Ethiopia

Habitat for Humanity in Ethiopia

Habitat for Humanity Ethiopia (HFHE) has been active since 1993. Since then it has helped thousands of families by building decent homes with improved water and sanitation facilities. HFHE runs a diverse, innovative program, tailored to meet the local housing need.

The housing need in Ethiopia

The vast majority of Ethiopians live in poorly built, dilapidated and cramped houses which lack even the basic facilities, such as toilets. Only 30 percent of the current housing stock in country is in a fair condition, with the remaining 70 percent in need of total replacement. Countrywide access to safe drinking water is 49 percent countrywide and only 20.7 percent of the population has access to adequate sanitation (UNICEF, 2011).

In the capital Addis Ababa, 80 percent of the houses are in poor condition and below standard. Houses in slum areas are old and dilapidated and too narrow to accommodate families, where the health and dignity of families is compromised. Most families who live in dilapidated homes in slum areas share toilets that are also in very poor conditions. 24 percent of the households do not have any form of toilet facility and 63 percent use shared pit latrines. 25 percent of the solid waste generated from the city is left unattended. Poor families do not have toilets at all or use too bad toilets that are nearly abandoned.

How Habitat addresses the need in Ethiopia

HFH Ethiopia’s work focuses on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) interventions, urban slum upgrading, assisting vulnerable groups with house construction and renovation and tenure security, and on researching and defining possibilities of working in partnership to achieve sectorial and societal impact. HFHE promotes and engages volunteers to advance its work by establishing long-term and project-based partnership with Habitat’s volunteer sending programs.

Country profile

COUNTRY FACTS*

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Capital</th>
<th>Addis Ababa</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Main country facts</td>
<td>Most populous landlock country in the world</td>
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<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>99.4 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Urbanization</td>
<td>19.5 percent live in cities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Life expectancy</td>
<td>61.5 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unemployment rate</td>
<td>17.5 percent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Population living below poverty line</td>
<td>39 percent</td>
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</tbody>
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*Sources: CIA World Factbook, World Bank, UN

HABITAT FACTS

When Habitat started in Ethiopia
1993

Families served
More than 16,000

Volunteers hosted
More than 1,690

Housing solutions
Water and sanitation; renovations of dilapidated homes, walkways and ditches; solid waste management in slum areas; vulnerable groups housing /new construction and renovation
Meet a Habitat family

Anisa Mohamed lives in Bisidimo town in eastern Ethiopia. As symptoms of leprosy appeared on her skin, Anisa left her family in fear of discrimination from the community. She was only 10 years old when she came to the town. She used to live in an old shack with her three children. The chika (mud) wall was cracked and the roof was poorly covered with grass. The family was exposed to rain and wind. There was no separate kitchen and Anisa used to cook in the same shack with the risk of fire catching to the walls covered with grass. As the floor was full of dust, their health was compromised. “My fear was that the house might collapse while we were asleep,” Anisa said.

Anisa is among families for whom vulnerable housing project is carried by HFH Ethiopia. Her new house is completed in the first phase of the project and she moved to new home five months ago with her children. “My children and I feel as we start in new world, start new life and my fear is gone,” Anisa said. Now they have two large clean rooms, kitchen and a toilet.

What you can do

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

DONATE
Go to habitat.org/donate and designate your gift to Habitat Ethiopia.

VOLUNTEER
Join one of the scheduled Global Village trips to Ethiopia or lead your own. For more information go to: habitat.org/gv

TITHE
Establish a strong and rewarding tithe partnership to help build houses globally! Quote 862700, ETHIOPIA 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 Ethiopia, please contact us.

CONTACT
Habitat for Humanity Ethiopia
dmeskel@habitatenhnia.org
info@habitatethiopia.org
www.habitatenhnia.org

Connor Hanan, Associate Director of Programs, Habitat for Humanity Europe, Middle East and Africa
chanan@habitat.org