the launch of the Adaptation Fund project was held, attended by key participants from various organizations, including UN-Habitat offices in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, Habitat for Humanity, the University of Twente-ITC and Abidjan convention. The event commenced with an opening session featuring statements from UN-Habitat and representatives from the Adaptation Fund and executing entities, including the Government of

efforts. This project not only focuses on providing adequate housing but also strengthens the livelihoods of affected families, ultimately enhancing their resilience against the impacts of climate change. Rudo underscored that such initiatives are vital for fostering durable solutions that empower communities and safeguard their future.

The agenda included project presentations outlining objectives and implementation strategies. Notably, Habitat for Humanity presented Component 2, which focuses on sustainable development and managing interventions to strengthen the capacities of coastal communities to adapt to climate change. This component focuses on developing climate change adaptation subprojects in collaboration with communities and municipalities. This includes the establishment of Early Warning Systems (EWS) to



Ghana's Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology, and Innovation (MESTI) and the Côte d'Ivoire Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development.

Rudo Kayombo, Vice President, emphasized HFH's commitment to climate resilience and adaptation initiatives aimed at building sustainable communities. In her remarks, she highlighted the remarkable Green Field project of HFH Côte d'Ivoire in Dida Nglossou, visited in the Béliér region, which is currently being implemented to support community relocation

enhance preparedness and response to climate-related events. The component also involves implementing integrated Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) for urban flood adaptation and undertaking mangrove restoration projects. Additionally, it promotes climate-resilient agricultural practices aimed at improving food security and sustainable livelihoods. The afternoon session featured an inception workshop to discuss project coordination, work plans, and strategic guidance, emphasizing a collaborative approach to enhancing climate resilience in vulnerable coastal communities.

- **Positioning HFHCI as a Catalyst in the Housing Sector**

Habitat for Humanity Côte d'Ivoire (HFHCI) took part in the 2025 Francophone Africa Housing Conference and the Salon de l'Immobilier de Côte d'Ivoire (SICI), key events that brought together the most influential actors in the housing and urban development sectors across the region. HFHCI's participation was a strategic step in advancing its mission to be a credible voice for affordable housing in Francophone Africa. The platform enabled HFHCI to showcase its integrated approach to housing—centered on sustainability, social inclusion, and access to essential services— while engaging in meaningful discussions about the policy directions needed to strengthen housing systems across the continent.

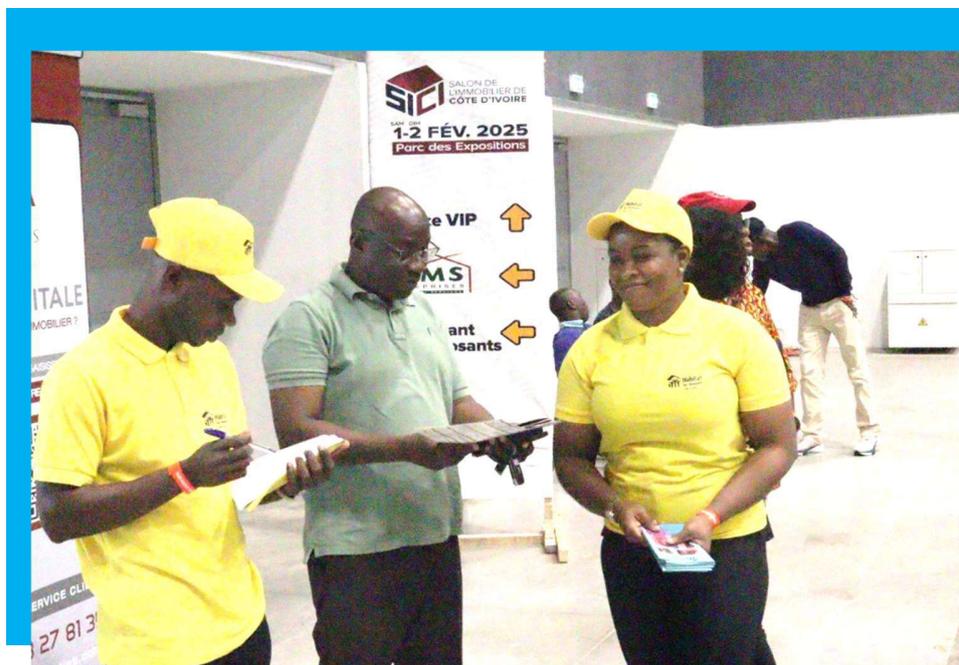
Strategic Engagement and Advocacy
Throughout the event, HFHCI actively engaged in strategic advocacy with public institutions, technical partners, and development stakeholders.

