



homes communities hope + you



With 1.6 billion people around the world already living without adequate shelter, the COVID-19 pandemic is threatening to turn a crisis into a catastrophe. Not just a housing catastrophe – but a public health catastrophe and an economic catastrophe, too.

In this time of “shelter in place” orders, when the home serves as the front line of defense against the virus, Habitat for Humanity needs your help to prevent millions of additional people from falling into substandard living conditions that make them more vulnerable to the virus and their local economies more vulnerable to collapse.

Already COVID-19 has pushed Africa to the brink of its first recession in 25 years, sucked critical capital out of the emerging markets from Asia to Latin America, and sent unemployment skyrocketing to levels not seen in many places since the Great Depression. But with your help we can create not only more of the healthy homes that help stop the spread of the virus today but also healthier housing markets that can lead the way to a sustainable recovery tomorrow. We’re prioritizing residents of dense informal settlements with little infrastructure, low-income families, and vulnerable people who wake up each day fearing they might lose their home.

The uncertainty so many of us feel today, these families have felt for a lifetime – if not generations. As the economic shocks from this crisis ripple out, these same families will be hit the hardest. They always are. For more than 40 years, Habitat has partnered with families to build homes, communities and hope. We have connected people, we have helped our neighbors, and we have always been there alongside families as they fight back from adversity. We work in more than 70 countries around the world to advocate for those among us who simply need a hand up, but we cannot do our work without your help.

We are needed now more than ever. And now more than ever, we need you.

Our Homes, Communities, Hope + You global campaign will be anchored by four areas: healthy homes; access to secure shelter; housing market and economic recovery; and advocacy for adequate, affordable housing. Through these categories, we can tailor a plan that complements your philanthropic strategy and drives your vision of what you are looking to achieve through your support.

Now more than ever, we need you. [habitat.org](https://www.habitat.org)

Healthy homes

Habitat responded to the crisis immediately by donating more than 360,000 pieces of personal protective equipment normally used on our build sites, from P-95 respirators and face masks to Tyvek suits and safety goggles. Front-line health workers are safer as a result. Now Habitat's efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19 are focused on vulnerable and disaster-prone communities, including slums and informal settlements. We're improving housing conditions, increasing access to handwashing stations and combining home hygiene kits with public awareness campaigns. We plan to expand overcrowded homes, improve ventilation and upgrade flooring. Habitat also will continue to supply protective equipment and raise awareness of how COVID-19 spreads among construction laborers and other essential workers.

Access to secure shelter

Habitat will provide financial assistance for renters facing eviction, loan forbearance for families who have partnered with us to secure decent housing, and support for landlords who rehabilitate or develop crucial rental housing options.

Our plans also include creating temporary housing options for the most vulnerable around the globe, including people living in severely overcrowded homes, front-line health workers, survivors of domestic abuse, and those families who need to separate infected family members from non-infected ones to reduce transmission of the virus.

Housing market and economic recovery

More than \$83 billion has been removed from emerging markets since the crisis began, and 80 countries have requested help from the International Monetary Fund. Commodity exports, tourism and remittances have all plummeted in many developing economies, while access

to international financial markets has been cut off as investors rush to the safety of wealthy countries. Using our deep expertise in reshaping housing markets to better support low-income families, Habitat will work to ensure these households have access to the materials, financial services and construction labor needed for safer and healthier housing. We will help rehabilitate market supply chains and labor markets in order to facilitate rapid recovery of products, services and materials used by households who are able to create healthy homes.

Through Habitat's \$100 million MicroBuild Fund, we will seek relief for our partner housing lenders where needed locally. Habitat's ShelterTech Accelerators, meanwhile, will drive innovative housing approaches and technologies adapted for a COVID-19 reality.

We know that housing markets can lead economies down the road to recovery. So Habitat will remain committed to using local markets to source materials and services for Habitat builds. We'll generate quality jobs locally through safe construction projects. And Habitat will support development of affordable rental stock in urban communities.

Advocacy for adequate, affordable housing

For people without a secure place to call home, it's extremely difficult to self-quarantine or wash hands regularly. Habitat continues to urge governments of all levels to protect housing as the first line of defense against COVID-19 and as an essential part of any economic recovery. Habitat's global network is using its voice to highlight their governments' responsibility to ensure decent housing, secure the sustainability of housing construction markets and address the specific needs of informal settlements in fighting this pandemic.

Now more than ever

Now is the time to get involved. Now is the time to lead and chart the path forward. As communities start to emerge from the crisis, we will work together to change the global narrative from a feeling of helplessness to hope. From fear to courage. And from sitting and waiting in isolation to taking bold action and casting a vision for a brighter future.

The timeline for the recovery process coming out of the pandemic is unknown, but we do know that struggling families need Habitat's help now more than ever. We invite you to join us.

We look forward to partnering on this journey with you, and we invite you to join Habitat in what we do best: building strength, stability and hopeful futures.



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