

GENERAL PROFILE



Of the world's more than 6.5 billion residents, more than 2.1 billion people live in poverty housing.

Who we are

Habitat for Humanity International

Habitat for Humanity International is a Christian nonprofit organization dedicated to eliminating poverty housing. Since its founding in 1976, Habitat has built and renovated more than **350,000** homes worldwide, providing simple, decent and affordable shelter for more than 1.75 million people.

SIMPLE

Habitat houses are modestly sized. They are large enough for the homeowner family's needs, but small enough to keep construction and maintenance costs to a minimum.

DECENT

Habitat for Humanity uses quality, locally available building materials. Habitat house designs reflect the local climate and culture.

AFFORDABLE

The labor of volunteers and partner families, efficient building methods, modest house sizes and no-profit loans make it affordable for low-income families to purchase Habitat houses.

Our ultimate goal

The ultimate goal of Habitat for Humanity is to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness from the face of the earth by building adequate and basic housing. Furthermore, all of our words and actions are for the ultimate purpose of putting shelter on the hearts and minds of people in such a powerful way that poverty housing and homelessness become socially, politically and religiously unacceptable in our nations and world.

What we do

HOUSING & SHELTER

Habitat for Humanity has been building homes around the world for more than three decades. Our experience has shown that adequate shelter saves lives, rekindles hope and transforms families and communities.

Habitat builds in partnership with families and communities who are unable to afford adequate shelter. Families help build or renovate their homes and pay an affordable, no-profit loan or mortgage.

Habitat for Humanity is committed to using materials and construction techniques that conserve natural resources and reduce long-term energy costs for homeowners. Mulberry branches, cane reed, bamboo, adobe, steel, wood and fired clay are among the materials used. All Habitat homes meet or exceed local building codes and are constructed to withstand floods, earthquakes and other natural hazards.

HEALTH & EDUCATION

Decent housing means that children can study, play and sleep in a safe and clean environment. Research has shown that decent housing benefits a child's education and future prospects. The affordability of Habitat homes means that families have more income to pay for school fees, healthy food or medicine.

Each year, 2 million children die from preventable diarrheal diseases caused by contaminated water. Habitat for Humanity helps improve water management and supply by implementing projects that give families access to clean, safe water.

Habitat for Humanity also supports families through Habitat resource centers. These centers offer classes in skills that make people more employable and give them a means to move beyond poverty. They also offer classes in health education, financial planning and other topics based on the needs of the community.

HOUSING MICROFINANCE

In most countries where Habitat for Humanity is active, fewer than 10 percent of households have access to affordable finance for repairs or mortgages.

Habitat programs around the world are working with financial institutions to provide access to credit for otherwise excluded groups. Alongside credit opportunities, Habitat provides construction technical assistance and financial education, and works to build the capacity of local women's groups to broaden their access to finance in order to improve their housing conditions.

Financial management can make the difference between a decent home and homelessness. Habitat for Humanity offers financial literacy classes in almost 30 countries and welcomes everyone to participate. Enrolling in any other Habitat program is not required. Ten thousand low-income families have already completed the program.

Habitat for Humanity has changed a great deal over its history, evolving in order to deepen its impact globally. While the tactics may look different, the principles are the same: partnership housing where the families in need of shelter become central to the solution, not a problem to solve. To date, Habitat for Humanity International has helped more than 1.75 million people realize the dream of their own home.

Every minute, 20 people die from conditions related to substandard housing.



Who we support

Among others, Habitat supports vulnerable communities and groups such as single mothers, families with disabled children, marginalized communities such as the Roma or victims of natural disasters such as the earthquake in Haiti. Homeowners are selected based on their need for housing, ability to repay a mortgage and their willingness to work in partnership. Habitat does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, ethnicity or any other difference.

Who we partner with

In its mission of eliminating poverty housing from the world, Habitat for Humanity partners with a wide range of people and organizations such as foundations and community groups or local and international nongovernmental organizations and agencies and is able to make housing affordable to low-income families thanks to their vital financial support.

A large pool of individuals has contributed to Habitat's work by single or regular donations toward its programs worldwide.

Many people join or form their own teams of volunteers who travel around the globe to work alongside Habitat partner families as they build or renovate their houses.

Local and national partnerships with governments are important in creating affordable housing. Habitat accepts government funds for infrastructure, utilities, capacity building or training, and house building, so long as the funds have no conditions that would violate our principles.

Habitat for Humanity offers corporations a meaningful project for social responsibility by providing them with a rewarding activity in which colleagues can cooperate on solving problems.

Corporate partnerships include a wide variety of ways to engage with Habitat for Humanity, including financial support, product donations, volunteer mobilization, grant and award programs, or public awareness campaigns.

