



**Habitat
for Humanity®**
Trinidad and Tobago

www.habitat-tt.org



January to March 2020

everyone
deserves a decent place to live



Stay Safe,
Stay At Home
Isolate and Quarantine.

Facing the future... Together!

Friends,

We know right now that many of you are concerned about what the future holds. And while we are certain that other issues, such as your health, employment, business and family are at the top of your list of concerns, **we want to reach out to you to reassure you that we have not forgotten you, nor our shared fight for a world where everyone has a safe, decent and affordable place to live.**

The days ahead will be difficult, but we at Habitat Trinidad and Tobago remain committed to supporting the most vulnerable among us at this time. It's crises like these that signal how important our work is - more people than ever before in this country are now at risk of losing their homes and facing an uncertain future.

We are continuing our internal operations to fulfil our mission, while still keeping ourselves and our homeowners as safe as possible during this Coronavirus pandemic. In accordance with the government guidelines, **we have moved our internal operations to a virtual state and taking as many precautions as we can to limit person-to-person interaction and a sanitary environment.** At this time of "social distancing," we feel that it is of paramount importance to maintain and/or increase our individual and group engagements - we may not be able to give a physical hug, but we are

making sure that our messages and talks are more intentional and supportive of your individual concerns.

We have postponed all our community events and we are using phone, social media and virtual meetings as much as possible to communicate with each other. This will have an impact on our plans for disaster mitigation projects in the short term, but we are working on alternative methods of sharing this vital information ahead of the Hurricane Season. We began earlier in March with broadcasts of our Health Housing Habits on Boom Champions 94.1FM, and this information is also available on our website and social media channels - please do share this with your networks.

Homeowners: **We are liaising individually with those who have lost income due to the mandatory closure of non-essential services and businesses.** As we asked you to do at your First Family Training, please do not hesitate - call your community officers to discuss your circumstances and let us together work out how to handle your monthly mortgage payments. Don't forget to check with your bank for their arrangements to accommodate your transactions, and be sure to carefully follow the recommendations and directions of the authorities to stay safe and at home if you are not an essential service worker.



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Habitat Trinidad and Tobago is very aware of the importance of our construction efforts to your lives, our family partners. Nonetheless, we must also do our part as responsible citizens to abide by the decisions made by the government to manage the current evolving crisis. Therefore, **we will pause all activities on our construction sites during the period March 30, 2020 – April 15, 2020, to support the efforts to curtail the spread of COVID-19.** Yes, this will mean that it will take longer to complete your projects. We will treat all on-going builds as high priority jobs when we are allowed to operate normally again so that we can complete them as soon as humanly possible.

Meanwhile, please send any questions you may have to homeowners@habitat-tt.org and know that we are all in this together. The situation is still fluid, but we promise to share more of our

plans with you as soon as we can. And do reach out to our team if you have any questions, comments, suggestions or requests for resources.

Thank you for being a part of the Habitat Trinidad and Tobago Family, and supporting our critically important work to build a country where everyone has an affordable place to live. We are in this together - Board, management, staff, homeowners, donors and supporters - as we come together as a family, and a country to weather this storm together.

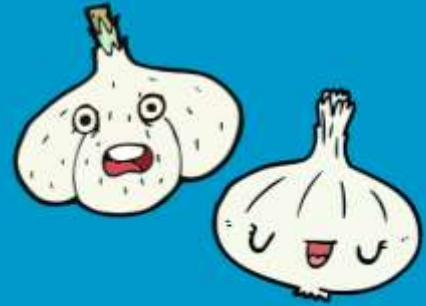
**Stay Safe,
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Jennifer Massiah
National Director



WHO #Covid19 Mythbusters

Can eating garlic help prevent infection with the new coronavirus?



Stay aware of the latest information on the COVID-19 outbreak, available on the [WHO website](#) and through your national and local public health authority. Most people who become infected experience mild illness and recover, but it can be more severe for others.

Using information compiled from the World Health Organization, we have prepared an easy-to-access download to share with your friends and family. We are hoping to dispel some of the misinformation spreading about the pandemic. Please email us at contactus@habitat-tt.org to access the file!

