




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 for Humanity Nepal works, most families live on insecure day wages as farm or construction laborers. The marginalized ethnic groups in Provinces 1 and 2 in the East and Province 7 in the West live in huts with walls of untreated bamboo thatch plastered with mud and cow dung. The roofing is typically made of mud tiles, hay, or plastic sheets. During the monsoon season, mud floors would become damp or moldy, affecting families' health and the huts' lifespan. Rats, snakes and insects that get in also endanger safety and health. A national census in 2011 showed half of the houses in Nepal were not durable or did not meet technical standards for safe housing.

HABITAT FACTS:

- Habitat started in Nepal in 1997.
- **Individuals served in FY2020 – 109,170**
 - Through new construction – 7,500
 - Through repairs – 240
 - Through incremental building – 480
 - Through market development – 100,950
- **Volunteers engaged in FY2020 – 823**



COUNTRY FACTS:

Capital city – Kathmandu
Population – nearly 30 million
Life expectancy – 66.6 years
Unemployment rate – 11.4%
Below poverty line – 25.2%

How Habitat addresses the need

Unlocking government funds for housing

Habitat Nepal partners with the Government of Nepal to unlock multiple government housing funds for low-income families, marginalized groups 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.

Building affordable housing markets

Habitat Nepal collaborates with microfinance institutions to strengthen their housing loan portfolios. This enables many low-income rural families who are underserved by existing financial markets to access housing credit more easily. Habitat Nepal promotes affordable housing solutions utilizing locally available, environmentally friendly materials such as bamboo.

Promoting women's land rights

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 remain unclear unless her name is registered in the title. To protect women from being evicted from their marital home 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 orientation and awareness raising events, Habitat Nepal encourages families to adopt affordable and environmentally sustainable building materials such as bamboo, stone-concrete and rat-trap wall system. Habitat Nepal's housing designs are also featured on the government's list as being suitable for earthquake and flood-prone areas in the country. Habitat's projects typically include vocational trainings, market research and market development for appropriate construction housing materials.

What you can do

DONATE

USD \$: habitat.org/donate/*

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

VOLUNTEER

The Global Village program was suspended in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Please go to habitat.org/gv for updates, including when and where the program will resume.

TITHE

Habitat affiliates in the U.S. can establish a tithe partnership to help build houses. Write NEPAL on your checks sent to: Habitat for Humanity International, Attn: Affiliate Tithe, 121 Habitat St. Americus, GA 31709

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