



HABITAT FACTS

Families served this year¹

1,379

Families served to date²

28,138

¹New houses, rehabilitations and repairs in the year to June 30, 2011

²New houses, rehabilitations, repairs and other assistance

Key Activities

- Housing for public servants
- Urban renewal and development
- Disaster response, disaster mitigation and preparedness
- Peace Build
- Youth Builds
- Hosting of domestic and international volunteer teams

Habitat for Humanity in Philippines

Since 1988, Habitat for Humanity Philippines has played an active role in providing decent, durable and affordable housing for low-income families. It started in the Cagayan Valley Region in the north and in Metro Manila. Through a network of project offices in rural and urban areas, HFH Philippines has built and repaired tens of thousands of homes. Habitat has also assisted more than 5,000 families displaced by typhoons, fires and landslides. In addition, HFH Philippines has completed over 300 classrooms.

Housing needs in the Philippines

Shelter needs are driven by the country's growing population, increasing poverty and prevalence of disasters particularly typhoons, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.

While the Philippines reduced poverty rates from 30 per cent in the early 1990s to 26.5 percent in 2009, the actual number of people living in poverty has increased over the past two decades. The latest available data from the National Statistical Coordination Board showed there were about 23 million people classed as "poor" in 2009, an increase of nearly one million from 2006. The global food and fuel price crises in 2007 and 2008, and the economic crisis that followed, are estimated to have pushed even more people into poverty, according to AusAID, the Australian government's international aid agency. The prospects for the poorest parts in the country, in areas of Mindanao, are brighted by continuing armed conflict.

The Philippines is hit by frequent seismic activity and by around 20 tropical cyclones a year. For example, in September and October 2011, Typhoons Pedring (Nesat), Quiel (Nalgae), and Tropical Storm Ramon affected 700,000 people. In late 2009, the worst typhoon season in 40 years devastated Metro Manila and the country's agricultural heartland.

Local academics have argued that the government's pro-poor housing legislation fails to deliver the quantity and quality of housing required. According to one set of research, the Philippines faces a housing shortage of more than one million units. The shortage of housing is likely to worsen, due to greater poverty and increasing urbanization, according to a March 2010 paper from the Philippine Institute for Development Studies.

How Habitat for Humanity works

HFH Philippines builds homes and transforms communities by partnering with families who help to build and pay toward the cost of their homes. Its urban renewal program involves building efficient and affordable medium-rise condominium-type structures in areas where land is scarce and expensive. Each unit measures about 26 sq. m. in size with an additional 9 sq. m. in common areas.

Habitat responds to typhoons and other disasters by building latrines in evacuation centers, and also distributing shelter repair kits to some families as well as safe drinking water, hygiene and care kits to others. A typical shelter repair kit contains items such as flexiboards, galvanized iron sheets and nails. HFH Philippines also helps vulnerable families living in disaster-prone areas move to safer homes in new sites. In addition, HFH Philippines assists displaced families and former combatants through Peace Builds in Mindanao.

HFH Philippines is working with the government to help house low-income public servants. A pilot program in Quezon City, Metro Manila, will provide teachers and firefighters with adequate housing. The Department of Education estimated in 2009 that more than 120,000 public school teachers do not own homes and either rent or live with their relatives.

COUNTRY FACTS

POPULATION: 103,775,002 (July 2012 est.)

CAPITAL: Manila

LAND AREA: 300,000 sq. km

ETHNIC GROUPS: Tagalog 28.1%, Cebuano 13.1%, Ilocano 9%, Bisaya/Binisaya 7.6%, Hiligaynon Ilonggo 7.5%, Bikol 6%, Waray 3.4%, other 25.3% (2000 census)

LANGUAGES: Filipino (official; based on Tagalog) and English (official); eight major dialects — Tagalog, Cebuano, Ilocano, Hiligaynon or Ilonggo, Bikol, Waray, Pampango, and Pangasinan

RELIGIONS: Catholic 82.9%, Muslim 5%, Evangelical 2.8%, Iglesia ni Kristo (Church of Christ in Tagalog) 2.3%, other Christian 4.5%, other 1.8%, unspecified 0.6%, none 0.1% (2000 census)

LITERACY: 92.6% (2000 census)

URBANIZATION: 49% of total population (2010)

POPULATION LIVING ON US\$1.25 A DAY: 18% (2010)

ACCESS TO IMPROVED WATER SOURCES: 91% (2010)

ACCESS TO IMPROVED SANITATION FACILITIES: 76% (2010)

Sources: *The World Factbook, World Bank*

Habitat carries out its programs through affiliates and like-minded partners in the National Capital Region in Luzon island, Visayan islands and Mindanao island. HFH Philippines also extends the reach of its programs via a resource center located in Manila. The center has developed concrete interlocking block and modified hollow block technologies. Home partners can produce blocks on site, providing them with a source of livelihood and easy access to building materials. The center also works with New Zealand steel frame technology that is cost-efficient, volunteer-friendly and typhoon-resistant.

