

Ethiopia

Habitat for Humanity Ethiopia

Habitat for Humanity Ethiopia has been active since 1993. Since then it has helped thousands of families in building decent homes with improved water and sanitation facilities. Habitat Ethiopia runs a diverse, innovative program, tailored to meet the local housing need.

The housing need in Ethiopia

The vast majority of Ethiopians live in poorly built, dilapidated and cramped houses which lack even the basic facilities, such as toilets. Only 30 percent of the current housing stock in country is in a fair condition, with the remaining 70 percent in need of total replacement. Access to safe drinking water is 50 percent countrywide and only 20.7 percent of the population has access to adequate sanitation (UNICEF, 2011). 38 percent of households do not have toilet facilities.

In the capital of Addis Ababa, 80 percent of the houses are in poor condition and below minimum standards. Houses in slum areas are old and dilapidated and too narrow to accommodate families, where the health and dignity of individuals is compromised. Most families who live in dilapidated homes in slum areas share toilets that are also in very poor condition. Adult prevalence rate of HIV/AIDS is 1.18 and there are about 804,000 AIDS orphans in the country. Out of 4 million elderly people, only 19 percent receive a pension. There are more than 893,000 refugees in the country (UNHCR). Prevalence of draught, flood, earthquake and epidemics is high.

Habitat's contribution in Ethiopia

Habitat Ethiopia's work focuses on water, sanitation and hygiene, or WASH; housing of vulnerable people; disaster risk reduction and response, or DRRR; savings-led housing finance; promotion of community development and resource mobilization. Habitat Ethiopia promotes and engages volunteers to advance its work by establishing long-term and project-based partnership with Habitat's volunteer sending programs.

COUNTRY FACTS*

Capital	Addis Ababa
Main country fact	World's most populous land-locked country
Population	102.37 million
Urbanization	19.5%
Life expectancy	62.2 years
Unemployment rate	17.5%
Population living below the poverty line	29.6%

*Find more country facts on:
CIA The World Factbook – Ethiopia

HABITAT FACTS

Date when Habitat started working in the country
1993

Individuals served in FY17
3,803

Volunteers hosted in FY17
64

Housing solutions
New, rehabs, incremental, market development



Our programs

Integrated vulnerable group housing and WASH

This project is being implemented in 10 towns of Oromiya and Amhara regions for two years. With this project, Habitat Ethiopia aims at improving the living condition of needy and vulnerable families who live in poverty, and affected by health issues and cases of disabilities. These families will be homeowners with no or limited contributions to build the houses. The intervention includes reconstruction/renovation of dilapidated houses for vulnerable and leprosy affected families, renovation of communal toilets, provision of hygiene training for beneficiaries and community members, and enhancing capacity of town administrations in solid waste management through providing solid waste trucks and other tools. Habitat Ethiopia will also construct a reservoir, install rising and distribution water lines, and construct communal water points.

Urban Slum Upgrading Project

Habitat Ethiopia has been implementing Urban Slum Upgrading Project in Addis Ababa, the capital city, which have been scaled up for another three-year period. The project is designed to assist vulnerable slum dwellers to get access to improved housing and sanitation facilities through renovation of houses, construction of communal toilets, communal water points, walkways and ditches.

Disaster risk reduction and response

Ethiopia is facing severe drought which affected southern and eastern low lands. At least 7.9 million people need emergency food aid and 6.9 million people require water, sanitation and hygiene support (HRD Document). In response to the life-threatening drought, Habitat Ethiopia has launched a disaster risk reduction and response project in Sankura and Alicho districts of Silte zone in Southern Nations, Nationalities and People's State. As a result of drought, coverage of potable water drops to 18 and 27 percent in the two districts respectively. The community water supply systems are not functional. Women and children travel two to three hours per day to collect water from unprotected sources where large number of people and their livestock line up for hours.

The Resilience Building and Drought Response WASH program has started in 2017 with an emergency response by assisting 7, 500 families with non-food items. The program is focusing on emergency WASH interventions in Southern Nations and Oromia Regions, mainly built around upgrading the critical WASH infrastructure such as installation of water pipelines, water pumps, new boreholes or rehab of the existing ones, water points connections, together with sanitation trainings and promotion of proper WASH standards among the exposed communities.



Meet a Habitat family

Anisa lives in Bisidimo town in eastern Ethiopia. As symptoms of leprosy appeared on her skin, Anisa left her family in fear of discrimination from the community. She used to live in an old shack with her three children. The chika (mud) wall was cracked and the roof was poorly covered with grass. The family was exposed to rain and wind. There was no separate kitchen and Anisa used to cook in the same shack with the risk of fire catching to the grass-covered walls. As the floor was full of dust, their health was compromised.

"My fear was that the house might collapse while we were asleep," Anisa said.

Her family is among those who have been considered for Habitat Ethiopia's vulnerable housing project. Her new house was completed in the first phase of the project. Now they have two large clean rooms, a kitchen and a toilet.

"My children and I feel as we are starting in new world, starting a new life. My fear is gone," Anisa said.

What you can do

You can help Ethiopian 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 Ethiopia.

Volunteer Join one of the scheduled Global Village trips to Ethiopia or lead your own. [Contact us](#) to learn more.

Tithe All affiliate tithe gifts are sent internationally to serve families outside of the United States. To support the work of

Habitat **ETHIOPIA**, please send your tithe to: Habitat for Humanity International P.O. Box 6598 Americus, GA 31709-3498

Contact To learn more about Habitat projects in Ethiopia or in other parts of the region, please contact us.

email: info@habitatethiopia.org

website: www.habitatethiopia.org

Fungai Mukorah,
Program Development Manager
Habitat for Humanity Europe,
Middle East and Africa
fmukorah@habitat.org

To learn more about volunteering opportunities in Ethiopia, please contact gv.emea@habitat.org