

Habitat for Humanity Strategic Plan 2024 – 27



Habitat
for Humanity®
Australia



our mission

At Habitat for Humanity Australia, we believe a decent home provides much more than bricks and mortar. It's the foundation for the future, giving families the opportunity to be healthier, happier and more secure, and leads to stronger communities that can grow and sustain themselves.

our vision

"A world where everyone has a safe and decent place to live."

about us

Habitat for Humanity Australia is part of Habitat for Humanity, an international not-for-profit which originated in Georgia, United States in 1976. Habitat for Humanity began as a grassroots effort driven by the vision of a world where everyone has a safe and decent place to live. The housing organisation has since grown to become a leading global non-profit working in more than 70 countries. Since then it has been our mission to build strength, stability, and self-reliance through shelter.

Worldwide, Habitat has helped more than 62 million people access safe and decent housing, along with access to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene and livelihood training to build better lives. Through financial support, volunteering or adding a voice to support affordable housing, everyone can help families build a better tomorrow, today.

Through shelter, we empower.

we believe it all starts at home

At Habitat for Humanity Australia, we believe a stable, secure home creates the foundation for change. A safe home gives people the opportunity to be healthier, happier and more secure, and for children to be better nourished and better educated. We believe building a decent home provides much more than bricks and mortar – it provides real hope for the future.

We address systemic inequalities so more people can access decent housing. Our projects directly link families and communities to financial support mechanisms, secure tenure and safe housing products and services, including access to basic services such as water, sanitation, waste management and electricity.



we not only build homes, we build communities.

We support the development of national housing markets, including finance, construction materials and labour, and advocating to governments for policy and system change which support communities to access decent housing at scale.

about us

how Habitat works to alleviate poverty



Habitat believes that new and improved homes are intricately tied to better opportunities for families. Children have quiet places to study. Families no longer face illnesses and disease brought on by unhealthy housing. Parents experience the financial freedom that comes from having an affordable place to live. These factors help break the cycle of generational poverty.

Habitat for Humanity knows that a decent, affordable place to live can create a situation where homeowners save more, invest in education, pursue opportunity and have more financial stability.

Living in a decent, affordable home they've helped build or improve means a homeowner is better positioned to have a healthier, more financially stable life, one with fewer barriers to health, safety and opportunity.



our footprint

We work in partnership with communities across the Asia-Pacific region, and the world, to **address housing poverty and to support integrated community development.**

Our international program is designed to address multi-dimensional aspects of poverty and recognises the key role adequate housing plays in **sustainable development.**





development approach

We work in partnership with communities across the Asia-Pacific region, and the world, to address housing poverty and to support integrated community development. Our international program is designed to address multi-dimensional aspects of poverty and recognises the key role adequate housing plays in sustainable development.

our development approach



building community impact

Directly linking families and communities to financial support mechanisms, secure tenure and safe housing products and services, including access to basic services such as water, sanitation, waste management and electricity.



building sector impact

Supporting the development of national housing markets, including finance, construction materials and labour, and advocating to governments for policy and system change which support communities to access decent housing at scale.

the need for decent housing

Access to safe, secure adequate housing is one of the most **basic human rights**.



Australia

Australia is experiencing a severe and worsening housing crisis, marked by deficits in available housing, high levels of unaffordability, poor tenure security for renters and poor quality of housing.