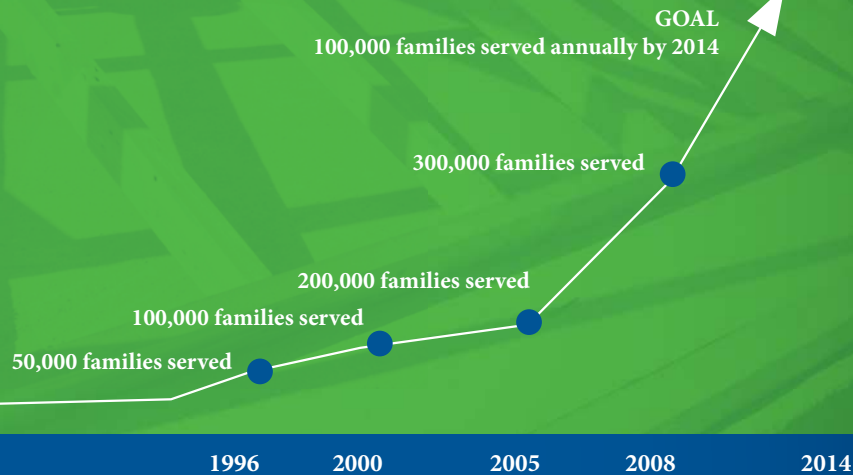
More than 1.2 billion people live on less than US\$1 per day.

How we work

Through community mobilization, volunteer labor and donations of money and materials, Habitat builds and rehabilitates simple, decent houses with homeowner (partner) families. Habitat houses are sold to partner families at no profit and financed with affordable loans. The homeowners' monthly repayments are used to build more Habitat houses. This enables us to serve exponentially more families each year.

Habitat is not a giveaway program. In addition to a down payment and the monthly repayments, homeowners invest hundreds of hours of their own labor—sweat equity—into building their Habitat house and the houses of others.

HFHI families served globally



Where we operate

Habitat for Humanity operates in more than 90 countries. Habitat's headquarters are in Americus and Atlanta, Georgia, USA. In addition, there are four area offices—Europe and Central Asia, Africa and the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean—that provide support to the countries in their regions.

Europe and Central Asia

Regional office:

Bratislava, Slovakia

First house in the region: 1998

Present in: 20 countries

Families served to date:

More than 10,000

Innovative projects:

Ecologically friendly toilets in Kyrgyzstan, earthquake resistance building and house reinforcement in Tajikistan, prevention against child abandonment in Bulgaria, water supply and sanitation for vulnerable groups in Macedonia.



Latin America and the Caribbean

Regional office:

San Jose, Costa Rica

First house in the region: 1979

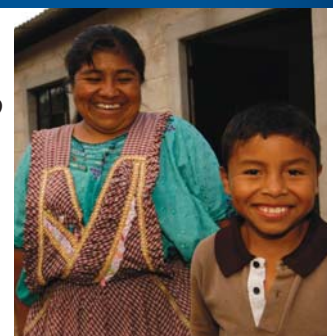
Present in: 16 countries

Families served to date:

More than 100,000

Innovative projects:

Financial education programs in 16 countries, multiphase disaster response strategy and Habitat Resource Centers in Haiti, technical support and strengthening of housing microfinance institutions in Honduras, Peru and Nicaragua.



Africa and the Middle East

Regional office:

Pretoria, South Africa

First house in the region: 1976

Present in: 19 countries

Families served to date:

More than 65,000

Innovative projects: Training orphaned and vulnerable children and their caregivers on inheritance rights and securing land tenure in Mozambique; water and sanitation in Madagascar; microfinance solutions providing housing loan products for affordable, incremental building in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania; energy-saving stoves and appropriate “chika” building technology in Ethiopia.



Asia and the Pacific

Regional office:

Bangkok, Thailand

First house in the region: 1985

Present in: 24 countries

Families served to date:

More than 146,000

Innovative projects: Water and sanitation projects, especially in Vietnam; disaster response, including transitional shelter products in Nepal; disaster preparedness and mitigation, especially in India; core house/build-in-stages/incremental building all across the region; microfinance services; Habitat resource centers.



“Building a house is not just about the construction of a building. It is about laying bricks for a safe and secure existence of the families and making positive change in the lives of everyone who has put a hand on it,” said a former Global Village volunteer.

Mobilizing volunteers

Hundreds of thousands of volunteers have contributed to Habitat for Humanity by raising funds, building and advocating to eliminate poverty housing. More than **350,000** simple, decent, affordable Habitat houses sheltering **1.75 million** people have been built in large part by volunteer labor.

Habitat for Humanity offers volunteers the opportunity not only to serve, but to grow. Habitat creates and supports programs and initiatives that educate volunteers, engage them in Habitat’s mission and involve them in long-term advocacy for affordable housing.

To date, Habitat for Humanity organizations worldwide have sent out more than **6,000** teams through the Global Village program; that’s more than **65,000** volunteers. The teams—schools and universities, corporations, church groups, or groups of family members, friends and strangers—help fund and build homes with families in need.



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