



Country profile

Bangladesh

The housing need in Bangladesh

About [15 million people](#) have slipped below the poverty line after losing their jobs and businesses during the COVID pandemic, the government think-tank Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies said in May 2023. An estimated [2,000 people](#) move to Dhaka every day, displaced by rising sea levels and tropical storms. People move to urban centers in search of work or after losing their homes and livelihoods following disasters fueled by climate change. According to Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics' 2022 census, 1.82 million people live in slums around the country. 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
- **Individuals served in FY2022 – 4,165**
 - Through new construction – 230
 - Through incremental building – 2,420
 - Through repairs – 1,515
- **Volunteers engaged in FY2022 – 1**

COUNTRY FACTS:

Capital – Dhaka
Population – 170 million
Life expectancy – 72 years
Unemployment rate – 3.6%
Below poverty line – 18.7%

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.

Water, sanitation and hygiene

Habitat Bangladesh delivers inclusive water, sanitation and hygiene, or WASH interventions that are customized, affordable, sustainable and integrated into the overall housing and urban ecosystems. A community-driven process is followed for WASH interventions which includes information and knowledge management opportunities, contextually appropriate technologies and responsible management and governance of natural resources.

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.

Urban development and advocacy

Habitat Bangladesh has been working with urban slum communities to address issues such as a lack of safe and decent housing, inadequate WASH facilities, and fire and disaster risks. We are a key member of the Urban INGO Forum in Bangladesh that serves as a platform for sharing experience and knowledge in urban development to influence policies.

Volunteer engagement

Currently, the Global Village program is resuming region by region. Habitat aims to maintain the health and safety of our staff, volunteers, partners and the people we serve, while providing a high standard of service and support. Local volunteers continue to support the annual Habitat Young Leaders Build by raising awareness and funds and speaking up for housing needs.

What you can do

DONATE

Please visit [habitat.org/donate](https://www.habitat.org/donate) and select "Designate your donation" to donate to Habitat Bangladesh.

VOLUNTEER

The Global Village program has resumed in select locations in the Asia-Pacific region. Please visit [habitat.org/gv](https://www.habitat.org/gv) for more information and updates.

TITHE

Habitat affiliates in the U.S. support the international work through an annual tithe. For additional information, email tithe@habitat.org or contact your local Habitat organization.

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