



Country profile

Bangladesh

The housing need in Bangladesh

Due to the economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic, Bangladesh's poverty rate has increased from 21.6% in 2018 to 42% in 2020, [a survey](#) by Dhaka-based South Asian Network on Economic Modeling revealed. According to government estimates in 2018, at least 1,418 people were being added to the population of Dhaka every day. 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, often lacking access to clean water, safe sanitation and waste management. Slum dwellers also face eviction threats as well as disaster risks from living in low-lying areas.



HABITAT FACTS:

- Habitat started in Bangladesh in 1999
- **Households served in FY2020 – 4,910**
 - Through new construction – 435
 - Through incremental building – 4,155
 - Through repairs – 320
- **Volunteers engaged in FY2020 – 271**

COUNTRY FACTS:

Capital city – Dhaka
Population – 166 million
Life expectancy – 72 years
Unemployment rate – 4.15%
Below poverty line – 21.8%

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 the 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 6,000 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 10,000 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

There are currently no scheduled Global Village builds as Habitat prioritizes the health and safety of our staff, volunteers, partners and the people we serve amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Local volunteers continue to lend their support through the annual Habitat Young Leaders Build by raising awareness and funds and speaking up for housing needs.

What you can do

TITHE

Habitat affiliates in the United States can designate their tithe. One hundred percent of tithe is sent internationally. 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.

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