



Rebuilding India

Habitat For Humanity India Quarterly Newsletter
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YEAR ONE
ISSUE ONE

Editorial

Habitat for Humanity India's (HFH India) driving philosophy is to provide housing-related interventions to low-income marginalized families across India. Since our founding in 1983, HFH India has helped more than 1,00,000 families, a milestone that is shaping our vision of impacting 5,00,000 families by 2020.

However, the need for adequate and affordable housing continues to grow. In our endeavor to support the Government of India's vision of 'Housing for All by 2022' and the 'Swachh Bharat Mission' to end open defecation in India by 2019, Habitat for Humanity India aims to align with its goals in spirit and action.

We hope to keep you abreast of our activities through this newsletter. We want you to be part of the change that we aim to make in India - you can support our work by engaging as a volunteer or contribute to a project to make a difference to 74 million families living in poverty housing in India. You are welcome to make suggestions to improve content and feel of this newsletter by writing to us at communications@hfhindia.org.

Best Regards,

[Rajan Samuel](#),
Managing Director
Habitat for Humanity India

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Asia Pacific Housing Forum 5



"To bring dignity and hope to all we believe that none of us can live with dignity until everyone lives with dignity."

Mrs. Sheila Kriplani, Chairperson, Habitat for Humanity India

87

speakers

572

delegates

20

home partners

The Asia-Pacific Housing Forum (APHF), a biennial conference organized by Habitat for Humanity, was held in Delhi (Gurgaon) on 3 and 4 September, 2015.

The India chapter of the fifth forum saw key stakeholders, policy makers, leaders and advocates of affordable housing and sanitation; all come together under one roof. They discussed and exchanged ideas, experiences, intervention models on affordable housing, proper sanitation and sought market solutions and technology solutions towards achieving housing for all and an open defecation free India. It was a privilege to have Mr. Chaudhary Birender Singh - Hon. Union Minister for Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Drinking Water and Sanitation, come and share his thoughts on rural and urban housing, land acquisition and role of corporates in ensuring housing for all. Setting the sentiment behind APHF5 was Mrs. Sheila Kriplani, Chairperson, Habitat for Humanity India who

said, *"To bring dignity and hope to all we believe that none of us can live with dignity until everyone lives with dignity."*

Dr. Nandita Chatterjee - Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, shared the Government of India's efforts towards housing for all and highlighted the fact that nearly 20 million houses are required in urban India whereas rural India needs 30 million houses if we were to achieve the Government's mandate of 'Housing for all by 2022'.

The demand for 'Housing for all' and 'Total Sanitation Coverage in India' was also echoed by renowned Bollywood celebrities, Vivek Oberoi and Evelyn Sharma at the forum. Vivek Oberoi pledged to build 1,00,000 sanitation units across the country in partnership with HFH India while Evelyn Sharma, promoting volunteerism and involvement of youth in the construction of houses for the poor, committed

to lend her support to Habitat's Youth Builds across India.

APHF5 also saw the launch of an insurance scheme for disaster affected families. Five such scheme policies were handed over by Vivek Oberoi to women from Villupuram (Tamil Nadu) at the forum.

87 speakers graced the event with their participation and 572 delegates registered for the forum. More than 20 home partners of Habitat for Humanity India from Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Uttarakhand and Delhi NCR came to Delhi for APHF5. APHF5 was indeed a national platform where a large number of people rallying for the cause of affordable housing and sanitation for all came together to dialogue, deliberate and dream. Habitat for Humanity India is committed to realize the dream of a better India where everyone has a decent place to live with dignity.

Habitat for Humanity Celebrates World Habitat Day



The United Nations observes the 1st Monday of every October as 'World Habitat Day' to reflect on the state of our towns and cities and on the basic right of all to adequate shelter. Habitat for Humanity India (HFH India) celebrated the World Habitat Day on 5th October, 2015 in Mumbai, Delhi, Bangalore and Chennai with great enthusiasm. The Mumbai Program Implementation Office (PIO) celebrated the day in the warm company of 110 students and teachers of Dnyansadhana High School in Manori conducting a 'staff build 2016' in the school. They even organised a painting and a rangoli competition for the students and staff.

