

# Ethiopia

## Habitat for Humanity in Ethiopia

Habitat for Humanity Ethiopia (HFHE) has been active since 1993. Since then it has helped thousands of families by building decent homes with improved water and sanitation facilities. HFHE 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. Countrywide access to safe drinking water is 49 percent countrywide and only 20.7 percent of the population has access to adequate sanitation (UNICEF, 2011).

In the capital Addis Ababa, 80 percent of the houses are in poor condition and below standard. Houses in slum areas are old and dilapidated and too narrow to accommodate families, where the health and dignity of families is compromised. Most families who live in dilapidated homes in slum areas share toilets that are also in very poor conditions. 24 percent of the households do not have any form of toilet facility and 63 percent use shared pit latrines. 25 percent of the solid waste generated from the city is left unattended. Poor families do not have toilets at all or use too bad toilets that are nearly abandoned.

## How Habitat addresses the need in Ethiopia

HFH Ethiopia's work focuses on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) interventions, urban slum upgrading, assisting vulnerable groups with house construction and renovation and tenure security, and on researching and defining possibilities of working in partnership to achieve sectorial and societal impact. HFHE promotes and engages volunteers to advance its work by establishing long-term and project-based partnership with Habitat's volunteer sending programs.

## COUNTRY FACTS\*

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Capital</b>                              | Addis Ababa                                 |
| <b>Main country facts</b>                   | Most populous landlock country in the world |
| <b>Population</b>                           | 99.4 million                                |
| <b>Urbanization</b>                         | 19.5 percent live in cities                 |
| <b>Life expectancy</b>                      | 61.5 years                                  |
| <b>Unemployment rate</b>                    | 17.5 percent                                |
| <b>Population living below poverty line</b> | 39 percent                                  |

\*Sources: CIA World Factbook, World Bank, UN

## HABITAT FACTS

**When Habitat started in Ethiopia**  
1993

**Families served**  
More than 16,000

**Volunteers hosted**  
More than 1,690

**Housing solutions**  
Water and sanitation; renovations of dilapidated homes, walkways and ditches; solid waste management in slum areas; vulnerable groups housing /new construction and renovation



## Homes for vulnerable groups and low-income families

Habitat for Humanity Ethiopia helps families in moving out of poverty housing by constructing decent and affordable homes through the Vulnerable Groups Housing Program. The maximum monthly household income of the target beneficiaries is US\$50 or less. Vulnerable Group Housing is a housing program where extremely needy and vulnerable families with complex poverty, health and disability problems become homeowners with none or limited contributions in building the houses. The disabilities can be physical, mental or visual.

## Urban slum upgrading

The costs of such renovations are often greater than similar new houses built on an open sub-urban land. The program serves vulnerable families living in dilapidated houses in slum areas which are fully renovated to make them habitable and decent. The houses are often torn down and rebuilt. The program also includes construction of healthy floors, walkways, ditches and solid waste management in slum areas.

## Water, sanitation, and hygiene services

This program involves construction of toilets and water supply systems for low-income families. These services are provided to families who live in urban slum areas with extremely poor sanitation and limited water supply.

The project provides communal stand water and toilets. The supply of water to families also includes construction of large water service systems such as spring development, construction of service reservoirs, pumping systems and installation of main water lines for wider area coverage. Hygiene training is also provided for families and communities.

## Meet a Habitat family

Anisa Mohamed 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 was only 10 years old when she came to the town. 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 walls covered with grass. 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.

Anisa is among families for whom vulnerable housing project is carried by HFH Ethiopia. Her new house is completed in the first phase of the project and she moved to new home five months ago with her children. *“My children and I feel as we start in new world, start new life and my fear is gone,”* Anisa said. Now they have two large clean rooms, kitchen and a toilet.



## 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. 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 **862700, ETHIOPIA** 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 Ethiopia, please contact us.

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