



Country profile

South Korea

Habitat for Humanity in South Korea

Over the past few decades, Korea has significantly closed the housing gap. For many households, however, housing prices are still too high, homeownership is unaffordable and rental options are inadequate and expensive, particularly in the Seoul Metropolitan Area that houses half of the country's population. To address the affordable housing challenge, the government's social housing policies target vulnerable older and young people as well as newlyweds who have lower incomes. Besides partnering with those in need of decent housing, Habitat for Humanity Korea advocates for affordable homes through various campaigns.



HABITAT FACTS:

- Habitat started in South Korea in 1994.
- **Individuals served in FY2019 – 1,635**
 - Through new construction – 185
 - Through rehab – 30
 - Through repairs – 1,420
- **Volunteers engaged in FY2019 – 5,653**

COUNTRY FACTS:

Capital city – Seoul
Population – 51.84 million
Life expectancy – 82.7 years
Unemployment rate – 3.4%
Below poverty line – 14.4%

How Habitat addresses the need

Disaster response and preparedness

Situated in one of the world's most disaster-affected regions, Habitat for Humanity Korea raises funds to aid the recovery of people affected by disasters such as floods, typhoons and earthquakes. While continuing to support disaster responses in Bangladesh, Habitat Korea also focuses on domestic crises. After wildfires broke out in Goseong, Gangwon province, generous public donations enabled Habitat Korea to provide 13 affected families with mobile homes where they will reside until they rebuild their homes.

Raising awareness through special events

Through special events and builds, Habitat Korea highlights the need for affordable housing and the importance of volunteerism. In August 2019, the annual Korea Blitz Build attracted more than 500 volunteers. Habitat Korea began an awareness and fundraising campaign to improve the housing conditions of the descendants of those who fought for the liberation of Korea. In 2020, Habitat Korea will also continue with its advocacy campaign for children's rights to decent housing.

Building homes and hope with KOICA funding

Partnering with the Korea International Cooperation Agency, Habitat Korea is supporting the construction of new homes, community buildings, sanitation facilities and raising of hygiene standards in countries such as Bangladesh and Ethiopia. In the past few years, Habitat Korea has been able to assist vulnerable groups in several countries through the KOICA partnership that it is currently seeking to expand.

Engaging with volunteers

Volunteers with Habitat Korea contribute their labor in construction or offer their time and talents in areas such as architecture, and construction design and technology. Habitat Korea has one of the most active volunteer-sending programs with corporate and student volunteers working on builds in the Asia-Pacific region. In 2019, two student volunteer reporters helped advance Habitat's cause by contributing their time to raising awareness of housing issues and Habitat Korea's work.

What you can do

DONATE

In Korea: <https://donate.habitat.or.kr/ODP/Donate/DonateNow?ID=3e3b8d22-0c3d-4499-8364-5b8136742a27>

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, please contact: gv@habitat.or.kr

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