

# ONE YEAR REPORT: COVID-19 RESPONSE 2020



ONE MILLION AND MORE  
INDIANS ON THE



### PREFACE



When the Government of India announced a nationwide shutdown on 24th March 2020, millions of migrant workers in the metropolis of India were stranded. COVID-19 has laid bare the extent of the housing crisis. Millions of families were already struggling with unhealthy living conditions, lack of access to clean water, the financial impossibilities of unaffordable rent. They are now joined by millions more who have lost income because of COVID-19 giving rise to the category of 'new poor' in India.

Rural and urban daily wage earners, construction workers, differently-abled people, waste pickers community and marginalized tribal communities are among those who are left vulnerable. Many of these groups are among the 400 million people in India's unorganized sector whose jobs are at risk.

Rebooting the economy at the bottom of the pyramid is going to be a mammoth task and it calls for 4P Partnership – People, Public, Private Partnership. I firmly believe that Habitat is strategically positioned to be a catalyst in connecting various dots to mount sustainable and impactful interventions as we navigate through these unprecedented times.

The Road to Recovery strategy for COVID-19 Response places affected families and individuals on a path to durable, permanent shelter and livelihood solutions. I am happy report that since the beginning of our COVID-19 response in 18th March 2020, we have impacted over 1.3 million people through this strategy.

Having said that, our work is still not done. There are millions of people in the country reeling from the fall out of the pandemic. We need you to join hands with us in creating sustainable and community-driven solutions to those impacted by COVID-19.

