



Country profile

New Zealand

Housing need in New Zealand

Housing in New Zealand is among the most unaffordable in the world, with prices more than doubling over the last decade, according to data from the Real Estate Institute of New Zealand. Home ownership levels have been declining over the years with 62% of people owning their homes in end-June 2019, based on estimates by Statistics New Zealand. Many families are locked out of the housing market and are sharing poorly insulated and badly maintained rental housing. Families with school-aged children experience chronic instability as they often get pushed out of an area due to rent rises. The effects of unaffordable housing is wide-reaching with health, education, wellbeing and employment all being adversely affected by this complex issue.



HABITAT FACTS:

- Habitat started in New Zealand in 1993.
- **Individuals served in FY2019 – 8,260**
 - Through rehab – 6,115
 - Through repairs – 2,145
- **Volunteers engaged in FY2019 – 5,260**

COUNTRY FACTS:

Capital city – Wellington
Population – 5 million
Life expectancy – 82 years
Unemployment rate – 4.2%
GDP per capita – US\$43,746

How Habitat addresses the need

Safe, affordable housing

Habitat for Humanity has been active in New Zealand since 1993 with eight affiliate offices, a National Support Centre in Auckland and a network of 20 ReStores around the country. Habitat for Humanity partners with families through a range of housing programs domestically and overseas, including ongoing support to Pacific projects in Samoa, Tonga and Fiji. By building partnerships with corporations and sector organizations, Habitat continues to advance access to adequate and affordable housing and work toward a world where everyone has a decent place to live.

Funding through ReStores

Proceeds raised by Habitat New Zealand's ReStores help fund domestic housing adequacy programs. Habitat runs a critical home repair program, curtain banks, and unique projects such as social rentals and group accommodation facilities to address local needs. Habitat also partners with families through the Progressive Home Ownership program, which currently has 252 active houses in participation. In 2019, Habitat and three other local charities lobbied the government to provide additional funding to the scheme. This resulted in a substantial investment package and commitment of support from the government to help thousands of Kiwis into their own homes, who would otherwise be locked out of the housing market.

Volunteer engagement

Through Habitat's Global Village program, New Zealanders can contribute their time, resources and labor to build strength, stability and self-reliance through shelter. Volunteers build alongside the community and families in destinations such as Fiji, Vietnam, Nepal, Argentina, Armenia, Chile, Colombia, India, Myanmar, Thailand, Indonesia and Cambodia.

Pacific focus

Over the next five years Habitat will be helping over 100 communities in Fiji, Tonga and Samoa. With an ongoing partnership with the New Zealand government that provides match funding, Habitat promotes sustainable development in the Pacific through the Participatory Approach to Safe Shelter Awareness and Build Back Safer training, housing repairs and new builds. Through training in building skills and other programs, Pacific communities are empowered to rebuild safe and resilient shelter.

What you can do

DONATE

In New Zealand: www.habitat.org.nz/donate

VOLUNTEER

Join one of the scheduled Global Village trips to one of the Habitat projects around the world, or lead your own! For more information contact globalvillage@habitat.org.nz

CONTACT

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