

Rebuilding India



Habitat For Humanity India Quarterly Newsletter
January to March 2020

Year Five
Issue One

EDITORIAL

Dear Friends,

When we heard of the novel coronavirus and the lockdown in Wuhan early this year, we did not anticipate the disruption it would cause to our lives.

As we navigate through these uncertain times together, I want to let you know that now, more than ever, our work in shelter and sanitation is proving its worth.

Families in Savda Ghevra (Delhi), Amravati (Maharashtra), Ernakulam (Kerala) and Cuddalore (Tamil Nadu) are facing this emergency with confidence because they have decent shelter and access to sanitation facilities. Our heart goes

out to the millions of families in India and around the world who still lack these facilities. Our vision where everyone has a decent place to live is even more pertinent today when met with a crisis like this.

I want to encourage you to uplift each other and derive strength from one another through constant communication, ensuring that the distancing measures we follow are only physical, not social or spiritual.

We keep the safety of your family and yourself in mind, always.

In partnership,
Rajan Samuel
Managing Director
Habitat for Humanity India

CREDITS

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Habitat for Humanity India



Families served

6,63,994



Individuals served

32,37,607



Homes built and repaired

4,69,099



Sanitation units built

11,21,864



People served through
S2S coalition

3,23,79,233



People served
through DRRR

8,79,900



Funds leveraged through
Government (FY 18-19)

119.58 CR



Volunteer Engagement

1,06,05,743



Number of states

26



Distribution of Hygiene and Family Essentials Kits in Park Circus, Kolkata, West Bengal



Women following social distancing norms as they collect their Hygiene and Family Essentials Kits in Mumbai, Maharashtra

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY INDIA COVID-19 PANDEMIC RESPONSE

As of 22nd April, we have served 1,44,916 individuals with 34,164 Hygiene and Family Essentials Kits.

As the country implements unprecedented measures amidst the global health emergency of COVID-19, we at Habitat for Humanity India are supporting families and individuals living in vulnerable conditions with no safety net by providing them with essential goods and hygiene items.

When a disaster hits - be it a

flood, an earthquake, a storm, or a pandemic like COVID-19, those who are living in poor conditions suddenly find themselves struggling even more.

Habitat's Hygiene Kits and Family Essentials Kits provide families with essential goods which meet their basic needs and ensure they have a better life during the lockdown.

Scan the QR code below to donate towards Habitat India's efforts:.



RUNNING THE TATA MUMBAI MARATHON



Employees from Messe Frankfurt running in the Tata Mumbai Marathon 2020 on behalf of Habitat India

305 avid supporters participated and ran for Habitat for Humanity India in the Tata Mumbai Marathon on 19th January 2020, in support of better shelter and sanitation across the country.

Among them were 250 employees from corporates like Sony Pictures Network, Messe Frankfurt, Indostar Capital Financial Ltd., Schindler India Pvt. Ltd., Capita India and Group M, who ran the marathon in support of Habitat India. Out of these, 205 employees also raised funds through crowdfunding campaigns in support of Habitat India.

We had 43 students from schools across Mumbai who raised funds for better access to water and

sanitation for girls in schools. They were from Lodha World School - Palava, Universal High School, Gold Crest International School, Billabong High International School, Rajhans Vidyalaya, Vivekanand English High School, Gopi Birla Memorial School, The Gateway School of Mumbai, Smt. Sulochanandevi Singhania School, HFS International School, BK Birla Public School and JBCN International School.

12 individual supporters ran the marathon in our support. Among them was Sumanth Cidambi - Director, KKR Financial Services and ultra-marathoner - who ran as a Change Leader and raised funds in support of sanitation facilities in schools. He also supported us through his social media channels.

Piyush Khullar from HDFC Asset Management also ran on our behalf as a Change Investor, as well as Shloka Nath, a member of Habitat India's Women Build Committee, Sunil Vijan, Owner - Alloy Costing Business, Sanjeev Mittal, Country Head India - Scotiabank and Harsh Podar, Director - Podar Education Network.