Habitat Trinidad and Tobago has also produced a public service announcement in collaboration with #TeamLegen and #ThePositivesInTandT to disseminate [#COVID19 information in Trinidad and Tobago Sign Language](#).

Take care of your health and protect others! [#WeAreAllInThisTogether](#)

No, antibiotics do not work against viruses, only bacteria.

The new coronavirus (2019-nCoV) is a virus and, therefore, antibiotics should not be used as a means of prevention or treatment.

However, if you are hospitalized for the 2019-nCoV, you may receive antibiotics since bacterial co-infection is possible.



#Coronavirus

Are antibiotics effective in preventing and treating the new coronavirus?



From the evidence so far, the new coronavirus can be transmitted in ALL AREAS, including areas with hot and humid weather.

Regardless of climate, adopt protective measures if you live in, or travel to an area reporting COVID-19.

The best way to protect yourself against COVID-19 is by frequently cleaning your hands. Eliminate viruses that may be on your hands and avoid infection that could occur by then touching your eyes, mouth, and nose.



#Coronavirus #COVID19

FACT:
The new coronavirus can be transmitted in areas with hot and humid climates



4 March 2020

Volunteer Focus ... #TeamLegen



Anessa and Jamal Legen are a husband-and-wife advocate team for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing communities in Trinidad and Tobago. We first met them in 2017, through a nationwide project to promote access to housing and land tenure for vulnerable groups – the LGBTQ+ communities, people living with HIV-AIDS and persons with disabilities. They were instrumental in getting support for the project from their community, and organising the various volunteer builds that worked on a house for Andy, a Deaf homeowner from Point Fortin.

Since then, they have supported Habitat Trinidad-Tobago's work in many ways, helping us to improve our engagement with the Deaf through volunteer sign language interpretation at our AGM or outreach projects, and Working with the Community Department to bring Family Emergency preparedness Training to rural neighbourhoods. #VolunteersRock



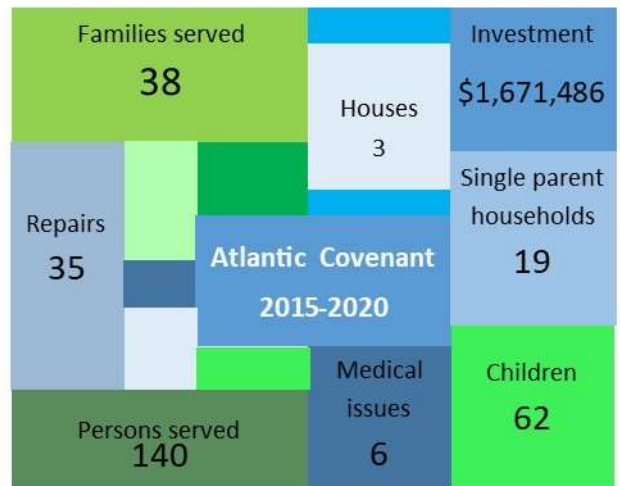
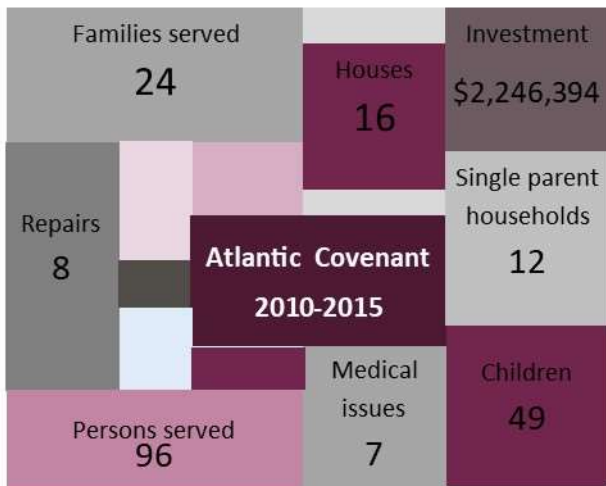
Partner Focus ... Atlantic



Atlantic started their journey with Habitat in 2009 with the desire to not just build houses, but also to invest in developing communities. This allowed Habitat to think outside the box on how we serve. With an investment of TT\$10 million dollars, Atlantic has supported the repair, renovation and construction of houses, built the Guapo Beach Facility, and championed corporate community intervention in Trinidad and Tobago. Under the distinguished leadership of Mr Nigel Darlow, Mr. Gordon Dean, Mr Oscar Prieto, and other team members of Atlantic a wide variety of projects came to fruition.

