



Our vision is that everyone has a place to call home
and a stake in their community

Embracing the homeless in a network of charity

Over 7,000 lives have been transformed thanks to the “13 Houses” Campaign. In just 3 years this global endeavour has gone from a single house in Macon, Georgia (USA) to more than 70 projects in almost 50 countries with up to 2,000 houses built. Project after project, the “13 Houses” is embracing the homeless in a network of charity weaved by Vincentian collaboration. Behind the number 7,000 are 7,000 stories of people who have been given the opportunity of a fresh start and a chance to leverage for a better life.

We launched the “13 Houses” Campaign in 2018 during our first international conference in Rome (our second Conference is now planned for June 2022, after being delayed several times because of Covid-19 restrictions). Back then, we set a target to change the lives of 10,000 people between 3 and 5 years. We are on track to not only reach this target, but to go further beyond. However, we also set ourselves the goal of having at least one project in

each of the 160 countries that has a Vincentian presence, and here, we are still short.

To reach this goal we are calling upon Vincentians across all of these countries that have not yet started a project to join our Campaign and keep embracing more homeless people in a denser network of charity. We have set ourselves the goal of reaching 160 countries between November 27th, Feast of the Miraculous Medal, and March 25th Feast of the Annunciation. We are putting this campaign under the auspices of the Virgin Mary.

We are also challenging countries and branches that already have a project to bring more countries on board, taking Vincentian networks and connections to the next level. We are asking them to map their Vincentian connections with nearby countries and to act on them. In exchange, we offer support to develop new projects and more visibility of projects that accept the challenge.



