

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.

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 three 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 one in four people reside in slum communities. 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 15 villages in Thanatpin, Bago. The project includes the construction of flood-resistant model houses and latrines, rehabilitation of community ponds, distribution of ceramic water filters to households, improvement of water and sanitation facilities in public schools as well as social enterprise on filtered drinking water. With support from Habitat Australia, Habitat Myanmar and its local partner YMCA are strengthening community structures and improving access to water and sanitation for school children in Dala, Yangon.



Japanese volunteers at the close of Asia Build 2018 in Myanmar.

COUNTRY FACTS

Capital	Yangon
Main country facts	Gained independence in 1948
Population	Over 52.88 million
Urbanization	30.6 percent live in cities
Life expectancy	66.6 years
Unemployment rate	0.8 percent
Population living below poverty line	32.1 percent

Source: World Bank, World Factbook

HABITAT FACTS

When Habitat started in Myanmar 2008*

*Through implementing partner

Individuals served in FY17 6,655*

*Includes construction and market development

Volunteers engaged in FY17 242

Housing solutions

Improving housing conditions of the poor and vulnerable; volunteer engagement; awareness raising



Improving housing conditions of the poor and vulnerable

Habitat Myanmar will contribute to the development of poor communities by increasing access to shelter, safe water and improved sanitation facilities. It will 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 and raising awareness of proper sanitation and hygiene.

Increasing market access

Habitat Myanmar is piloting a community-based social enterprise to improve access to filtered drinking water for families in rural Thanatpin in the Bago region.

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, especially among the youth. In March 2018, it hosted the first Asia Build as part of the Habitat Young Leaders Build campaign. HYLB engages young people to volunteer, fundraise and raise their voices on the need to build strength, stability, self-reliance through housing.

Meet a Habitat family

With a limited income, Daw Thuzar could barely afford the annual repairs for her old bamboo house after the monsoon rains. She earns just over US\$2 a day from hand-rolling cigars while her husband, a carpenter, drives a motorcycle taxi when he doesn't get construction work. Things began to look up after her family of four moved into their Habitat house made of treated bamboo in June 2017. She plans to use the money that is saved for house repairs for her children's tuition fees and other expenses at the local township school that provides better quality education in her opinion. The children also get less mosquito bites, she said. There is another welcome change. "Before we had to ask the kids to be quiet and careful in order not to damage the house. Now they can play and run."



Daw Thuzar (right) with her husband U Aung Aung Oo (left) and sons Phon Pyae Han, Pyae Sone Maung on the veranda of their Habitat home.
Photo: Habitat for Humanity/Ritwik Sawant.

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](https://www.habitat.org/donate)

* You can designate your donation to Habitat Myanmar or a specific cause by clicking the designation option.

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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