We thank each and every participant, school and organisation that supported us at the Tata Mumbai Marathon.

Click on the QR Code to read Sumanth Cidambi's story:



Rajambal Madabushi, Chartered Accountant – Institute of Chartered Accountants of India speaking at the CSR Dialogue Hyderabad

Nitin Potdar, M&A Partner, J. Sagar Associates, speaking at the CSR Dialogue Pune with Rajan Samuel, Managing Director, Habitat India



PROMOTING CONVERSATIONS THROUGH CSR DIALOGUES

The 13th and 14th editions of Habitat for Humanity India's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Dialogues were held in Hyderabad and Pune respectively.

These events focused on encouraging collaboration between corporates, financial institutions and government agencies, along with Habitat India, to provide affordable housing solutions to families.

The 13th edition held in Hyderabad focused on the Role of Coalition for Social, Civic and Community Development in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, with the goal of creating a sustainable roadmap to impact 1 lakh families with better housing and sanitation. More than 70 participants representing

the corporate and public sectors attended the dialogue which comprised an expert panel with speakers like Kamini Saraf - CSR Head of FICCI Telangana, Jyotsna Angara, Governing Body Member, FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) and Rajambal Madabushi, Chartered Accountant – Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, who spoke about interventions where corporates and Habitat India could partner with the government to achieve the goal. The Habitat for Humanity India CSR Dialogue – Hyderabad was supported by FICCI and T-Social Impact Group.

The 14th edition held in Pune highlighted the Role of CSR in Strengthening Low Income Families in Maharashtra through Housing

and Sanitation. With more than 40 participants from companies like Rolls-Royce, SG Analytics, Sandvik, Piaggio Vehicles Pvt. Ltd, Martin Engineering and Yardi Software India Pvt. Ltd. to name a few, Habitat India emphasized the need for increased CSR interventions in the areas of affordable housing, sanitation and menstrual hygiene management for adolescent girls.

Devendra Deshpande, CS and Fellow Member, Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) and Nitin Potdar, Corporate Lawyer, M and A Partner, J. Sagar Associates were the key speakers.

We thank Symbiosis School of Economics for being our official venue partner for this event.

BUILDING BETTER SHELTER AND SANITATION TOGETHER

SANITATION IN SCHOOLS



A school sanitation complex built by Habitat for Humanity India, and supported by Indostar Capital Financial Ltd., was handed over to Primary School Amruthpura in Ankleshwar, Gujarat on 7th February 2020. Staff from Indostar participated in this ceremony, as well as in the Behavioural Change Communication program held by Habitat India to train the students in sanitation and hygiene habits. 111 students and six teachers will benefit from this project.

Indostar Capital Financial Ltd. is supporting Habitat India's initiatives in School Sanitation Hygiene and Education in four states – Uttarakhand, Gujarat, Telangana and Tamil Nadu.

VISION VANGANI

On 26th January 2019, the families in Vangani celebrated Republic Day and moved into their new homes. But there are many more visually impaired families in Vangani who are in need of decent shelter.

Financial support from our corporate partner (Bank of America Continuum) was complimented with a generous contribution from a local community leader and Habitat for Humanity India supporter, who donated the land for constructing the building.

With an aim to serve more families in Vangani, Habitat India held

a consultation in its National Office in Mumbai titled 'Forging Collaborations for Vision Vangani 2025' on 11th March 2020. 15 people from organisations such as the National Association for the Blind, World Vision India, Eyeway, Rescue Foundation and Habitat homeowners from Vangani took part in the discussion along with Habitat India staff and Rajeev Menon, Member, Board of Trustees, Habitat India.

The discussion focused on providing holistic solutions for the families in the areas of shelter, financial inclusion, livelihood,

health and education. After the lockdown caused by COVID-19 was announced, Habitat India provided essential items to 100 families thanks to our well-wishers and supporters.



