



Habitat for Humanity Vietnam

Global Vision

A world where everyone has a decent place to live

Background

Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI) is a nonprofit, nongovernmental, ecumenical Christian housing organisation currently working in over 90 countries. It seeks to eliminate inadequate housing and homelessness by making safe shelter a matter of conscience and action. To accomplish this vision, HFHI invites people of all backgrounds, races and religions to build houses together in partnership with households in need.

To date, HFHI has built, renovated or repaired over 400,000 houses around the world, providing more than 2 million people with safe, decent and affordable shelter.

Habitat for Humanity Vietnam (HFHV) is a part of HFHI and began operations in January 2001 in the city of Danang in the central coastal region of the country. HFHV currently has projects in Hai Duong, Thai Binh and Ha Tinh provinces in the north; Quang Nam province in the central region; and Dong Nai, Long An, Tien Giang and Kien Giang provinces in the south. HFHV has offices, known as Habitat Resource Centres, in Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, Quang Nam and Rach Gia.

Vietnam Vision

HFHV's vision is to become recognised throughout the country and beyond as an organisation that enables vulnerable households and individuals, who lack decent shelter and socioeconomic security, to obtain access to safe housing, and clean water supply and sanitation facilities.

Engaging the World

Mobilising volunteers from within Vietnam and around the world is a special feature of Habitat for Humanity's programme. This provides an effective platform for people to join with beneficiary home partners in addressing the issues resulting from inadequate shelter, as well as providing an avenue to develop and nurture relationships and understanding between people from diverse backgrounds and cultures.

Programme Approach

HFHV mobilises resources (construction materials, labour and financing) to build or repair houses with economically marginalised households who are willing to partner by physically participating in the construction and paying towards the cost, typically through a microfinance

mechanism. The microloan repayments go into a revolving fund from which additional beneficiary households can access financing to build or improve their home. Habitat Vietnam projects normally include a mix of new houses, renovations, repairs, and water and sanitation facilities, according to need.

HFHV provides capacity-building for its partners, from the local governments and households, to their communities and other stakeholders. This includes training and skills development in geographically and culturally appropriate, and environmentally sound construction; household maintenance techniques; household financial management; alongside clean water, sanitation and hygiene awareness and practice. Gender and environmental awareness are mainstreamed into all projects.

In addition, HFHV strives to develop and implement appropriate construction technology with low cost, environmentally sound, locally available and culturally appropriate materials for all housing, water and sanitation projects. In this, HFHV also incorporates disaster resilient construction features and sustainable approaches, such as wind-proofing roofs or using non-fired clay bricks.

Holistic Community Development

HFHV seeks to provide access to decent shelter through a holistic and transformational approach to community development by combining its expertise in housing, water, sanitation and volunteer mobilisation with the expertise offered by other international nongovernmental organisations (INGOs) and local nongovernmental organisations (NGOs). This may involve strategic partnerships with others to address issues such as livelihoods, education, health and anti-trafficking, etc., according to local community needs.

Disaster Response

In addition to responding to disasters with emergency shelter relief and recovery interventions, HFHV aims to integrate community-based disaster risk management, including climate change adaptation, into its projects.

Working with Government Partners

The Vietnam context is such that all INGOs must work with and through local government bodies. The main advantage of this requirement is that it promotes sustainability. HFHV's projects normally include capacity-building and training components for the local governmental partners. These government organisations can include the Vietnam Red Cross, local Women's Unions, local Fatherland Fronts, local Youth Unions and others. These governmental partners implement project activities together with HFHV and community members. When HFHV leaves the project area, the local government staff and community members continue the core oversight aspects of the project. This factor, combined with HFHV's emphasis on creating revolving microfinance funds across its operational locations, makes it possible for the programme to continue after the external funding investment is spent.