



Global Foundations, Organizations and Institutions

Global capacity overview



Who we are

Habitat for Humanity International is an acclaimed global development organization that partners with a full range of stakeholders in more than 70 countries. We work with local communities, regional and national governments, peer organizations, and the private sector to remove the systemic barriers preventing low-income and historically underserved families from accessing adequate, affordable shelter. Our integrated, multisector approach provides appropriate solutions for more than 5 million people a year in urban, peri-urban and rural areas around the world through a strategic focus on land tenure security; water, sanitation and hygiene; energy efficiency; private-sector engagement and market systems development; and disaster risk reduction and response.

Habitat for Humanity International's evidence-driven, results-based and people-centered interventions are defined by community strengths, needs and goals. Our partnerships support sustainable change so that people can thrive and live with dignity, security and resilience. Habitat places great emphasis on analyzing the social, technological and economic impact and outcomes of each project through risk mapping, with a special focus on vulnerable groups such as orphans, female-headed households and people with disabilities. We employ a robust monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning system, or MEAL, that has been set up to continually track, modify and refine approaches. This commitment to MEAL is a hallmark of all our programs worldwide.

Habitat advocates for policies that bring adequate housing within reach for the estimated 1.6 billion people who currently lack decent shelter globally, and we help

make housing market systems more responsive to their needs. Research tells us that safe, adequate and affordable housing leads to gains in health, education and economic opportunity. This promotes broader reductions in inequality while building resilience against disasters and economic crises. A driver or catalyst for 13 of the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals, housing will be particularly important in a post-pandemic world as an essential component of any comprehensive approach to recovery and development.

Habitat works through established country or regional offices in Latin America and the Caribbean; Asia and the Pacific; and Europe, the Middle East and Africa. These offices provide an ongoing local presence and context to support our operations in more than 70 countries as part of their Journey to Self-Reliance. We also have hubs that multiply our impact through regionally centralized programmatic support, including the East Africa hub in Nairobi, Kenya, and the Mekong hub in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Habitat's work around the world is supported by hundreds of key partners, including the U.S. Agency for International Development, the U.S. Foreign Development Finance Corporation, the European Union, the World Bank, UN-HABITAT, the Asian Development Bank, the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Korean International Cooperation Agency, the OPEC Fund for International Development, and the Swiss Capacity Building Facility.



“A home is instrumental in breaking the shackles of poverty from one generation to the next.”

– Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu



LAND TENURE SECURITY

Lack of secure land tenure deprives people of the most basic physical, economic and psychological security that comes with adequate, stable shelter. Families without proof of land ownership face challenges accessing formal financial services and are often at risk of forced eviction. When families perceive their tenure to be secure, they are more likely to invest in their homes and neighborhoods. Better building materials and services act as a springboard to greater development and resiliency, reducing vulnerability to economic, environmental and societal shocks.

Recognizing the importance of land in creating decent and affordable housing, Habitat's four-year Solid Ground campaign, supported by a range of bilateral, multilateral, professional foundation, corporate and individual donors, influenced policies and systems to increase access to land for shelter from 2016 to 2020. The campaign provided resources and tools to Habitat organizations and partners in 40 countries, supporting their advocacy efforts to address the unique barriers to land for housing in their communities by focusing on four policy areas: secure tenure, gender equality, disaster resilience and slum upgrading. As a result, more than 12.4 million people have gained improved access to safe and secure land through policy and system changes.

Through the campaign, Habitat engaged Honduran civil society and local governments that formed a diverse commission to review existing policies; develop recommendations; and ensure approval, implementation and evaluation of land policies. More than 200 of Honduras' 298 municipalities passed housing policies because of Habitat's work to engage stakeholders in local communities through advocacy. In Zambia, Habitat is training resident advocates in building relationships with municipal officials, producing intermediary systems to issue land documents. To date, more than 15,000 people have received government-issued land record cards as a result.

Habitat is also partnering with USAID on the four-year Leveraging Land in Haiti project, collaborating with the Haitian government and communities of Santo, Derac and Canaan to improve economic growth by promoting property rights. The goal is to help 12,000 families achieve land tenure security by having land parcels officially recorded with local administration systems and promoting land-based revenue. By the end of the project's second year, more than 20,000 land records had been uploaded to official systems and Habitat had started collecting drone imagery that will complement the government's land records. The project had reached more than 6,600 people, some through trainings in land tenure rights.



WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

Habitat implements WASH interventions in 25 countries across Asia, sub-Saharan Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean. These regions are home to most of the more than 2 billion people around the world who lack access to safe water or sanitation. Habitat's unique position as a housing-focused organization allows us to deliver inclusive WASH interventions that are customized, affordable, sustainable and integrated into the overall housing and urban ecosystems. Our WASH programs flow from community-driven processes. They include information and knowledge management opportunities, employ contextually appropriate technologies, and engage in responsible natural resources management and governance. The Habitat network has built partnerships with donors such as KOICA, DFAT, OFID, Irish Aid and other private foundations to implement WASH programs around the world.

While conventional WASH programs focus on interventions outside of homes, Habitat's housing expertise give us the ability to implement improvements inside homes. This further prevents the spread of infection and enhances health conditions within family units. This approach is critical to ensuring that WASH facilities and technological solutions are reliable in providing needed services, affordability, and easy maintenance, with minimal external assistance. Habitat builds local capacity, linking community-based organizations to government authorities and supply chain outlets to ensure continuous use of WASH services.

Never has this work been more important than during the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic, when Habitat:

- **Established hand-washing stations** in the slums of Ethiopia with funding from KOICA, providing training and awareness through text messaging, radio programs and posters to enhance hygiene practices in five major cities, reaching approximately 200,000 individuals. Before COVID-19, we had been working with marginalized communities, especially in the drier regions, to improve access to safe drinking water and sanitation services for 37,500 drought-affected people.
- **Partnered with 29 government departments** across India to reach more than 800,000 people through the distribution of hygiene kits, public information campaigns on hygiene practices, and a mobile housing support unit that goes directly to the doorsteps of marginalized families to provide assistance with architectural plans and bills of estimation for construction materials.
- **Installed 310 hand-washing stations** at strategic points across 13 states in Brazil, increasing daily access to soap and clean water for 90,000 people. Habitat Brazil also led a coalition of over 26 partners to advocate alongside vulnerable families who could not afford to pay their water and sanitation bills. This led the government to intervene and ensure continuous delivery of those services during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Worked with community leaders** in the informal settlements of Lusaka, Zambia, to install 28 water kiosks that will be managed by local residents who were trained to maintain the facilities and to ensure people wear masks and sanitize their hands before drawing water. The project, funded by Irish Aid, also supported awareness campaigns on adherence to the Ministry of Health's COVID-19 prevention guidelines, reaching more than 32,000 people.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Habitat works with partners around the globe to make homes more energy efficient, from large apartment complexes of Eastern Europe to the nearly 2,500 homes in Guatemala's Sacatepéquez province, where, in 2020, Habitat teamed up with homeowners to install smokeless stoves that reduced firewood use by 50% and helped reduce indoor air pollution and risks of respiratory disease.

Since 2012, Habitat has partnered with USAID on the groundbreaking Residential Energy Efficiency in Low-Income Households (REELIH) program in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, helping communities overcome the legacy of poorly built, energy-inefficient apartment buildings whose enormous heating bills have caught up families in a cycle of poverty.

In Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Macedonia, we have reduced energy costs while enhancing social cohesion and health for more than 3,800 individuals. Retrofitting housing units cut energy bills for low-income homeowners by up to 50%, helping reduce poverty, even in the face of rising energy costs. Local partners in Armenia and Bosnia and Herzegovina have led the project on the ground, adapting elements to fit within the administrative, financial, political and economic contexts of those countries.

The project also supports residents of multiapartment blocks in mobilizing as homeowner associations that collectively manage buildings and gain access to technical expertise for making buildings more energy efficient. Mediation between residents and the public and private sectors has helped the associations gain enough credibility to qualify for bank loans and local government subsidies. Habitat also has advocated for regulatory changes to scale up commercial financing for

these homeowner associations and promoted the EU policies that encourage the renovation of privately owned apartment buildings in Central and Eastern Europe.

USAID and Habitat have demonstrated the value of public and private investment in residential energy efficiency, helping create an investment market for retrofitting, securing the financial and political support of governments, and placing increased focus on improving existing buildings.