Together with community leaders in Southern Gardens, a Village council was constituted, Habitat advocated on land matters for the community, and Atlantic supported Habitat's request to the Point Fortin Borough for improved social and environmental services such as garbage collection and postal services for this community. Additionally, Atlantic's direct funding built a bus shed, erected a community notice board, and sponsored a children's camp, swimming classes, food production and landscaping training for residents.

The 2017 Spirit of Humanity award to a pioneer in Corporate Social Responsibility, was received by Terrence Walker, Advisor to Mr. Nigel Darlow, CEO of Atlantic.



#BuildingUP #BuildingBACK

The Caribbean Disaster Strategy

Along with the Latin America and Caribbean Area Office in Costa Rica, we now offer a holistic suite of services to respond to shelter incidents in the English-speaking Caribbean. We ready to mobilize as the Lead Shelter Actor in CARICOM.



ASSESSMENT OF HOUSES

We have extensive experience in developing assessment tools for houses damaged in natural disasters, and we can also identify the repairs/retrofitting needed. Our local partnerships can also convene and deploy civil engineers from Trinidad and Tobago with experience in carrying out housing assessments.

UNSAFE	
DO NOT ENTER OR OCCUPY (THIS PLACARD IS NOT A DEMOLITION ORDER)	
Facility name and address: _____	Date _____ Time _____
This structure has been inspected for life safety purposes only and found to be seriously damaged and is unsafe to occupy as described below: _____ _____	
Do not enter, except as specifically authorized in writing by the authority having jurisdiction. Entry may result in death or injury.	
This facility was inspected under emergency conditions for: _____ (Jurisdiction)	
<small>The property / building was not inspected / assessed for compliance or code compliance in accordance to financial contribution payees. The assessment did not include inspection of electrical / building areas, equipment operation, presence of insects, rot and hazardous materials such as asbestos, radon gas, lead paint, etc. Fireworks/liquids, toxic chemicals, acids, and/or explosives.</small>	
Inspector ID / Agency _____	
Do Not Remove, Alter, or Cover this Placard until Authorized by Governing Authority	

RECRUITMENT FROM NEIGHBOURING CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES - Skilled builders, engineers, architects, land tenure specialists.

Immediately after a disaster, it is not easy to find enough skilled technicians and builders to respond in the affected country, due to the size of the countries and the type of economy prevailing in the region (tourism). Furthermore, it takes several months to train the local labour force. Through our network in the region, Habitat could deploy advisers from Jamaica and Haiti (land lawyers, land surveyors and GIS specialists), and convene civil engineers and architects who are Caribbean nationals and licensed to work in the region.



#BuildingUP #BuildingBACK

The Caribbean Disaster Strategy



BASIC CONSTRUCTION TRAINING

Carpentry & Masonry training.

Habitat has developed a training package on the construction of wooden houses, with a special version for the repairing of roofs only. This integrates build-back-safer issues, explaining low-cost techniques for retrofitting of houses. We have also developed a training package on masonry, focusing especially on foundations and bearing structures resilient to disasters. Both courses are based on manuals contextualized for the Caribbean region.



HEALTHY HOUSING AWARENESS

Based on the recommendations from the Pan-American Health Organization, Habitat has developed a training package on hygienic-sanitary practices in homes & neighbourhoods. We provide both train-the-trainer facilitators and full community rollouts for the Healthy Housing Habits programme.



COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION

Habitat can provide expertise and resources to support the development and implementation of community mobilization strategies. Our flagship programme **PASSA** - (Participatory Approach to Safe Shelter Awareness) is a participatory methodology to assess risks, raise awareness and plan for safer shelter at the community level.



#BuildingUP #BuildingBACK

The Caribbean Disaster
Strategy



PROCUREMENT OF CONSTRUCTION INPUTS FROM TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

The construction department of Habitat Trinidad and Tobago Habitat can offer tendering and procurement services, especially for building materials for compatible jurisdictions.