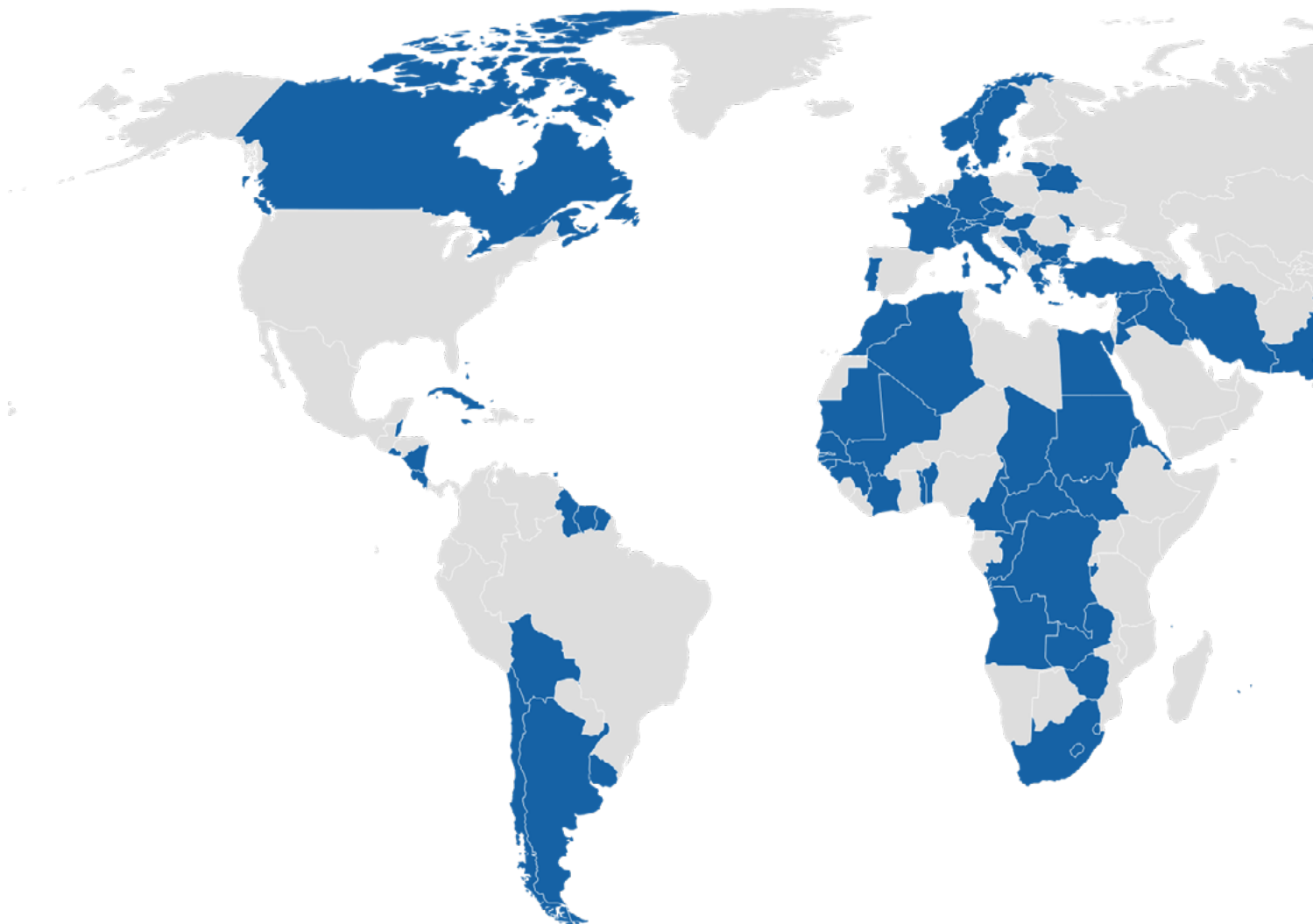
47 countries



74 Projects



2004 homes



Countries without a “13 Houses” Project. Not showing on the map: Vatican City, Monaco, Puerto Rico (USA), Bermuda and the Netherlands)

In 47 countries Vincentians have started “13 Houses” initiatives. In addition, Vincentians in Germany, the Netherlands and the UK have generously participated in the Campaign with donations to the Solidarity Fund. Even some individual Vincentian donors or local groups have sent donations from Austria, Botswana, Italy and Spain. We are grateful to all of them for their solidarity and charitable support of the work of Vincentians elsewhere in the world.

During our first 3 years the “13 Houses” has grown incredibly. Vincent, the first person to benefit from the Campaign, moved to his new home in Macon in 2019. Since then, dozens of projects have sprung across the five continents, some of them in very difficult environments.

The diversity of branches, sizes, target populations and approaches shows how creative and innovative the Vincentian Charism is after 400 years of working with the poorest of the poor. From a single home in Tunisia or the “Just One House” initiative in the Philippines, to big scale housing projects like “Welcome Home” in Guatemala or the SSVP in Australia (the biggest to the date with more than 500 housing units), the “13 Houses” Campaign adapts to the local realities and needs.

When we launched the Campaign, we stated that, despite the name, the project does not have to be about building houses. “13 Houses” stands as a metaphor for all those actions that aim to provide safety, community, warmth, hope and a future. We already have many good examples



7166 People



Gibraltar (British Overseas Territories), Curaçao (Kingdom of

of this, with initiatives supporting immigrant women escaping violence in Spain and South Korea, taking children off the streets in Ghana or supporting people displaced by natural disasters in Indonesia.

For the next 3 years, we want to see the Campaign growing, reaching more countries, bringing more Vincentians together and changing more lives. Our focus will move from street homelessness to slum dwellers and refugees, weaving an even deeper network of charity with Vincentians around the world. Because we can end homelessness, one house at a time!

Join us!

FHA webinars



Over 70 people took part in our second webinar

At a time when coming together was more difficult than ever, the FHA decided to organise webinars to fulfil our goals of building global capacity and facilitating learning opportunities in the Vincentian Family. In 2021 we organised two, but we hope to make webinars a regular feature of the FHA work in the next few years.

We had the privilege to explain our goals and plans for the next three years to the Society of St Vincent de Paul, the biggest Vincentian branch back in May. The international president, Renato Lima, and the International Territorial Vice-Presidents (ITVP) of the SSVP attended the event. We were also blessed with the presence of Father Andrés Motto CM, spiritual advisor of the Society.

Later in July, over 70 people joined to listen to an all-women panel explaining how they developed their “13 Houses” projects. Vincentians from Cambodia to Brazil, from Ireland to Australia, had the chance to ask Sr Winnie Mutuku DC from Kenya, Ana María Escaño from the Philippines and Dawn Colapietro from Haiti their questions about how to start a project.

As we start a new strategic cycle for the years 2022 - 2024 we want to incorporate the webinars as a regular communications tool, always making sure that live interpretation is available to break the language barrier. Among the topics, we want to cover in the months to come are the Vincentian responses to emergencies and crises, education as a tool to prevent homelessness, human trafficking and gender inequality, and local advocacy. All webinars will be recorded and made available to watch again on our website and on our YouTube channel for those who are not able to attend on the day.

Refugee Conference adjourned for June 2022

Our second international conference “The journey of a refugee” will happen in Seville (Spain) from the 7th to the 9th of June 2022. Covid forced the FHA Team to postpone this meeting once again due to the progress of the pandemic, travel restrictions and limited in-person participation at this point.

The conference, which will focus on refugees, internally displaced people and survivors of human trafficking, wants to offer Vincentian branches accompanying these groups the chance to connect, foster initiatives within and beyond the Family and improve Vincentian services worldwide. The final objective is to inspire a community of Vincentian practitioners who can locally and globally better the situation of these vulnerable people through advocacy and concrete actions.

Although the main event will happen in person in Seville, hosted by the Daughters of Charity, many sessions will be live-streamed to offer everybody the chance to join in.



The postponement of the conference also forced the FHA Commission to once again meet online, as we have been doing since the beginning of the pandemic. This time we welcomed the new Depaul International CEO, Matthew Carter, who joins this Vincentian branch after years working within the Caritas network.