PRIVATE-SECTOR ENGAGEMENT AND MARKET SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT

Because low-income families are underserved by formal housing markets, they tend to build in stops and starts, often with limited access to sound construction advice and quality, eco-friendly materials. These incremental builders form a large but invisible segment of the housing market. Addressing their needs and the global shortage in decent shelter requires new ideas and radical changes in markets.

Habitat's Terwilliger Center for Innovation in Shelter applies market systems development approaches to help fill the void in affordable and quality housing. The Terwilliger Center works with the private sector to pilot new products and approaches related to housing finance, construction materials, services and practices. Then we help scale the best of those innovations. In 2020, we co-developed a Housing Market Systems Change Wheel, modeled after a similar tool USAID created for agricultural market systems, to explore the possible pathways that a housing market system may take as it strengthens. Our programs consider the patterns of behavior that drive the market system as well as the reinforcing and counterbalancing forces that support the change process.

The pioneering initiatives of Habitat's Terwilliger Center for Innovation in Shelter include:

- **Shelter Venture Labs**, which focus on applying MSD approaches to generate breakthrough solutions, expanding the supply of decent, affordable housing in India, Peru, Mexico, Kenya and the Philippines. The labs support lead firms to take existing products and services down market for incremental builders and construction service providers such as artisans and masons.
- **The MicroBuild Fund**, Habitat's housing-focused microfinance investment vehicle dedicated to helping low-income families, reached its eighth year in 2020, having disbursed US\$136.9 million to 55 microfinance institutions across 32 countries.
- **The Shelter Venture Fund and ShelterTech** launched in 2017 to nurture and scale innovation in the housing space. ShelterTech includes accelerators in Mexico, Kenya, India and, as of 2020, an additional 13 countries in Southeast Asia and the Andean region of South America. Through these programs, the Terwilliger Center supports shelter startups and scale-ups – from entrepreneurs making 3-D printed homes to those designing apps for managing the construction process – with the business model improvements and mentoring they need to thrive.

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND RESPONSE

From 2014 to 2020, Habitat helped families across 52 countries recover from disasters by building 96,000 new homes; improving more than 190,000 damaged homes through repairs, rehabilitation and incremental building; and providing training, mitigation and other services to more than 643,000 people.

Habitat's Pathways to Permanence approach reduces the vulnerability of disaster-affected families using a holistic program that helps them get on a path to durable, permanent shelter solutions – an issue of particular importance given the tendency for affected families with

shelter needs to engage in self-recovery and owner-driven reconstruction after disasters. This happens through incremental stages such as erecting an emergency shelter, accessing or affirming land rights, improving a transitional shelter solution, defining next steps for a disaster-damaged home, or expanding a new core house solution.

Pathways to Permanence focuses on the process of sheltering and risk reduction and on the products that may support it. Effective shelter assistance and programs build on those efforts. Our goal is to restore physical structures and social, economic, natural and cultural environments. Shelter assistance serves as a platform for health, water,

sanitation, livelihoods protection, education and other post-disaster interventions. Examples of our recent disaster work include:

- Supporting more than 5,700 people recovering from a deadly earthquake in Mexico in 2017. We partnered with families in 26 communities across five states – Mexico City, Morelos, Puebla, Oaxaca and Chiapas – to build more than 1,432 disaster-resilient homes and rebuild two public markets that host 800 commercial stands.
- Habitat led an urban shelter and community stabilization project in Lebanon to improve the living conditions for Syrian and Palestinian refugees, along with low-income families in Lebanese host communities. This intervention supported shelter rehabilitation and weatherproofing while also upgrading water, sanitation and hygiene facilities for 7,500 individuals. In the wake of the deadly 2020 explosion in Beirut, Habitat also prioritized vulnerable families, teaming up with Catholic Relief Services to provide financial and technical assistance to local nonprofits focused on shelter rehabilitation.
- Habitat partnered with USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance on a neighborhood-based approach to urban disaster risk reduction in three communities in Jamaica, reaching 10,200 people. The Building Resilience and Capacities for Emerging Disasters (BRACED) project increased structural resilience and decreased vulnerability to hazards

through community-based redevelopment and reduced risk to urban water and sanitation assets, while reinforcing community coalitions and risk reduction through public-private partnerships. A second phase of the project focused on land tenure regularization, supporting community-based neighborhood planning and increased awareness of household tenure status, including the tenure formalization process. The final phase supported a state-level formal land regularization process that is proactive, transparent, gender sensitive and adaptable to local context.



