

# Global Village Trip to Maseru, Lesotho (Southern Africa)

August 17<sup>th</sup> – August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018

## Description

Join us on an excursion to Lesotho and help us build homes for orphans and vulnerable children in the capital of Maseru. Lesotho has a huge need for decent and affordable housing and you can be a part of the solution!



## About Lesotho

Lesotho is a landlocked Kingdom surrounded by South Africa on all sides. The Kingdom gained independence from the United Kingdom in 1966. The area of Lesotho is slightly smaller than the state of Maryland with the main elevation at roughly 7,000 feet above sea level and rolling landscape of hills, plateaus and mountains. With a population of nearly 2,000,000 people, nearly 50% of residents live below the poverty line.

## Housing Need in Lesotho

68% of the population lives in households defined as poor with unhealthy conditions ranging from overcrowded homes, unsanitary conditions, and exposed elements. Although the proportion of rural households without a toilet facility is dropping, 38% of the households still have none.

The total child population is estimated at **1,072,974** and of these children, **363,526** are orphans. About **125,000** of them are considered to be vulnerable. HIV&AIDS is the major factor causing orphan-hood in Lesotho.

## Habitat in Lesotho

Habitat for Humanity Lesotho (HFHL) originally launched its program in 2001 targeting low-income families. Over the years, this changed given the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Lesotho and the ever-increasing number of orphans. In 2005, HFHL shifted focus and now mainly builds homes for families with orphans and vulnerable children.

Habitat Lesotho also rehabilitates and repairs houses to ensure durability and the security of vulnerable Basotho families such as, the disabled, elderly caregivers, women, as well as, Orphans and Vulnerable Groups (OVG). Additionally, Habitat Lesotho participates in disaster-management interventions to provide safe shelter to those left homeless after such incidents.

In addition to building houses, HFHL advocates for secure tenure rights through trainings, radio programs, print materials, registration of wills, as well as facilitating acquisition of land ownership documents among the most vulnerable communities. To date, over 87,000 people have been sensitized to current legislation regarding secure tenure and inheritance rights through an extensive advocacy campaign.

## Construction of Homes

Volunteers will likely work on the construction of a new home. Tasks may include; mixing mortar, putting in window frames, pouring cement floor slabs, moving bricks, and passing mortar. You do not need to have any building experience or skills to participate in this trip. Skilled construction leaders will supervise and provide detailed instructions.



## Habitat Lesotho Homeowner Profile

Seven-year-old Mosiuoa Liphoto lives in Ha-Mpo village in the care of his twenty-eight-year-old unemployed mother Tšepang Liphoto and with his grandmother and two teenage cousins. In collaboration with the Ha-Mpo village community counsellor, the area chief and Habitat for Humanity Lesotho, the Liphoto family was identified as vulnerable. They used to live in a single roomed house built out of stones, mud, and rusty corrugated iron sheets. The house was overcrowded, with insufficient ventilation for a family of 5. The family were in constant fear of the house collapsing on them when they least expect it, especially during the rainy season. Thanks to international volunteers and Habitat Lesotho, who built their new two-roomed house and a ventilated improved pit latrine, the family could finally move and settle in a decent home. Tšepang hopes to one-day meet the team of volunteers that helped build their home for her son so she can thank them again: *"...they are now part of our family. May God bless them abundantly as they serve others like they did to us."*



## Itinerary

**Day 1** – Friday, August 17 – Depart Home Country

**Day 2** – Saturday, August 18 – Arrive in Johannesburg, overnight in South Africa

**Days 3** – Sunday, August 19 – Travel to Maseru, Lesotho (4-5 Hours) & Orientation by Habitat Lesotho

**Days 4 - 8** – Monday - Friday, August 20 – August 24 – Work onsite with Dedication Ceremony on Friday

**Day 9** – Saturday, August 25 – Shuttle to Johannesburg & Depart for home or further travel

## Accommodations

Teams stay in a lodge or guest house separated by gender; typically two per room with a bathing facility for each room. The lodge we will be staying at may not be finalized until a few months prior to departure. While bathing facilities are available, traditional shower systems are not guaranteed.

## Trip Cost

The trip costs \$2,100 for in-country ground transportation, lodging, meals, water, insurance, and a donation to the project. Airfare is **not** included in the \$2,100 trip cost. \$350 is due upon registration as a deposit for your spot on the team, and the balance is due by **July 3, 2018**. You can and are encouraged to fundraise for your trip costs of \$2,100 on [Share.Habitat.org](http://Share.Habitat.org). Donations are tax deductible. I am also challenging our team to fundraise above and beyond the trip costs as all additional funds will go directly to Habitat.

## Team Leader



Hello! My name is **Sarah Reddinger** and I was born and raised in Rochester, New York and went to both undergrad and grad school at the University of Rochester and studied abroad as much as possible throughout that period. I spent time studying in both France and Russia. I moved down to the D.C. area in 2009 and am the Director of Program Services for the Habitat affiliate in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties in Maryland. I went on my first global village trip to El Salvador in 2011 and have been back to El Salvador seven times since then. I've now lead 8 GV teams on overseas trips and have also participated in service trips to Fiji, Nepal, Peru, and Morocco.

I believe that every person deserves to live with dignity in a decent home that they can afford. I lead global village trips because you don't just build homes but you also build hope. Never underestimate the power of one person to change the trajectory of someone else's life. I hope you consider joining us. If you're interested in learning more please email me at [SarahReddingerGV@gmail.com](mailto:SarahReddingerGV@gmail.com).