**Rajan Samuel**  
Managing Director  
Habitat for Humanity India



## OUR SUPPORTERS





























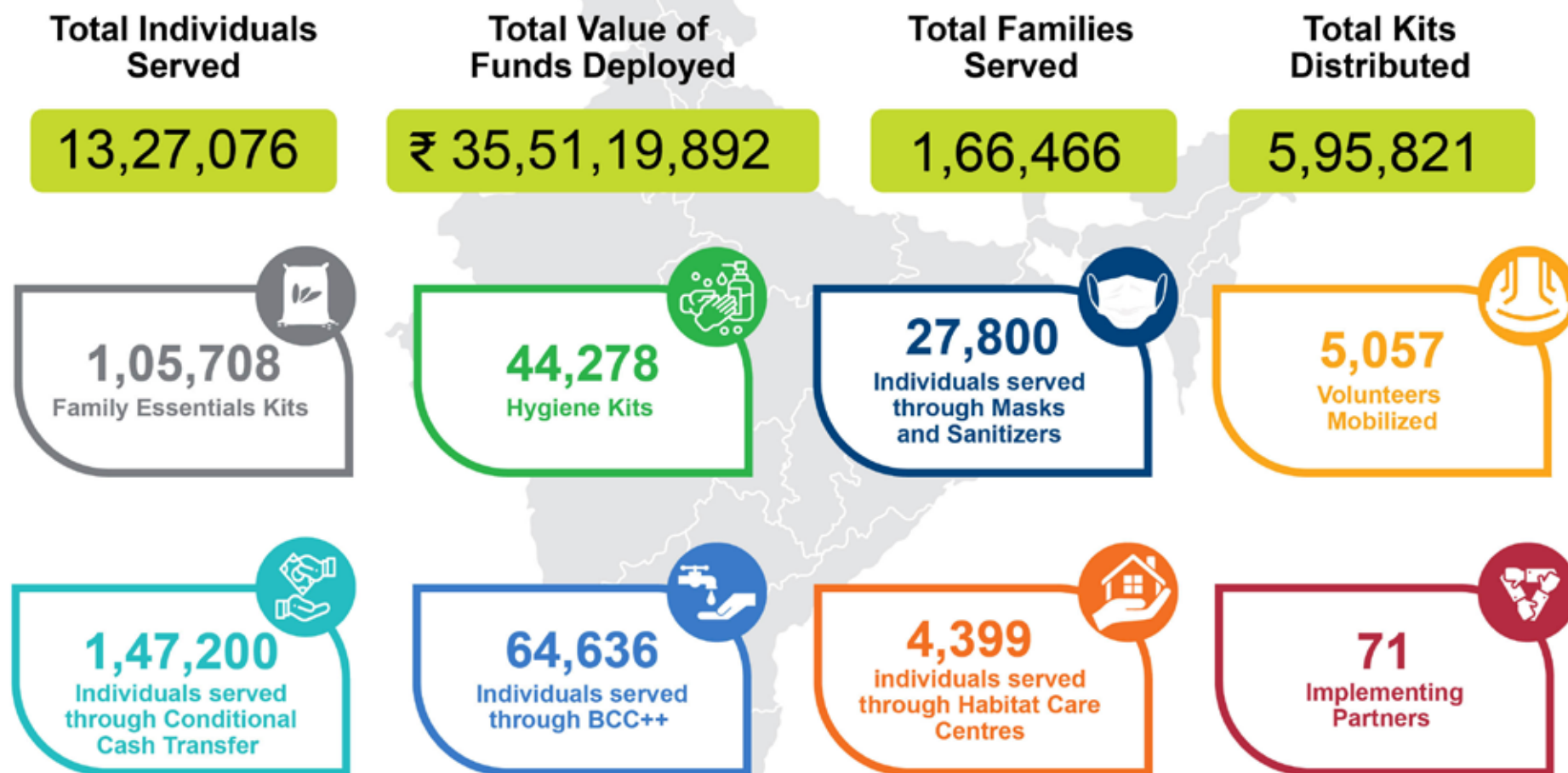


We thank our school partners for being at the forefront of our fundraising campaigns



We also thank our individual supporters for their help in this time of great need

## IMPACT MATRIX



## HABITAT INDIA COVID-19 RESPONSE STRATEGY – ROAD TO RECOVERY

### ROAD To RECOVERY

On 24<sup>th</sup> March 2020, Government of India announced a nationwide lockdown to stop the spread of the COVID-19 in the country. The announcement meant millions of families scrambled without access to daily sustenance.

Habitat for Humanity India began work in response to the call for help from the visually challenged families in Vangani (Thane, Maharashtra) who are Habitat homeowners. What began as a small humanitarian outreach from a couple of supporters and Habitat India employees became something larger as the collaborative model of intervention became the most effective way to support the millions of families in need.

Habitat India's Road to Recovery COVID-19 response strategy places vulnerable families and individuals on a path to durable and permanent recovery through focused intervention on sustenance and prevention, to creating safety-net for families, and towards permanent housing and housing-related solutions for long term post COVID-19 recovery.



## DISTRIBUTION OF KITS

### Family Essentials Kit

Basic essentials required for daily household chores such as liquid hand wash, floor disinfectant, soaps, sanitary napkins, protective masks, utensil bar soap, handkerchief along with essential items make up the Family Essentials Kit.



### Hygiene Kit

Hygiene Kit includes liquid hand wash, floor disinfectant, soaps, sanitary napkins, utensil bar soap, handkerchief along with protective masks and hand sanitizer. Hygiene Kit is also part of the assorted Family Essentials Kit.





## INNOVATIONS

### 1. Habitat Care Centres

Habitat Care Centre (HCC) is a unique Public-Private-People's Partnership facilitated by Habitat for Humanity India to respond to the rising COVID-19 cases in India. HCC serves as a tool to isolate people, especially those who are not able to follow physical distancing norms or are living in crowded urban slums. Empty facilities are converted into a fully equipped isolation centre. This is to create effective infrastructure at a fraction of the cost leveraging on Habitat India's partnership with Governments, local administrations and corporate supporters. 16 Habitat Care Centres have been set up in Mumbai (Maharashtra), Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala), Delhi and Bengaluru (Karnataka), East Godavari and West Godavari (Andhra Pradesh) to shelter people who are asymptomatic or those with mild symptoms.

The 16 Habitat Care Centres has an aggregate capacity of the 1,975 beds.





**RAJIV GANDHI INSTITUTE OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES IN  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, KERALA.**



**SLUM REHABILITATION AUTHORITY'S BUILDING, MUMBAI,  
MAHARASHTRA.**



**NAJAM BAUG, DONGRI, MAHARASHTRA.**



**GOVERNMENT HOMEOPATHY HOSPITAL, BENGALURU,  
KARNATAKA.**



## 2. Government Relations:



## GOVERNMENT ENGAGEMENT

- ANDHRA PRADESH
- DELHI
- KARNATAKA
- MAHARASHTRA
- ODISHA
- RAJASTHAN
- TAMIL NADU
- TELANGANA
- UTTAR PRADESH
- WEST BENGAL



 Districts and States Impacted

 Partnerships with State Governments and Local Government Administrations.