A Strengthened Influence Strategy
HFHCI's participation significantly boosted its positioning as a technical and strategic actor in Côte d'Ivoire's affordable housing ecosystem. By engaging with financial institutions, developers, policymakers, and technical experts, the organization expanded its network and gained visibility among influential stakeholders. These interactions reinforced HFHCI's role in shaping



the conversation around inclusive housing and sustainable urban development. Its contribution to the strategic reflections feeding into the "Abidjan Declaration" further cemented its standing as a proactive contributor to regional policy dialogues.

To build on the momentum gained from SICI 2025, HFHCI has outlined several priority actions. HFHCI will also accelerate the development innovative construction methods, and water and energy access initiatives, including solar-powered solutions, in direct response to community feedback received during the event. In addition, the organization will invest in land acquisition and partnerships to expand the supply of affordable housing in both urban and peri-urban areas.



HFHCI's Strategic Advocacy Across National Platforms

✓ Strategic Engagement in Multi-Stakeholder Platforms

Habitat for Humanity Côte d'Ivoire (HFHCI) is deeply engaged in several high-impact platforms that shape the housing, land, and basic services landscape in Côte d'Ivoire. As a member of the Social Housing Platform of Housing Practitioners, supported by the Ministry of Construction, HFHCI contributes technical know-how, field-based experience, and innovative models to influence the design and implementation of policies that support inclusive and affordable housing for low-income populations. Within the Ministry of Hydraulic and

✓ Advocacy for Land Tenure Equity

HFHCI's participation in the Alerte Foncier Platform, a national coalition dedicated to promoting fair and transparent land governance, reinforces its commitment to securing land rights as a foundation for adequate housing. By bringing community voices to the national dialogue, HFHCI contributes to shaping reforms that address land access barriers, especially for women and vulnerable groups in informal settlements. The organization advocates for inclusive spatial planning and the regularization of precarious neighborhoods—key to ensuring urban equity, reducing displacement, and enabling safe shelter for all.

✓ Leveraging Alliances through the International NGOs Platform



government agencies, civil society organizations, and technical partners to develop sustainable and equitable solutions to water and sanitation challenges, especially in underserved urban and rural communities. These platforms provide HFHCI with strategic access to influence national planning, inform regulatory frameworks, and advocate for scalable, people-centered interventions.

HFHCI's active role within the International NGOs Platform in Côte d'Ivoire further amplifies its advocacy impact and ability to mobilize resources. This engagement enables HFHCI to build alliances with peer organizations, coordinate development interventions, and influence donor agendas and national development strategies. Through this platform, HFHCI contributes to joint statements, participates in policy consultations, and shares evidence-based practices that address intersecting issues such as climate resilience, social protection, and community empowerment.



Habitat for Humanity Côte d'Ivoire (HFHCI) has emerged as a credible and strategic actor in the housing and urban development ecosystem in Côte d'Ivoire, leveraging its programmatic expertise to influence the sector, mobilize partnerships, and drive systemic change. HFHCI demonstrated its growing capacity in advocacy and influence by engaging directly with high-level stakeholders, including government representatives, financial institutions, and development partners. HFHCI's strategic engagement with several Ministries, further underscored its credibility as a technical partner and its potential to shape national housing strategies. This capacity is reinforced by its consistent presence and leadership in high-level national and local events, including project launches and infrastructure handover ceremonies organized in partnership with ministries, local authorities, government representatives, community leaders, and beneficiary communities. These public engagements serve as key advocacy moments that promote ownership, visibility, and alignment between community priorities and public sector commitments. HFHCI's advocacy efforts are further strengthened by its evidence-based approach, drawing from field experience, technical innovation in sustainable construction and basic services, and its ability to build coalitions across sectors. With a growing network of partners and a forward-looking advocacy agenda focused on inclusive financing models, land access reform, and public-private collaboration, HFHCI is positioning itself as both a service provider and a thought leader. Its advocacy is purposeful and grounded, built on the conviction that safe, decent, and affordable housing is a foundation for economic growth, social inclusion, basic services, and climate resilience.

