

Habitat for Humanity



Project	Global Village – Building new homes
Location	Malawi – Area 27, Lilongwe
Dates	11 th – 19 th July 2026
Group size	12-15

Aim and Context of the Project

Habitat for Humanity believes that by connecting communities from around the world, moving closer to a world where everyone has a decent place to call home. To achieve this goal and vision, Habitat for Humanity has been operating a well-established volunteer programme called 'Global Village' which spans 40 countries. Through the Global Village programme, volunteers transform lives and communities by building and renovating homes overseas. The COVID-19 pandemic led Habitat for Humanity to suspend the Global Village programme. During this time, they reflected on the role of volunteering, and how local engagement, volunteering, and capacity could be harnessed to add value to Global Village as well as the wider volunteer programme of Habitat for Humanity.

The more than one billion people around the world living in informal settlements, such as slums or favelas, are not treated as equals – their homes often lack basic services, land tenure security. Home Equals is Habitat's global advocacy campaign, which aims to create lasting change so that people living in informal settlements have safe and secure homes. This project is part of the Home Equals programme and will contribute to global impact goals.

Project Details

Area 27 in Lilongwe is an informal settlement whose 6200 residents face persistent threats of eviction and a lack of basic services like water and electricity, alongside access to affordable housing, proper sanitation, and essential services, with many residents relying on piecework and small-scale businesses for income. Homes are small and overcrowded. As part of Habitat's Home Equals Campaign, Habitat Malawi is upgrading informal settlements to improve land access and affordable housing. However, some vulnerable households face barriers to reconstruction costs. To address this, Habitat Malawi's Vulnerable Group Housing Project, supported by Global Village volunteers, is building safe, decent homes for those most in need. Volunteers may have the chance to travel to Dedza, 1.5hrs from Lilongwe, on one of the designated days to learn more about the Circles of Care project as a social learning exchange activity. During their visit, they will have the chance to see firsthand the impact of the project and learn about the various initiatives underway to support children with disabilities and their families. The team will also have the opportunity to visit the community and homes built by the 2024 and 2025 JOA teams.

Responsibilities/Activities: Habitat Malawi are working with local authorities to transform areas into formal residential regions, with better infrastructure like improved road access, water and electricity supplies. As well as these infrastructure improvements, this project will build new homes for the most vulnerable families. Volunteers can get directly involved, working alongside construction teams (artisans) and local volunteers to speed up the build process, completing tasks such as digging, mixing mortar, building walls, laying blocks, painting walls, and moving materials. Volunteers will also get see the new homes come to life.

Accommodation: Volunteers will be accommodated in a local hotel in shared rooms with other JOA volunteers.