

GLOBAL VILLAGE - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

1. [How can I join Global Village?](#)

- 1) You could form a team of 10pax (**Note:** Certain countries require a min. of 12pax/15pax/20pax) with your friends and book a slot through Habitat for Humanity Singapore office. Please give yourself at least 5 months in advance for trip preparation.
- 2) Join an open team (if available). We advise that you sign up through our mailing list, so that you will be notified through email when we have future project and volunteer recruitment

2. [I do not have any building skill or experience; can I join the build trip?](#)

All volunteers have to be healthy and physically fit to join the build. Volunteers who have any chronic diseases or illness are advised to travel at their own risk. You are strongly advised to bring your personal medication (if any). Volunteers who are expecting are not advised to participate in a build. Habitat reserves the right to reject any volunteers if he/she is medically unfit for the trip.

3. [How long is the Global Village trip?](#)

A team could go for a build trip for a maximum of 7 days. Volunteers could arrange their own R&R after the trip.

4. [What is the minimum age requirement to join Global Village?](#)

You must be at least 14 year old and above to be able to join Global Village programme. A youth team must have at least 1 adult to join as part of team members. A team is considered as youth team where majority of team members are students aged between 14-25 years old.

5. [Will we complete the entire house during our build trip?](#)

Not necessarily. A team may complete only certain part of a house or more houses, or complete them. This depends on construction schedules and methods, time available for building, and other factors.

6. [Will our donation build the specific house we are working on?](#)

Not necessarily. Your team's donation will go into a pool of funds – Habitat Global Mission Fund, this is a revolving fund that will support the affiliate's building programme and the construction to serve more families even after your team has left.

7. How must the cost to join Habitat Global Village trip?

The cost of joining a volunteer team varies, of course, on the area visited, the host affiliate and the length of the trip.

Each participant makes a minimum donation for Habitat Global Mission Fund through Habitat for Humanity Singapore office, in addition to covering their own travel such as in-country cost (meals, accommodation, local ground transport, etc), travel insurance, airfare. Different levels of accommodation, offering different levels of comfort at different prices, are normally available.

8. What are Habitat houses like?

Habitat houses are built in different styles and in different materials depending on local designs, local weather conditions and local building standards. However, Habitat for Humanity has the same guiding principles in building over the world:

- **Simple.** Habitat houses are modestly sized -- large enough for the homeowner family's needs, but small enough to keep construction and maintenance costs to a minimum.
- **Decent.** Habitat uses quality, locally available building materials. Trained staffs supervise Habitat house construction and educate volunteers and partner families. House designs reflect the local climate and culture.
- **Affordable.** The labor of volunteers and partner families, efficient building methods, modest house sizes and a no-profit, no-interest loan make it affordable for low-income people around the world to purchase a Habitat for Humanity house.

9. Do we need to bring the construction tool?

No, the tools and materials for construction will be prepared at the site. However, volunteers will need to bring a pair of gloves (compulsory), face mask and rubber boots which could be helpful.

10. Can the donation from my donors be used for my team expenses?

All donors/sponsors must fill up the "Sponsorship Form" when they make a donation to sponsor a team or team member. They will have to indicate clearly in the form whether any excess funds raised can be used to cover team expenses as well. In Habitat, we want to ensure that all donations will be channelled as per donor's intention.

11. Can children join Global Village Build?

Many families want an opportunity to travel and volunteer together. Since volunteering for Habitat for Humanity involves working on a construction site, there are certain restrictions for participants under 14 years old for safety reasons. Youth team must be accompanied by an adult volunteer (at least 21 year old and above) who also joined as part of the team.

12. What if I signed up for a slot, but have to cancel?

We are not able to refund any trip deposit if you decide to cancel Global Village trip. Funds received will be channelled towards Habitat Global Mission Fund to serve more families and sustain Habitat programmes.

Please email us for further details on the Global Village procedures.

13. What if I signed up for a slot, but have to postpone it at later date?

You will need to inform us at least 60 days before the date of departure if need to postpone the trip and it is subject to availability of the slots. The next slot has to be booked within the same calendar year. If the team inform us less than 60 days, there fist trip deposit will be non-refundable and will be channelled to Habitat Global Mission Fund to serve more families and sustain Habitat programmes.

Please email us for further details on the Global Village procedures.

14. One of my team members who has signed up can't go for a trip, can there be any replacement?

Any request for replacement has to be done **in writing** at least 4 weeks before the date of the trip departure with the submission new form and passport copy for the replacement. The replacement Habitat for Humanity may not accede to any replacement request if is made less than 4 weeks before the date of the trip departure without a proper submission of the required documents

Please email us for further details on the Global Village procedures.

15. Who can or who should be the team leader?

Anyone can be a team leader. He/she must reside in Singapore to be the main liaison between Habitat and the team members and needs to adhere to all Habitat policies and procedures.

Please email us for further details on the Global Village procedures which include the Team Leader Roles and Responsibilities.

16. What will volunteer do while we are?

You will work alongside the local community to renovate or build a home for a family in need of housing. It's mainly manual labour – digging foundations, mixing cement, laying concrete floors, building walls, and etc. The actual work will depend on the need at the time. Volunteer are reminded to be flexible and be helpful at the build site.

17. What is expected from the volunteers during the build trip?

Volunteers are to be respectful towards the community that they are building with as well as need to be flexible with the different working environment/customs and pace. Volunteer are encouraged to come with an open mind and with broad expectations to find the experience enriching and fulfilling.

18. What will the accommodation be like?

Team can choose on the recommended accommodation. This may vary from simple guesthouse to hotel. This depends on what is available at the location of the worksite.

19. What about health and safety insurance?

All team members must purchase accident & illness insurance which is compulsory for all Habitat volunteers. However, this is not travel insurance. Volunteers are encouraged to purchase their own travel insurance separately

Health and safety in most countries where we work may not up to Singapore standards. Habitat will ensure that sites are as safe as possible for you to work on. We will provide safety briefings for you on site, and request that you comply with these, even if the local people do not. We do not want you getting injured!

20. What about visa and travel documents?

Volunteers will need to check with respective embassy with regards to visa application (if necessary) based on the nationality as per passport. They also need to ensure that their passports have few blank pages and have at least 6 months validity.

21. What about vaccinations?

We highly recommend people to take at least tetanus vaccination (at least 2 weeks before departure) and do seek advice from your own personal doctor or traveller's clinic prior to trip.