JOURNÉE MONDIALE DE L'HABITAT 2024
Habitat for Humanity Côte d'Ivoire mobilise la jeunesse pour un avenir urbain durable

Plus de 100 jeunes volontaires ont participé à la Journée mondiale de l'habitat 2024 à Abidjan. Ils ont travaillé sur des chantiers de construction de logements sociaux et de réhabilitation de logements existants. Cette initiative vise à améliorer les conditions de vie des populations vulnérables et à promouvoir un développement urbain durable.

Libre à vous
Où sont les vrais huppés?

Les jeunes volontaires ont travaillé sur des chantiers de construction de logements sociaux et de réhabilitation de logements existants. Cette initiative vise à améliorer les conditions de vie des populations vulnérables et à promouvoir un développement urbain durable.



SOCIÉTÉ
Projet d'hygiène et d'assainissement en milieu rural
Habitat for Humanity Côte d'Ivoire et des Lions Clubs mobilisés

Un projet d'hygiène et d'assainissement en milieu rural a été lancé par Habitat for Humanity Côte d'Ivoire et des Lions Clubs. Le projet vise à améliorer les conditions de vie des populations vulnérables et à promouvoir un développement durable.



Le projet d'hygiène et d'assainissement en milieu rural vise à améliorer les conditions de vie des populations vulnérables et à promouvoir un développement durable. Le projet est financé par Habitat for Humanity Côte d'Ivoire et des Lions Clubs.

Strategic Media Engagement as a Pillar of Advocacy and Influence

Habitat for Humanity Côte d'Ivoire (HFHCI) is engaged in strategic collaboration with leading media outlets—both public and private—as a critical lever to amplify its advocacy efforts, demonstrate impact, and shape national discourse on housing, basic services, and community resilience. Working closely with national television channels such as RTI (Radiodiffusion Télévision Ivoirienne) and Jife TV, as well as with influential newspapers and digital media platforms, HFHCI ensures that its work reaches a wide and diverse audience, including policymakers, technical ministries, local authorities, donors, and the general public.

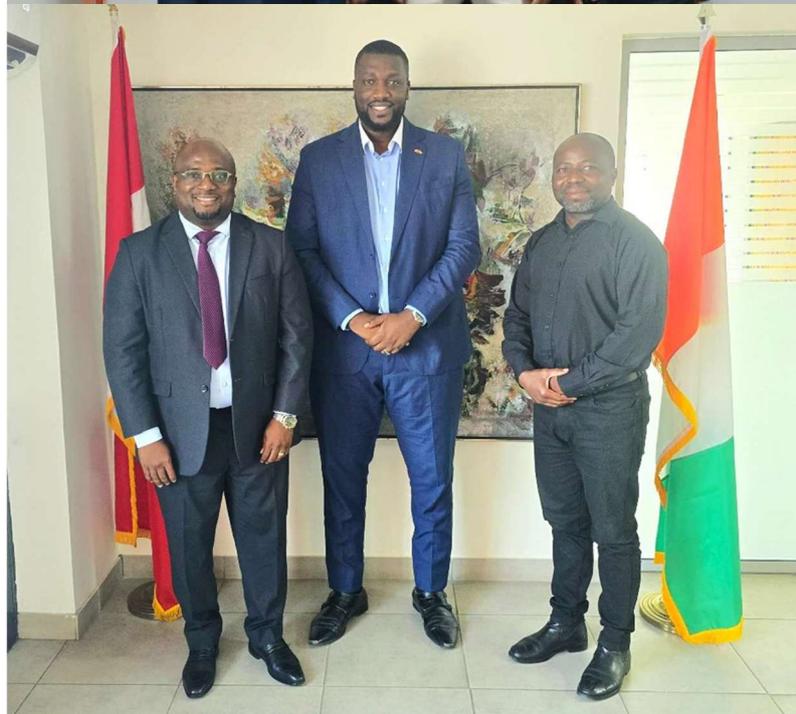
Through these media collaborations, HFHCI has successfully documented and broadcast project launches, handover ceremonies, high-level meetings, and community-led activities, turning local action into nationally recognized success stories. These platforms allow HFHCI to showcase the voices of community members, highlight the tangible outcomes of donor investments, and bring visibility to the systemic barriers that vulnerable populations face in accessing decent housing and basic services. They also serve as vehicles to raise awareness and mobilize public opinion, especially around critical themes such as land tenure security, urban resilience, climate adaptation, and inclusive development.