- Obtained permissions from District Administration and Govt. officials for COVID-19 relief work.
- Worked with DUSIB on COVID response and developing shelters for migrant workers in Delhi.
- Discussions with District Administration (Chengalpattu, Tamil Nadu) on partnership for COVID-19 Program.
- Habitat India has partnered with 30 government departments and officials at various levels.

## 3. Household Support Services on Wheels launched in Kerala

With an aim to reach out to 3 lakh individuals in Kerala, Habitat for Humanity India in association with Punarjani, an initiative by Adv. Shri. V D Satheeshan, MLA of North Paravur constituency, and 'KIDS' (Kottapuram Integrated Development Society) launched '**Household Support Services (HSS) on Wheels**' on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2020.

The HSS on Wheels was inaugurated by Adv. Shri. V. D. Satheesan, MLA, North Paravur Constituency, Rt. Rev. DR. Joseph Karikkassery, Bishop of Kottapuram Diocese, V. M. Johny, Councillor, Kodungallur Municipality, Fr. Paul Thomas, Director, KIDS and Rajan Samuel, Managing Director, Habitat for Humanity India.

The HSS on Wheels travels to serve different panchayats in Ernakulum district, Kerala. It offers 79 services including 59 household-related services, 6 technical related service, documentation services, disaster mitigation and risk reduction training and consultation, financial product integration and a mobile mammogram unit. Over time HSS has pivoted from a fully physical service into multiple other models of the HSS - Office Based HSS, HSS on Wheels, the Bus Model, using two wheelers / cycles for remote areas, Fully Integrated Software Model impacting 258 families in the district.

## Upcoming HSS: Haveri (Karnataka), Chengalpattu (Tamil Nadu) and Odisha



▲ HSS on Wheels inaugurated on May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020 in North Paravur, Ernakulam District, Kerala.  
Predicted reach : 300,000 families

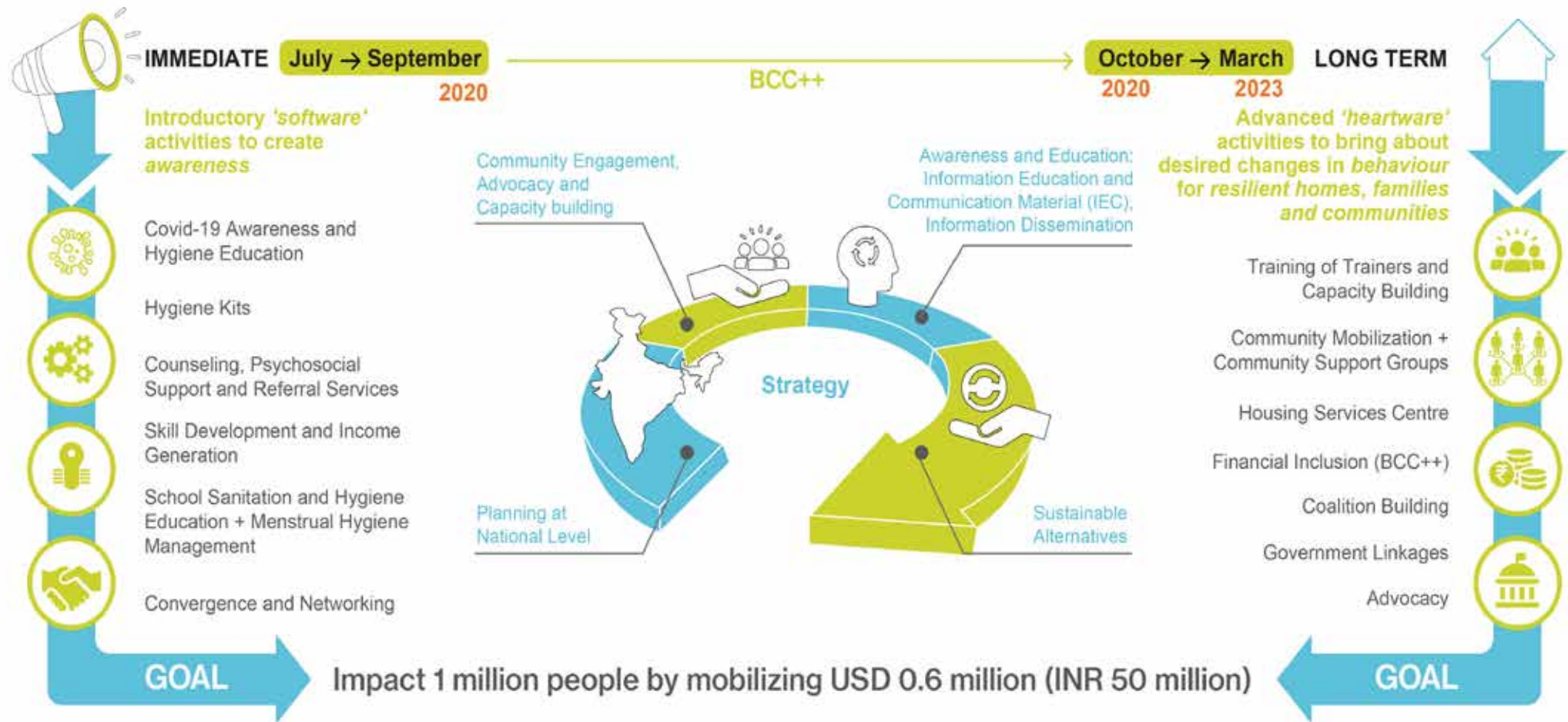
- 59 Household Services (utility payments etc.)
- 6 Shelter Related Technical Services
- Documentation Services for Availing Government Schemes
- Disaster Mitigation And Risk Reduction Trainings And Consulting
- Financial Product Integration (MFIs , Insurance, banking etc)
- BCC+++ (Wash and COVID-19 Related Support)
- A Mobile Mammogram Unit