The New Delhi PIO joined hands with the children of Chetanalaya non-formal centres and the youth from Savda Ghevra region to conduct a tree plantation drive in the local community park. The efforts of few environmental heroes

have transformed the dumping ground into a clean and environment friendly public space. Children, youth, men, women and the elderly now use the park for recreational activities. The saplings and trees planted by HFH India with the children and young leaders from the community have added to the beauty of the park. Chennai PIO celebrated the day at the Government Higher Secondary School, Kalyampundi by organizing a painting competition for the students. The team also conducted a session on the importance and impact of 'Safe and Decent Homes.' The coastal town of Karwar in Karnataka celebrated World Habitat Day in collaboration with Karwar Diocese Development Centre (KDDC) at Mudgeri village.

A total of 945 people came together with Habitat for Humanity India to celebrate this momentous day.

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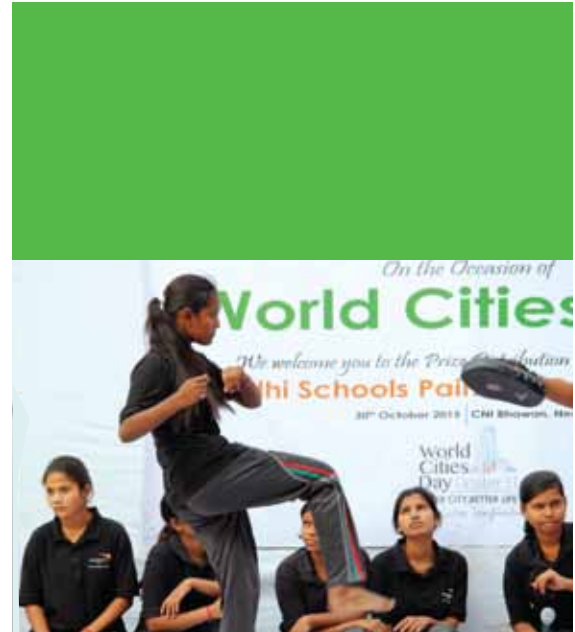


World Cities Day

HFH India and World Vision India in collaboration with UN-HABITAT organized an event commemorating World Cities Day on 30th of October, 2015 in Delhi. A painting competition followed by an exhibition for schools was organized in Delhi NCR with the aim of raising awareness about homelessness, lack of sanitation facilities and poverty housing. It also addressed the theme 'Inclusive Children Friendly Cities'. With these

initiatives, HFH India strives to educate maximum children in school to make India Open Defecation Free by 2019 in alignment with the Government of India's Swachh Bharath Abhiyan.

The event was graced by Mr. Justin Jebakumar (Director - Delhi PIO, Habitat for Humanity India), Dr. Harbans Gill, Executive Director, HUDCO and Mr. Sweecharan, Strategic Alliance, World Vision India.



World Toilet Day

Toilets are a serious business in India, with over 60.4% of the population still without access to sanitation. Poor sanitation increases the risk of disease and malnutrition, especially for women and children. Women and girls risk rape and abuse, because they have no toilet that offers privacy.

HFH India celebrated a week long campaign titled '#don'tcontribute to open defecation' on the occasion of World Toilet Day (19th November 2015) from 13th November to 21st November, 2015. The motive of this campaign was to create and spread awareness about the sanitation problem in the country. This campaign chose multiple platforms to reach a large number of people. Hundreds of people joined the campaign on social media and took a pledge to make India open defecation free.

An exclusive twitter chat with Bollywood actor and celebrity Mr. Purab Kohli gave a boost to our campaign. "The future lies in the

hands of the young and we can make a difference", said Purab Kohli and urged everyone to take a positive action to end open defecation.



"The future lies in the hands of the young and we can make a difference."

Purab Kohli, Bollywood actor and celebrity

Habitat Young Leaders Build 2016

Habitat for Humanity Young Leaders Build (HYLB) 2016 was launched on United Nations International Volunteers Day - 5th December, 2015 - marking the celebration of volunteerism. One of the largest youth movements in the Asia-Pacific region, HYLB has been taking place for last five years focusing on tackling the challenges of poverty housing.

This youth-driven campaign expects to rally more than one million youth, celebrities and corporate participants in India to volunteer, fundraise and speak out for the need for

decent homes as a way out of poverty.