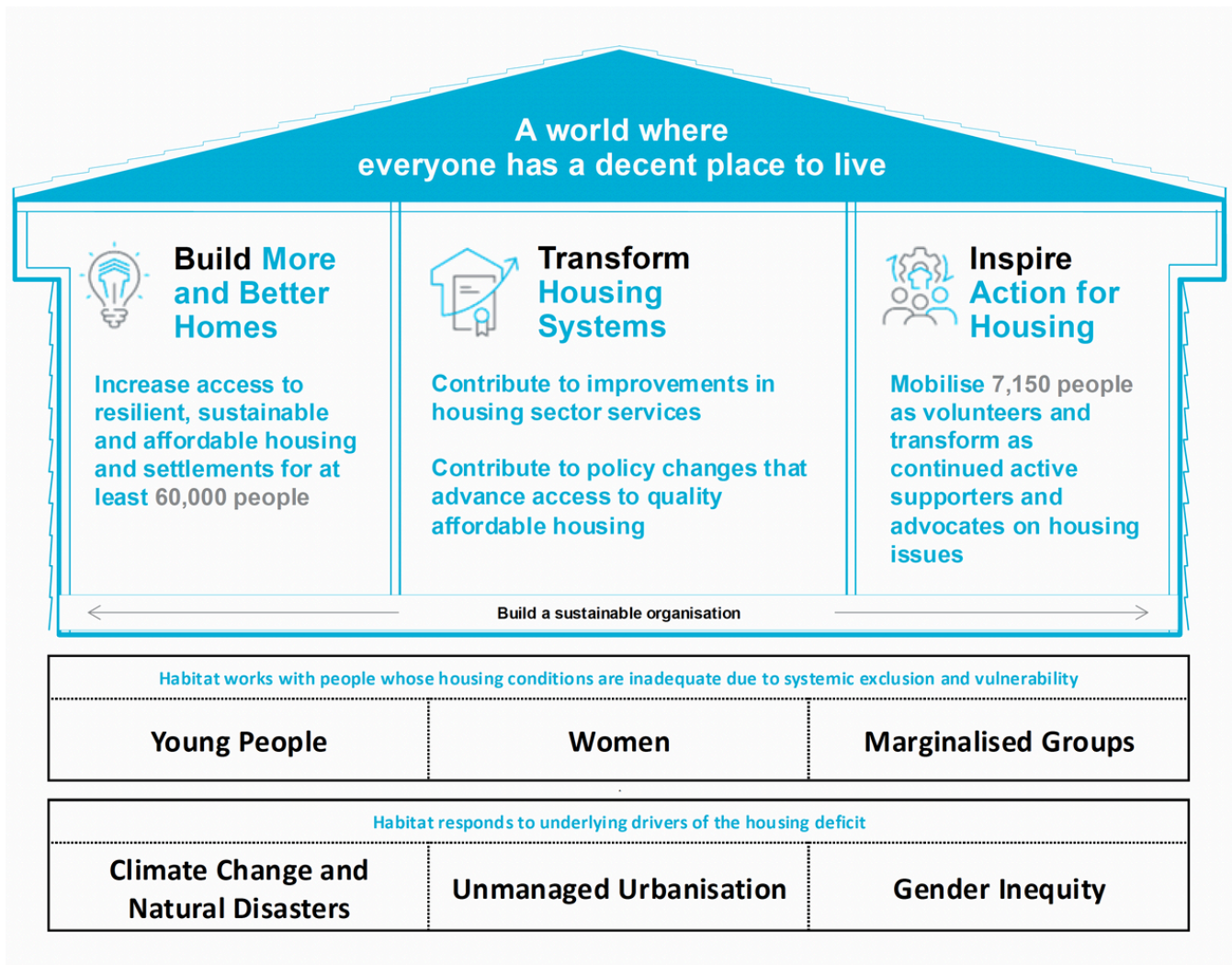
- House prices and rents are growing faster than wages, rental vacancies are near all-time lows, 169,000 households are on public housing waiting lists, 122,000 people are experiencing homelessness and projected housing supply is very low. ([State of the Housing System, 2024](#))
- >500,000 low-income households not in appropriate housing (2021)
- 1 in 4 Households experiencing housing stress (2024)

Asia Pacific

- Women face discrimination in many aspects of housing, land and property on the basis of their gender. This represents a key obstacle to the realisation of the right to adequate housing, as it often leads women to live in inadequate housing.
- Globally and regionally, disasters are occurring with greater frequency and greater severity. 225 million people in Asia and the Pacific were displaced by weather-related hazards from 2010-2021
- The Asia-Pacific region is home to the largest concentration of people experiencing urban poverty, with one third of urban dwellers living in slums or slum-like conditions.

strategic plan

The scale of the housing deficit in Australia and across Asia and the Pacific requires a radical change. It is no longer sufficient that we build alone, we must influence the systems that affect access to housing if we are to have meaningful impact.



