

OUR WORK IN AFRICA



A world where everyone has a decent place to live

The need for adequate housing solutions in sub-Saharan Africa is immense. Across the region, an estimated 238 million people live in informal settlements, a number only expected to increase dramatically as rapid urbanization continues to far outpace affordable housing construction. These informal settlements are often marked by overcrowding, poor housing quality and inadequate access to basic services. Across Africa, there is a total housing deficit of 56 million units. Some of the challenges facing the most vulnerable Africans include natural disasters and climate change, migration and population pressures, political instability, and health crises, particularly the recent COVID-19 pandemic.

Through shelter, we empower

Driven by the vision that everyone needs a decent place to live, Habitat for Humanity began in 1976 as a grassroots effort, growing to become a leading global nonprofit working in more than 70 countries. Habitat has actively worked in Africa since our founding, partnering with millions of people across the region to build and improve places to call home. Recognizing that the great need for housing on the continent requires us to propel our work further, Habitat opened an Africa area office in Nairobi, Kenya, in April 2022. The Africa office enables us to more intentionally and deliberately serve a growth strategy in the region while building and influencing. We are currently active in Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.



Across the region, Habitat for Humanity partners with governments, corporations, non-profit organizations and civil society organizations to increase families' access to housing solutions. We help families gain access to decent and affordable housing, housing microfinance services, clean water and safe sanitation, and secure land tenure. In a disaster-prone region like sub-Saharan Africa, we enable families to recover from catastrophes by rebuilding homes and to strengthen communities' resilience to future disasters. While continuing to work in rural areas, Habitat for Humanity is also committed to ensuring that cities are inclusive, safe and sustainable. Our programming is focused on efforts to address systemic issues that prevent people from having adequate, affordable and sustainable housing.

Habitat for Humanity's new Africa strategic framework provides an opportunity to address the housing deficit in Africa, through the agency of Africans, by taking a coordinated and people-centered approach to helping people address the barriers to adequate and affordable housing across the continent's distinct contexts while using legal frameworks such as the new Urban Agenda. Moreover, we have identified five key pillars to fulfill our vision.

Key strategy pillars



Unite
Deliver as One Africa.

Pivot
Refresh our footprint and mode of operation.

Deepen
Be a trusted partner for funders and implementers.

Focus
Focus programming on efforts to address systemic issues.

Elevate
Amplify our voices.

Within this new strategy, we remain guided and informed by Habitat for Humanity's three core values: **courage, humility** and **accountability**.

Program Areas

Habitability: Building sustainably with appropriate construction technologies

Habitat for Humanity builds affordable, durable, and healthy homes that comply with the national building codes in the countries that we operate. In the use of appropriate construction technologies, we leverage and promote locally available materials, sound traditional practices and academic research for a homeowner-driven approach to decent

housing. We also train local builders and masons to adopt and use appropriate technologies and building back better in the aftermath of disasters. In Malawi, we have been able to build over 700 flood resilient houses and trained over 1900 local builders in the last three years. Innovative techniques often lead to cost savings and less impact on the environment. Habitat for Humanity Côte d'Ivoire, for example, recently built 48 smaller houses out of soil stabilized blocks to support elderly people improve their living conditions. HFH Uganda piloted the use of interlocking stabilized soil bricks houses that reduce overall construction cost by 30%. In 2022, our habitability work spanned seven countries – Zambia, South Africa, Lesotho, Malawi, Uganda, Kenya and Ethiopia. Program evaluations reveal high satisfaction with the quality of the houses we have supported the vulnerable communities to build homes, as well as using evidence based approach to generate data locally resulting to generated suggestions for future improvements including solar lighting (Uganda) and ventilation (Malawi).

Some of notable achievements to date include:

Partnerships with Kenya Mortgage Refinance (KMRC) and Association of Housing Microfinance (AMFI) both in Kenya *[to address the barriers of housing finance in Kenya]*;

Tanzania Mortgage Refinance (TMRC) in Tanzania *[to unlock the potential of Housing Microfinance in that market]*, conducting market wide researches to inform the market on the barriers hindering the growth of affordable housing finance in Ethiopia, Tanzania and Kenya and Capacity building efforts for NO's in Zambia, Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya and Ethiopia.

Affordability: Developing inclusive housing market systems

Many families in countries where Habitat for Humanity operates in Africa are unable to obtain financial solutions including bank loans. It is estimated that almost 70% of these households build their homes incrementally as their families grow and as their limited finances allow. Habitat for Humanity's Terwilliger Center for Innovation in Shelter (TCIS) was established in 2016 to help housing markets better meet the needs of low-income households. The TCIS through its market system approach works with the private sector including market actors and financial institutions. We also collaborate with regulators to ensure, availability, expansion or innovation of affordable housing products, services and financing through different models of engagement including convenor, think tank, Implementor, and Technical Advisory.

TCIS works on developing strategic partnerships across the African markets, building capacity of National Offices to be able to advance their community-based work by incorporating housing finance solutions and building awareness and market capacity through informed research.

How Habitat for Humanity works

For decades, Habitat for Humanity has set the stage for families, volunteers, donors and supporters to come together, to build decent homes that provide the foundation for a better life. Working in a region as diverse as sub-Saharan Africa calls for collaborative and innovative approaches to complex housing issues. We help forge people-public-private partnerships to facilitate better access to adequate and affordable housing, develop more inclusive housing markets and reduce the inequities that prevent people from thriving with dignity, security and resilience. Evidence demonstrates that improvements in housing can lead to better health and open a wide range of life opportunities, significantly enhancing the lives of vulnerable and excluded people, in particular.