Strengthening Donor and Peer Positioning Through Collaborative Strategy

Alongside its field and policy engagement, HFHCI has deliberately cultivated partnerships and collaborative pathways with a broad ecosystem of peer organizations and donor institutions to enhance its strategic positioning and funding readiness. Through targeted meetings and technical exchanges with organizations such as AVSI, GGGI, PACJA, UNHRC, SPAAK, SOCODEVIE, IRC, CARE, SEV-CI, Save the Children, Jhpiego, and others, HFHCI has identified common agendas, designed co-branded initiatives, and built programmatic alliances aligned with donor priorities. These interactions have yielded concrete outcomes, including the approval of the Basic Services project with AVSI, the joint development of the National Green Building and Infrastructure Financing Vehicle (NGBIFV) with GGGI and the Ministry of Environment, and proposal alignment efforts with Nascent for USDA's McGovern-Dole program. Moreover, HFHCI's approach is donor-conscious, using every collaboration, workshop, or technical engagement as a platform to showcase its value proposition to funding organizations, foundations, and institutions (FOIs). The organization continues to align its strategies with key donor frameworks in climate resilience, WASH, women's health, and community infrastructure—proactively responding to calls



for applications, developing concept notes, and coordinating with global HFH entities such as HFH Germany to strengthen donor re-engagement (e.g., with GIZ). This ecosystem of active partnerships and donor-aligned positioning places HFHCI at a strategic intersection—ready to co-design transformative programs, secure multi-year funding, and lead scalable, high-impact interventions that respond to the real needs of vulnerable communities across Côte d'Ivoire.



Building Changemakers: HFHCI's Volunteer Opportunity for Civic Action, Leadership, and Sustainable Impact

✓ Empowering Citizens Through Purposeful Engagement

The Volunteer Opportunity is a local initiative developed by Habitat for Humanity Côte d'Ivoire (HFHCI) to promote civic engagement, social responsibility, and active citizenship. More than a traditional volunteer platform, this initiative serves as a launchpad for individuals to contribute meaningfully to development efforts through action, advocacy, and leadership.

Volunteers are organized in autonomous groups within institutions or communities and collaborate closely with HFHCI to address human rights, housing, and local development challenges. The program is designed to foster environmental awareness, advance sustainable development goals, and build economic resilience by offering exposure to fieldwork, collective action, and service-oriented experiences.

✓ Building with Purpose: Volunteer Engagement in Construction and Community Development

A core pillar of the Volunteer Opportunity is its focus on community-led construction and rehabilitation. Volunteers are actively involved in HFHCI's mission of building safe and decent housing for families in need.

Through direct participation in construction projects, volunteers contribute to improving living conditions in vulnerable communities while developing skills in teamwork, technical work, and community service.

These experiences cultivate a sense of solidarity, civic pride, and the shared

responsibility of addressing housing and infrastructure deficits across Côte d'Ivoire.

✓ Fostering Resource Mobilization and Community Philanthropy

The initiative also places strong emphasis on resource mobilization and fundraising. Volunteers are encouraged to design and implement creative strategies to raise funds in support of HFHCI's programs, engaging private entities, institutions, and the general public. These fundraising efforts build capacity in resource management, communication, and advocacy, while strengthening a culture of giving and local ownership. Volunteers thus become powerful agents of change, channeling community resources toward sustainable solutions that improve lives.

✓ Advocating for Housing Rights and Participatory Governance

The Volunteer Opportunity goes beyond service by integrating participants into Local Management Committees (LMCs) and involving them in advocacy and decision-making. As advocates for decent housing and inclusive urban development, volunteers engage in awareness campaigns, support policy dialogue, and represent community voices in strategic discussions. Their participation in planning sessions and governance meetings ensures inclusive and diverse contributions to HFHCI's programs, fostering transparency, accountability, and greater alignment with community needs. Through targeted training and education, the Volunteer Opportunity invests in capacity building and personal

development. Volunteers benefit from workshops and hands-on learning in areas such as sustainable construction, project coordination, environmental conservation, and community organizing. These capacity-strengthening activities prepare participants to navigate modern-day challenges including climate change, migration, poverty, and rapid urbanization. By equipping individuals with practical skills and civic values, HFHCI contributes to building a network of resilient, knowledgeable, and action-ready community leaders.

