# Habitat para la Humanidad®

### NEWSLETTER June 2022

"I had my business in the market, but I lost everything when it burned down. Having my own house allowed me to keep working because now I make tortillas here and I continue to sell".

Roberta San Pedro Sula, Honduras

**Entrepreneur Edition** 



Families benefited with a toilet, sink and water filter project.

# 60 families from Rivera Hernández in San Pedro Sula, now have a proper sanitary unit

The "Adequate Sanitary and Hygiene Habits" project is already a reality for 60 of the 97 families that will benefited in the Rivera Hernández sector of San Pedro Sula.

In the process, the community has been involved in training spaces to strength and develop capacities on hygiene and health habits.

In addition, families have been involved to promote community engagement, as they are the ones who organize and follow up on the benefited families. At first, the project, which is being financed in collaboration with SELAVIP and Habitat Honduras and coordinated with Children International, had the objective of reaching 90 families, but it has been expanded to benefit seven more families, for a total of 97 households.

"Without a doubt, now I have a cleaner and odor-free home, I have always been very neat, but not having a bathroom meant that the children had to do their physiological needs in a potty and then look for a place to throw it away, which made the house smell bad, but now everything is different because we no longer have to do that or ask our neighbors to lend us their bathroom. Thank you for improving our lives and showing us that we are important to you".

#### Iris Beneficiary Rivera Hernánde, San Pedro Sula.



Families during the food distribution in Concepción, Copán.

#### Families of Copán and Tela are benefited with food donation

A total of 26 families affected by the hurricanes Eta and lota, were benefited with a basic food basket kit, valued at L1,500.

This donation was made by Ayuda en Acción in coordination withthe World Food Program and Habitat for Humanity, through the Food and nutrition security Cluster that leads the Humanitarian Network.

The families supported are 12 from the comunity La Tarraloza in Tela, Atlántida and 14 from Concepción, Copán.

At the time of the distribution, the beneficiaries said they were very happy and grateful to receive this support because since the hurricanes they were left without homes and many of them without a job, which prevents them from having access to food security.

## More than 250 municipalities have a housing policy

Habitat for Humanity works to advocate for public policies that help reduce the housing deficit gap and improve access to affordable housing for Hondurans. These efforts continue to bring positive results.

Aware that adequate housing has a positive impact on the health, education and security of the entire family, and in addition to fulfilling the right to housing, other rights are also guaranteed, which is why there are currently 254 housing policies approved and implemented. We are also working on the approval process of 4 other housing policies.

The approved policies will make it possible to advance in more specific aspects of the housing problem, such as secure tenure and housing finances.

The implementation of the approved policies will benefit more than 300,000 families living in inadequate housing. This represents 53% of the households in the participating municipalities.

These policies are instruments that facilitate citizen participation and empower them in issues that help them solve their housing problems.



Map of new municipalities that have approved housing policies in 2022.

#### HABITAT ENTREPRENEURS

Bernardino is an entrepreneur who sells ice cream cones. Pedaling his ice cream cart he travels every day through the community of El Edén in Santa Cruz de Yojoa and serves his customers with a smile and positive attitude.

"Nobody believed in my ice cream cones. When I told people that someday I would have my own house they told me that it was not possible, that selling ice cream would not give me the money to pay for a house, but Habitat did believe in me and saw my family's need".

- Bernardino
- Ice cream seller
- El Eden, Santa Cruz de Yojoa

Five years ago Bernardino and his family became owners of their own home, they started with a two-room house and then, always with the support of their house.

"The advice I can give people is to always have as a priority the payment of their house, that takes a lot of weight off you, working every day, avoiding unnecessary expenses and being punctual with the payment, if possible capital installments. I remember the day I went to pay my house payment and they told me that I had no pending payments because I had already paid in full and they even congratulated me, that day I felt happy and calm for my children", he concluded.





Jessenia has been selling "burritas", baleadas and coffee in one of the streets of Siguatepeque for more than 10 years. She, along with her husband and daughter, became one of the thousands of families that have benefited from housing solutions.

"The pandemic was a very difficult time because I could not go out to sell and I was worried about not being able to pay the house payment, but Habitat has always supported me, even in those difficult times, they have supported me from the day I told them that I no longer wanted to continue renting and that the banks would not lend me because I did not have a job in a company but Habitat gave me the opportunity to have my house".

Jessenia Food vendor Siguatepeque, Honduras

In addition to undertaking the food business, Jessenia is also dedicated to planting and reproducing plants such as cactus and succulents, which she sells to make more money.



