

Vietnam



Habitat for Humanity in Vietnam

Habitat for Humanity began working in Vietnam in January 2001 with its first project in Da Nang City in the central coastal region. As of January 2019, Habitat has enabled more than 14,800 low-income Vietnamese families to improve their living conditions through decent homes, clean water and safe sanitation. Habitat Vietnam has also provided training in areas such as disaster preparedness, financial education, and hygiene practices to nearly 123,000 individuals.

The housing need in Vietnam

Vietnam has lifted more than 35 million people out of poverty since the early 1990s due to rapid economic growth and reforms. However, nearly 8 percent of Vietnam's 97-million population is still living on less than 700,000 Vietnamese dong (US\$30) per month in rural areas. Low-income families living in poorly built housing are constantly being forced to rebuild their homes due to natural disasters. Seven in 10 people with inadequate shelter face the risk of typhoons, torrential storms and flooding which hit Vietnam annually. Among rural dwellers, about one third lack adequate sanitation while 3 percent do not have access to clean water.

How Habitat addresses the need in Vietnam

Habitat Vietnam partners with low-income families to build, repair or upgrade their homes with families contributing "sweat equity" or their own labor, and typically repaying the costs through microfinance loans. International volunteers provide a hand-up by building alongside the families. Habitat also enables families to build facilities for clean water and safe sanitation based on their needs. The partner organizations that Habitat works with include the local government and communities. The training that Habitat offers to its partners includes appropriate construction technology, financial management, awareness and practice of proper hygiene, community-based disaster risk management.



Australian volunteer Amy Voss teaching a boy to speak English during her team's visit to a school in Long An province in December 2018.

COUNTRY FACTS

Capital	Hanoi
Main country facts	Gained independence in 1945
Population	Over 97 million
Urbanization	35.9 percent live in cities
Life expectancy	73.9 years
Unemployment rate	%2 percent
Population living below poverty line	8 percent

Source: World Factbook

HABITAT FACTS

When Habitat started in Vietnam
2001

Individuals served in FY18
10,510*

*includes construction, professional services and market development

Other interventions
3,263**

**Individuals involved in training and/or community engagement

Volunteers engaged in FY18
828

Housing solutions

Community housing development; disaster resilience; housing market development and volunteer program



Community housing development

Habitat for Humanity Vietnam empowers families and communities by working directly with them to increase their access to decent housing and improve their living conditions through water and sanitation training and housing microfinance services, among others. Key program drivers include the improvement of water and sanitation facilities as well as the provision of housing support services by Habitat Vietnam or its implementing partners.

Building disaster-resilient communities

Housing support services is a means by which Habitat Vietnam raises awareness and builds the capacity and resilience of disaster-prone communities. Through training in appropriate construction technology as well as in disaster preparedness, Habitat enables families, provincial governments, community leaders, teachers and masons to protect their lives and assets in times of disasters.

Housing market development

Habitat Vietnam aims to identify opportunities for the entry of market actors to deliver products and services in the affordable housing market. Under the facilitation of Habitat, microfinance institutions and various manufacturers will be able to gain access to new customer segments and markets, and develop affordable housing products and services.

Volunteer program

Volunteers contribute significantly to enabling families to build strength, stability and self-reliance through decent housing. They are the hearts, hands, voices and financial support for those in need of affordable shelter. Through Habitat Vietnam's volunteer program, international and local volunteers have the opportunity to be part of a meaningful, compelling project. Corporations' CSR initiatives can also be boosted through viable partnerships with Habitat Vietnam.

Meet a Habitat family

Working as a farmhand with a monthly income of five million dong Vietnamese (about US\$215), Nguyen, a 40-year-old single mother of two, had found it hard to build a decent home. Her family used to live in a house that belonged to her relative. When a typhoon hit, bricks would fly and rainwater would leak through the roof. Trembling, her family could only crouch in a corner and wait for the typhoon to pass. After becoming a Habitat homeowner in July 2018, she and her family are able to enjoy security and comfort in their home in Goc Queo village, Dai Tu district in Thai Nguyen province. Inspired by the Habitat volunteers who built their home with them, Nguyen's eldest son Dat, 16, dreams of having a stable job after graduating from high school. It helps that he and his brother can study in a neat, spacious and airy corner by the window. For Nguyen, a clean, healthy living environment also enables her to recover from her lung disease and focus on her children's upbringing.



Nguyen's sons Dat (left) and Duy (center) liked interacting with the volunteers who built their home alongside them.

What you can do

You can help Vietnamese families improve their living conditions by taking one or more of the following actions:

DONATE

USD \$: [habitat.org/donate/vietnam](https://www.habitat.org/donate/vietnam)

VOLUNTEER

Join one of the scheduled Global Village trips to Vietnam or lead your own. For more information go to: [habitat.org/gv](https://www.habitat.org/gv)

TITHE

Establish a strong and rewarding tithe partnership to help build houses globally! Quote **VIETNAM** on your checks sent to: Habitat for Humanity International, Attn: Affiliate Tithe, 121 Habitat St. Americus, GA 31709

To learn more about Habitat projects in Vietnam or in other parts of the region, please contact us.

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