✓ **A Transformative Initiative for Inclusive Development**

In essence, the Volunteer Opportunity is a transformative, all-inclusive platform that mobilizes people from all walks of life to take part in HFHCI's mission. It creates space for collective action, skills development, and sustainable impact through a dynamic model that combines volunteering, advocacy, and leadership. By connecting individual engagement to systemic change, HFHCI is shaping a movement that addresses urgent development needs while reinforcing the ideals of dignity, equity, and solidarity—ensuring that every person has the opportunity to contribute to and benefit from a more just and resilient society.

development interventions. Their presence and testimonies were integral to HFHCI's message that national policies must recognize and respond to the lived realities and priorities of rural populations—especially

✓ **Volunteering in Local Committees Support Community Project Implementation**

HFHCI positions local volunteer participation at the heart of community-led development by integrating volunteers into Local Implementation Committees (LICs). These committees serve as vital platforms where community members actively shape, manage, and monitor the projects that directly affect them. Volunteers within LICs contribute to project planning, mobilization, logistics, and on-site coordination, acting as trusted liaisons between HFHCI and local beneficiaries. Their deep knowledge of local realities enhances project relevance, cultural appropriateness, and community ownership.

✓ **Engaging Stakeholders as Volunteers in All Interventions**

HFHCI adopts a collaborative approach by actively engaging institutional and professional stakeholders as volunteers across its programs. This includes representatives from local government, technical ministries, private sector partners, civil society organizations, and development institutions. These stakeholders are invited to contribute their time, expertise, and networks in various capacities—from participating in construction days, awareness events, and project launches, to offering technical support and mentoring. Their involvement as volunteers reinforces a shared sense of responsibility and strengthens multi-actor cooperation around common development goals.

By the end of FY25, Habitat for Humanity Côte d'Ivoire mobilized a total of 937 volunteers, who collectively contributed 11,517 volunteer hours in support of adequate and affordable housing initiatives across the country.

"Through the Local Volunteer Opportunity, HFHCI turns every helping hand into a force for dignity, resilience, and lasting change."



✓ A Model of Transformative Volunteer Leadership

The collaboration between Habitat for Humanity Côte d'Ivoire (HFHCI), the Lions Club Abidjan Calao, and the Lions Club International Foundation (LCIF) stands as a compelling example of how local volunteer leadership can drive impactful, community-based development. Since 2003, this partnership has showcased the transformative power of volunteerism—not only in mobilizing resources but also in delivering concrete solutions to critical housing and WASH challenges across Côte d'Ivoire.

✓ **Mobilizing Funding and Expanding Impact** Through the dedicated efforts of local Lions Clubs, the partnership has successfully secured over USD 756,926 in LCIF grants, complemented by USD 258,588 in contributions from HFHCI and

the Lions Club Abidjan Calao, resulting in a total investment exceeding USD 1,015,514. This funding has enabled the construction of 290 homes for families with disabilities, the drilling of 3 new boreholes, the rehabilitation of 84 water pumps, and the construction of 25 school latrines, directly serving 10,719 families and impacting more than 75,000 individuals.

✓ **Volunteer Engagement Beyond Funding** Lions' volunteers have gone far beyond fundraising. They have consistently participated in hands-on construction work, helped organize



Habitat
for Humanity
Côte d'Ivoire



and lead community awareness campaigns, and acted as ambassadors for HFHCI's mission in public forums. Their engagement has raised visibility for inclusive housing and basic service delivery, while building trust and momentum at the community level. These efforts have attracted wider donor interest and strengthened HFHCI's positioning as a key development actor in Côte d'Ivoire.

✓ **Celebrating Two Decades of Shared Achievement**

The successful implementation of 12 impactful projects marks a milestone in this long-standing collaboration and is a testament to what is possible when mission-driven institutions align with community-led volunteerism. In June 2025, HFHCI was honored with a special award of appreciation by the local Lions Clubs, celebrating over 20 years of partnership, shared values, and collective impact. This recognition not only commemorates past success but also reaffirms the shared commitment to build resilient communities through solidarity, service, and sustainable development.



Organizational Development – Staff Capacity Building

development, align the team on project execution frameworks, and reinforce adherence to organizational policies and procedures. Key sessions included project pipeline updates, MEA] (Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and



✓ A Model of Transformative Volunteer Leadership

As part of its strategic commitment to strengthening institutional capacity and aligning staff efforts with its FY25 goals, Habitat for Humanity Côte d'Ivoire (HFHCI) organized a four-day staff capacity-building seminar in Abidjan from October 28 to 31, 2024. This seminar forms a key component of HFHCI's broader organizational development approach, which includes continuous staff training, strategic alignment meetings, onboarding and orientation sessions, and ongoing learning and knowledge-sharing opportunities. Designed to promote cohesion and performance across all levels of the organization, the seminar brought together 14 staff members from various operational locations—including Abidjan, Dimbokro and Toumodi—for an immersive and structured learning experience.

