



Country profile

Japan

The housing need in Japan

Japan has one of the world's highest proportion of people aged 65 or older. Official data showed there are 22.6 million households with these older people. Among them, 6.72 million households comprise older adults living alone.

Older adults comprised 2.76% of the people who receive welfare benefits, higher than the national average of 1.67%. Due to its shrinking population, Japan will likely see an excess supply of 10 million dwelling units in 2023. Yet there are vulnerable groups such as older people, individuals with disabilities, single-parent households, and those with unstable livelihoods who face greater difficulties in accessing low-cost rental housing due to landlords' reluctance to rent to them.

Habitat for Humanity Japan responds to the housing needs in the country by expanding our partnerships with donors and corporate volunteers. Since 2003, we have engaged more than 21,000 volunteers to help improve homes and living conditions.



COUNTRY FACTS:

Capital city – Tokyo

Population – 125.6 million

Life expectancy – 84 years

Unemployment rate – 2.8%

HABITAT FACTS:

- Habitat started in Japan in 2003.
- **Volunteers engaged in FY2022 – 549**

How Habitat addresses the need

International volunteer builds

Through Habitat's Global Village program, teams of volunteers from Japan build homes with families in the Asia-Pacific region and other parts of the world. After a hiatus of almost three years due to the pandemic, Global Village's regional builds have started in select Asia-Pacific locations since February 2023. Two months after the resumption, more than 270 Japanese youths have worked on homes in Cambodia and Vietnam.

Facility repairs

The pandemic has changed the perception of a home to be more than a place to sleep. When COVID-19 struck, Habitat Japan started repairing orphanages, shelters, community centers and other facilities to improve the living environments. Our work supports vulnerable people in having a safe and decent place to live while they receive services. In fiscal years 2021 and 2022, Habitat completed repairs for a total of 11 facilities.

Project HomeWorks

Launched in April 2017, Project HomeWorks mobilizes local volunteers to improve the living conditions of vulnerable groups, particularly older people and those with disabilities. Volunteers help to clean their homes and make simple repairs. Habitat Japan also offers counsel and support to vulnerable households in need of affordable homes. Since the launch of the project, Habitat Japan has mobilized more than 940 volunteers to help over 390 households have a place where they can call home.

Youth engagement

Habitat Japan has nearly two decades of experience engaging youth volunteers. There are now 40 campus chapters with 3,000 young people supporting our work. Students advocate and raise funds as well as volunteer with Habitat locally and overseas. Campus chapter members are also strong supporters of the Habitat Young Leaders Build campaign that rallies young people to build, raise funds and speak out for the need for decent homes.

What you can do

DONATE

Please donate via habitatjp.org/en/support/donate or visit habitat.org/donate to "Designate your donation" to Habitat Japan.

VOLUNTEER

Under the Global Village program, builds have resumed in select locations in Asia and the Pacific. Please visit habitatjp.org/join/gv or habitat.org/gv for more information.

CONTACT

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