## 4. BCC++

Habitat India has been imparting **Behaviour Change Communication** training to families in urban slums and rural projects. BCC goes hand in hand with WASH – Water, Sanitation and Hygiene interventions. BCC in schools includes Menstrual Hygiene Management Child Champions, and hygiene behaviour in schools and at home. Financial literacy and savings education have been added to the BCC modules. BCC++ programs are promising especially in post COVID response to ensure more inclusion and resilience.

375 Master trainers comprising of frontline staff from 37 NGOs in 11 states were trained in collaboration with Intellihealth on COVID-19 prevention.





### 5. Empanelment and Awards:

Habitat India is now the member of the Advisory Committee set up by Sa-Dhan (Micro-finance Institution) for 'Engaging Microfinance Institution to scale up Affordable Housing for the Economically Weaker Section' with support from DFID (Department for International Development). **Rajan Samuel (MD, Habitat India)** will serve on the committee.

Habitat India received the PeopleQ Inspiration Award's '**Best Initiatives Towards Contribution to Society**'. The award recognize organisations who have battled the COVID-19 crisis with courage, creativity and compassion. The Tata Mumbai Marathon Philanthropy Awards conferred Habitat India with '**Certificate of Excellence**' for in recognition of the organization's work in housing and sanitation. Habitat India's Managing Director Rajan Samuel also won the **Mahatma Awards for Leadership in Social Good and Global Economy Change Makers 2020 Charity Leadership Award**.

### 6. NITI Aayog Consultation:

The Empowered Group-6 is constituted under the Chairmanship of CEO, NITI Aayog (Think Tank to the Government of India) as provided under the National Disaster Management Act-2005 to engage organisations for combatting COVID-19 and its outbreak. The Empowered Group 6 has invited Habitat for Humanity India as a part of its consultation with Civil Society Organisations, NGOs and development partners, Industry partners, and International Organisations to create synergies with the Government of India. Rajan Samuel, Managing Director is representing Habitat for Humanity India.

### 7. Collaboration with UNICEF and DUSIB:

In collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) India and Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB), Habitat for Humanity India organised a cross-learning workshop called "**Completing the Loop of Community Toilets for Infection Prevention and Control of COVID-19**" for the Government officials (Engineers) and Care takers of Community Toilets and managers working on COVID-19 response and sanitation on 8th July 2020. 70 participants took part in this online workshop.

### 8. Public Health Professionals Consortium

Set up in response to COVID-19 in March 2020, a consortium of Public Health Professionals are providing guidance and expert inputs to project conceptualization and interventions. This was necessitated by emerging need for health, hygiene and mental health intervention during the pandemic.


## A MAJOR MILESTONE



**Habitat for Humanity India**

🏠 Impacting 1 million people through COVID-19 Response

🏠 Ground-breaking Ceremony of Habitat for Heroes Housing Project



Guest of Honour  
**Mrs. Rajashree Birla, Aditya Birla Group**  
(Chairperson – Advisory Committee, Habitat for Humanity India)

21st October 2020 (Wednesday)  
Venue: Zoom

On October 21, Habitat for Humanity India marked the milestone of serving over 1 million people through the Covid-19 Response. Due to COVID-19 health restrictions, the event was hosted online.