The seminar served as a platform to provide an update regarding the new strategic plan under

learning) planning, operational planning reviews, and strategic discussions on project challenges and opportunities. In addition to working sessions, a recreational outing in Bingerville was held to strengthen team cohesion.

Empowering our people with knowledge, alignment, and shared purpose is the foundation upon which sustainable impact is built—when our team grows stronger, so does our ability to transform communities.

The event concluded with an updated execution plan and renewed motivation across the team to deliver on HFHCI's mission. This seminar marks a significant step in fostering a unified, informed, and performance-driven team committed to improving access to adequate and affordable housing across Côte d'Ivoire.

✓ **Recognizing Our People: A Commitment to Current and Retired Employees**

Recognizing our employees—whether they are currently serving or have retired from the organization—is not only a matter of respect, but a reflection of our values. Each employee contributes uniquely to our impact, and their efforts often extend beyond the scope of a job description. Acknowledging their service fosters a culture of gratitude, strengthens organizational loyalty, and inspires future generations of staff and volunteers.

✓ **Honoring a Pillar of Our Journey: Hubert Potoly's Retirement after 25 Years of Service**

On October 31, 2024, during our annual staff retreat, the entire Habitat for Humanity Côte d'Ivoire team came together to celebrate an extraordinary milestone: the retirement of Mr. Hubert Potoly, the organization's first driver and first staff member.

For 25 years, Hubert has been more than a driver—he has been a constant, dependable presence through every chapter of our journey. From the earliest days of our establishment to the expansion of our programs across the country, he has quietly and faithfully supported

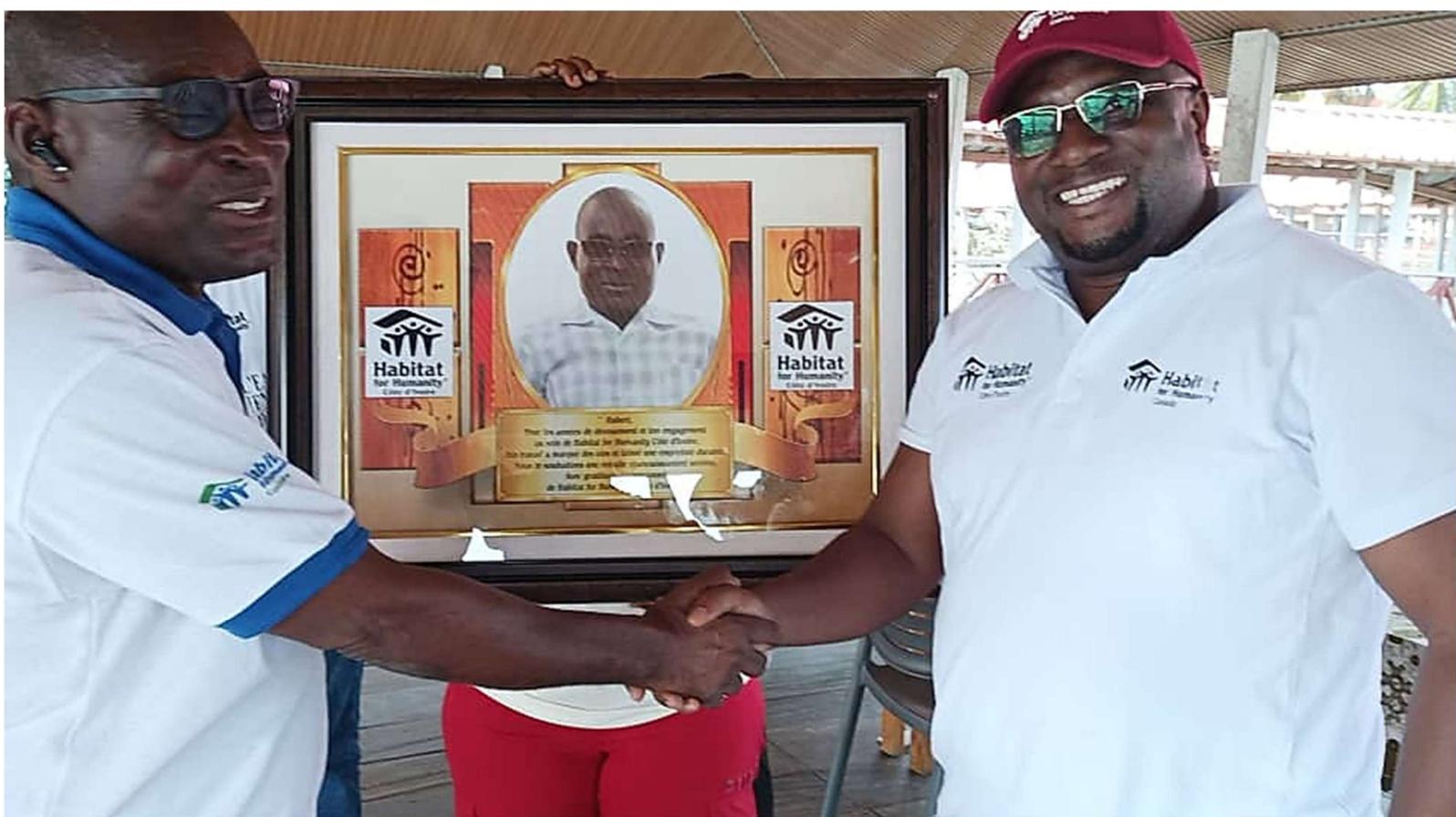
our mission, ensuring that people and materials reached their destinations safely and on time.

