



HONDURAS

Why we build: Honduras faces a nearly 1-million-unit housing crisis. In the 5 areas Global Village and Habitat and Thrivent Worldwide teams serve, many families live in extreme poverty, scarcity, and crowded conditions. Families partnering with Habitat Honduras receive training in Healthy Housing practices prior to the completion of their housing solution. These educational components and working with the local community leaders are key to success.

Project Description: Each region has different challenges and may offer different housing solutions volunteers assist with. The housing solution could be a single house with a living room, kitchen, 2 bedrooms, and sanitation unit (laundry area/latrine). The solution could also be renovations of latrines, building smokeless stoves, pouring concrete floors, and improving basic water and sanitation systems. Depending on the region, the houses are made with cinder blocks, adobe, wattle, and daub.

Itinerary: On Saturday, volunteers arrive at the airport and travel to selected project location, ranging from 1-4 hours away. Sunday the team has orientation and time to familiarize with the community. Monday through Friday are workdays with an optional Social Learning Exchange on Friday afternoon. Teams depart on Saturday.





Gracias Lempira

Volunteers arrive at San Pedro Sula Airport (SAP) and travel 4 hours to project location.

Gracias Lempira is one of the oldest cities in Honduras. After 12 years of fighting the native Lenca, led by the chieftain Lempira, the Spanish were able to establish a settlement in 1536. Located in the highlands of Western Honduras, it has well preserved colonial architecture including churches, buildings, and cobblestone streets. The current population is about 30,000 people. The population works mainly in agriculture - coffee, cinnamon, allspice, and other staples like corn and beans. In Gracias Lempira outskirts, the Lenca ethnic group makes pottery, considered an ethnic marking of their culture.

Santa Cruz de Yojoa

Volunteers arrive at Comayagua International Airport (XPL) and travel 2 hours to project location.

Santa Cruz de Yojoa was the first Habitat Affiliate in Honduras. The local Affiliate strives to achieve the goal of building 311 housing solutions for this fiscal year. Santa Cruz de Yojoa is located on the banks of Lake Yojoa at an elevation of 2,000 feet above sea level. It was founded in 1832 as a village by General Francisco Ferrera. Now, it has a population of approximately 60,000 people. The main income of the city is from informal commercial activities, agriculture, chicken farms, tilapia farms, and cultivation of coffee, cassava, pineapples, rambutan, cacao, tropical flowers, coconuts, bananas, and sugar cane. Most people in the region travel to work in the garment factories near San Pedro Sula.

Siguetepeque

Volunteers arrive at Comayagua International Airport (XPL) and travel 1 hour to project location.

The local office of Siguatepeque has the goal to build 259 housing solutions this year. The origin of the name comes from the Lenca and Mexique languages. The appropriate translation would be "Women Hill" or "Women Village." Some records state that in 1605, Siguatepeque was a place to rest along the Road of the King, or Royal Path. The town is in the highlands, 1,200 meters above sea level, amid pine forests. Sources of income for the 60,000 residents include coffee, pottery, flowers, restaurants, agriculture, and wood. Siguatepeque is close to the Lenca communities of La Esperanza and Intibucá known for the active organization with women, farming, weaving, and pottery.

Santa Rosa de Copán

Volunteers arrive at Pedro Sula Airport (SAP) and travel 3.5 hours to project location.

The Santa Rosa de Copan Affiliate plans to complete 387 housing solutions this year. The importance of Santa Rosa de Copán as a community goes back to colonial times. Due to the high quality of tobacco being cultivated in the region, the Spanish authorities chose the community as the site for the Royal Tobacco Factory in 1765. Today, Santa Rosa de Copán is the hub of the specialty coffee at the Western Highlands of Honduras. Families in the town are engaged in the agricultural production of coffee, which is one of the major sources of work and income. In addition, they raise cattle and produce corn, beans, and vegetables. The population of the county is 60,000 people.

La Esperanza Intibucá Yamaranguila

Volunteers arrive at Comayagua International Airport (XPL) and travel 2.5 hours to project location.

Located on the western highland at 5,500 feet above sea level the Lenca, one of the ethnic groups of the country, are settled. Their main income relies on subsistence agriculture. Some of the crops are strawberries, potatoes, broccoli, beetroot, cauliflower, radish, and carrots. Many Lenca women are dedicated to weaving clothing and fabrics with traditional patterns and colors. Challenges in adaptation to climate change affect their production and become more precarious over time due to a lack of income making affording basic needs difficult. In this area, the construction systems rely on the local materials, including adobe.