

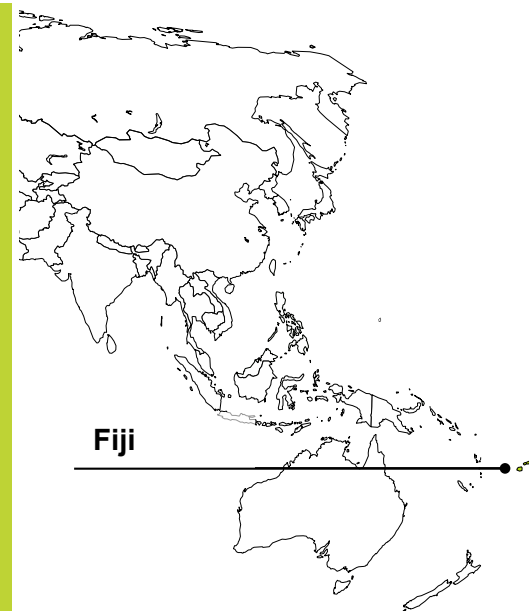


Country profile

Fiji

The housing need in Fiji

Fiji is an archipelago of 332 islands, of which 110 are inhabited, spread over a land area of 18,300 square kilometers, and a geographic area of almost 50,000 sq. k.m. Fiji experiences frequent cyclones along with strong winds, rain, and storm surges. Climate change has increased disaster risks through sea-level rise, more intense storms, temperature extremes and droughts. Rural-to-urban migration has escalated in the last decade with approximately 60% of Fiji's population now living in urban areas. The mass movement has led to serious housing poverty. About 15% of Fijian households, or 120,000 to 140,000 people, were living in more than 170 informal settlements nationwide, according to [Fiji's fiscal review committee](#) in 2023. The committee noted that formal housing construction nearly halved between 1998 and 2018. However, the value of formal housing supply in Fiji rose five-fold over the same period, to 10 times the average household income. For over three decades, Habitat for Humanity Fiji has partnered with more than 115,000 people to build or repair houses, rebuild after disasters, construct or improve water and sanitation systems in rural and remote areas, and implement housing projects involving people with disabilities.



HABITAT FACTS:

- Habitat started in Fiji in 1991.
- **Individuals served in FY2022** – 55
 - Through new construction – 55
- **Volunteers engaged in FY2022** – 37

COUNTRY FACTS:

Capital city – Suva
Population – over 929,700
Life expectancy – 67 years
Unemployment rate – 4.3%
Below poverty line – 24.1%

How Habitat addresses the need

Water, sanitation and hygiene

Since 2010, Habitat Fiji has been constructing or improving water and sanitation systems in rural and remote communities. Funding support comes from bilateral donors such as UNICEF, Japanese Embassy and Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and New Zealand Aid through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Habitat trains the local communities to manage and conserve water resources and maintain water systems that have been installed. The program has assisted more than 5,000 families in close to 100 communities to date. Habitat Fiji completed the multi-year Australian-funded Water for Women project in early 2023. More than 980 households and a total of 1,140 children in schools in Ra and Ba provinces have improved their water, sanitation and hygiene, or WASH, conditions through improved facilities and training.

Disaster response and resilience

Habitat Fiji is one of the first responders during disasters. As part of the Pacific Task Force together with Habitat Australia and Habitat New Zealand, we have helped families hit by disasters such as 2015's Cyclone Pam in Vanuatu. In responding to 2016's Cyclone Winston, we exceeded the target by helping over 7,000 affected families through the distribution of emergency shelter kits. Programs in the recovery phase include community-based WASH training, cyclone retrofitting for homes, repairs and construction of houses and water and sanitation facilities and "Build Back Safer" training. In May 2019, Habitat partnered with the Fiji Shelter Cluster to launch the first country-specific toolkit for the coordination of shelter response. The "Fiji Shelter Handbook: Inclusive and Accessible Shelter Planning for Fijian Communities" was developed with the support of the Australian government through Habitat Australia. Habitat Fiji continues to help families rebuild following Cyclone Yasa in December 2020.

What you can do

DONATE

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

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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