

Egypt

Habitat for Humanity in Egypt

HFH Egypt was founded in 1989, and has constructed or renovated over 26,000 homes to date, turning despair into hope for those living in 30 communities. HFH Egypt partners with the homeowners themselves and with other local associations to achieve its goal. By working with these organizations at the grassroots level, HFHE builds on their established knowledge and insight in the community. A group of local, representative volunteers serve as the housing committee which selects loan recipients from within their community.

The housing need in Egypt

In Egypt, more than 20 million people live in substandard housing conditions, with minimum means of improving their situation. Poverty housing is particularly common in the rural areas, where many families live in old mud brick houses with dirt floors, no doors or windows, and inadequate roofs made from thatch, branches or even sugar cane. These conditions provide little protection from snakes, insects, intruders, rain, or the extreme variations in temperature. The houses are dangerously hot in summer and below freezing temperatures in winter. Access to toilets and clean piped water is limited, causing severe health problems to occur. Moreover, large families are often crowded into one or two room structures. Some even share their homes with their livestock or poultry.

How Habitat addresses the need in Egypt

Houses built by HFH Egypt are simple and affordable, yet decent and durable. They are built using appropriate, locally-available building materials, which meet specific housing requirements. Houses have cement or tile floors, plaster or limestone brick walls, inside plumbing and sanitary systems, secure wooden roofs, and enough rooms to separate parents from children, boys from girls, and families from their livestock. These changes create a secure home, protecting the families from the elements and also allow families the opportunity to build a second floor in the future.



COUNTRY FACTS*

Capital	Cairo
Main country facts	Fastest growing population in the Arab world
Population	86.9 million
Urbanization	43.1 percent live in cities
Life expectancy	73 years
Unemployment rate	13.4 percent
Population living below poverty line	22 percent

*Sources: CIA World Factbook, World Bank, UN

HABITAT FACTS

When Habitat started in Egypt
1989

Families served
More than 26,000

Housing solutions
New homes
Renovations, repairs
Home improvements
Housing microfinance



Housing program

Habitat Egypt provides housing loans ranging from EGP 2,000 to EGP 12, 000 (equivalent to \$300 to \$1,680) to families in need for building, repairing and improving their homes.

HFH Egypt believes in the importance of the continuity of the program therefore the beneficiaries repay their loans so that the repayments of those revolving loans can be used to build other houses in the village. The loans are usually repaid in a period of three years and monthly repayments cannot exceed the value of 25 per cent of the beneficiary's monthly income.

'Poorest of the poor' program

Based on the belief that every Egyptian has the right to a healthy house, HFH Egypt has agreed with their local partners to contribute towards the poorest of the poor communities by allocating 7 per cent of the annual housing to the "Poorest of the Poor" program, targeting those who are unable to pay in the form of non-refundable grants. This intervention succeeded in building and renovating more than 900 homes before June 2014.

This great success encouraged some of the donors to allocate a fair part of their donations to serving the "Poorest of the Poor" program hence HFH Egypt is able to continue serving this disadvantaged group.

Meet the family of Aid Adb El Gaber

What is your motivation to participate in the program?

I used to feel guilty towards my family, as I couldn't provide them with a proper safe house.

What were the difficulties before your living conditions improved?

We were facing a real danger as we used to live under a thatched roof which did not only expose us directly to the weather but it also carried insects, rodents, rats and snakes in its branches. This affected our safety and health and destroyed our clothes, blankets and food.

How much are you satisfied with your new home?

I couldn't gather the money to build a wooden roof, but thanks to Habitat Egypt we were finally able to do it. Now, we can live in peace and happiness. My family lives in a safe place. Our health improved dramatically. No more snakes or rodents.

What you can do

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

DONATE

Go to habitat.org/donate and designate your gift to Habitat Egypt.

VOLUNTEER

Join one of the scheduled Global Village trips to Europe, Middle East and Africa or lead your own. For more information go to: habitat.org/gv

TITHE

Establish a strong and rewarding tithe partnership to help build houses globally! Quote **862400, EGYPT** on your checks sent to: Habitat for Humanity International, Attn: Affiliate Tithe, 121 Habitat St. Americus, GA 31709

CONTACT

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