The Young Leaders Build campaign will reach its peak on 2 April 2016, when hundreds of thousands of young people will take part in simultaneous house builds across India or will lend their support to HFH India via social network. Awareness and fundraising activities are taking place in 15 countries and one Special Administrative Region (SAR), including Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Fiji, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Nepal, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea,

Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

The past year's campaign, then known as 'Habitat Youth Build', brought together over 669,000 volunteers and participants from 15 countries and one SAR in the Asia-Pacific region, to help over 13,000 families begin their journey to secure safe, decent homes. Volunteers worked on 9,498 houses, and raised INR 3,73,58,320 towards programs to alleviate poverty housing.



**JOIN HABITAT'S
LARGEST YOUTH
MOVEMENT!**

In 2015 Volunteers worked on 9,498 houses, and raised INR 3,73,58,320 towards programs to alleviate poverty housing.



Partnership with IIT Mumbai's Mood Indigo Festival



Habitat for Humanity India officially partnered with Mood Indigo 2015; the annual cultural festival of Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai. Held from 18th December 2015 to 21st December 2015, HFH India raised awareness among the youth and advocated how youngsters can play their part to put an end to the growing

open defecation in India.

The biggest barrier in eliminating open defecation is the silence surrounding it. In order to break this silence, HFH India placed a commode in the IIT campus and invited students to click pictures and selfies while sitting on it. First a little taken aback by the

sight of the pot out in the open, students happily participated in the activity and even contributed towards Habitat for Humanity's mission of building 1,00,000 toilets in next five years. With a massive support from a large number of individuals, the campaign even raised INR 15,065/- over a period of four days.

Build With Santa

This year Habitat for Humanity India re-defined the idea of festive giving with a unique campaign called Build with Santa. Build with Santa was launched as a part of HYL 2016. The campaign urged individuals to imbibe the spirit of Christmas and make a difference in the lives of people yearning to own a decent house.

This month long campaign was flagged in the beginning of December and culminated at the onset of the New Year. A large

number of individuals participated enthusiastically in this campaign. It was heartwarming to see the staff members across the country participate wholeheartedly. As a result of their untiring efforts, this campaign raised an astounding amount of INR 21,92,338

This campaign has raised an astounding amount of INR 21,92,338

Habitat for Humanity India

"It is more blessed to give than to receive"

This year Santa is going to build what millions of Indians do not have - A decent home. But he cannot do this without you.

Habitat for Humanity India (HFH India) invites you to the 'Build with Santa' campaign through which you can make people's dream of having a safe and decent home a reality.

Every rupee you donate will build a home brick by brick. Let's join hands and 'Build with Santa'. We need 1400 bricks to build a toilet and 3000 bricks to build a room for a family.

How many bricks are you going to donate to Santa?

Build With Santa

Thank you for donating

Name: _____ 10 Bricks (Rs. 100) _____

Email: _____ 50 Bricks (Rs. 500) _____

Phone No.: _____ 100 Bricks (Rs. 1000) _____

Address: _____ Bricks _____ Rs. _____

Cheques in the favour of Habitat for Humanity India Trust. To donate online log onto: www.habitatindia.org

Story from the Field: Rafikan (New Delhi)

"My story is no different than any other, I thought so earlier. After getting married, I lived with my husband at JJ colony. It was among the better known slums in the Delhi NCR region", says Rafikan.



Rafikan was detected blind from her birth. About 20 years ago she got married to Khalid who was a painter. Sometimes he also sold fish to make ends meet. They have two daughters Sajena (18) and Nasreen (12) and two sons Salman (17) and Irfan (14).

An unfortunate misery struck Rafikan's life. Khalid suffered from Tuberculosis for 10 years and passed away in the year 2012. It was a great a shock for her and her children. In a desperate bid, her older son Salman took up fishing just like his father. They continued living in the same house as before. It was very small for a family of five and often got flooded during the monsoons. For her young girls there was no privacy or space, to change clothes. As the doors of the shacks were not made of concrete,

Rafikan was always worried about her children's safety, especially her daughters. The shack's vulnerability to surrounding noises was also affecting their studies. The varying temperatures in the summers and winters were difficult to sustain. The house didn't have a toilet and they were forced to defecate at open places. Helpless and distressed, they started seeking financial support from their neighbours and family to build a toilet and bathroom. They wanted financial support to construct their house from a temporary shack to a sturdier permanent dwelling. But they had no money, no savings, no one to support and no hope to get a loan from the bank. The frequency of asking for financial aids for repairs and renovation of the house increased each day.

