

Myanmar



Habitat for Humanity in Myanmar

Habitat for Humanity's involvement in Myanmar arose after the devastating Cyclone Nargis struck on May 2, 2008. Together with its partner World Concern, Habitat for Humanity built and repaired more than 1,700 core houses in the worst-hit Ayeyarwady delta as part of World Concern's integrated multi-sector disaster recovery program. In January 2014, Habitat for Humanity began projects in water and sanitation with disaster risk reduction with World Concern. In September 2014, Habitat for Humanity received government registration allowing it to directly implement programs in Myanmar.

The housing need in Myanmar

Despite impressive economic growth over the last five years, Myanmar remains one of the poorest countries in Asia with one in four people living below the national poverty line. Most of the poor live in rural areas, but many pockets of poverty exist in urban areas where a third of the country's population resides. The population and housing census in 2014 showed that close to 81 percent of housing units were made of wood, bamboo and hut that were not durable because the materials were not properly treated. About 28 percent of households obtained their drinking water from unsafe sources and nearly 14 percent did not have a toilet.

How Habitat addresses the need in Myanmar

Habitat Myanmar and its partner World Concern had helped 965 families in Ayeyarwady and Mon through the construction of wells, water points, latrines, two rural health centers and a cyclone shelter. The projects were supported by Nissan and Habitat Australia. In 2016, Habitat Myanmar and World Concern began a Nissan-funded project to serve 941 families in Thanatpin, Bago. Training in disaster risk reduction and raising awareness of proper sanitation and hygiene will be conducted. The project includes the construction of disaster-resilient model houses, rehabilitation of community ponds, distribution of ceramic water filters to households, and improvement of water and sanitation facilities in public schools. With support from Habitat Australia, Habitat Myanmar and its local partner Share Mercy are strengthening community structures and improving access to safe water for 1,447 families in Dala, Yangon.



Over 20 volunteers from Korea's Shinhan Card lent a hand at a primary school in Dala Township in July 2016.

COUNTRY FACTS*

Capital	Yangon
Main country facts	Gained independence in 1948
Population	Over 56.8 million
Urbanization	34.1 percent live in cities
Life expectancy	66.6 years
Unemployment rate	4.8 percent
Population living below poverty line	32.7 percent

*Source: World Factbook

HABITAT FACTS

When Habitat started in Myanmar 2008*

*Through implementing partner

Individuals served in FY16 6,655*

*Includes construction and market development

Housing solutions

Improving housing conditions of the poor and vulnerable; analysis of the local housing industry; volunteer engagement



Improving housing conditions of the poor and vulnerable

Habitat Myanmar will contribute to the development of poor communities by increasing access to safe water and improved sanitation facilities. It will rehabilitate community ponds and deliver new and improved affordable, disaster-resilient homes through project activities that require planning and working with community groups. The use of locally available and sustainable construction materials such as treated bamboo will be promoted. Construction will be complemented by masonry training or raising awareness of proper hygiene and general information on the land management system.

Analyzing the local housing industry

Having received government registration in 2014, Habitat Myanmar is currently seeking robust information about the local housing industry before promoting the expansion of market-based products and services for affordable housing. It will define its strategic role in the housing market based on the outcome of a value chain study planned for fiscal year 2018.

Mobilizing volunteers to help reduce poverty housing

Habitat Myanmar began hosting international volunteers under the Global Village program in Bago from February 2017 while encouraging local volunteerism. In March 2017, a group of Japanese students will help build homes, marking the first Habitat Young Leaders Build event in the country. HYL B engages young people to volunteer, fundraise and raise their voices on the need for decent housing as a way out of poverty and toward building strength, stability and self-reliance.

Meet a Habitat family

Ma Cho, who lives in Kyauk Phyar village in Mon state, used to make several trips a day to fetch water from a small stream. Her four children often suffered from diarrhea, skin infections and other waterborne diseases. Her life changed when Habitat for Humanity and World Concern installed a gravity flow water supply system in her village. As one of the 17 water points is near her house, she saves time in fetching water. Her family income has increased since she started helping out her husband, a street vendor. Ma Cho and her family also attended sanitation and hygiene training as part of the project. She believes that her family members' health has improved since they adopted hygienic practices.



With a water point near her house, Ma Cho (right) has seen improvements in the income and health of her family.

What you can do

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

DONATE

USD \$: [habitat.org/donate/myanmar](https://www.habitat.org/donate/myanmar)

VOLUNTEER

Join one of the scheduled Global Village trips to Myanmar 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 **MYANMAR** 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 Myanmar or in other parts of the region, please contact us.

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