

# Zambia

## Habitat for Humanity in Zambia

Habitat for Humanity Zambia is part of a global non-profit housing organisation whose goal is to eliminate poverty housing around the world by working in partnership with poor and low-income families. Habitat Zambia believe that every man, woman and child should have a safe and affordable place to live. This is provided through holistic solutions such as secure land tenure, provision of safe drinking water and sanitation, housing finance and advocacy.

## The housing need in Zambia

Despite Zambia having one of the world's fastest growing economies, it remains one of the world's poorest countries. Currently, close to 64 percent of Zambians live under \$2 a day and the majority of those who earn more barely make ends-meet. According to Mercers (2010), living in Lusaka costs more than living in Washington, D.C but the incomes in Zambia are much lower. The 'higher' incomes and jobs in Zambia are concentrated in urban areas. This has led to an urbanisation rate that is almost twice the population growth rate. In consequence, there is a higher demand for jobs which is slowing wage growth and increasing land and house prices beyond the reach of the average worker. Additionally, Zambia has a current urban housing deficit that stands at 1.3 million housing units, projected to reach 3 million housing units by 2025. Due to the lack of affordable housing, about 70 percent of urban dwellers in the country live in slums with inadequate access to water, sanitation and extension facilities. The lack of decent housing exacerbates people's poverty.

## How Habitat addresses the need in Zambia

Habitat Zambia runs a number of programs to address the housing and water and sanitation needs in the country, including house construction for vulnerable groups; provision of interest-free mortgages to families that can afford repayments; installation of boreholes and water kiosks; awareness raising on issues affecting poor and vulnerable groups; HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment training; advocating for fair and just housing policies and volunteer engagement.



## COUNTRY FACTS\*

<b>Capital</b>	Lusaka
<b>Main country facts</b>	Gained independence in 1964
<b>Population</b>	15.51 million
<b>Urbanization</b>	40.9 percent live in cities
<b>Life expectancy</b>	52.5 years
<b>Unemployment rate</b>	15 percent
<b>Population living below poverty line</b>	60.5 percent

\*Sources: CIA World Factbook

## HABITAT FACTS

**When Habitat started in Zambia**  
1984

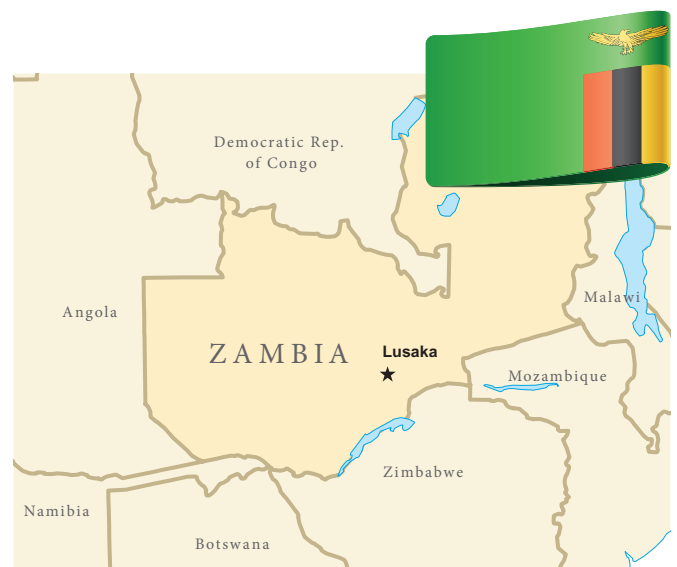
**Individuals served in FY16**  
4,085\*

\*includes construction and market development

**Volunteers hosted in FY16**  
458

### Housing solutions

New homes for vulnerable groups  
Water and sanitation  
Advocacy and awareness raising



## Maanzi water and sanitation program

The program aims to provide safe drinking water and sanitation; hygiene promotion through increased access to clean and safe drinking water; promotion of good personal and environmental hygiene in order to protect health and ensure the optimal use of all water supply and sanitation facilities which will impact on beneficiary's health and promote sustainability.

## Advocacy

Habitat for Humanity Zambia is engaging in advocacy through an integrated Advocacy Project that seeks to address policy issues and systems improvement in the areas of land, housing and OVC integration in National Registration Systems. The organization seeks to strengthen its approach in public policy engagement and as a result, change and affect policy and legislation that improves outcomes for Zambia's poor particularly women and vulnerable families.

## Pamwesu orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) program

The project provides a fully subsidized three-room house and secures housing rights for marginalized and vulnerable communities (with mainly Orphans and Vulnerable Children families) in Zambia's peri-urban areas of Lusaka, Chilanga, Kabwe and Ndola districts. The solution includes a ventilated improved pit latrine, trainings on inheritance planning to caregivers to secure assets for their children and HIV/AIDS awareness and OVC care for the families and the community.

## Meet a Habitat family

Belita Cheelo has been a resident of Linda compound for over thirty years. Belita is taking care of her late son's three children and one great-grandson. Formerly, the family lived in an old two-room structure built of mud bricks and roofed with iron sheets. Stones were placed on the roof to prevent it from being blown away by wind. "My old house used to leak in rain season and was dark inside, a thing which made me long for decent shelter as school going children were adversely affected," said Belita.

In 2015, Habitat for Humanity Zambia built a new four-room house and a ventilated improved pit latrine for the family, under the Orphaned and Vulnerable Children housing project. "I used to cry day and night after my son's death because he was our only hope to

decent shelter. But my hope of adequate housing was restored by Habitat Zambia. Thank you so much for the house and toilet you constructed for my family, life has changed for better," shared Belita. She adds that the new house offers a conducive environment for the children to study, it is well ventilated and very safe as it has lockable windows and doors.

## What you can do

You can help needy Zambian families improve their living conditions by taking one or more of the following actions:

### DONATE

Go to [habitat.org/donate](https://www.habitat.org/donate) and designate your gift to Habitat Zambia.

### VOLUNTEER

Join one of the scheduled Global Village trips to Zambia or lead your own. For more information go to: [habitat.org/gv](https://www.habitat.org/gv)

### TITHE

Establish a strong and rewarding tithe partnership to help build houses globally! Quote **866000, ZAMBIA** on your checks sent to: Habitat for Humanity International, Attn: Affiliate Tithe, 121 Habitat St., Americus, GA 31709



To learn more about Habitat projects in Zambia please contact us.

### CONTACT

Habitat for Humanity Zambia  
[hfhzam@habitatam.org.zm](mailto:hfhzam@habitatam.org.zm)  
[www.habitatzambia.org](http://www.habitatzambia.org)  
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/habitatzambia>  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Habitat-for-Humanity-Zambia/134820863301894>

Habitat for Humanity Europe, Middle East and Africa  
Fungai Mukorah, Program Development Manager  
[fmukorah@habitat.org](mailto:fmukorah@habitat.org)