



Country profile

New Zealand

Housing need in New Zealand

Housing in New Zealand has been ranked as amongst the most unaffordable in the world according to international surveys. Over the past decade house prices have more than doubled and median house prices increased 19.3% from January 2020 to January 2021, according to data from the Real Estate Institute of New Zealand. Home ownership rates are at their lowest in almost 70 years with 65% of people owning their own home, according to 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 are wide-reaching with health, education, wellbeing and employment being adversely affected by this complex issue.



New Zealand

HABITAT FACTS:

- Habitat started in New Zealand in 1993.
- **Individuals served in FY2020 – 4,060**
 - Through new construction – 120
 - Through rehab – 3,940
- **Volunteers engaged in FY2020 – 3,418**

COUNTRY FACTS:

- Capital city** – Wellington
- Population** – 5 million
- Life expectancy** – 80 years
- Unemployment rate** – 5.3%

How Habitat addresses the need

Active since 1993, Habitat for Humanity New Zealand now has eight affiliate offices, a National Support Centre in Auckland and a network of 20 ReStores around the country. We partner with families through a range of housing programs domestically and internationally, particularly in the Pacific. Habitat works with volunteers, corporations, government, nongovernmental organizations and donors to build better lives through housing.

Progressive Home Ownership

Habitat partners with families through the Progressive Home Ownership program. This currently involves 215 families who are on the pathway to owning their own homes. In 2019, Habitat and three other local charities lobbied the government to provide additional funding to the scheme. This led to 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. With the support of the New Zealand government, in 2020 Habitat began partnering with 33 families to kick-start their home ownership journey.

Building impact together

Habitat works with its affiliates to be a catalyst for community impact and improves housing conditions through providing housing support and construction services to families in need. In the financial year 2020, Habitat partnered with families to repair 1,327 homes, assisted another 107 families towards home ownership and supported 17 families to complete the purchase of their homes.

Funding through ReStores

Proceeds raised through Habitat's ReStores provide crucial funds for local housing adequacy programs which may include initiatives such as improving ventilation, stopping draught, fixing weathertightness, temporary window insulation, putting up curtains and installing ramps or heat pumps.

Pacific focus

Over the next five years Habitat will reach 55 communities in Samoa, Fiji and Tonga, and involve around 30,000 people at the community level through training in the Participatory Approach to Safe Shelter Awareness and Build Back Safer program. Through strengthening the sector, by addressing housing finance, raising awareness and influencing at a societal level, many more people in the three countries will benefit. Habitat has ongoing responses to COVID-19, Tropical Cyclone Harold and Tropical Cyclone Yasa. Our disaster responses build on Habitat's Pathways to Permanence approach and support households into long-term secure and safe housing.

What you can do

DONATE

In New Zealand: [habitat.org.nz/donate](https://www.habitat.org.nz/donate)

VOLUNTEER

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

CONTACT

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