LAND TENURE REGULARIZATION SERVICES, CAPACITY BUILDING & GIS ENUMERATION AND MAPPING

Habitat for Humanity's fit-for-purpose services include know-how, methodologies, a GIS platform, apps, and other tools to advance the land tenure relationship. We support the security of tenure, sustainable land use, management and administration, territorial planning, land rights and land tenure systems assessments, as well as technological, legal, surveying and community participation solutions to make current systems more cost-effective, efficient, and sustainable.

Habitat can produce georeferenced information of a given community through enumeration exercises and produce maps using GIS software. We can also offer access to an online GIS platform, accessible through desktops, tablet computers and cell phones.

THE DOMINICA CONSTRUCTION JOB FAIR, sponsored by Habitat for Humanity, Lutheran World Relief and the Dominica Housing Recovery Project closed the formal #BuildBackBetter programmes post-Hurricane Maria.

Successful participants of our roof building, masonry and carpentry training programmes met with construction company recruiters in one-on-one and groups discussions during an all-day expo at the Dominica Public Service Union Hall in Roseau.



Capital Campaign 2020-2024



"Ladies and gentlemen TT\$ 58.5 Million is an ambitious goal, but a necessary one, if we are to be the CATALYST that is needed to propel Trinidad and Tobago forward to a place where safe and affordable is provided for all!"

Influential members of the business community have already signed on to the task. The members working with Cabinet Chairman Sieunarine Coosal are:

Gregory Aboud
Dominic Hadeed
Eugene Tiah
Dawn Thomas
Nicholas Lok Jack
Gabriel Faria
Shaun Rampersad

With these words, Sieunarine Coosal issued a clarion call to the national community to support Habitat for Humanity Trinidad and Tobago's Capital Campaign 2020-2024.

In a short ceremony on February 13th at the Courtyard Marriott, the business magnate celebrated the work of the first campaign (2012-2018) and accepted the baton of leadership from Ronald Harford, retired Chairman of Republic Bank, to guide this major fundraising drive.

Habitat Trinidad and Tobago will serve the country through:

Housing solutions - 550

Training (Individuals) - 2500

Families served - 3000

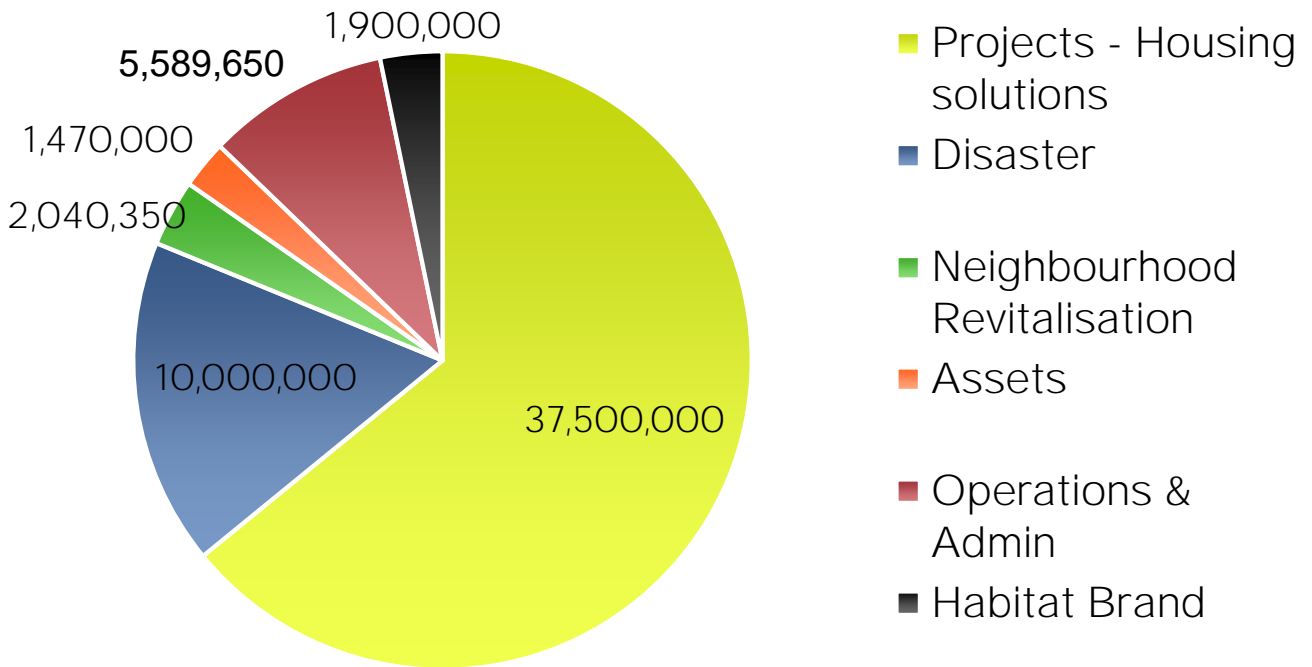
Total national impact - 15000 people



Capital Campaign 2020-2024

Capital Campaign Cabinet 2020-2024: (l-r) N. Lok Jack, Ronald Harford (outgoing Chairman), D. Thomas, S. Coosal (Chairman), Arthur Lok Jack (retiring member), G. Aboud, Karen Johnstone (Habitat TTO Board Director), G. Faria, J. Massiah, S. Rampersad

Fundraising Targets 2020-2024



550 Housing Solutions



2500 people trained



3000 families served

TOTAL IMPACT 15,000 PEOPLE



Healthy Housing Habits



The Proman Family of Companies is pleased to support Habitat Trinidad and Tobago and the national community with the promotion of Healthy Housing Habits throughout the month of March.

This eight-module community training session has been reformatted for radio and social media to make these helpful hints accessible to the widest public. Covering issues in healthy living – space, environment, water and others, the information is free to the public. We encourage community groups, schools, and civil society organisations to contact us for bookings with our qualified trainers and facilitators. Please email contactus@habitat-tt.org for more details. You can see some of the tips on our website [here](#).



Housing and its surrounding environment

- 1 Our housing environment significantly influences our health.
- 2 If possible, we should build our home on safe and solid land, away from flood zones or potential landslides.
- 3 Let's work together so that our community has access to public services, communal infrastructure and a healthy environment that supports our development.



Construction celebrates the successful completion of our first year partnering with the Proman Family of Companies. **Hannah and Lumecia constructed two full disaster-resilient houses with healthy sanitation facilities. Xavier and Vicki also completed vital repairs on their homes with Proman's help. All four homeowners were severely affected by the heavy rains of October 2018.** These houses will be used as model houses for training and construction. Proman also supported our Disaster and Emergency Resilience Programme, providing targeted materials and training for disability groups and schools throughout the country.

National Director Jennifer Massiah says: *Habitat Trinidad and Tobago is thrilled with the successful Proman partnership, the way it has transformed the lives of Lumecia, Victora, Xavier and Hannah, and the potential impact on hundreds of people in the years to come. Through their stellar work on the various Proman Builds, the team showed the corporate community that "doing good" is a fundamental part of doing good business. The Proman Family of Companies in our country is deeply committed to their communities, and the staff and management proved to be exceptional advocates for the goal of a safe, decent and affordable home for everyone. Thank you for your support and congratulations on a job well done!*



building resilient communities one family at a time





Republic Bank

With a project value of TTD 1 Million, **the region's largest bank will support the reduction of risks and vulnerabilities of the most vulnerable flood-prone peri-urban neighbourhoods of Trinidad and Tobago.**

The Republic Bank has agreed to work with Habitat and our partners to:

- increase the capacity of community members to participate in the planning and implementation of disaster risk reduction and to provide products, services and quality construction practices that collectively result in safer construction and strengthen/support structural and management capacities of community-based organizations.
- reduce physical vulnerabilities
- improve safety and hygiene practices at the household level to mitigate health issues during times of flooding.
- offer repair services and strengthening of structures for very low income and very vulnerable families.

We anticipate direct interventions for 266 families in this project. After demonstrating our success to the local authorities, **there is the potential to impact up to 15,000 households in the Sangre Grande area.**

The Bank also sponsored the production of a new series of supporter videos called "Architects of Change" – Broadcast exclusively on CCN TV6 and in MovieTowne theatres.