"I can only begin by saying thank you, because this house has been a blessing. I have always been dedicated to selling tortillas and I had my stand at the Guamilito Market, but when the market burned down I lost my business. With my daughters we decided that we would continue selling but now from home and thank God we have done well. I work every day and I can pay for my house and that is a great joy".

Roberta Tortilla seller San Pedro Sula, Honduras

Roberta has been a Habitat beneficiary for nine years and says that the key is to avoid expenses, save and be punctual.

"It makes a big difference, because Habitat's quota is low, I pay less than I used to pay in rent, and when the pandemic hit and I lost my business, Habitat continued to support me, giving me more time to pay because they know that I have always been punctual", she concluded.

"Being a single mother it was difficult for a bank to lend me money to build my house, since I started working in the beauty industry and I do not have a fixed monthly salary, my income depends on how much I work every day. With Habitat all entrepreneurs can get to have ar house, we just have to be disciplined with the payment ". Belkis

Stylist

Tegucigalpa, Honduras

Now, Belkis and her daughter's plan are to expand their home, for which they will also ask for help to Habitat, as she said that it is the organization that has made her feel supported.





"Having my house has given me the opportunity to give my family stability, because I have a place to set up my barbershop, work from home and take care of my son and my wife". Cesar Barber Santa Ana, La Ceiba Atlántida

Before having his home with Habitat, César paid house rent and rent for a place to have his business, which affected the family economy.

"For me it was a dream and when the opportunity was given I promised God that I would work hard to have my house, my gratitude is so great that I stayed as a Habitat volunteer," he said.

#### **Dignified houses change lives**

Stefany is the third of four siblings who, along with 12 other families, were directly affected by hurricanes Eta and lota since they lived on the banks of the Lancetilla River in Tela, Atlántida, and lost their homes due to flooding.

"I remember that the firefighters arrived in a boat to rescue us when the river current was taking our house and then they brought us here and made us a little house with tarps and wood", Stefany said.

Almost two years later and thanks to the Housing Project for families affected by the hurricanes carried out by Habitat Honduras with the support of Convivienda and the Municipal Mayor's Office of Tela, these families have a new house with adequate conditions.

"Before I was sad because every time it rained I remembered everything that happened, but now with this new house nothing will happen to us because it is made of blocks and it is beautiful and the river is no longer near. Thank you for this house", she said.



Stefany in the temporary shelter in October 2021.



Stefany in her new home at present.



Images of the progress of the electrical installation and sanitary units construction.

### Moving forward Electrification and Sanitary Units Project in Santa Elena, Bay Islands

We continue working to improve the quality of life of the Honduran families of the Afro-Honduran communities, providing them with housing solutions, for this reason improvement projects have been expanded in the community of Santa Elena in the Bay Islands.

Nine families now have a sanitary unit with a toilet, sink, shower and water, reducing the risk of gastrointestinal diseases due to the lack of adequate sanitary facilities.

The project in the community also includes the extension of the electricity distribution network for seven families who did not have access to electricity and who were supported in the first stage with the construction of new homes.



David and his family are one of the families that benefited with floor improvements in Santa Rosa de Copán.

#### Habitat initiative seeks to replace 100,000 earthen floors with concrete floors in Latin America and the Caribbean

Habitat initiative seeks to replace 100,000 dirt floors with concrete floors in Latin America and theCaribbean Habitat for Humanity and the Inter-American Cement Federation (FICEM) launch the initiative "100 thousand floors to play on" to replace dirt floors with concrete in vulnerable housing throughout Latin America and the Caribbean by 2028. solutions will also be provided for access to water and improved stoves, in order to generate a dignified and healthy environment for the sustainable and inclusive development of families. In Latin America and the Caribbean, the housing deficit affects almost 40% of the total population and approximately 6% of homes have a predominantly dirt floor, causing serious health problems for the people who live in them, especially children and the elderly. Dirt floors are characterized by being sources of infection, since they harbor parasites, bacteria and insects that cause diarrhea, respiratory diseases, anemia, immunodeficiency, malnutrition, Chagas disease, among others; children are the most vulnerable population as they are in constant contact with the soil when crawling, playing and walking.

#### Photo Exhibition Housing, Communities and Hope

To continue with the objective of showing people images and stories of families who have benefited from housing solutions, the photographic exhibition Housing, Communities and Hope, was presented in the Central Park of Tegucigalpa, Cantarranas and at the artisan fair in Santa Rosa de Copán. During the exhibition, hundreds of people expressed their interest in obtaining adequate housing or improving their homes, so they were provided with the necessary information so that they could be one of the beneficiary families. The exposition will continue to be held in different cities

throughout the country.



The photographic exhibition is a collection of 36 plates with images of Habitat Honduras projects.

**every family** deserves an adequate and dignified place to live.



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