With humility, professionalism, and unmatched commitment, Hubert carried not just passengers, but the values of this organization on every road he traveled.

His contributions go far beyond the technical responsibilities of his role. Hubert has been a source of encouragement, a guardian of team spirit, and a living archive of the organization's history. Through storms, dusty roads, and long missions, he embodied reliability and discretion—qualities that made him respected by leadership and beloved by colleagues.

During the retreat, the staff paid heartfelt tribute to Hubert with speeches, gifts, and expressions of gratitude. Emotions ran high as stories were shared—stories of long road trips, early-morning departures, late-night returns, and above all, of a man whose calm demeanor and quiet integrity impacted everyone he encountered. It was a moment of collective pride, celebration, and deep appreciation.

We honor him not only for his years of work, but for the values he upheld—respect, humility, and unwavering commitment to the mission of building a better life for others.



*Comprehensive Community Impact:
Advancing Water, Sanitation, and Housing
for Over 23,000 Individuals in Early 2025*



Between January and June 2025, in total, **1,400 households** gained access to safe water, while **200 households** received improved sanitation solutions, significantly reducing exposure to hygiene-related diseases. Additionally, **1,200 households** benefited from the distribution of non-food items and hygiene kits, and **60 households** were provided with repairs and new homes, reinforcing stability, dignity, and improved living conditions. Furthermore, **4,268 individuals** participated in water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) training sessions. Based on an average household size of seven, this represents an additional **610 households** reached indirectly through capacity building. In total, the project directly and indirectly served approximately **3,420 households**, representing **over 23,940 individuals** impacted through multi-dimensional interventions. These results reaffirm Habitat for Humanity Côte d'Ivoire's commitment to empowering communities with sustainable solutions in housing, water, and sanitation.

Our Supporters and Partners

At the heart of every meaningful impact we achieve is a network of committed supporters and strategic partners who share our vision of a Côte d'Ivoire where everyone has access to safe, affordable housing and essential services. Habitat for Humanity Côte d'Ivoire (HFHCI) recognizes that the scale, sustainability, and relevance of our work are only possible through strong and collaborative partnerships—ranging from international donors and government agencies to traditional leaders, grassroots communities, and dedicated volunteers.

✓ Acknowledgement

We extend our deepest gratitude to all our institutional donors, funding organizations, corporate sponsors, and civil society collaborators whose investments—both financial and technical—make our programs possible. Your contributions have enabled HFHCI to deliver impactful interventions in affordable housing, WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene), land tenure security, and community resilience. We also thank our local government partners, including Ministries, sub-prefectures and regional councils, for their support in ensuring that our projects align with national and local development goals. The trust and collaboration of traditional authorities, village leaders, and community-based groups have been instrumental in ensuring the local ownership and cultural relevance of our actions.

Lastly, we acknowledge the unwavering commitment of our volunteers, who continue to serve as the hands, hearts, and voices of our mission, making it possible to reach vulnerable households with dignity and care.