Vision Vangani consultation in Habitat India's office, Mumbai

The Center for Sustainability at Anant National University - India's first design university - has partnered with Habitat India to work towards fulfilling its vision of building a world where everyone has a decent place to live. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed in Ahmedabad by Rajan Samuel, Managing Director, Habitat for Humanity India and Dr. Anunaya Chaubey, Provost, Anant University on 8th February 2020.

Anant National University is a thought leader in the affordable housing space, and the Center for Sustainability and will work with Habitat India to develop solutions across design, construction and



Dr. Anunaya Chaubey, Provost, Anant University and Rajan Samuel, Managing Director, Habitat India signing the Memorandum of Understanding

PARTNERSHIPS FOR BETTER FUTURES

delivery. Anant National University will also join the India Housing Coalition (IHC) as a knowledge and research partner.

The India Housing Coalition was established by Habitat for Humanity at the 7th edition of Asia Pacific Housing Forum in July 2019.

DEVELOPING URBAN INDIA

Habitat India, in association with INCLUDE Network, organised a workshop on 29th January 2020 on Urban Sanitation in Thane, Maharashtra and a Round Table Discussion on Urban Development on 26th February 2020 in Delhi.

In the Urban Sanitation workshop, practitioners, NGO members, 4G members (local self-help group) and urban planning experts discussed urban sanitation with special focus on community sanitation, community-led development and sustainability in Thane district.

In New Delhi, the deliberations between policymakers,



Sunanda More, 4G member of Sathewadi, Thane speaking on the operation and maintenance of the Community Sanitation Complex built by Habitat India

administrators, NGO experts and funding agency professionals focused upon urban issues in Delhi and surrounding areas along

with the challenges and possible solutions. Five policy briefs developed on land tenure, housing design, finance for the poor, urban livelihoods and data, governance and participation were shared.



Dr. Kulwant Singh, CEO, 3R Waste Foundation giving a speech during the round table discussion



IN CONVERSATION WITH ANTHONY MILLER AND CECILIA MELIN

Habitat for Humanity India hosted the Anthony Miller and Cecilia Melin Legacy Build in Karjat, Maharashtra from 16th to 20th February. The 5-day build saw volunteers help two families in Gawandewadi realise their dream of a decent home.

Based out of Japan, Anthony Miller is a member of Habitat's Asia Pacific Development Council, and Cecilia Melin is Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, Habitat Japan. The family have been one of the staunchest allies for Habitat and the families we work with at the grassroots.

Anthony and Cecilia, could you share with us the story of how you began your journey with Habitat for Humanity?

Anthony Miller: About 12 years ago, I was looking for a charity for my children to get involved in. A few months later, I started talking to this person who was in front of me in a queue at an event. He turned out to be Jonathan Reckford, CEO of Habitat for Humanity International! He invited me and my family to join him on a build in Malawi, Africa. But instead we gave that money to

Habitat and spent a little less on a trip to build with Habitat Vietnam. It was a life-changing experience for our children.

Cecilia Melin: Tony and I started to go on Habitat builds with our children and we were so impressed by how committed people were. We had the opportunity to visit different communities and we continued to go every year. Between us, we have been on 16 Habitat for Humanity builds all around Asia.

A few years back, I was invited to

join the board of Habitat Japan and a while later, I was asked to become the Chair. It has been a fulfilling experience - taking the involvement from volunteering to actually building Habitat and its vision for Japan.

What do you feel about volunteering with Habitat?

Cecilia Melin: I can vouch for the positive experience volunteering with Habitat gives you. You gain so much and you feel good about what you are doing. At first, you think it is going to be dirty, but then you get into the work and also get to know the people in the community which is a soul satisfying experience. That is the greatest part of volunteering – it's a powerful way to change society.

Anthony Miller: It is a huge benefit to business people like us, because we get to see a part of society that we otherwise would not see. It's a huge benefit to the kids as well, who get to have a social experience.

Here in Karjat - the damming of the river to lift water, providing water wheels, helping community members set up a catering service to supply lunches for the builds - Habitat is making a tremendous contribution to this society.

