



40 years hand in hand with the community

December, 2024

100,000 Floors to Play On

Habitat for Humanity and the Inter-American Cement Federation (FICEM) are joining forces to develop the initiative 100,000 Floors to Play On, aimed at replacing dirt floors with concrete floors in vulnerable homes across Latin America and the Caribbean between 2022 and 2028. In Nicaragua, our goal is to improve at least 1,200 floors.

As of September 2024, we have supported 475 families and 2,375 individuals. With the last 300 floors built, we managed to ensure that 520 people with a disability or chronic disease live in healthier conditions and more than 500 children have a floor to play on.

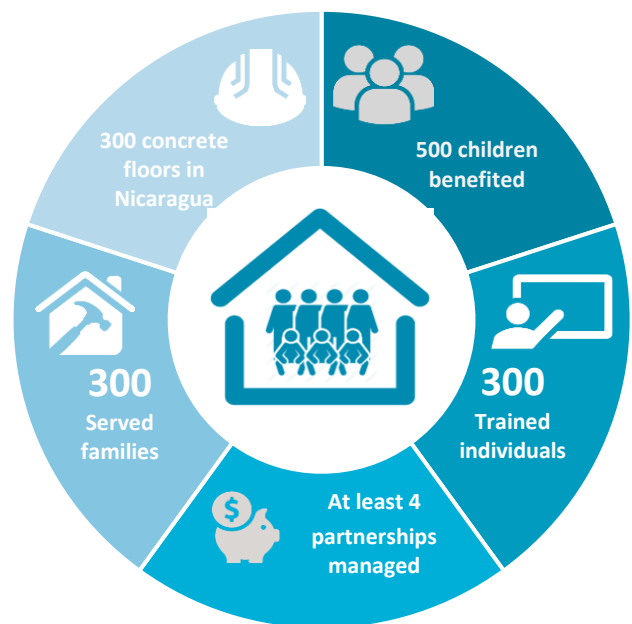
By FY 2025, we aim for 300 families to have a floor that provides them with a dignified, safe, and healthy environment. We currently have the resources to begin construction on the first 125 floors and are continuing our fundraising efforts to support the remaining 175 families.

Objectives

- Develop and implement a sustainable regional model to replace dirt floors with concrete floors inside homes, reducing the housing deficit in the region.
- Contribute to the reduction of gastrointestinal and respiratory diseases in families, as well as improve the growth and cognitive development of children.
- Build technical capacities and foster skills in the local workforce.

Target audience

300 families in Nicaragua living in homes with dirt floors or other severely deteriorated materials. Priority will be given to women who are heads of households and run income-generating businesses from their homes, families with children under the age of 8, older adults, and/or individuals with disabilities.



Nicaragua context



In Nicaragua, 29.6% of households have dirt floors inside their homes, which cause severe health problems for their inhabitants. Additionally, the majority of the workforce (82%) is employed in the informal sector, with many people working on the streets or running small businesses from their homes to make a living.

These homes often lack the basic conditions necessary for proper business development. Women and their children endure long workdays in precarious and unsanitary conditions, sacrificing their well-being and self-esteem.

A study conducted by the World Bank and the University of Berkeley, which analyzed data on the health improvements of families after replacing dirt floors with concrete in Mexico, showed a 70% reduction in parasitic infections, a 49% decrease in diarrhea, and an 81% reduction in anemia among children.

Benefits of Concrete Floors

- Healthy, safe, and sustainable.
- Improve the physical environment and hygiene of the home.
- Enhance the quality of life for families.
- Reduce gastrointestinal and respiratory illnesses by curbing the proliferation of viruses, bacteria, and parasites.
- Contribute to better cognitive development in children.
- Easy to install, durable, and resistant.
- Washable and, therefore, hygienic.
- Concrete is readily available locally.



Meet Dylan

Dylan, a five-year-old boy from Estelí, Nicaragua, was born with Down syndrome and a serious heart condition requiring open-heart surgery to survive. His parents, Eliza and his father, faced immense financial challenges, raising \$6,500 for a surgery costing \$23,000.

Thanks to community donations and insurance support, Dylan underwent life-saving surgery in Colombia at just one month old. While there, the kindness of strangers provided the family with food and clothing, allowing Dylan to return home after three successful surgeries.

Despite their love and efforts, Dylan's health remained fragile due to his home's dirt floors, which exacerbated his respiratory and skin issues. Through the support of Habitat Nicaragua's 100,000 Floors to Play On initiative and Holcim Nicaragua, Dylan's family received a new concrete floor.

The improvement transformed their home, reducing illnesses and giving Dylan a safe, clean space to play, dance, and thrive. "He is calmer and hasn't gotten sick, thank God," shared Eliza.

Number of floors: 300
Project Duration: 12 months
Cost per floor (32m²) = US\$ 1,130
Place: Estelí
Budget: US\$338,000
Amount to Raise: US\$ 197,750