Volunteers

HFH Philippines has a large, active and multifaceted volunteer program, including a Habitat Youth Council. Corporations, organizations, and groups of individuals are organized through group build activities, called the Juan Builds. (A Filipino is also known colloquially as Juan dela Cruz; Juan also sounds like “one”). Students and young people take part in regular Youth Builds and other special events. The Philippines also hosts dozens of international work teams each year.

Partners

Several Habitat programs in the Philippines have been supported by multilateral funding agencies. For instance, the European Union funded multi-story residences in Taguig City, Metro Manila, while the European Commission provided a grant to house people displaced by conflict in the southern island of Mindanao.



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- Habitat Presence**
1. Agusan del Norte
 2. Batangas
 3. Bicol (Affiliate)
 4. Calocan City
 5. Capiz
 6. Cavite
 7. Cebu
 8. Davao del Sur
 9. Iloilo
 10. Isabela
 11. Laguna
 12. Lanao
 13. Las Pinas
 14. Leyte
 15. Mandaluyong
 16. Manila
 17. Misamis Oriental
 18. Muntinlupa
 19. Negros Oriental
 20. Midsayap (Affiliate)
 21. Paranaque
 22. Palawan
 23. Pasig
 24. Coco Palm Quezon (Affiliate)
 25. Rizal (Affiliate)
 26. South Cotabato
 27. Sultan Kudarat
 28. Tarlac
 29. Valenzuela
 30. Zamboanga

Habitat Highlights

- ▶ **December 2011:** Model, actor and HFH Philippines' ambassador Derek Ramsay held a birthday build in Navotas city in Metro Manila for 150 of his fans and friends.
- ▶ **November 2011:** HFH Philippines distributed shelter repair kits, hygiene and care kits to more than 2,000 families in Bicol, Navotas City and Taytay who were affected by September 2011's Typhoons Nesat and Nalgae. Earlier, Habitat distributed 1,000 care kits comprising items such as soap, diapers, mosquito repellent and biscuits to 975 typhoon-affected families who were living in an evacuation center in Navotas. HFH Philippines is building 500 houses at a new site in the same city.
- ▶ **August 2011:** World boxing champion Manny Pacquiao was introduced as a Habitat Hero Ambassador. A congressman, Manny is partnering with HFH Philippines for a housing project in Sarangani province which he represents.
- ▶ **May 2011:** More than 1,600 volunteers turned up for "1k for 1 Day" build in Calauan, Laguna province.
- ▶ **March 2011:** HFH Philippines introduced a lineup of ambassadors comprising Alexandra Eduque, chair of HFH Philippines' Habitat Youth Council; television news anchor Arnold Clavio and broadcast journalist Karen Davila; model/actor Derek Ramsay; basketball star Chris Tiu; television host Kim Atienza. Theater actress Cris Villonco and actor/model Matteo Guidicelli are Youth Ambassadors while TV personality Kris Aquino is Nation-Builder Ambassador.
- ▶ **February 2011:** Over 100 volunteers worked at a Habitat site in Calauan, Laguna province. They included politicians, corporate leaders, media personalities, journalists and local bloggers.
- ▶ **January 2011:** With 1.8 million peso (US\$30,800) funding from the Lighthouse Alliance, HFH Philippines installed common toilet and bath facilities as well as community kitchens in an elementary school in Marikina City. The retrofitted facilities are part of a pilot project called "Noah's Ark" to strengthen flood-prone communities and provide havens in case of disasters.

Meet a Habitat family

Hilda Dordas and her family of four used to live in an eight-square-meter hut along the banks of the Pasig River in Manila. Without electricity supply, the family relied on a torch light. They got their water from a ground pump not far away. “My son couldn’t concentrate on his studies, and my daughter was not interested in anything but play,” said Hilda, a 40-year-old housewife.

The threat of flooding was real as their hut was near a river dike. During a heavy storm, the family could hear the thunder booming and the strong winds rattling the hut’s thin walls. One night, Hilda heard a warning. “Our neighbors were shouting that we should all rush to higher ground. The river was rising,” said Hilda. But her family had no place to run to. “The next day, we were all crying. Although we survived the storm, I can never forget that day.”

Hilda could also remember the day – five years ago – when Habitat for Humanity Philippines and the local government visited the families living near the Pasig River and informed them of the Habitat housing program. “With no regrets to this day, my husband said yes.”

“We are now living in a concrete medium-rise building unit with easy access to electricity and water. We have only been here five months, but the effect of this move is evident. Here in Pinagbuhatan my daughter, Janelle, was able to learn how to read and write. She can now fully read Filipino, with some English. In Mangahan, she was always playing in the wide



fields around us. While here in Habitat, she became serious about studying. Every night she would bring out her books and read. That is a big improvement,” said Hilda.



What volunteers say

“Waking up at 5am to spend the day working in the heat isn’t exactly a bunch of nerds’ idea of a fun Saturday activity. When we say our motto is ‘just do good yo!’, we mean it! This time around, we’re flexing some muscle (literally!) for Habitat’s cause of providing decent housing for the less-fortunate. Though we went home beat and sore, I don’t think anyone would have spent their day any differently, given the chance.”

– A group of volunteers from local startup TrafficDito who worked at Bistekville I, Quezon City, in February 2012