Could you tell us about one of your favourite memories with Habitat?

Anthony Miller: On my first build, we were in southern Vietnam. One of



Anthony Miller and Cecilia Melin lighting the lamp to inaugurate the build

the children of the families we were building with had swollen feet. So, one of the volunteers took out an EpiPen (injection with adrenaline) and stabbed the swollen feet. In 10 minutes he was better. This incident inspired my daughter to go to medical school.

Cecilia Melin: I have so many memories! If you had spoken to me last week, the answer would have been different. But today, I would say the India build here has been the best!

What would you like to say to other successful business leaders like you, to encourage support for organizations like Habitat for Humanity?

Cecilia Melin: We can always do a lot more if companies think a little bit out of the box. Volunteering with Habitat is a great way to build

teamwork. Getting people to come out in the field and build homes, whether they are the youth or individuals from corporates, is a great thing to do. For corporations who have that culture, it also helps reinforce that the company is trying to incorporate good values, which is so important in business.

Anthony Miller: It is too easy to go through the motions. But doing just that means you waste your time, money and resources. What would be more productive is to give your employees an experience. And not the usual "save humanity" spin, but have them do something that's good and has tangible results, rather than just donate their money to such organisations. India is a really interesting country and in an interesting time in its life. It's only going to get better, and everyone will benefit from building the country together brick by brick.

VOLUNTEERING TO BUILD STRENGTH



On 14th February 2020, the Mina Parekh Community Hall built by Habitat India and the Irula families of Keelalinjipattu, Tamil Nadu was handed over to the community.

The hall has a capacity of 100 people and is named after Mina Parekh, a Habitat volunteer born and raised in India, who now lives in the USA. She returned along with her daughter Megha to help build homes with Irula tribal families.

“My 68-year-old mom and I went to India with Habitat’s Global Village program to build houses,” says Megha Parekh. “I was sceptical of her joining because of her age, her recent recovery from cancer and I thought she couldn’t handle the heat or the work. But I saw her strength and soul first-hand. There is now a community hall with her

name on it where little kids can go learn and play. Her tears of joy said it all!”

Kevin and Stacy Maddox who mobilised the funds for the community hall wanted to honour the spirit of humanity and story of Mina Parekh.



Mina Parekh at a Habitat India build in Keelalinjipattu, Tamil Nadu



Megha, Mina’s daughter working alongside the team in Keelalinjipattu, Tamil Nadu

This project is part of a unique housing project of 22 Habitat homes built for Irula tribal families with support from our countless volunteers such as Mina, Megha, Kevin, Stacy and our corporate partners.



EMPOWERING WOMEN THROUGH LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT

VOICES FROM THE FIELD

Shivani (19) used to work in Ganga Jamuna, the red-light area of the town of Nagpur in Maharashtra. Shivani hails from West Bengal. She had lost both her parents to HIV AIDS when she was very young. After failing the 10th standard exam, she was sold by a relative she was living with into the commercial sex trade in Nagpur.

Habitat for Humanity India partnered with Sharansthan, an organization that looks after the children of women in the sex trade in Ganga Jamuna.

We identified 15 women who were interested in alternate livelihood, and provided them with vocational training in tailoring. Shivani was one of these women who enrolled for the course and learnt sewing and tailoring. During the course

the women were also given sewing machines that enabled them to start small businesses of their own.

