

ETHIOPIA

The vast majority of Ethiopians live in inadequate homes with 90 per cent of urban houses and almost all rural houses in poor condition. Furthermore, 60 per cent of the population lack access to adequate sanitation facilities. In Addis Ababa, the capital city of Ethiopia, 80 per cent of houses are in poor condition and below standard. Houses in slum areas are old, dilapidated, and too narrow to accommodate families, compromising their health and dignity. Most families who live in dilapidated houses in slum areas share toilets that are also in very poor condition. Only 18 per cent of households in Addis Ababa have access to sanitation facilities and 24 per cent of households do not have any form of toilet.

Habitat for Humanity and Christian Blind Mission

Habitat for Humanity and Christian Blind Mission (cbm) both have strong track records of development work in Ethiopia, improving the quality of living for families with no or low income. By coming together and improving access to decent housing and sanitation facilities, these two organizations are working to transform the living conditions of people who have disabilities or who are at risk of developing disabilities.

Project Context

The town of Fitche is located about 100 km north of Addis Ababa. Fitche does not have enough housing options for those in need and existing housing does not meet basic standards of safety. Exacerbating the housing issue in Fitche is a serious lack of sanitation, forcing families to use nearby open fields and causing long-term negative health implications. Complex social issues also make vulnerable families (female-headed homes, the elderly, those with disabilities) even more vulnerable due to a lack of community integration due to discrimination. The reality is that people in Fitche have no other option than to live in less than adequate homes. They do not have the financial means to improve their significantly sub-standard housing conditions and they have no other alternative housing options.



Country Facts

Capital	Addis Ababa
Population	102.3 million (July 2016 est.)
Urbanization	19.5% live in cities (2015)
Life expectancy	62.2 years (2016)
Unemployment rate	17.5% (2012)
Population living below the poverty line	29.6% (2014)
Access to improved water sources	57.3% (2015)
Access to improved sanitation facilities	28% (2015)

Source: World Factbook

Country Map



FITCHE INTEGRATED VULNERABLE GROUP HOUSING

In partnership with cbm, Habitat Canada and Habitat Ethiopia are working to transform the living conditions of people who have disabilities or who are at risk of developing disabilities by improving their access to decent housing and sanitation facilities. Addressing a key development need for adequate housing in the urban context of Ethiopia, the Fitch Integrated Vulnerable Group Housing Project will increase access to safe and decent shelter for vulnerable families using innovative approaches and best practices. The goal of this project is to improve the living standard of 40 vulnerable families by providing new homes and holistic support services. In addition, this project aims to create a healthy community by improving sanitation facilities at the community level and encouraging learning and knowledge transfer to become a model for future healthy, inclusive, and holistic housing programming in Ethiopia.

Project Objectives

1. Increase the living standard of vulnerable families
2. Create a healthy community through empowering the community members and housing beneficiaries to have healthy homes
3. Encourage learning and knowledge transfer at a community level, good governance, and an organizational level that will support the scaling up and replication of future pro-poor, inclusive and holistic housing programs

Project Impact

The financial matching commitment from cbm as well as the expertise that both organizations bring to this project will better serve the unique needs of this community. The Fitch Integrated Vulnerable Group Housing Project empowers vulnerable individuals, families, and communities with an integrated home design that focuses on accessibility and social inclusion. The home design process integrates traditional Ethiopian concepts of communal living that will reduce stigma of people with disabilities within the wider community, while increasing accessibility for those with limited access. The new home design, which include a kitchen and toilet, will also improve living conditions for families by taking into consideration modern realities of home life, such as improved kitchen facilities and separate livestock with animal pen areas.

This project also encourages learning and knowledge transfer through financial literacy training for improved livelihoods as well as engaging students from the Civil Service University to increase awareness of the state of low-cost housing and inclusive home design solutions. Habitat Ethiopia and cbm will work with the municipality in order to establish land tenure for families who previously lived in rented homes (either from the Ethiopian government, called 'kebeles' or private landlords), significantly enhancing family security. Lastly, the project will support families to build their own homes where possible, building a sense of pride and ownership, and enabling the acquisition of key construction and home maintenance skills necessary for homeownership.

Meet Emamu Teketel

Emamu Teketel (pictured right) is 15 years old and has a mobility-limiting disability. She was abandoned by her mother and now makes a small living by washing clothes. She lives with her brother in a government 'kebele' house that lacks kitchen and toilet facilities and are constantly faced with the threat of eviction as the home is in their mother's name.

In partnership with Habitat Ethiopia, Habitat Canada and cbm, this project in Fitch will provide Emamu and her brother with a new healthy, safe home that has dignified access to sanitation. Without the threat of eviction, this home will provide security and become an asset for future possibilities. When asked what she wants most in a home, Emamu stated that she dreams of a home that she can be proud of.

