



## Country profile

# Bangladesh

### The housing need in Bangladesh

Due to the economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic, Bangladesh's poverty rate has increased from 21.6% in 2018 to 42% in 2020, [a survey](#) by Dhaka-based South Asian Network on Economic Modeling revealed. According to government estimates in 2018, at least 1,418 people were being added to the population of Dhaka every day. People move to urban centers in search of work or after losing their homes and livelihoods following disasters fueled by climate change. UNICEF estimates there are 4 million slum dwellers in Dhaka. Three in four slum households live in one room, often lacking access to clean water, safe sanitation and waste management. Slum dwellers also face eviction threats as well as disaster risks from living in low-lying areas.



### HABITAT FACTS:

- Habitat started in Bangladesh in 1999
- **Households served in FY2020 – 4,910**
  - Through new construction – 435
  - Through incremental building – 4,155
  - Through repairs – 320
- **Volunteers engaged in FY2020 – 271**

### COUNTRY FACTS:

**Capital city** – Dhaka  
**Population** – 166 million  
**Life expectancy** – 72 years  
**Unemployment rate** – 4.15%  
**Below poverty line** – 21.8%

# How Habitat addresses the need

## Decent, affordable housing

Future homeowners build core houses comprising one room, a toilet and a veranda with the option of expanding their living space in the future. Habitat Bangladesh provides technical support to families and training to construction workers in building or renovating homes.

## Disaster response and mitigation

Habitat helps disaster-affected families through the distribution of emergency shelter kits and transitional housing in the initial phase and provides technical support when reconstruction takes place. Since 2007, Habitat has enabled more than 6,000 families to rebuild their homes and lives and to better prepare for future disasters.

## Urban development and advocacy

With funding from the Australian government, Habitat had improved the lives of about 10,000 slum dwellers in Dhaka city in its first urban project that began in 2012. Habitat Bangladesh also engages multi-sector partners through urban forums and dialogues organized since 2014. In April 2019, Habitat Bangladesh and other members of a multi-sector steering committee launched the Bangladesh Housing Forum—a collaboration platform for local housing stakeholders—at a national seminar in Dhaka. The committee also issued a seven-point declaration to address housing and land issues in Bangladesh.

## Volunteer engagement

There are currently no scheduled Global Village builds as Habitat prioritizes the health and safety of our staff, volunteers, partners and the people we serve amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Local volunteers continue to lend their support through the annual Habitat Young Leaders Build by raising awareness and funds and speaking up for housing needs.

# What you can do

## DONATE

USD \$: [habitat.org/donate](https://www.habitat.org/donate)

*To donate to Habitat Bangladesh, click on “Designate your donation to a location or cause.”*

## VOLUNTEER

The Global Village program was suspended in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Please go to [habitat.org/gv](https://www.habitat.org/gv) for updates, including when and where the program will resume.

## TITHE

Habitat affiliates in the U.S. can establish a tithe partnership to help build houses. Write BANGLADESH on your checks sent to: Habitat for Humanity International, Attn: Affiliate Tithe, 121 Habitat St. Americus, GA 31709

## CONTACT

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