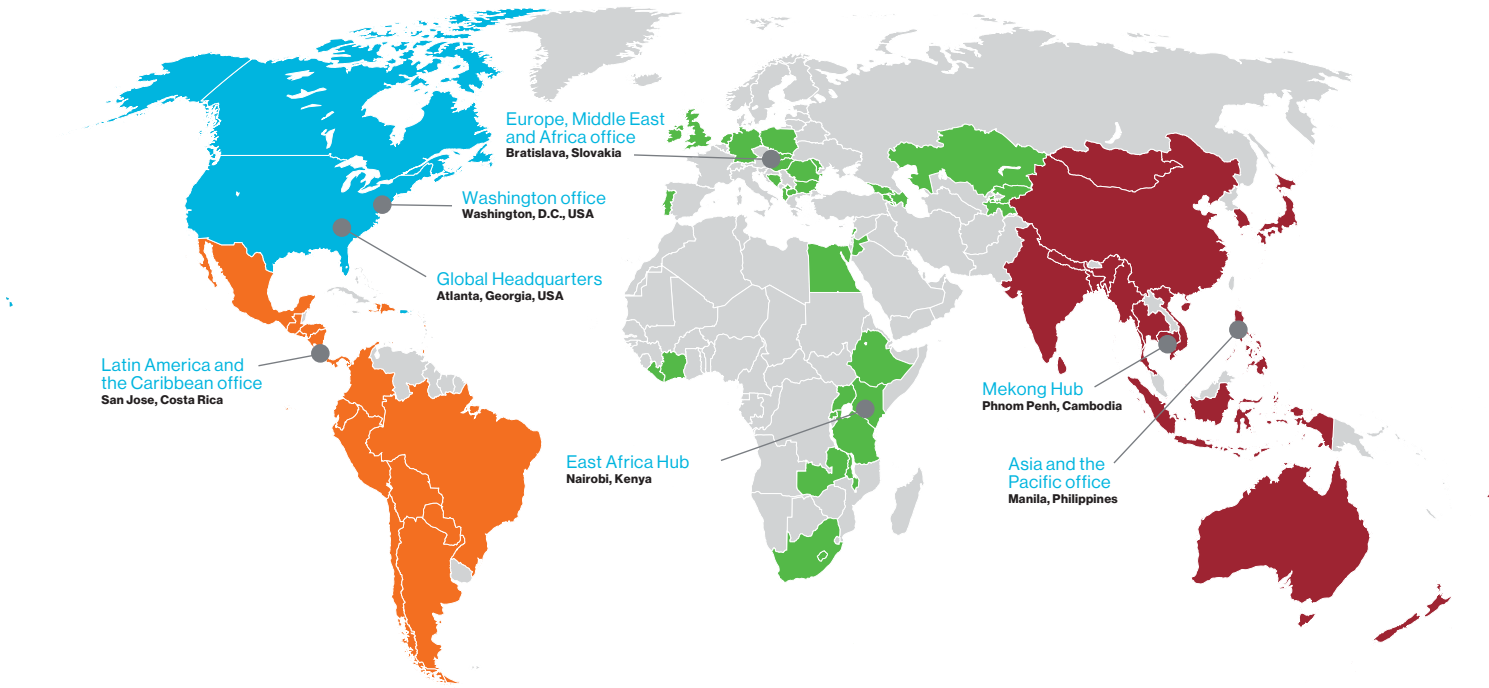
Partnerships: Essential to Habitat's success

Whether implementing programs, advocacy campaigns or an emergency response, Habitat is committed to engaging a wide range of partners to ensure contextually appropriate, community-driven and lasting results.

In helping launch Stand For Her Land, a collaborative effort to strengthen land rights for women, we partnered with the World Bank, the Huairou Commission, the Global Land Tool Network of UN-HABITAT, Landesa, the International Land Coalition, and the Rights and Resources Initiative.

From 2017 to 2020, with support from the EU, we teamed up with 14 partners across seven countries to educate 17.5 million Europeans about global development needs, housing and land rights. And when India's pandemic lockdown prompted millions of migrant workers to walk thousands of kilometers to reach home, we partnered with the Indian government, conducted a rapid assessment, and presented the findings to officials developing the country's COVID-19 action plan for migrant workers.

Locations of major Habitat for Humanity offices worldwide



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