

# South Africa

## Habitat for Humanity South Africa

Founded in 1996, Habitat for Humanity South Africa is dedicated to the long-term development and sustainability of South Africa's low-income housing sector and is focused on building thriving communities. With the support of active citizens and stakeholder partners, we empower communities through leadership, skills development and self-belief to take the lead in their own development.

## The housing need in South Africa

Over the past two decades, urban housing for the low-income sector has battled to keep pace with rapid population growth and ongoing urbanization. Approximately 3 million Government subsidised housing units have been constructed, giving 12.5 million South Africans access to formal housing. Despite these efforts, there remains a huge housing backlog and, since many of the houses were constructed far from the economic urban centres, many people have relocated to informal settlements to be closer to employment. Informal settlements on urban peripheries have grown rapidly over this period, expanding from 300 in 1997 to more than 2,700 in 2012 (SA Yearbook 2013/14). An estimated two million people live with poor access to basic infrastructure and services such as roads, water and sanitation.

## How Habitat addresses the need in South Africa

While providing a home addresses the immediate need for decent shelter, this cannot be built in isolation from employment, public transport, social services and a supportive environment. In response to these challenges, Habitat for Humanity South Africa has expanded its core focus from building individual houses to building entire involved communities.

Habitat's community development strategy is built around a **People-Public-Private-Partnership (P4) Model** to achieve integrated and sustainable human settlements. Keeping the community's voice and engagement at the center, our model allows for strong partnerships between the people (community), government, the private sector and civil society.



## COUNTRY FACTS\*

<b>Capital</b>	Pretoria
<b>Main country facts</b>	First multi-racial elections in 1994 brought an end to apartheid
<b>Population</b>	53.7 million
<b>Urbanization</b>	64.8 percent live in cities
<b>Life expectancy</b>	62.3 years
<b>Unemployment rate</b>	25.1 percent
<b>Population living below poverty line</b>	35.9 percent

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

## HABITAT FACTS

**When Habitat started in South Africa**  
1996

**Active in**  
Three of the nine provinces in South Africa

**Volunteers hosted**  
More than 100,000

**Housing solutions**  
Participatory community development  
Advocacy and awareness-raising



## Community development strategy



People

The community's active participation is the key to breaking the cycle of poverty within a human settlement. Through continuous engagement and participation, the community and Habitat co-produce action plans and implement sustainable development projects.



Public

Habitat is committed to work with government at all spheres. Our grassroots interventions support our advocacy work with knowledge and experience. Using this expertise, we will demonstrate new models and financing options and promote the effective roll out of integrated and sustainable human settlements programs.



Private

Habitat builds bridges between communities that have identified their resource gaps and private sector stakeholders who want to be part of the South African solution. We are also expanding the role of the volunteer by connecting corporate donors and trustees with communities through various context-specific initiatives.



Partnerships

We are uniquely positioned to advocate on behalf of marginalised community partners and drive forward innovative practices and new models. We are also committed to building sector capacity in our partnership model, recognising the interdependencies of various actors.

## What you can do

To help South African families get access to better living conditions, you can take one of the following actions:

### DONATE

Go to [habitat.org/donate](https://www.habitat.org/donate) and designate your gift to Habitat South Africa.

### VOLUNTEER

Join one of the scheduled Global Village trips to South Africa 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 homes and communities globally! Quote **865300, SOUTH AFRICA** 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 South Africa please contact us.

## Community building success story

As Habitat's community building strategy moves beyond home construction to holistic community development, we are re-engaging with the Orange Farm community and Gauteng stakeholders. The people of Orange Farm were motivated to build an economically thriving and functional community beyond housing development.

In collaboration with Habitat, the leadership identified the areas of need within the community and ideas to improve their quality of life. After examining their priorities, they decided that the neglected Isiboniso Combined School was at the top of the list. The school, attended by students from child-headed households who are unable to access formal education, was built by the community over 30 years ago. It remained a shell with one pit latrine for 150 children for many years.

This year, the community, together with Habitat, donor partners and their volunteer staff prepared trenches and laid foundations for 12 flushing toilets in the school. This met the essential need for adequate sanitation and water. Volunteers also worked together to fill in cracks and paint the walls and ceilings of the school building. Rechargeable classroom lights and street lamps were generously donated, along with two early childhood development classroom containers, fully equipped with furniture, toys and learning materials. Now the 150 children of Isiboniso Combined School have a decent learning environment for the first time.



### CONTACT

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