



Country profile

Nepal

The housing need in Nepal

Nepal is among the least developed countries in the world, with a quarter of its population living below the international poverty line. In the rural and peri-urban areas where Habitat Nepal works, most families live on insecure day wages from working as farm or construction laborers. The low-income marginalized ethnic groups in Provinces 1 and 2 live in huts with walls of untreated bamboo thatch plastered with mud and cow dung. The roofing tends to be made of mud tiles, hay, or plastic sheets. Due to the mud flooring, dampness and mold set in during the monsoon season, affecting families' health and the huts' lifespan. Rats, snakes and insects that get in also endanger safety and health. About half of the houses in Nepal are built with perishable materials or do not meet technical standards for safe housing, according to the 2011 national census.

HABITAT FACTS:

- Habitat started in Nepal in 1997.
- **Individuals served in FY2019 – 14,720**
 - Through new construction – 4,695
 - Through incremental building – 1,110
 - Through repairs – 325
 - Through market development – 8,590
- **Volunteers engaged in FY2019 – 3,875**



COUNTRY FACTS:

Capital city – Kathmandu
Population – 30.3 million
Life expectancy – 71.8 years
Unemployment rate – 3%
Below poverty line – 25.2%

How Habitat addresses the need

Housing for the vulnerable

Habitat Nepal partners with the Government of Nepal to unlock multiple government housing funds for low-income families and marginalized and disaster-affected people. Habitat provides technical support, mobilizes partners and community members, and helps the most vulnerable through top-up financial support to reduce home construction costs.

Access to affordable housing

Habitat Nepal collaborates with microfinance institutions to strengthen their housing microfinance portfolios. This enables many low-income rural families who are underserved by existing financial markets to access housing credit more easily.

Promoting women's land rights

Many women in Nepal do not have secure rights to their own homes. Although the Government of Nepal has stepped up efforts in recent years to promote gender equality in its property laws, the rights of a married woman to claim her husband's property remains unclear unless her name is registered in the title. To protect married women from being evicted from their marital property in the event of separation, divorce or their husbands' deaths, Habitat Nepal is promoting the joint registration of both husbands' and wives' names in property titles or any occupancy rights documents issued by the government.

Appropriate construction materials and technology

The cost of building materials is among the obstacles to home ownership among low-income families. Through training and capacity-building, Habitat Nepal encourages families to adopt affordable and environmentally sustainable building materials such as bamboo, compressed stabilized earth bricks and in-home constructed stone-crete instead of burnt bricks. Habitat Nepal's housing designs are also featured on the Nepal government's list as being suitable for earthquake- and flood-prone areas in the country. Habitat's projects typically include vocational training to increase masons' knowledge and capacity for building disaster-resilient homes.

What you can do

DONATE

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

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

VOLUNTEER

Join one of the scheduled Global Village trips to Nepal 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 NEPAL on your checks sent to: Habitat for Humanity International, Attn: Affiliate Tithe, 121 Habitat St. Americus, GA 31709

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