



## Country profile

# Myanmar

### The housing need in Myanmar

Inadequate access to basic necessities of life such as shelter, water and sanitation defines poverty housing in Myanmar, especially in slum areas and the rural villages. Despite average annual economic growth of 7% during 2011-2017, one in three people continues to live below the national poverty line. The population and housing census in 2014 showed that close to 81% of housing units were made of wood and bamboo and were not durable. About 28% of households obtained their drinking water from unsafe sources and nearly 14% did not have a toilet. Habitat for Humanity started working through partners in Myanmar after the devastating Cyclone Nargis in 2008. The office in Yangon opened in 2014 and direct project implementation began in 2016.



### HABITAT FACTS:

- Habitat started in the Myanmar in 2008 (through implementing partner).
- **Individuals served in FY2019 – 3,905**
  - Through new construction – 120
  - Through incremental building – 3,785
- **Volunteers engaged in FY2019 – 504**

### COUNTRY FACTS:

**Capital city – Nay Pyi Taw**  
**Population – 53.9 million**  
**Life expectancy – 66.5 years**  
**Unemployment rate – 0.9%**  
**Below poverty line – 32%**

# How Habitat addresses the need

## **Improving housing and human settlements**

In Myanmar, Habitat contributes to the development of low-income communities by partnering with families to build decent shelter and increasing access to water and improved sanitation at the household and community levels. Habitat partners with the Department of Rural Development and Yangon City Development Committee and works directly with local and school committees in project delivery. The use of locally available and sustainable construction materials such as treated bamboo is promoted. Construction is complemented by on-site training in house construction and maintenance. Habitat also raises awareness of proper sanitation and hygiene in schools and in local communities.

## **Raising awareness and mobilizing volunteers**

Since February 2017, Habitat has hosted more than 500 international volunteers under the Global Village program in Bago region, north of Yangon. As part of the Habitat Young Leaders Build campaign, the Asia Build held in 2018 and 2019 saw a total of about 120 volunteers from Japan and Hong Kong building homes together with families. The Young Leaders Build engages young people to volunteer, fundraise and raise their voices on the need for safe, affordable housing. Habitat also promotes local volunteerism in its community development projects in Bago and Yangon.

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## What you can do

### **DONATE**

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

*\*To donate to Habitat Myanmar, click on "Designate your donation to a location or cause."*

### **VOLUNTEER**

Join one of the scheduled Global Village trips to Myanmar or lead your own. For more information go to: [habitat.org/gv](https://www.habitat.org/gv)

### **TITHE**

Establish a strong and rewarding tithe partnership to help build houses globally! Write MYANMAR on your checks sent to: Habitat for Humanity International, Attn: Affiliate Tithe, 121 Habitat St. Americus, GA 31709

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