



PROBLEM STATEMENT

In developing countries, women disproportionately lack adequate housing. Due to over-crowding, lack of privacy, unsanitary conditions and unstable structure, inadequate housing poses additional dangers to women's safety and health. Women are also more prone to evictions due to entrenched patriarchal norms—only 2% of registered land rights in the developing world are owned by women. Furthermore, women in developing countries are often unable to rise out of their poverty due to a lack of access to affordable financing and economic opportunities.

OUR GOAL

Women Build is a project spearheaded by Habitat for Humanity (HFH) in Nicaragua with the goal of empowering women in Mexico, Nicaragua, and Peru with civic leadership and business skills, and to help stabilize their finances and ensure that they have decent, safe places to live. Through the creation of a sustainable and unique package of services, information and resources, HFH's Women Build project enables women and men to design and implement their own plan to improve housing in their community.

PROGRESS

Women Build and HFH Nicaragua partnered to recruit women entrepreneurs to receive capacity building training in six areas ranging from developing a business plan to safe and hygienic housing. As a result, 391 individuals participated, 122 home improvements were made, and 100 households were equipped with eco-toilets. Building on the success of these projects, HFH Nicaragua has implemented an organizational change in which every home is equipped with interior water and sanitation facilities.

LOOKING FORWARD

HFH Nicaragua plans to duplicate the success of the Women Build project at other HFH offices around the world. By equipping new groups of women with entrepreneurial training and ensuring that every HFH household is equipped with sustainable solutions, HFH is uniquely positioned to address the challenges that continue to impede women from accessing safer, healthier housing.