



## Country profile

# Bangladesh

### The housing need in Bangladesh

While Bangladesh has made remarkable progress in poverty reduction, one in four persons are still living in poverty, according to the World Bank group. The capital Dhaka is the most crowded city in the world with 41,000 people per square kilometer, based on a Demographic survey in 2019. People move to urban centers in search of work or after losing their homes and livelihoods following disasters fueled by climate change. UNICEF estimates there are 4 million slum dwellers in Dhaka. Three in four slum households live in one room, mostly in dwellings made of poor quality construction materials. They often lack access to clean water, safe sanitation and waste management. Slum dwellers face eviction threats as well as natural disaster risks from living in low-lying areas.

#### HABITAT FACTS:

- Habitat started in Bangladesh in 1999
- **Individuals served in FY2019 – 10,590**
  - Through new construction – 1,605
  - Through incremental building – 7,720
  - Through repairs – 1,180
  - Through market development – 85
- **Volunteers hosted in FY2019 – 456**
- **Total tithe received in FY2020 – \$246,558**
- **Number of U.S. tithe supporters – 17**



#### COUNTRY FACTS:

**Capital city – Dhaka**  
**Population – 162.7 million**  
**Life expectancy – 72 years**  
**Unemployment rate – 4.2%**  
**Below poverty line – 24.3%**

# How Habitat addresses the need

## **Decent, affordable housing**

Future homeowners build core houses comprising one room, a toilet and a veranda with the option of expanding their living space in future. Habitat Bangladesh provides technical support to families and training to construction workers in building or renovating homes.

## **Disaster response and mitigation**

Habitat helps disaster-affected families through the distribution of emergency shelter kits and transitional housing in the initial phase and provides technical support when reconstruction takes place. Since 2007, Habitat has enabled more than 5,000 families to rebuild their homes and lives and to better prepare for future disasters.

## **Urban development and advocacy**

With funding from the Australian government, Habitat had improved the lives of about 9,000 slum dwellers in Dhaka city in its first urban project that began in 2012. Habitat Bangladesh also engages multi-sector partners through urban forums and dialogues organized since 2014. In April 2019, Habitat Bangladesh and other members of a multi-sector steering committee launched the Bangladesh Housing Forum — a collaboration platform for local housing stakeholders — at a national seminar in Dhaka. The committee also issued a seven-point declaration to address housing and land issues in Bangladesh.

## **Volunteer engagement**

While Habitat Bangladesh is currently not hosting Global Village builds, local volunteers continue to lend their support. Through the annual Habitat Young Leaders Build, young people raise awareness and funds and speak up for housing needs. A total of 456 individuals put in almost 4,660 volunteer hours in the fiscal year ended June 30, 2019.

# What you can do

## **TITHE**

Habitat affiliates in the U.S. can establish a tithe partnership to serve families. Please mail a completed tithe coupon (available on MyHabitat) and payment to: Habitat for Humanity International, P.O. Box 6598, Americus, GA 31709-6598.

Learn more about Habitat Bangladesh on the tithe homepage on MyHabitat or email us at [tithe@habitat.org](mailto:tithe@habitat.org).

## **CONTACT**

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