

Hong Kong



Habitat for Humanity in Hong Kong

Habitat for Humanity Hong Kong is dedicated to raising awareness of the need for decent, affordable housing and harnessing resources to improve living conditions including access to clean water and safe sanitation for families across the Asia-Pacific region and other parts of the world.

The housing need in Hong Kong

In Hong Kong, people live in a city that is home to some of the world's richest people as well as some 960,000 people who live below the poverty line, according to government data published in 2015. Not all in this prosperous society are enjoying the same basic right of having a decent home. According to research done by the Hong Kong Council of Social Service, the number of low-income families is on the rise. More than one third of low-income families rent rooms, cubicles or bed space. One in every four persons in the low-income group is aged above 65.

How Habitat addresses the need in Hong Kong

Habitat provides a hand-up to low-income families, the elderly and the disabled in Hong Kong through home repairs by local volunteers. Habitat also leverages on Hong Kong's status as a premier Asian city to raise funds and promote its mission of building homes, communities and hope. Partners include corporations, schools, non-governmental organizations and celebrities.



Local volunteers repaired Grandma Keing's home under Project Home Works.

SAR* FACTS

Population	Over 7.1 million
Urbanization	100 percent live in cities
Life expectancy	82.9 years
Unemployment rate	3.6 percent
Population living below poverty line	19.6 percent

*Special Administrative Region of China

Source: World Factbook

HABITAT FACTS

When Habitat started in Hong Kong
2006

Individuals served in FY16
1,140

Volunteers engaged in FY16
1,109

Housing solutions
Project Home Works; engaging with volunteers; raising funds for post-disaster reconstruction



Project Home Works

Habitat for Humanity Hong Kong mobilizes individual volunteers, and others from schools and corporations to help repair the homes of low-income families, the elderly and the physically disabled in Hong Kong.

Engaging with volunteers

For the financial year ended June 30, 2016, more than 1,100 volunteers from Hong Kong took part in Habitat's Global Village builds in the Asia-Pacific region and elsewhere. Within Hong Kong, student or corporate volunteers help to repair homes of low-income households, the elderly or disadvantaged groups under Project Home Works. Habitat Hong Kong also takes part in the annual Habitat Young Leaders Build campaign that engages youth volunteers in advocating, raising funds and building homes for Habitat.

Raising funds for post-disaster reconstruction

Leveraging on the strengths of a well-regulated banking system and a strategic geographical location, Habitat Hong Kong takes up the role of a fundraising hub to support disaster response efforts in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. Grants from the Disaster Relief Fund Advisory Committee of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region government have enabled Habitat Hong Kong to respond to disasters in China, the Philippines, Nepal and Vietnam. These included the distribution of water, sanitation and hygiene kits to flood-affected families in Vietnam, reconstruction in the Philippines following 2013's Typhoon Haiyan and help for affected Nepali families after 2015's earthquake. Habitat also distributed relief items such as cooking oil, torches and blankets to more than 6,335 families who were hit by the April 2013 earthquake in Sichuan province, China.

Meet a Habitat family

Grandpa and Grandma Chan, in their 80s, were living a happy life for years in an old stone house in the fishing village of Lei Yue Mun until a typhoon struck in July 2014. With the water pipes destroyed, they had no reliable source of water supply. After failing to repair the water pipes despite several attempts, the elderly couple had to resort to fetching hot water from the public washroom, about a 20-minute walk away. The water is only available for a few hours a day. "You'll need to walk really slowly on your way back, so that you won't sweat again after all the effort," said Grandma Chan.

By soliciting donations through an online crowdfunding platform, Habitat Hong Kong helped the Chans to apply for a water meter license, and hired technicians to install new water pipes. In mid-July 2015, the couple could finally have hot water again.

What you can do

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

DONATE

habitat.org.hk/donate

VOLUNTEER

Join one of the scheduled Global Village trips to one of the Habitat projects around the world or lead your own. For more information go to:

volunteer@habitat.org.hk

To learn more about Habitat projects in Hong Kong, please contact us.

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[youtube.com/HabitatforHumanityHongKong](https://www.youtube.com/HabitatforHumanityHongKong)

[instagram.com/HabitatHK/](https://www.instagram.com/HabitatHK/)



Grandpa Chan checking out the newly installed water pipes.