It was during this time that they came across two volunteers from Habitat for Humanity India - Saira and Farukh. *"Allah ka reham aakhir aagaya hum pe"* (The almighty has finally been merciful), Rafikan said. The volunteers approached her and explained as to how they could support to make her dream come true. "Today we have a well-furnished house. We have our own toilets. I don't worry about my girls' safety like I did before all the time. All our friends and family now praise our beautiful house. Never in my farthest dream, had I thought I would ever own a house of my own. I walk with pride and dignity in the society and I am no more dependent on any one. *"Shukhriya (Thank you) Habitat for Humanity- India. You made this possible for me and children"* says Rafikan with gratitude.

Being a Part of the Change

Anna Charly, Associate Director - National Volunteer Programs

Editorial Team: How did your journey with HFH India begin?

Anna Charly: In the year 1994, I had a chance to interact with Maggie Smith from Habitat for Humanity International at Tirunelveli (Tamil Nadu) during one of my training sessions. I used to train youngsters on personality development those days. It was then that I learned about Habitat and their work. Maggie invited me to join her as a volunteer to do the need assessment for Habitat for Humanity's presence in India and I accepted. During the course of my volunteering I learnt about the hardships that people face due to the lack of proper housing facilities and this moved me so much that I committed myself to the organisation and joined as the National Partner to develop housing intervention program across the country.

Editorial Team: Tell us about your most memorable moment at HFH India.

Anna Charly: During one of our builds in Hyderabad in 1997, we built a home for a visually challenged man and his family. During the time of house dedication, he stood inside the Habitat home and said, "I can see our future." This till date is one of my most memorable moments. For me building new homes means building future generations. During my journey I have had the opportunity to meet some amazing people from across the globe; including the former US President Mr. Jimmy Carter

himself. Unaware to most of our staff members, I am the sole recipient in India of the prestigious 'US President's Volunteer Service Award' awarded by President Jimmy Carter at Los Angeles in 2007". It was a proud moment for me.

Editorial Team: What do you find most challenging about Volunteer Programs?

Anna Charly: The nature of volunteer program is dynamic yet challenging. Earlier, we used to sponsor volunteer travel but now they come to India on their own expenses. To create equilibrium between one's willingness to volunteer and their financial limitations is always challenging. There are several volunteers who stay back only due to lack of finances. Volunteering for social causes has now been mushrooming

amongst the youth rapidly and it seems to grow even larger by 2020. Besides, planning and coordinating the builds three months in advance is very cumbersome. Running around back and forth locating projects and houses becomes burdening at times. It becomes possible due to great teamwork.

Editorial Team: Why only Habitat for Humanity for 21 years?

Anna Charly: The Founder President of HFH Millard Fuller has always inspired me. He said to me, "Charly, If you cannot give, no one can give, but if you can give, everyone can give - what are you going to give - you have to decide." This conversation with him changed my life and made me dedicate my time and talent to Habitat for Humanity.



Sensitise to Sanitise (S2S) Coalition by Habitat for Humanity India



2.7 million people
impacted through
sanitation from
July to December 2015

Habitat for Humanity India (HFH India) has aligned with the national mandate of making India open defecation free (ODF). Our sanitation intervention includes individual household sanitation, school sanitation, community sanitation and access to water. In addition, HFH India is focusing on behavior change communication (BCC) and training to ensure total sanitation usage and coverage.

In order to reach out to organizations and individuals in the sanitation sector in India, HFH India conceptualized the 'Sensitise to Sanitise Coalition' in November 2014 and launched it in July 2015 as a platform to collaborate and pool in complimentary skills and resources to work towards ensuring sanitation for all and making India open

defecation free district by district!

The coalition aims to work collaboratively with partners and actively seek ways to enhance the well-being of marginalized communities through providing access to sanitation facilities. It will enable partnerships between organizations working in the area of sanitation, offer a knowledge sharing platform for technology and innovations, foster joint fundraising initiatives, encourage planning and implementation of holistic sanitation projects and promote behavior change communication efforts.

The S2S coalition will bring together various organizations and institutions with complementary skills including practitioners, technology providers, research agencies,

donors and funding agencies, international NGOs and micro finance institutions. We aim to partner with more organizations who share our mission to improve the sanitation ecosystem in India.