“We record this milestone today of serving 1.1 million people across 19 states of India who would have been upended by COVID-19. We also honour the lives of martyrs Arjun Birange, Swapnil Charapale, Shashikant Mane and Nigappa Chaware for their sacrifice. Their families start the journey towards building a home of their own in partnership with Habitat for Humanity,” said **Mrs. Rajashree Birla, Chairperson on the Habitat for Humanity India Advisory Committee**, while speaking at the event which also hosted the groundbreaking ceremony for the Habitat for Heroes Housing Project - an initiative working towards building decent shelter with the kins of deceased soldiers.

“Our lives are indebted to the heroes who fight in inhospitable terrains to protect our country. The Habitat for Heroes project is our homage to the martyred soldiers. We are committed to provide sustainable housing solutions to their families,” said **Rajan Samuel, Managing Director, Habitat for Humanity India**.



Archana Birange is one of the homeowners from Sainik Takli village of Kolhapur, Maharashtra who is building a new Habitat home through the project.



## FORWARD ON OUR MISSION

COVID-19 has thrown a spanner on a lot of our on-ground activities, mainly our volunteer builds and construction activities. Through the dedication of our staff, our partners and supporters, we have been able to continue our mission of building strength, stability, and self reliance through shelter, sanitation, and disaster response despite several challenges. Here are some Habitat India's programmatic highlights during the pandemic.



**Odisha Gruhabikas Program**, a consortium between Habitat India, Swatantra Micro-Housing Finance Corporation and J.K. Lakshmi Cement is a housing support program to help families in Puri, Odisha receive access to funds to build affordable homes. This program has supported more than 20 families so far.



**Project Neelachala:** Through a tripartite partnership between L&T Technology Services, The District Administration of Puri (Government of Odisha) and Habitat for Humanity India, Project Neelachala was launched to build new disaster resilient houses and conduct Community Based Disaster Risk Management with 150 families in Puri, Odisha. The first batch of 51 disaster resilient homes were handed over to the families on 31st March 2021.



**Disaster Risk Reduction and Response:** In the midst of the first wave of the coronavirus pandemic, the state of West Bengal, Assam, Odisha and Tamil Nadu faced natural disasters of varying degrees. Habitat India worked with supporters and partners to reach out to families affected by these disasters through the Pathways to Permanence Strategy.



**Assam Flood Response:** Assam is faced with perennial threat of floods every monsoon as the mighty Brahmaputra swells, displacing thousands of families. In June 2020, Habitat India supported 13,333 families through Humanitarian Aid Kits and Emergency Shelter Kits.



**Cyclone Amphan Response:** In the aftermath of Cyclone Amphan that swept up the lower plains of Sunderbans, West Bengal in May 2020, Habitat India responded to the disaster by supporting 9384 families through Humanitarian Aid Kits, Emergency Shelter Kits and Home Repairs.

## FROM OUR VOLUNTEERS



“The stark contrast between those who have the means to endure this pandemic and those who do not have the wherewithal to procure some of the basic safety and hygiene items is an injustice I am deeply saddened by. In an effort to address this problem, Habitat for Humanity, in conjunction with Oakridge International School, began a crowd-funding project to raise funds to provide basic hygiene kits, such as masks, sanitizers, and gloves, to those who need these the most.”

**Ms Suha Ahmed, Oakridge International School,  
Gachibowli**



“In order to raise funds and provide relief for those disrupted by the pandemic, I combined my passion for singing and knowledge of social media to spread a call to action to whomever would listen. Every donation received filled my heart with joy and gratitude, knowing that even if my efforts helped one individual find a sense of dignity and relief, it was well worth it.”

**Jaskeerat Kaur, Oakridge International  
School, Mohali**

## VOICES FROM THE FIELD



“My 3-year-old daughter Aparna was diagnosed with cancer a year ago. Thankfully, she is responding well to the treatment. My husband Pinto and I have spent more than 3 lakhs for her treatment. So, every support counts. We are grateful for the Family Essentials Kits we received in this difficult time in our lives.”

