



Habitat
for Humanity®
Nicaragua

annual
report
FY23

changes that make us stronger



Housing adapted
to climate change



100 thousand
floors to play



The face behind
the projects in Estelí.



[habitatnicaragua.org](https://www.habitatnicaragua.org)

Index



Message from the Country Director

Each closing of the fiscal year is the perfect opportunity to reflect on what we have achieved, and of course what we have left pending and we must resume in the new stage. Looking back and with all the honesty in the world, I have to tell you that fiscal year 2023 was not easy at all, we went through several internal processes, important changes, we said goodbye to our friend Frank Matus, some of our colleagues retired and we reorganized to Be more efficient in the context. All that energy in motion led us to experience several spikes in stress.

Thanks to the fact that we never stopped working and there was not a single day that a member of the team made an excuse, things are settling down. All of us who work with Habitat know and feel firsthand the cause and commitment to decent housing. Our team today is small, but it is big in disposition, heart and dedication. We know that the tranquility of families, the happiness and health of a boy or a girl who today plays on a clean and safe floor depends on us.

We are so grateful to God for being able to continue our work and to our affiliates, with the partner organizations and companies that trust and support our projects. We have spent stressful days, yes, but they are all compensated by the smiles of the families, the satisfaction that comes from knowing that we have helped to improve their living conditions.

I want to take advantage of this space to tell you that in 2024 we will continue to support the construction and improvement of publicly subsidized housing, the construction of another 200 concrete floors for highly vulnerable families, and the improvement of productive housing for women entrepreneurs. We are also preparing early to respond promptly to eventual natural disasters due to floods or drought, since the effect of the El Niño phenomenon will bring water stress in the dry corridor. Together we can meet these challenges.

Nancy Aróstegui
Country Director
Habitat for Humanity Nicaragua

Index	2
Message from the country director.....	3
Who we are and lines of work	4
Fiscal Year 2023 Results and Financial Data	5
Know the history of Jackson and his family.....	6
Engineer Álvaro Barreda, 13 years leading projects in Estelí	7
Habitat Nicaragua Briefs	8-9
Thanks Martin! Tribute to the retired Financial Manager	10
Thanks to affiliates and donors	11
Back Cover	12

who are we?

Habitat for Humanity Nicaragua is a non-profit organization that calls people together to build homes, communities and hope to show God's love in action.

We encourage the target population to have timely access to the services and products necessary to produce and maintain their home properly and safely.

We support the strengthening of the population's capacities for the

self-management of their habitat, from a safe construction, risk management, mitigation and adaptation to climate change approach.

Since our foundation in 1984, at Habitat for Humanity Nicaragua we have benefited more than 19,720 families, made up of more than 88,740 people, with various alternatives to improve their housing conditions, and we have trained more than 18,277 people in different topics.

work axes

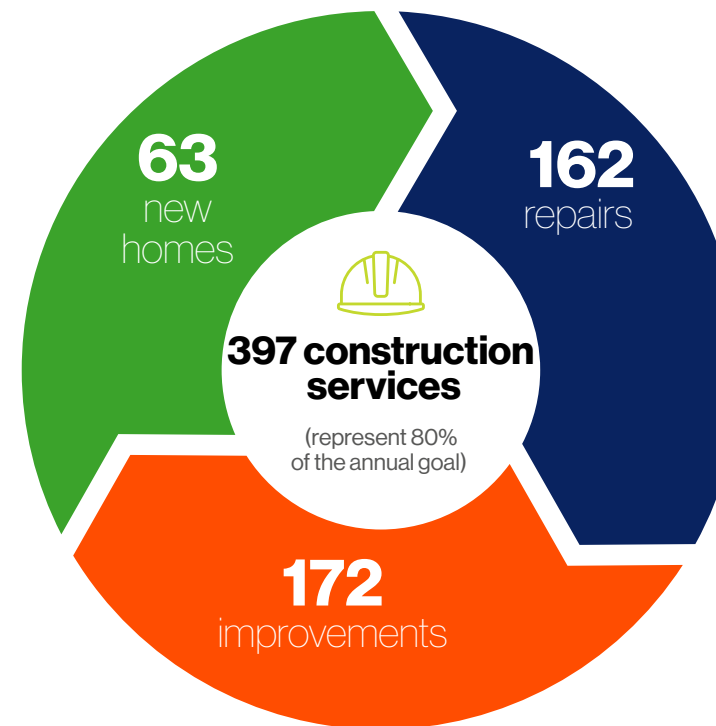
Habitat improvement. Habitat for Humanity Nicaragua focuses its work on housing. We build progressive modules or seed homes adapted to climate change, replacing precarious houses, improving existing ones and building adequate sanitary units. In addition, together with the Urban and Rural Housing Institute (INVUR for its acronym in Spanish) Instituto de la Vivienda Urbana y Rural and municipal governments, we support the construction of social housing.

