

Country profile: ZAMBIA



Country facts

Capital:
Lusaka

Main country facts:
Despite large copper reserves the country remains poor with a big HIV/AIDS problem

Population:
11,863,000

AIDS Orphans:
600,000

Life expectancy:
45 years

HIV prevalence:
15.2 percent

Population living below \$2/day:
82 percent

Habitat facts

When the program started:
1984

Highlights:
Vulnerable Group Housing

Families served to June 2010:
2250

Housing solutions:
New houses
Renovations and repairs
Orphans and Vulnerable Children

Website:
www.habitatzam.org.zm

Video:
[HFH Zambia on YouTube](#)

The housing need in Zambia

In the late 1960s, Zambia was the third largest copper producer in the world. Its natural resources made it potentially one of the richest countries in Africa. In the early 1980s, the world price of copper plummeted, plunging Zambia into debt. Despite recent economic progress, Zambia remains one of the least developed nations in the world. Unemployment and poverty are widespread and 82% live on less than \$2 a day. Decent housing in urban areas remains unattainable and unaffordable for most people and slums abound.

Most struggle to afford the frequent necessary repairs to their mud, wattle and grass thatch roof homes. Cracked and broken walls invite rain and rodents into houses, which in turn pose serious health risks. Families are crowded into a single room, which usually also serve as a kitchen. Children are exposed daily to life-threatening environments.

Habitat for Humanity in Zambia

Habitat for Humanity Zambia opened its doors in 1984, when it started building houses for fishing families on Kabuyu Island. Since then HFH Zambia has expanded into six of the country's nine provinces, and has also facilitated multiple development initiatives. Habitat for Humanity Zambia builds in both rural and peri-urban areas. The average house size is 35 sq. meters (approximately 300 sq. ft).

On Habitat's conventional building program, HFH Zambia focuses on building the capacity of communities that have demonstrated a need to better their housing conditions. This model encompasses full new houses, renovations and rehabilitations. The homeowners contribute sweat equity and building materials in order to reduce the loan amount. Social cohesion is promoted through the affiliate program. Most of the program's houses are built using burnt bricks and corrugated iron roofing sheets. The houses are simple but high quality, with separate sleeping, cooking and living areas. The design is such that homeowners have the option of extending the house in the future.

In addition to its conventional building program, under the Vulnerable Group Housing (VGH) program HFH Zambia provides appropriate, subsidized housing solutions to vulnerable groups in Zambia and it specifically concentrates on orphaned and vulnerable children (OVC) and their caregivers. Children in Zambia are one of the groups at greatest risk to contract HIV. Their vulnerability as children puts them at a greater risk of abuse, especially sexual abuse. Statistics show that more than 1 in every 7 adults is living with HIV, which has resulted in about 600,000 children being orphaned due to AIDS.

Project Highlights in Zambia

- 2006: HFHZ has partnered with Opportunity International to work for OVCs with funding from USAID as part of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).
- 2010: March saw the launch of the Women Build project which specifically fundraises towards the target of building 80 houses for OVCs between July 2010 and June 2011. The project received the support of the First Republican President of Zambia, Dr. Kenneth Kaunda, the First Lady, Mrs. Thandiwe Banda as well as various other high-profile women in Zambia. The Irish Ambassador to Zambia, Mr. Tony Cotter, also supported the project and was one of the speakers at the launch event in March.
- 2010: 155 OVC homes have been built and 122 renovated with funding from Irish Aid.

Meet a Habitat family

These are the Phiri children: Dorcas, Racheal, Matthew and Stella. Habitat worked with them as part of the OVC Program. They were living in a makeshift shelter in Chazanga Compound on the outskirts of Lusaka, Zambia. They relocated to Chazanga after the house they were living in was demolished in 2003 due to a land dispute in Ngombe Compound. Their father Matthew died in 2003 and in 2007 their mother disappeared after going to look for food. The tent that they lived in was unsafe and thieves often tried to get in.

Their new house is near a Habitat for Humanity Affiliate called Tiyende Pamodzi. Dorcas, the eldest at 20 years, says *'Now I have a home, and they can't cut through the wall of our home. Now I am strong!'*



What you can do

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TITHE

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VOLUNTEER

Download [Building Connections](http://www.habitat.org/intl/pdf/Zambia_pdf.pdf) at www.habitat.org/intl/pdf/Zambia_pdf.pdf to learn more about the Global Village program in Zambia.

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**Habitat for Humanity
Africa and Middle East**
E-mail: ame@habitat.org
www.habitat.org/ame

Habitat for Humanity International is a global charity dedicated to eliminating poverty housing. Since its foundation in 1976, Habitat has built and renovated in partnership with more than 400,000 families, providing decent, affordable shelter for more than 2 million people

In Africa and the Middle East (AME), Habitat for Humanity is building homes in 18 countries. By working in partnership with families to provide safe affordable shelter, Habitat empowers them to break the cycle of poverty and build the foundation for a secure future. In this region, Habitat has served more than 75,000 families together with volunteers and homeowners. Find out more at www.habitat.org/ame