Habitat for Humanity in Lebanon
Since 2001, Habitat for Humanity Lebanon has reached across economic and social divisions to identify, understand and confront the causes and realities of inadequate shelter throughout Lebanon. Habitat Lebanon strives to fulfill its mission by building, rebuilding, renovating and rehabilitating houses through partnership models to reach the families in need of housing services across Lebanon.

The housing need in Lebanon
From 1975 until the early nineties, civil war in Lebanon destroyed not only lives, homes and infrastructure, but also its fragile society. An estimated one million people were displaced by fighting, and hundreds of thousands were injured, killed or disappeared. The damage to property alone was around US$25 billion. Many more homes and lives were destroyed in the July–August 2006 war which also displaced one million people and damaged more than 100,000 houses. Reconstruction from these wars left Lebanon heavily in debt, and continued political unrest has prevented its economy from recovering fully. Unemployment is around 20 percent and many jobs pay very low wages, despite the high cost of living, which traps families in a cycle of poverty. Rapid urbanization due to displacement and economic deprivation has resulted in ghettos of poverty in Beirut and other cities.

In March 2011 Lebanon opened its doors to the Syrians following the outbreak of war in Syria. Five years later there is no end in sight for the violence in Syria and the presence of more than 1.2 million Syrian refugees is increasingly putting pressure on the already stressed economy, infrastructure and society of Lebanon. This has highly impacted the Lebanese vulnerable groups who as a result are getting poorer.

How Habitat addresses the need in Lebanon
Habitat Lebanon addresses the housing need through the Housing and Micro Finance Program, the Orphans and Vulnerable Groups program and the Housing Program for Palestinians.

Country profile

**COUNTRY FACTS***

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Capital</th>
<th>Beirut</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Main country facts</td>
<td>Gained independence in 1943</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>6.24 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Urbanization</td>
<td>87.8 percent live in cities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Life expectancy</td>
<td>77.6 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unemployment rate</td>
<td>6.4 percent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Population living below poverty line</td>
<td>28.6 percent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Sources: CIA World Factbook, World Bank

**HABITAT FACTS**

When Habitat started in Lebanon
2001

Individuals served in FY16
5,045*

*includes construction and market development

Volunteers hosted in FY16
26

Housing solutions
Repairs/improvements and rehabilitation
Housing microfinance loans
Meet a Habitat family

In a small house in the village of Qsaybeh, lives a single mother, Afaf, and her daughter. The young girl was born with a pelvic defect and requires costly medical care. Afaf’s home was built many years ago and equipped with a Turkish-style toilet, which makes using the bathroom extremely difficult for someone with a pelvic defect. Habitat rebuilt Afaf’s bathroom and its infrastructure. The house is now safer, cleaner and more practical for its members. Another positive surprise was that Afaf’s community saw the renovation of her house and offered to help her in the project. As her income is very low, they all chipped in so she could pay back the small loan that Habitat asked from her.

What you can do

You can help Lebanese 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 Lebanon.

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 866800, LEBANON 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 Lebanon please contact us.

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