

Malawi

Habitat for Humanity in Malawi

HFH Malawi is a registered non-profit Christian housing organization affiliated to Habitat for Humanity International. HFH Malawi seeks to provide shelter as one way of eliminating poverty and improving the lives of orphans and other groups of people; Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) to improve the sanitation status and well-being of slum dwellers and Disaster Risk Reduction and Response to improve access to better and safer shelter for families living in areas prone to disasters.

The housing need in Malawi

In Malawi, poverty is prevalent and about 4 out of 5 families live in substandard homes with little hope of ever being able to afford a decent house. A typical village hut is built of mud bricks with a dirty floor and glass thatched roof, which requires frequent repair. The conditions put the families at high risk of all kinds of diseases with leaky roofs making the house damp and mud floors attracting insects. There are about 1.4million orphans and vulnerable children in Malawi out of a population of 17.3million and approximately 21,000 new units are needed every year for the next 10 years to meet housing demand – this far exceeds supply. Malawi has a high rural to urban migration - 5.3% per annum which is one of the highest in Africa. People are migrating to urban areas to look for economic opportunities. This trend has led to the rapid increase of Slums in the cities. 76% of the population in Lilongwe, the capital city lives in Slums and with an average of 5 people per household and an average of 6 families per latrine results into quick fill up.

How Habitat addresses the need in Malawi

HFH Malawi provides new homes that are fully subsidized for Orphans and other vulnerable groups of people. The houses are two, three or four roomed according to the family size. HFH Malawi provides Housing Support Services (HSS) to low income people in partnership with housing microfinance institutions.



COUNTRY FACTS*

Capital	Lilongwe
Main country facts	Gained independence in 1964
Population	17.9 million
Urbanization	16.3 percent live in cities
Life expectancy	60.6 years
Unemployment rate	N/A
Population living below poverty line	53 percent

*Sources: CIA World Factbook, World Bank, UN

HABITAT FACTS

When Habitat started in Malawi
1986

Families served
More than 10,000

Volunteers hosted
More than 2,000

Housing solutions
New homes
Housing support services
Water, sanitation and hygiene



Orphans and vulnerable groups

The OVG program started in 2009 and to date, Habitat Malawi has constructed over 300 houses for the vulnerable families. The project intends to improve the living conditions for 450 OVCs families and reduce their vulnerability by December 2017. The services include:

Improved housing: Habitat Malawi construct two, three or four-room houses. Each family is also provided with a ventilated improved pit-latrine to improve sanitation and hygiene.

Malaria prevention training: Habitat Malawi provides three insecticide-treated mosquito nets per family. Families are trained on good sanitation and hygiene practices to prevent diseases, including malaria.

HIV prevention training: The training is aimed at preventing new infections.

Vocational skills training: Provided to older OVCs, especially those who dropped out from school. The package includes provision of tools and equipment like carpentry or sewing machines.

Property and inheritance rights training: It aims to protect the OVC from property grabbing. The training is offered to OVC caregivers and gate keepers.

Housing support services (HSS)

The HSS project aims to increase resources available to low-income families, making it easier for them to obtain and develop decent housing, through the provision of microfinance loans and construction technical assistance. The project is being implemented in partnership with a Microfinance Institution. The partner offers loans to clients while Habitat Malawi provides technical advice. To date, over 5,000 clients have benefited from this program across Malawi.

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

The aim of the project is to improve the sanitation status and wellbeing of 450 slum dwellers in Kauma Slum in Lilongwe through equitable access to better sanitation by December 2017. 156 improved latrines have been constructed from May 2014 when the project began.

Meet a Habitat family

Mumderanji has two children, 8-year old Jeffrey and 11-year old Modestar. She lost her husband in 2011. Mumderanji is also taking care of her four younger siblings, following the death of her mother. She used to live in a small, dilapidated house and could not maintain it as she was often sick and therefore unable to earn income. The house later collapsed and Mumderanji has been staying in her sister's house. She explains: *"It was raining heavily that night. We woke up and stood in the corner of the house when we heard a loud bang. One of the corners of the house fell in. We ran outside and in a few minutes, the whole house collapsed. We lost everything. The new house comes at a time we need it most. We thank Habitat from the bottom of our hearts."*

What you can do

You can help Malawian 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 Malawi.

VOLUNTEER

Join one of the scheduled Global Village trips to Malawi 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 **863800, MALAWI** 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 Malawi, please contact us.

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