

Country profile: NETHERLANDS



Country facts

Capital:
Amsterdam
Population:
more than 16.7 million
Urbanization:
82 percent live in the cities
GDP per capita:
\$39,500

Habitat facts

Established:
1993
Funds raised since 2007:
more than \$6.3 million
Number of volunteer teams sent:
more than 150
Focus activities:
Fundraising, supporting disaster response projects, sending volunteer teams

Habitat for Humanity in the Netherlands

Habitat for Humanity Netherlands was founded in April 1993 with the primary goal of raising funds for Habitat for Humanity's projects globally and recruiting volunteers to build houses for people in need of decent housing worldwide. The national office is in Haarlem, an ancient city close to Amsterdam. Its board of directors consists of members from businesses, churches and the construction industry.

How Habitat for Humanity works in the Netherlands

Habitat for Humanity Netherlands raises funds for the organization worldwide. Supported countries and projects differ from year to year. Habitat Netherlands works with business corporations and companies to secure financial support for the projects and sends groups of volunteers to take part in the actual construction of homes alongside the future homeowners. It also partners with individual donors and development organizations.

Project support

In 2008, Habitat Netherlands started a long-term housing project with Habitat Ghana. The Dutch office has sent help to Haiti after the disastrous 2010 earthquake. It also supports several major projects in India, the Philippines and Mozambique. In Europe and Central Asia, it supports Roma projects in Slovakia, building programs in Romania and Hungary as well as the condominium project in Kyrgyzstan.

International volunteers

Habitat for Humanity Netherlands is successful in sending international volunteers on build trips through the Global Village program. Volunteer teams travel to Ghana, India, Lesotho, Malawi, the Philippines, Hungary, Romania and many other countries around the world. Global Village trips account for almost 32 percent of the fundraising revenue that goes to implement projects in these countries. Habitat Netherlands sends out up to 20 teams of 350 volunteers each year.

Disaster response projects

Habitat Netherlands coordinated a \$3 million project for emergency relief work in India, Indonesia and Sri Lanka after the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. After the Haiti earthquake in January 2010, Habitat for Humanity Netherlands secured, through a cooperation with Dutch aid organizations, a donation of \$2 million to support disaster response activities on the island.

Corporate partners

Habitat Netherlands is developing relations with corporate partners. These can be in the form of direct financial support or corporate volunteering. An important part of the success so far has been the so-called CEO Builds, when companies' leadership go to build homes. Habitat Netherlands has developed relations mainly with companies in the financial or construction businesses. They bring up to 30 percent of the funds for Habitat projects by taking corporate volunteering trips or making financial donations. By donating or volunteering with Habitat, Dutch companies help fulfill their social responsibilities.

Meet a Habitat family

Wantu Mlanjeni is a 49-year-old man married to Patricia Feziwe Ngqokomashe on customary law. The couple is raising four children: three boys and one girl. They have been staying in Mfuleni in South Africa for more than five years now. Before moving to Mfuleni, the family stayed in Khayelisha. Ngqokomashe is a housewife, and Mlanjeni is a contract worker in the construction industry. This family had never stayed in a decent house before; their new Habitat house is a dream come.



What did the volunteers say?

"The Global Village volunteering trip is a very impressive experience. You get to know a world which you normally only see on television. It is a great feeling to help the building!" said Casper Schonenberg, a former Global Village volunteer.

What you can do

DONATE

Visit www.habitat.nl or www.bouwmee.nl to send an online donation to families in need all around the world.

VOLUNTEER

Come build with Habitat and enjoy the experience of a lifetime. Contact bouwreizen@habitat.nl

PARTNER

If your corporation would like to support Habitat and partner with us, contact m.pronk@habitat.nl

LEARN MORE

Learn more about how Habitat for Humanity Netherlands addresses the need worldwide. Go to www.habitat.nl

Spread the word about Habitat! Share this material with your friends and potential supporters.

Habitat for Humanity Netherlands
E-mail: info@habitat.nl
www.habitat.nl

CONTACT US

Habitat for Humanity International is a global charity dedicated to eliminating poverty housing. Since its foundation in 1976, Habitat has built and renovated more than 350,000 houses worldwide, providing simple, decent, affordable shelter for 1.75 million people.

In Europe and Central Asia Habitat for Humanity International works with families in need in 20 countries, building and repairing houses, offering housing microfinance services, improving water and sanitation, working on disaster response and advocating for affordable housing. In this region, Habitat has served more than 10,000 families together with volunteers and homeowners. Find out more at www.habitateurope.org.