Currently the coalition has 12 members including Eram Scientific Solutions, Leaf Society, Finish Society, Mahila Housing Sewa Trust, Gramalaya, Samagra, Guardian, Shelter Associates, CDD Society, Wash institute, World Vision and Habitat for Humanity India as the Secretariat.

To join the coalition, write to Ms. Lara Shankar on laras@hfhindia.org.

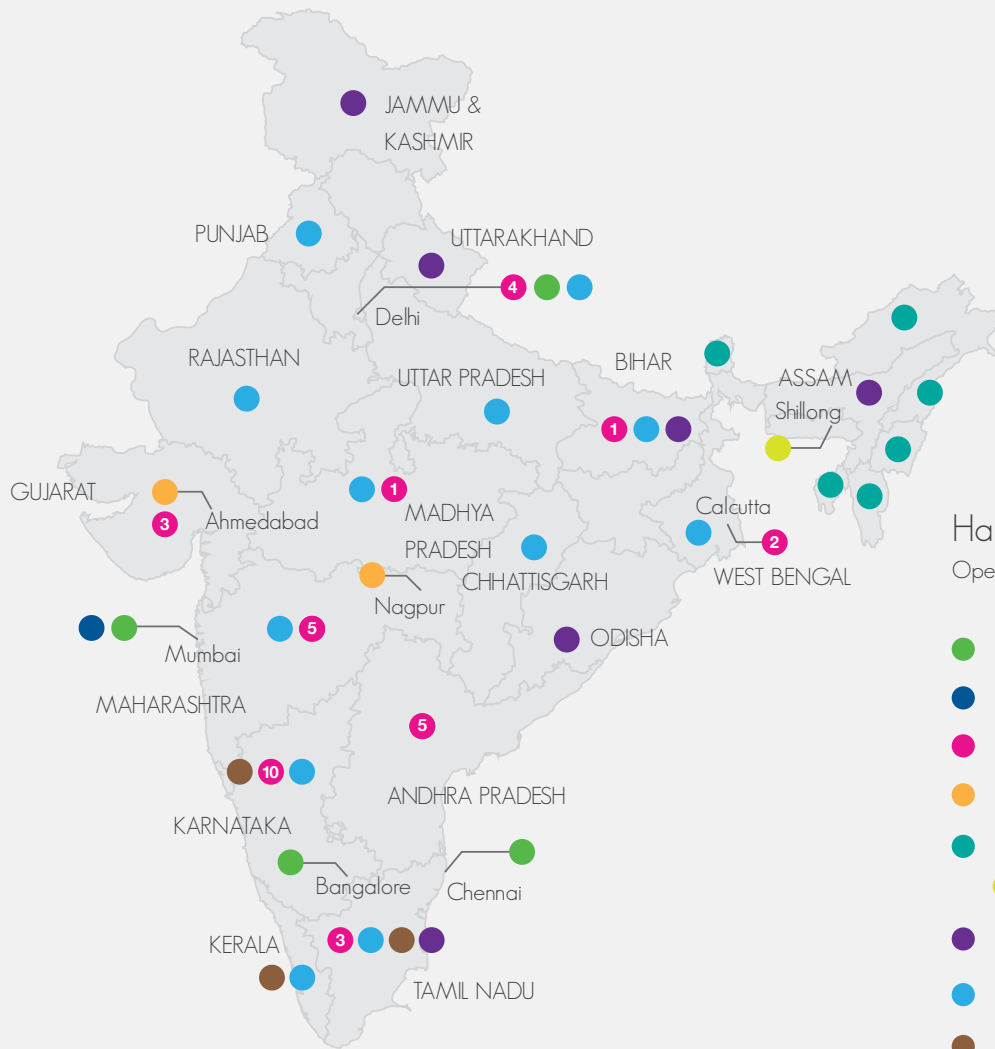
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Habitat for Humanity India's vision is a world where everyone has a decent place to live. Anchored by the conviction that housing provides a critical foundation for breaking the cycle of poverty, Habitat for Humanity India works with low-income, marginalized families to build homes, to provide housing-related services and raises awareness for adequate housing and sanitation. Since its inception in 1983, Habitat for Humanity India has touched the lives of 4,90,962 individuals across 18 states and aims to support 5,00,000 families by 2020. The core area of our work is: Shelter Assistance, Sanitation and Disaster Risk Reduction and Response.



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