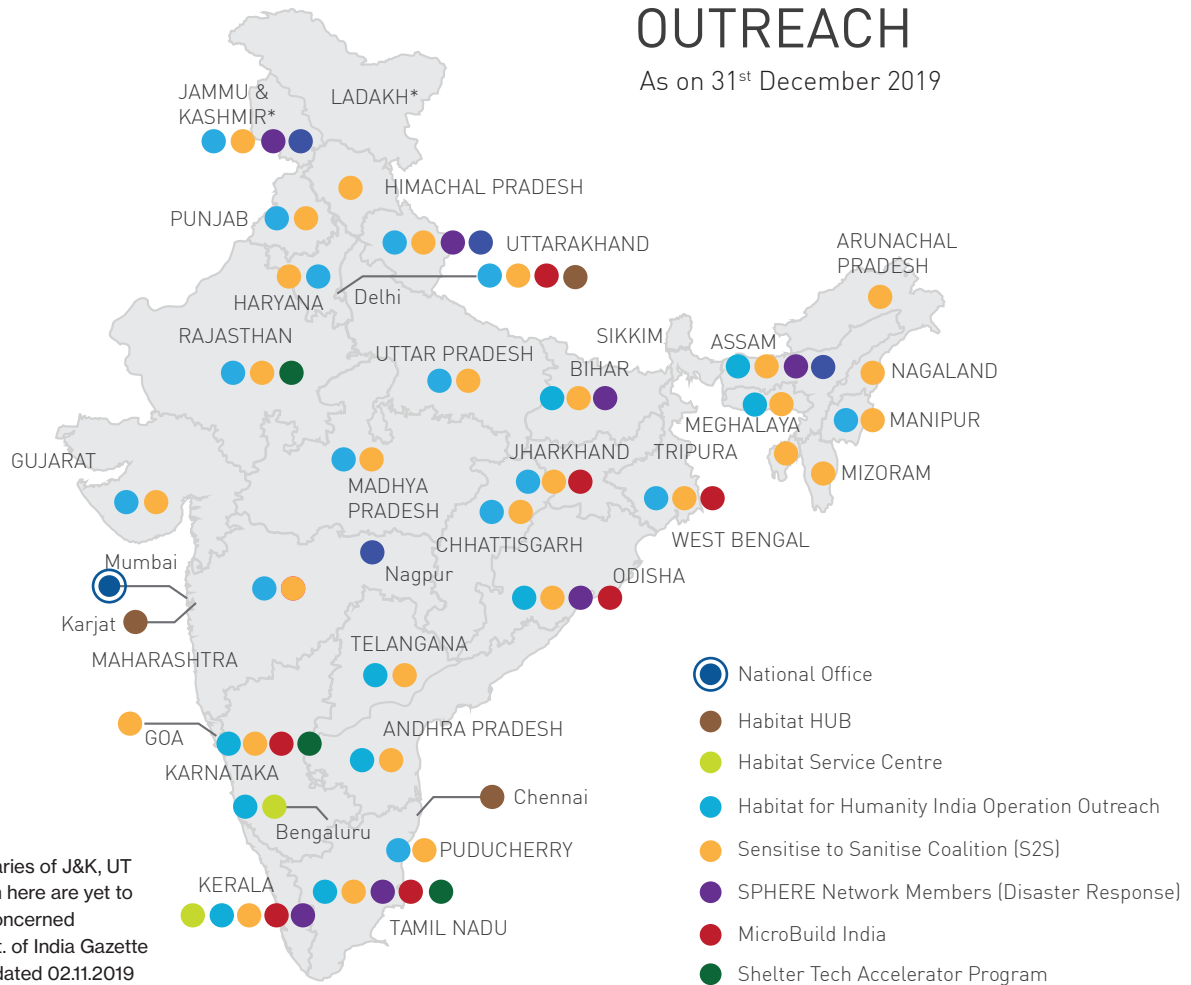


“It was a tough time for me after losing my parents - I did not know what to do, who to turn to for support. I signed up for this vocational training as soon as I heard about it. Now, I’ve started my own business in my house and I earn around INR 200-300 daily. I am very thankful to Habitat for extending a helping hand to me when I needed it the most. They have brought me from darkness to light and,, made me self-reliant.”

- Shivani Borkar

OUTREACH

As on 31st December 2019



*Administrative boundaries of J&K, UT and Ladakh, UT shown here are yet to be authenticated by concerned authorities as per Govt. of India Gazette Notification No. 3585 dated 02.11.2019

Cover Photo: Anthony Miller and Cecilia Melin during Legacy Build in Karjat, Maharashtra



Habitat for Humanity India is rated A1 by CRISIL.

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