Through this strategy, Habitat for Humanity Australia will grow our role as an enabler and collaborator of the housing sector to support the delivery of impactful housing solutions focused on increasing access to decent, secure, affordable and resilient housing for the most vulnerable.

We will increase our focus on advocacy and mobilise more volunteers and supporters to achieve greater impact.

We will develop key capabilities by strengthening systems and processes for volunteer management and impact measurement, further integrating climate change mitigation strategies and deepening our partnerships across the sector.

strategic plan

Over the next three years, Habitat for Humanity Australia aims to help 60,000 people by expanding access to secure, affordable homes, empowering vulnerable communities and inspiring action across Australia and the Asia-Pacific region.

International Programs

climate resilient communities

Habitat's participatory approach builds capacities of communities to respond to climate risks. This includes through construction of appropriate critical infrastructure from housing and toilets, to flood embankments and drainage; and influencing government priorities.

adequate housing in informal urban settlements

Habitat is advocating for greater recognition and support to improve dire living conditions through more inclusive and responsive government policies and strategies.

women empowered to lead change

Habitat recognises that gender disparities mean women are more vulnerable to the impacts of natural disasters and climate change. We work with local communities to empower women, increasing their voice in identifying problems, and prioritising and leading solutions that will benefit them.



Australian Programs

maintenance and repairs for more liveable homes and communities

Our Habitat Women Social Enterprise and volunteer Brush with Kindness program provide maintenance services that maximise the supply of decent housing for people at risk of homelessness. Habitat Women also provide training and employment opportunities for women in construction.

constructing new housing for the most vulnerable

Habitat partners with specialist housing providers to construct new domestic violence refuges and other specialist housing.

innovative solutions for affordable and secure housing

Habitat's meanwhile use housing program repurposes underutilised properties into crisis or temporary housing solutions, creating safe shelter for those who need it most. Our subsidised rental program provides affordable secure rental housing for women and their children escaping violence.

strategic plan

Empower 60,000 people by 2027.

We will achieve this by:



Partnering for Greater Impact

Partnership is essential to our vision. By working with community groups, government bodies, corporate partners, and supporters, we can reach more people and achieve greater impact. Through our Global Village volunteer-based program and other initiatives, we will engage communities in Australia and support critical housing solutions overseas. We're always looking for partners to join us—there's strength in numbers, and together we can drive real change.



Advocating for Systemic Change in Housing Policy

Real, lasting impact requires more than building homes—it calls for transforming policies and systems which can improve housing at scale. We are committed to advocating for policies that prioritise affordable, liveable housing in Australia and beyond. By engaging with government and private sectors, we aim to make housing a national priority, while also raising awareness globally.



Inspiring Community Action and Engagement

Our mission thrives on the dedication of volunteers and supporters. HFHA's new strategy includes a goal to mobilise over 7,000 volunteers through initiatives like Global Village and Brush with Kindness. Volunteers are part of a movement that changes lives, home by home, and community by community.



Building a Stronger Habitat for Humanity Australia for Sustainable Impact

Behind every home we build is a dedicated team focused on sustainable growth. Our strategy will strengthen our internal capacity, expand our funding sources, and foster an innovative culture, allowing us to maximise the impact of every donation, partnership, and volunteer hour. This foundation ensures that we can continue meeting the evolving needs of vulnerable communities.

address key SDG's

At Habitat, we are committed to achieving the following **UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)**.



Habitat also contributes to the following SDG's:



contact us

To learn more about partnering, donating,
volunteering or other ways you can support our work:

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