10 Housing Solutions



200 people trained



1248 families served

TOTAL IMPACT 7,000 PEOPLE

Architects of Change

This is a call to take small, yet significant actions in your life, to plant the seeds of compassion in your interactions, and become an Architect of Change for our country.

Because they believe that everyone deserves a decent place to call home, five long-standing supporters of Habitat's work are prepared to put themselves forward to encourage their peers and the national community to work with us.

We all have the power to be Architects of Change in our own lives, in our own homes and our communities. This is the opportunity to challenge what is, Imagine what can be, then create the future we want for our country.



Peter Harris: If each one of us does the same, then all our actions will add up to make major changes.



Why am I a Architect for Change?
"The gratifying feeling of purposeful well intentioned actions and those intangible benefits of serving an organization that provides a family with a home, a basic human right, is why I serve as an Architect for Change, knowing I'm truly making a difference."
Dr. Safeeya Mohammed
CEO, SISU Global Witness



Kathryn Stollmeyer Wight: When I started looking at Habitat, they answered a call I have deep inside of me. What they were saying to me is that WE CAN make a difference!



Ken Corbie: You don't have to have a whole lot to be able to give. What you are giving is of your time, your talents and treasure.

Philomena Baptiste: If I give my time and my money there - not to say I have any big extra money, you understand me. I could know for sure that a family in this country is going an get a home.



Together with Kathryn Stollmeyer Wight, Ken Corbie, Philomena Alexis-Baptiste, Peter Harris and Dr. Safeeya Mohammed, we each CAN make a difference, play a part in moving our communities forward and ultimately, build a safe, stable, self-reliant, caring, conscious, connected and compassionate nation.

We ALL have something that can be given – ideas, skills, material or money. Some have already caught the vision, and we laud their connection to Habitat for Humanity. Please recruit supporters and volunteers from among your friends & family. Together we can make inadequate housing a thing of the past in our beloved country.



Habitat CEO: For some, “shelter in place” is a different kind of crisis

ATLANTA (March 23, 2020) — *Habitat for Humanity International CEO Jonathon Reckford issued the following statement regarding the economic ripple effects of COVID-19:*

With each passing day, we all find ourselves trying to adapt to the measures required to combat the spread of COVID-19. In countries and cultures all around the world, “stay at home” is the message of the moment. “Shelter in place.” It’s the right thing to do, and if we are all able to flatten the curve, we know that we will have, together, saved countless lives.

But all of us at Habitat for Humanity also know that there are far too many families for whom this isn’t as straightforward as it sounds. **The uncertainty so many of us feel today, these families have felt for a lifetime — if not generations.**

Where for many “shelter in place” means figuring out logistics and adjusting mindsets, for others it only exacerbates the conditions with which they have struggled for so long. Homes already not healthy because of leaks or mold. Homes already overcrowded because the only way to afford rent or save up money is for extended family to stay together in a too-small space. Homes without easy access to a constant water supply. Spaces that shelter, but only just.

Where for many “stock up on what you need” means a frustrating, jarring trip through the inconveniently (and temporarily) hit-or-miss-stocked shelves of a local market, for others

it’s a reminder of how close to the financial edge they already live. Imagine that, for these families, shopping for supplies always feels this way — not because of the crowds around them hurrying to acquire whatever they can, but because they have to make terrible choices every day. In order to make sure the rent can be paid, which would you choose? Filling a basket with healthy groceries. Filling a necessary prescription. Filling the tank of your car with the fuel that allows you to do either.

When these are the choices you face, you can’t win. As the economic shocks from this crisis ripple out, these same families will be hardest hit. They always are. For far too many, as businesses have closed and hourly workers have lost their jobs, it has already begun.

These are the families with whom we partner. They are going to need our hand up now more than ever. And now more than ever, our work — much like flattening the curve — will require all of us, together. You can help us help these families, these communities, our neighbors build back.

Stronger, in solidarity and with your support.

Jonathon Reckford
Habitat for Humanity International CEO

[To read more about Habitat for Humanity's response to the COVID19 pandemic, click here](#)

#StaySafe
#StayAtHome
#Isolate
#Quarantine

Donate!
Build!
Volunteer!
Share!
Speak out!



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Habitat for Humanity[®]

Trinidad & Tobago