Capacity building. We work hand in hand with families, strengthening their capacities and providing them with the necessary tools so that they continue to improve their housing

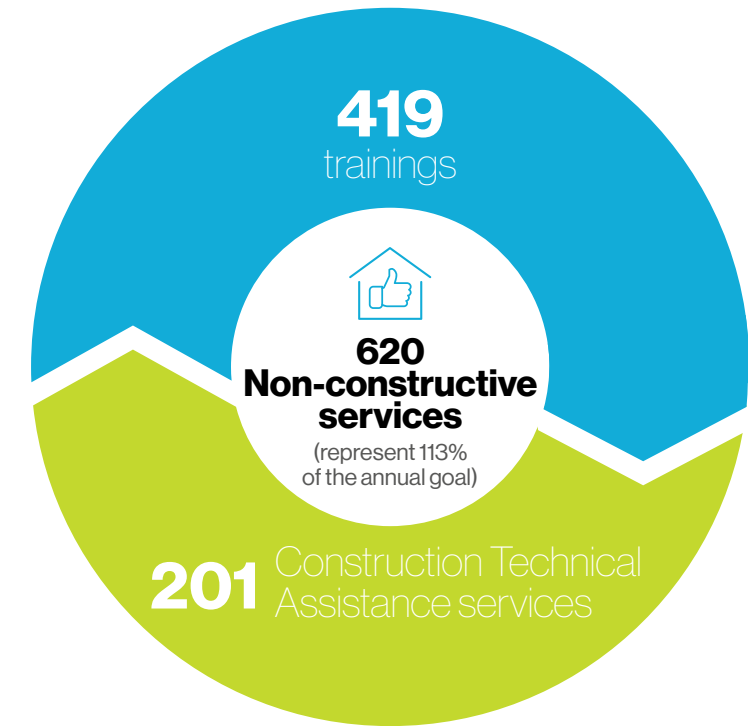
conditions. We give them training in financial education, healthy housing, safe housing and climate change. We prioritize projects with women entrepreneurs who are heads of the family.

Risk Reduction and Disaster Response. From our focus on safe housing, disaster risk mitigation, we promote a culture of responsible construction. We identify and promote mitigation works that families can implement on their lots and homes, as well as the adoption of technologies that contribute to optimizing natural resources and reducing the carbon footprint in the home and its environment.

Fiscal year 2023 results



* 65% of people are women.



* 68% of people are women.

Office financial data



team work



Jackson and Keyla, a young married couple who excel every day

"I feel very excited to see my little house built. Everyone who passes by on the street tells us: How beautiful the house! How beautiful it turned out! We feel really grateful to the people who donated and to the engineers, because they were aware of all the construction, this was the dream in the long term that we had", Keyla tells us with watery eyes from emotion.

Keyla and Jackson (couple) allied with Habitat for Humanity Nicaragua to have their decent housing, them, and 20 more families from Estelí, -northern Nicaragua-, already have progressive housing adapted to climate change, which includes solar panel and a rainwater collection system.

Jackson tells us that the solar panel is giving them the energy they need to run the house and charge their cell phones, and since in the neighborhood they live in, Villa Esperanza, they have problems with the water supply, and there are several times that rainwater of the tank has allowed them to wash clothes and bathe without problems.

"And since we still don't have electricity service, we are waiting for them to come and install it because the panel is giving us what we need," says Jackson, who already has the doors ready that he will install in his new house.

Workers

Jackson and Keyla (both 31 years old) work as laborers in a tobacco factory, they invested their savings and the thirteenth month's pay to participate in the housing project with Habitat. "Economically, we would never have been able to do it alone," emphasizes Keyla, who gets up every day at 3

in the morning to make tortillas and thus earn extra income for the family.

"From Monday to Friday I make 150 or 200 and on weekends I make up to 450 tortillas. Now the plans are to install the doors and make the rooms and the kitchen in the back, so that the children are more comfortable" she continues. The couple's fixed income of 14 or 15 thousand córdobas a month (US\$416) plus the extra money that Keyla gets from the sale of tortillas, will allow them to continue expanding their home little by little without neglecting the most important thing: the maintenance and education of their children.