✓ Testimonials

The impact of our work is best expressed by those who experience it:

- *“In Lakota, Habitat for Humanity has shown a remarkable understanding of the challenges faced by cocoa farming communities. By combining access to water and sanitation with training, they have empowered entire families, especially women and children. We consider this a model to replicate.”*
— Sub-Prefect of Lafiota
- *“The Green Field project is a concrete response to the housing and infrastructure challenges our region faces. HFHCI has worked hand in hand with our council to ensure that the solutions are sustainable and community-owned. We value this partnership deeply.”*
— President, General Council of Toumodi
- *“We’ve seen many promises from different organizations over the years, but what Habitat has done is different. They didn’t just dig wells — they trained our youth, respected our customs, and left us with knowledge we can use for years to come.”*
— Chief of Ahali-Kolié N’Zifiro
- *“Our partnership with HFHCI exemplifies how targeted support in WASH can create lasting change. We are proud to contribute to such impactful work that improves lives and fosters dignity of Cocoa farmers.”*
— Cargill representative, Corporate
- *“Before the construction of this latrine, we used to go near the cemetery to relieve ourselves. That is house. All the risks we used to face have disappeared. We are safer with our new latrine.”*
— Lagou Adjoua Hélène, 58 years old, Homemafier, Project Beneficiary

" These voices of affirmation and lived experience highlight the essence of HFHCI's mission: to build not just structures, but lives of dignity, safety, and opportunity. We remain committed to deepening our partnerships and expanding our shared impact—because we believe that sustainable development is only possible when we build together. "

✓ **Thank you to our supporters and partners**

- Ministry of Construction, Housing and Urban Development
- Ministry of Hydraulic and Sanitation
- Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development
- Ministry of National Education and Literacy
- Prefect and Sub-Prefectures of Toumodi, Bocanda and Jakota
- General Council of Toumodi, and Jakota
- UN-Habitat Côte d'Ivoire
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- AVSI
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- HFH Canada
- HFH Netherlands
- HFH Germany
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- The International Community School of Abidjan (ICSA)
- Peter Gilgan Foundation
- Saemaul foundation

- Pan-African Alliance for Climate Justice (PACJA) Côte d'Ivoire
- Agence Nationale d'Appui au Développement Rural (ANADER)
- Regional Councils
- Lions Club Foundation
- Lions Club Abidjan Calao
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- Loudon County HFH (TN)
- MidOhio, HFH (OH)
- Pikes Peak HFH (CO)
- Riverside, HFH (CA)
- Roanoke Valley, HFH in the (VA)
- Rowan County, HFH of (NC)
- San Bernardino Area, HFH (CA)
- Southern Crescent HFH (GA)
- Ulster County HFH (NY)
- Winter Park/Maitland, HFH of (FL)
- Wisconsin River Area, HFH of (WI)
- Rotaract eClub

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Conclusion: Looking Ahead – Priorities for 2025-2026

This year's results affirm our unshakable belief that safe shelter, access to basic services, and secure land rights are not privileges—they are the foundation of human dignity and sustainable development. With every house and latrine built, every household trained in hygiene practices, every family provided with clean water, Habitat for Humanity Côte d'Ivoire (HFHCI) moves closer to its vision of a world where everyone has a decent place to live.

Looking ahead, we are driven by the momentum of our progress and deeply committed to scaling our impact through strategic partnerships. Our engagement with KOICA—the Korea International Cooperation Agency—has been transformational, and we are proud to reaffirm our full commitment to the second phase of KOICA funding of USD 1.9 million. This renewed partnership represents more than just financial support; it is a powerful endorsement of the value and trust HFHCI has earned through transparent, community-centered development. It also serves as a catalyst for deeper resilience in vulnerable communities, where the link between sustainable livelihoods and access to basic infrastructure is undeniable.

At the same time, HFHCI is actively contributing to broader climate resilience strategies. As part of the regional Adaptation Fund program implemented across Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, we are supporting integrated solutions to climate vulnerability in collaboration with local governments, technical experts, and grassroots leaders. This initiative, led by Habitat for Humanity's Africa Area Office (AFR AO), represents a critical shift toward holistic, regional responses that empower communities to adapt, thrive, and lead their own development in the face of environmental challenges.

These opportunities signal a new era of partnership, innovation, and collective action. They underscore HFHCI's evolving role—not only as a builder of homes, but as a builder of systems, solutions, and lasting change.

Together, with our partners, supporters, and the communities we serve, we remain steadfast in our mission. Because when we build resilience, we build futures. And when we build together, we build HOPE.