

Africa's Housing Challenge

Across Sub-Saharan Africa, approximately 53% of the urban population lives in slums or informal settlements. At the same time, the region faces a housing deficit of approximately 56 million units, affecting an estimated 238 million people living in overcrowded and unsafe conditions. Rapid urbanization, climate change, and economic inequalities continue to widen the gap between housing demand and supply.

This challenge presents a significant opportunity for governments, investors, businesses, and development partners to work together to expand access to decent, healthy, and climate-resilient housing.

A Shared Opportunity for Impact

Safe, decent, and climate-resilient housing is more than shelter. It improves health outcomes, creates jobs, strengthens local economies, increases resilience to climate-related shocks, and helps communities thrive. Through strategic partnerships, innovative financing, and evidence-based housing solutions, we can help millions of families access decent housing while building more inclusive, resilient, and prosperous communities across Africa.

Habitat for Humanity - Africa

Across Africa, Habitat for Humanity is working in partnership with governments, communities, donors, financial institutions, and private-sector organizations to advance decent and sustainable housing solutions. We are active in **Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia**, with programs extending beyond our countries of presence. Together, we are improving housing conditions, expanding access to housing finance, promoting healthy housing, creating employment opportunities for youth, and strengthening climate resilience.



"Since learning how to make Interlocking Soil Stabilized Blocks (ISSBS), we formed a group and have been able to produce these blocks and sell them to community members, construct houses for ourselves, our families, our community and even the neighboring communities!"

Catherine - Youth trainee and community member in Laikipia, Kenya

Habitat for Humanity Programs in Africa

Strengthening Housing Systems

Habitat for Humanity collaborates with governments, private-sector actors, communities, and development partners to strengthen housing systems, promote inclusive land governance, and advance equitable and gender-responsive tenure security. Through integrated urban programs that combine housing improvements, water and sanitation services, climate-resilient infrastructure, and community-led planning, Habitat is helping create safer, healthier, and more resilient communities across Africa.

Example: In Ethiopia, Habitat has supported urban upgrading initiatives that improve housing conditions, access to safe water and sanitation, and the overall quality of life for vulnerable families. By working alongside local authorities and communities, we help advance housing solutions that are sustainable, inclusive, and responsive to local needs.

Building Climate-Resilient Communities

Across Africa, climate-related disasters continue to place millions of families at risk. Habitat supports communities to prepare for, withstand, and recover from climate shocks through resilient housing, disaster risk reduction initiatives, and climate-smart infrastructure.

Example: In Malawi, more than 700 flood-resilient houses have been constructed and over 1,900 builders trained in resilient construction techniques over the past three years. Habitat has also supported recovery efforts following Cyclone Freddy in Malawi and the Gofa landslides in Ethiopia, helping affected communities rebuild more safely while strengthening resilience to future disasters.

Together with UN-Habitat, governments and partners, we are building climate-resilient coastal communities in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana through the Improved Resilience of Coastal Communities project. Restoring ecosystems, and strengthening livelihoods through community-led, nature-based solutions.

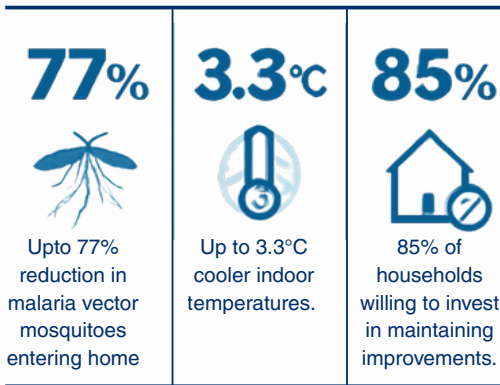
Advancing Inclusive Urban Development

We help create healthier, safer, and more inclusive communities by integrating housing improvements with water, sanitation, and public health solutions.

Healthy Housing is a growing area of our work. This includes advancing housing designs that reduce exposure to disease, such as vector-proofing innovations that help prevent mosquitoes from entering homes in malaria-endemic areas. Habitat also pilots climate-resilient housing solutions that strengthen communities' ability to withstand climate-related risks while improving health, safety, and overall well-being for low-income households.

Example: In Kenya, Habitat for Humanity is collaborating with the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) and other partners to test innovative healthy housing solutions that improve thermal comfort while reducing exposure to malaria-carrying mosquitoes. Pilot results demonstrated up to a 77% reduction in malaria vector mosquitoes entering homes and indoor temperature reductions of up to 3.3°C, highlighting the potential of housing as a climate adaptation and public health solution.

Healthy Housing Outcomes – Kenya



Driving Innovation and Housing Finance

Through Habitat's Terwilliger Center for Innovation in Shelter (TCIS), we work to strengthen inclusive housing market systems by partnering with financial institutions, private-sector actors, governments, and other market stakeholders to expand access to affordable housing products, services, finance, and technical assistance. Recognizing that most low-income households build or improve their homes incrementally as resources become available, Habitat TCIS develops market-based solutions that make housing more accessible, affordable, and resilient.

Example: Unlocking Housing Finance at Scale

Through Habitat's MicroBuild Fund and related financing initiatives:



Strengthening Community Resilience

Strong communities are built by creating opportunities for people to improve their livelihoods and shape their own futures. Habitat invests in skills development, youth empowerment, and community-led solutions that promote long-term social and economic resilience.

Example: In Uganda, Habitat's Youth Innovation Hubs have trained more than 6,000 young people in vocational skills including brick making, welding, and metal fabrication. An evaluation found that 85% of trained youth transitioned into self-employment, while 15% entered formal employment. Many of these young people are now contributing directly to the delivery of affordable housing within their communities.

Why Partner with Habitat for Humanity in Africa?

Partner with Habitat for Humanity Africa to unlock innovative, scalable solutions that expand access to safe, affordable, and climate-resilient housing while advancing sustainable urban development, gender equality, and inclusive economic growth. Through our partnerships with governments, communities, financial institutions, private-sector actors, and development organizations, we are helping strengthen housing systems, build community resilience, and improve the lives of millions of families across Africa. Together, we can create lasting impact at scale.