**Jayanthi Ravi Das, Bengaluru**



## VOICES FROM THE FIELD



“Me and my wife are visually impaired. I used to sell knickknacks and play harmonium in Mumbai’s local trains to earn a living. That stopped completely after the lockdown. With no income, our future was bleak. Habitat India’s timely support of Family Essentials Kit was crucial. Having a roof over our head, which Habitat built for the community, makes us feel strong and confident that we will survive this disaster. Our home is the first and the biggest protection from the virus.”

**Chillai Pillai, Vangani, Maharashtra**

## VOICES FROM THE FIELD



“We live in a makeshift hut just beside a railway track at Park Circus Railway Station. 12 years ago, I lost my left arm when I fell from the train. I have not been able to work since. My wife Khatoon works as domestic help bringing home 3500 rupees (50 USD) per month. My son rides a rickshaw and sells fruits occasionally to help us manage the household. But the pandemic has severely impacted my family’s income and it has been a relief to receive support from Habitat in form of the Family Essentials Kit. It helped us survive this difficult lockdown.”

**Mohammed Iqbal, Kolkata**



## EAST



### MORIGAON, ASSAM

Family Essentials Kits loaded for distribution at Morigaon, Assam.



### KOLKATA, WEST BENGAL

Hygiene Kits distributed at Don Bosco School, Park Circus Kolkata.



### KALAHANDI, ODISHA

Hygiene Education is imparted at distribution centre in Kalahandi, Odisha.



### SUNDERBANS, WEST BENGAL

A family unpacking items from the Family Essential Kits in Taldi, one of the villages in Sunderbans Delta, West Bengal.



## WEST



### ALWAR, RAJASTHAN

Door-to-door distribution of Hygiene Kit in Tijara, Alwar District, Rajasthan.



### NASHIK, MAHARASHTRA

Socially distanced distribution of Family Essentials Kits in Nashik, Maharashtra.



### MUMBAI, MAHARASHTRA

Hygiene Kits with N95 masks handed over to Mumbai Traffic Police Department of Greater Mumbai Police, Maharashtra.



### PUNE, MAHARASHTRA

Distribution of Family Essentials Kit to families of construction workers in Pune, Maharashtra.



## NORTH



### WAZIRPUR, DELHI

Distribution of Family Essentials Kit for families of daily wage workers in Wazirpur, New Delhi.



### LUCKNOW, UTTAR PRADESH

A socially distanced distribution of Family Essentials Kits for marginalised communities in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.



### DARBHANGA, BIHAR

Strict safety and hygien protocols being implemented at the distribution site in Darbhanga, Bihar.



### DEHRADUN, UTTARAKHAND

Daily wage workers and families from low income group in Dehradun, Uttarakhand received Family Essentials Kits.



## SOUTH



### BENGALURU, KARNATAKA

Distribution of Family Essentials Kits in Bengaluru.



### CHENGALPATTU, TAMIL NADU

Irula families received Hygiene Education along with Hygiene Kits in Chengalpattu, Tamil Nadu.



### ERNAKULAM, KERALA

Reusable masks stitched by Sahrudaya Ernakulam. 5 NGOs in Kerala donated 23,000 masks to Habitat India.



### CUDDALORE, TAMIL NADU

Distribution of Family Essentials Kit to families in the Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu.



# HOW CAN YOU HELP?

To learn more, volunteer or donate,  
please visit [www.habitatindia.org](http://www.habitatindia.org)

Follow our work on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#)

**Get in touch with our team.**

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## ABOUT HABITAT FOR HUMANITY INDIA

Driven by the vision that everyone needs a decent place to live, Habitat for Humanity began in 1976 as a grassroots effort. The housing organization has since grown to become a leading global non-profit working in more than 70 countries. In India since 1983, Habitat for Humanity has supported more than 36 million people to build or improve a place they can call home. Through financial support, volunteering or adding a voice to support affordable housing, everyone can help families achieve the strength, stability and self-reliance they need to build better lives for themselves. Through shelter, we empower.

To learn more, donate or volunteer, visit [www.habitatindia.org](http://www.habitatindia.org)

## About the cover:

Front: Nagamma sits in front of her Habitat home with children from her neighborhood in Bagalur, Karnataka. Having a safe and secure house has enabled her family to stay safe within their house during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Back: Residents from Kalahandi, Odisha walking to their villages from the distribution center where hygiene awareness was imparted along with the distribution of Family Essentials Kits and Hygiene Kits.



Habitat for Humanity India is certified by CRISIL with a highest 1-A rating.

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