

# DOMINICAN REPUBLIC



**Why we build:** The housing deficit in the Dominican Republic exceeds 1.4 million housing units. The housing shortage is growing annually by an average of 50,000 to 60,000 homes. Habitat for Humanity Dominican Republic seeks to articulate multi-sector efforts to improve neighborhood infrastructure, community, and basic services to increase the resilience of neighborhoods in informal settlements.

**Project Description—Santo Domingo/San Cristobal:** According to the report "Characteristics of housing in the Dominican Republic," just like the roof, bathroom, and walls, the floors in a home have a direct impact on the quality of life of those who live there and is related to the comfort, hygiene, and safety of its inhabitants. According to the 2010 Dominican Republic National Census, out of 2,662,862 households counted at a local level, 99,158 (3.7%) of the occupied households have dirt floors, 62.9% of which are in rural areas. The regions with the highest percentage of homes with dirt floors are El Valle (10.7%), Enriquillo (6.4%) and Cibao Noroeste (3.2%).

**Project Description—Sabana Grande de Boya:** One of the provinces that the organization will be prioritizing is Monte Plata, due to its high poverty rates. In the 2010 Census, 4.8% of the houses have dirt floors and 20.9% of the houses have wooden structures, either palm or pine, roofed with zinc, in poor condition. The main economic activity in the province is agriculture and livestock. There is a need for water and sanitation in the province according to previous studies of the Poverty Map. According to the 2023 Census of the ONE, the province has more than 88,000 homes and 205,499 inhabitants.



## Santo Domingo/San Cristobal

**What to expect:** Since 2022, Habitat Dominican Republic has joined the regional initiative 100,000 Floors to Play On with the Inter-American Cement Federation (FICEM), to replace 10,000 unsafe, dirt floors with concrete floors in the country. Unpaved floors serve as a breeding ground for disease-causing parasites, bacteria, and insects that can lead to major health and hygiene threats. Research shows that dirt floors can also stunt children's cognitive development.

Volunteers will work alongside partner families to help pave new, concrete floors in their homes.

Teams will arrive at Las Americas International Airport on Saturday and travel to the hotel in the same city. Sunday, they will have welcome and orientation, as well as meet the family they will be working with. Monday through Friday, they will work with the local masons. Volunteers depart for home or continue independent travel on Saturday.



## Sabana Grande de Boya

**What to expect:** The target audience are the 340 families living in vulnerable conditions; giving priority to women heads of household; young people between 18 and 35 years of age and in informal settlements.

Volunteers will work on repairs, painting, and the 10,000 Floors to Play on project described in Santo Domingo/San Cristobal. The repairs may consist of the roof, walls, structure, or bathrooms.

Teams will arrive at Las Americas International Airport on Saturday and travel to the hotel in the same city. Sunday they will check out and travel about 1 hour to the project location where they will have welcome and orientation, as well as meet the family they will be working with and arrive at their hotel for the week. Monday through Friday, they will work with the local team. Friday, teams will check out and travel to their hotel for the night near the airport. Volunteers depart for home or continue independent travel on Saturday.