Tenure security: Creating sustainable communities through advocacy and our urban approach

Habitat for Humanity promotes the continuum of land rights and the need to document the complexity of land and property rights. An estimated 90% of rural land in Africa is not formally documented and only 4% of African countries have mapped and titled the private land in their capital cities (Cities Alliance, 2021).

Customary and discriminatory practices often 'exclude women, vulnerable groups, and marginalized communities from owning, possessing, and inheriting land and property. Tenure security is an integral part of achieving the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda, especially as it relates to increasing equitable access to adequate housing.

Habitat for Humanity promotes inclusive housing and urban policies and advocates for increasing access to land for housing. In Ethiopia, for example, Habitat for Humanity is implementing a multi-year upgrading effort for urban slums to help families move to renovated homes with access to improved sanitation and safe water facilities. In Zambia, our advocacy program aims to facilitate policy change and systems to ensure increased access to secure land and decent shelter, working with the government and other stakeholders. In Lesotho, we advocate on behalf of vulnerable groups by training vulnerable families about property and inheritance rights and land tenure issues, with the aim of reducing unlawful evictions or disinheritance.

Basic Services: Improving health and self-reliance through water, sanitation and hygiene initiatives

Understanding that adequate housing requires safe and reliable access to water and sanitation, Habitat for Humanity targets them as core components of its housing quality standards. We tailor our Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) solutions based on need, local context and the most appropriate and affordable options for both families and communities. In Zambia, for example, we are partnering with local communities to build water kiosks, solar-powered boreholes and toilets. In Ethiopia, we work alongside community members in water-scarce areas of Oromia and Amhara regions to construct reservoirs, water pipelines and water points. In 2022, we implemented programs to improve basic services in Cote d'Ivoire, Tanzania, Zambia, South Africa, Malawi, Kenya and Ethiopia. These efforts focused on building and raising awareness on WASH in schools and in informal settlements, as well as urban WASH initiatives, among others. Our learning shows that access to clean and safe water not only helps reduce waterborne diseases and incidences of diarrhea, but it also allows households to spend their time and money on other priorities. One Habitat for Humanity program in Ethiopia helped save families on average 2.1 hours per trip to fetch water. Moreover, we have seen the value of building community ownership of new water and sanitation facilities, such as helping form WASH committees that can operate and maintain the new systems in years to come.

Increasing resilience through disaster risk reduction and response

We help families build back safe and find lasting solutions to their housing needs. We provide both immediate assistance that includes kits to clean up homes, for emergency shelter and personal hygiene, and recovery and reconstruction solutions through damage assessment, technical support, training, transitional shelter construction, home repairs and more. Our engagements are guided by Sendai policy framework which gives guidelines on addressing DRRR interventions while raising awareness to the communities where we operate to be more resilient and prepared for the next time a disaster strikes. Many countries in the region are already experiencing more frequent and destructive weather-related emergencies, such as flooding or rainfall scarcity, as a result of climate change. Habitat for Humanity works collaboratively with policy makers to address DRRR issues. For instance, In Malawi through the Home Equals campaign, they have drafted the Disaster Risk Management bill that is waiting to be tabled in Parliament. We promote appropriate shelter technology, adapted building materials and improved construction practices to help make homes more resilient to disaster and conflict change. In Ethiopia, for example, Habitat supports vulnerable people affected by internal conflict in the northern part of the country, helping these families gain access to housing, sanitation and psychosocial support.

Recent achievements

In 2022, Habitat's work benefited households across our nine target countries in sub-Saharan Africa. Programs included large-scale incremental work initiatives such as building or repairing boreholes, latrines and water systems that reached large numbers of people (notably in Ethiopia and Malawi), as well as the distribution of non-food items like soap and other hygiene materials, with large numbers of people reached through these efforts in Tanzania, Zambia and Cote d'Ivoire. We also implemented multiple construction projects – some including skills-building, livelihood support and WASH components – across the region. Finally, our programs increasingly focus on cross-cutting areas, such as climate resilience, gender and inclusion.

Leveraging partnerships

Whether implementing programs, advocacy campaigns or an emergency response, Habitat for humanity is committed to engaging a wide range of partners to ensure contextually appropriate, community driven and lasting results using the P4 model. Habitat for Humanity works closely with all sectors – community, public, private and civic – to create a tangible difference in the lives of families through adequate, affordable housing. Volunteers are known as the hands and hearts of Habitat’s work. International volunteers in our Global Village program or local volunteers at build sites contribute their labor while others raise funds or make a donation. There are also those who provide technical expertise and many more who speak up for the need for decent housing. So far in FY23, we have engaged 665 local volunteers that have contributed a total of 4727 volunteer hours. This engagement as comprised of local volunteers in 2 out of the 9 Africa NO programmes; in Kenya most volunteers participated in HFH Kenya’s 40@ 40 builds and in South Africa, local volunteers were involved in the annual Build for Madiba season that Habitat for Humanity South Africa hosts in partnership with the Nelson Mandela Foundation. During the International Volunteer Day on 5th December, Uganda engaged 15 media outlets in both radio and print with past volunteers and telling stories of the impact of volunteer engagement with HFH Uganda.

Through generous donors and gifts-in-kind, Habitat makes affordable housing available to families in need of decent homes. Working with microfinance institutions, we provide families with options for affordable loans. By partnering with foundations, organizations and institutions, we catalyze multi-year, multi-component community and sector building projects for greater impact.

“We are positioning to create greater impact in Africa, with Africa and through Africa.” Maurice Makoloo, Habitat for Humanity Area Vice President for Africa.

Through shelter, we empower. To learn more visit [habitat.org/Africa](https://www.habitat.org/Africa).

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