The story that they told us the first time we visited them about the walls covered in plastic and pieces of zinc is in the past. Neither Jackson nor his family will feel fear again for being in a house without doors and insecure.



The engineer



Álvaro Barreda, 13 years leading projects in Estelí

His full name is Álvaro Isaac Barreda Lazo (41 years old), but in the most vulnerable neighborhoods of his native Estelí, everyone recognizes him and calls him "the engineer." They do it with a tone of respect, admiration and gratitude, and it is not for less, during the last 13 years Álvaro has been the face behind each housing project of Habitat Nicaragua.

He started as a resident on a project, then was hired as an external professional service and finally made it to the team permanently, a position he earned with dedication and empathy. "Before joining Hábitat, he had been involved in private construction projects, and later in an NGO where he gave constructive technical assistance, but he had never worked on the social part," Álvaro tells us.

His full name is Álvaro Isaac Barreda Lazo (41 years old), but in the most vulnerable neighborhoods of his native Estelí, everyone recognizes him and calls him "the engineer." They do it with a tone of respect, admiration and gratitude, and it is not for less, during the last 13 years Álvaro has been the face behind each housing project of Habitat Nicaragua.

He started as a resident on a project, then was hired as an external professional service and finally made it to the team permanently, a position he earned with dedication and empathy. "Before joining Hábitat, he had been involved in private construction projects, and later in an NGO where he gave constructive technical assistance, but he had never worked on the social part," Álvaro tells us.



"I remember a family that when they moved, their house was left out in the open, what they did was place a plastic sheet and they stayed that way throughout the construction process, that really impacted me."



Nicaragua present at the 5th housing forum.



Habitat Nicaragua presented during the forum the initiative that allowed the construction of the first 85 apartments for families living in the city of Estelí https://youtu.be/S1c_CEy_-p8, it was carried out with the support of Holcim Nicaragua and Instituto de Promoción Humana de Estelí.

International experts and stakeholders in the housing sector of the Latin American and Caribbean region called for solutions that turn homes into resilient and safe places where families can face the current climate crisis.

“It is necessary to recognize that the effects of climate change in the housing sector are being drastic and these directly affect the most vulnerable families in the region. We need to create housing solutions that are sustainable, with affordable prices and that allow for more resilient houses from where families can have a safe shelter to face the effects of climate change”, says Ernesto Castro, area vice president at Habitat for Humanity in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The forum was organized by Habitat for Humanity, convened through the Urban Habitat and Housing Practices Platform (UHPH); and counted with authorities from the central government of Colombia and the Mayor's Office of Bogotá as hosts. All sessions of the 5th Forum are available at www.uhph.org/es/foro.

MNGR with a new executive committee



Habitat Nicaragua concluded its period in the Executive Commission of the National Risk Management Board (MNGR). The Assembly of members elected the Inter-Ecclesial Center for Theological and Social Studies (CIEETS), the Nicaraguan Communal Movement (MCN) and the Federation of Cooperatives for Agricultural Development (FECODESA) as the new Executive Commission for the next two years. As a Roundtable, good progress was made in climate monitoring, the preparation of communities for the humanitarian response to eventual disasters, and the strengthening of the capacities of member organizations for risk management.

Strengthening capacities in water and sanitation.



The Water and Sanitation Network (RASNIC) in alliance with the American University (UAM) and the support of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), opened a specialized course for the Integral

Management of Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Projects, in which 50 students from civil and environmental engineering careers from different universities in the country are participating. The course began on June 11 and will end on September 30.

“RASNIC has identified a great need for trained professionals in the drinking water and sanitation sector to lead WASH projects. From this course, it would be expected that the students of careers such as civil and environmental engineering can challenge the status quo of the sector by having basic knowledge about water and sanitation systems and their social impact”, says María Belén Rivas, who is at the head of the RASNIC Executive Secretariat.

Plastitank Videos



Thanks to the alliance between ROTOCAS - PLASTITANK and Habitat for Humanity Nicaragua, two animated videos were produced for the general population to improve their knowledge about the proper use and maintenance that they should give to sanitary units with septic tanks and how to keep your home healthy and prevent disease.

“These two tools allow us to reach not only the families that participate in Habitat projects, but also the general public,” explains Zulma Espinoza, Coordinator of Housing Solutions at Habitat Nicaragua. Both videos are available on our Youtube channel

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fRytaXECldU>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vFk9mjhmiJ8>



¡Thanks Martín!



