

Nepal



Habitat for Humanity in Nepal

Habitat for Humanity began working in Nepal in 1997. By 2005, Habitat Nepal helped 830 families directly build homes. In a strategic decision to increase the number of households served, Habitat Nepal began to work in partnership with non-government organizations, particularly microfinance institutions and village savings groups to provide housing loans to low-income families. By June 2011, Habitat Nepal celebrated its 10,000th family served and by April 2015 when the earthquake hit, more than 54,000 Nepali families had been helped to address their shelter needs.

The housing need in Nepal

According to government data unveiled in 2017, 391,000 people – about 23 percent of Nepal’s population – live below the poverty line. Based on the last government census conducted in 2011, 49 percent of the population lives in substandard housing. The housing need was compounded by the 2015 earthquakes that affected more than 30 districts and the flooding in August 2017 that caused devastation in 35 districts. As of May 2018, only about 20 percent of the nearly 800,000 houses damaged or destroyed by the earthquakes have been repaired or rebuilt while the reconstruction of more than 190,000 homes affected by the flood is yet to begin.

How Habitat addresses the need in Nepal

Following natural disasters, Habitat Nepal’s goal is to help families not only rebuild durable homes but also to return to schools, jobs and communities that can help them create a pathway to permanence. Since its earthquake response began in 2015, Habitat Nepal has helped more than 45,800 affected families through a wide variety of shelter assistance and training. In April 2018, to mark the third anniversary of the 2015 earthquakes, Habitat Nepal publicly reaffirmed its commitment to working with affected communities and government institutions to step-up housing reconstruction among the most vulnerable families. In districts affected by 2017’s widespread flooding, Habitat has built over 1,300 temporary shelters by January 2018. Habitat is also raising more funds to build permanent shelters for thousands of flood-affected families in the East and West.



Dilaka (left) and her children in front of their new home in Kavrepalanchok that she rebuilt after her old home was destroyed in the 2015 earthquake. Photo: Habitat for Humanity Nepal/Sameer Bhattarai.

COUNTRY FACTS

Capital	Kathmandu
Main country facts	A federal republic was established in 2008
Population	Over 29.3 million
Urbanization	19.4 percent live in cities
Life expectancy	71 years
Unemployment rate	3.3 percent
Population living below poverty line	25.2 percent

Source: World Factbook

HABITAT FACTS

When Habitat started in Nepal
1997

Individuals served in FY17
10,865

*Includes construction, professional services and market development

Volunteers engaged in FY17
21,085

Housing solutions

Owner-driven approach to building, repairing or maintaining decent homes; post-disaster rebuilding and disaster preparedness; women’s empowerment through improved housing and community participation; volunteer engagement



In January 2017, Habitat Nepal launched a new five-year program with the approval of the Government of Nepal. The Chhana Program (“chhana” in Nepal means “roof”) is implemented in 10 districts, and consists of four pillars of integrated activities:

Social mobilization

Through training in the Participatory Approach to Safe Shelter Awareness, Habitat Nepal enables community members to identify and mitigate their shelter-related risks.

Tiered support

Such assistance is provided in the form of small grants, goods-in-kind or volunteer labor, to households or community-identified projects based on the level of need, availability of funding, government guidelines and the local community’s recommendation.

Technical assistance

By customizing training for local builders and homeowners, Habitat increases their knowledge of safer construction techniques and greater compliance with Nepal’s building code.

Market development

Habitat Nepal works with market actors to increase the supply of sustainable, low-cost building materials such as bamboo and compressed stabilized earth blocks while creating livelihoods for those who produce such materials in affected communities.

Meet a Habitat family

Guna, 56, was returning home from work when the massive earthquake struck on April 25, 2015. “My world fell apart when I received the dreaded phone call from my daughter – I lost my eldest son. He was crushed to death by falling debris as my stone house collapsed.” Despite his loss, he pulled himself together and consoled his family. They lived under tarpaulin sheets for nine days while he was wondering how he could rebuild his home. “I had no knowledge of the distribution of relief materials and the government reconstruction grant until I came into contact with Habitat staff.” He was able to rebuild his house in Tupche, Nuwakot district, with the support of the local community and Habitat Nepal. “Now I have resumed my work as a carpenter, I feel things are getting better. I am starting to see a ray of light after the darkness.”



Guna (left) and his family in front of their new Habitat house.
Photo: Habitat for Humanity Nepal/Sameer Bhattarai.

What you can do

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

DONATE

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

VOLUNTEER

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

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