For all your dedication and excellent performance, on behalf of all the families that Habitat has been able to support in the last 14 years.

Martín is a man of few words, not very talkative, but with an excellent sense of humor. An accountant by profession, he was the general accountant and then Finance Manager at Habitat for Humanity Nicaragua for the last 14 years, until his retirement in June 2023. After his retirement he left many good memories and a young and strengthened financial team, which he considers his best legacy.

"I came to Habitat on January 28, 2009, through a talent search company. I didn't expect them to call me because I already had another job, but the then country director made me a counter offer and I decided to give Habitat a try. I joined when the organization was in a transition process, giving way to improvements, seed housing and a second-floor fund, it transitioned to a change in strategy", Martín tells us.

One of the first projects he looked at in Habitat was the construction of healthy kitchens in Estelí, and according to what he tells us, it was there that he knew he was in the right job. "I had no idea what the kitchens that Habitat made were like and I was surprised to see the quality, that it even had a chimney, that the women were no longer going to get sick from the smoke. I really liked that project because generally those who make tortillas are the most needy people, and it filled me with satisfaction to know that that was where I worked. I take with me

the satisfaction of having participated in those changes, even if it is from finances. See many happy faces", he tells us.

With 25 years of experience working with non-profit organizations, Martín feels that he still has a lot to contribute, especially to the new generations. He confesses that he would like to be a university professor, since the training curriculum does not include anything about working with NGOs, nor with donors and/or fundraising, areas where he has a lot of experience. "They don't teach you the work of microfinance institutions either, and the new generations need all of that," says Martín.

While the opportunity to share his knowledge presents itself, Martín is taking advantage of his days to take better care of his health through exercise, learning English and, once he masters it, venturing into the world of consulting.

"I have good memories of the team. It was joyful to share every day, to see how Hábitat received so many volunteers who came with a great disposition, I remember that they boosted the economy of the places where they went, they left a mark, I watched them work hard and pay to still come, that stage I will never forget it, it was very beautiful, a stage of growth", concludes.

thanks to
affiliates and donors

fiscal year
2022-2023

AFFILIATES

- Habitat for Humanity Alexander County
- Habitat for Humanity Austin
- Habitat for Humanity Black Hills Area
- Habitat for Humanity Carroll County
- Habitat for Humanity Catawba Valley
- Habitat for Humanity Central Arizona
- Habitat for Humanity Central Berkshire
- Habitat for Humanity Central Minnesota
- Habitat for Humanity Central Wisconsin
- Habitat for Humanity Douglas County Minnesota
- Habitat for Humanity Fluvanna County
- Habitat for Humanity Fresno
- Habitat for Humanity Forsyth County
- Habitat for Humanity Jonesboro
- Habitat for Humanity Lancaster Lebanon
- Habitat for Humanity Lakeshore
- Habitat for Humanity Lee & Hendry Counties
- Habitat for Humanity Mclean County
- Habitat for Humanity Metro Denver
- Habitat for Humanity New Castle County
- Habitat for Humanity Orange County
- Habitat for Humanity Philadelphia
- Habitat for Humanity Pinellas and West Pasco Counties
- Habitat for Humanity Sacramento
- Habitat for Humanity Santa Fe
- Habitat for Humanity Seneca County
- Habitat for Humanity Twin Cities
- Habitat for Humanity Waco
- Habitat for Humanity Houston County

INDIVIDUAL DONORS

- Alyson Sailer
- Bonnie Bressette
- Dona McDonough

- Ernest Kimmel
- Lilian Schroeder
- Morgan Stanley

INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS AND CORPORATIONS

SELAVIP

Collaborating companies

- Holcim Nicaragua
- Almacenes de la Construcción El Halcón S.A.
- PLYGEM
- ECAMIS.A.
- ROTOCAS-PLASTITANK
- CEMEX

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT ENTITIES

INVUR

MUNICIPALITIES

- San Rafael del Sur
- San Rafael del Norte
- San Juan de Limay
- San Nicolás
- Mozonte
- San Fernando
- El Jicaró

NETWORKS AND WORK TABLES

- National Risk Management Board (MNGR for its acronym in spanish) Mesa Nacional de Gestión de Riesgos
- Water and Sanitation Network (Rasnic for its acronym in spanish) Red de Agua y Saneamiento



Habitat
for Humanity®
Nicaragua



annual
report

FY23



YouTube

| [habitatnicaragua.org](https://www.habitatnicaragua.org)