Rebuilding India



Habitat for Humanity India Newsletter: Special Edition July to December 2020

Year Five Special Issue

Editorial

Dear Friends,

As the lockdown continues, we persevere in serving vulnerable families across the country. In this endeavour, we have the privilege to partner with many renowned corporate organisations and on-ground partners.

Together, we are working to build a better India despite the current circumstances we find ourselves in.

Habitat for Humanity India's vision has always been to reach out and enable families at the bottom of the pyramid achieve

strength, stability and self-reliance to build a better future for themselves.

We hope that you will see this reflected in this special edition of the newsletter. We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and partner with us in this journey towards a better India.

We wish you all a very Happy New Year!

In partnership, Raian Samuel Managing Director Habitat for Humanity India

CREATIVE TEAM

Rajan Samuel Ritwik Sawant **Anthony Thomas** Saint Kamei Christina Shaikh Rutuja Powle Varsha Parulekar Taarika Chandy Vishal Satpute

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Families served



8,85,560



Sanitation units built

11,66,579



Individuals served

43,45,437



People served through S2S coalition

3,23,79,233



Homes built and repaired

5,08,322



People served through DRRR

9,34,782



Individuals trained under CBDRM

37,002



Volunteers

1,06,05,743



Number of States

26



ShelterBox Supports Cyclone Amphan Disaster Response

Tanushree received Humanitarian Aid Kits from Habitat India post Cyclone Amphan

"Before the storm, we were all quite scared. Our courtyard was completely ruined, one couldn't walk here. I am so thankful to ShelterBox for the shelter kits and household items."

- Tanushree Adhikari, North Taldi, West Bengal

In the aftermath of the widespread devastation caused by Cyclone Amphan in the Sunderbans delta of West Bengal, ShelterBox partnered with Habitat India to support affected families in Canning I and South 24 Parganas districts.

1400 families received Humanitarian Aid Kits from 21st to 24th September 2020, with provisions for emergency shelter and essential household items.

"ShelterBox's ability to respond to Cyclone Amphan was a direct result of our global partnership with Habitat International who facilitated our initial discussions with Habitat India. The current pandemic meant that we were unable to send a team to West Bengal to work alongside Habitat India, instead we collaborated remotely. We are pleased that families will be

able to build stronger, more durable shelters that will help them face the challenges of the months to come."

Alice Jefferson, Head of Operations, ShelterBox

ShelterBox provided remote shelter kit training to the Habitat staff who conducted installation demos for the emergency shelter material for smaller groups of people, keeping in mind COVID-19 restrictions. On ground implementation is supported by Living Hope Trust.



Road to Recovery: 11,22,746 People Served Smt. Rajashree *ji* Birla announces the milestone of impacting

1.1 MILLION

lives through Habitat for Humanity's COVID-19 Response.



"We record this milestone today of serving 1.1 million people in 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 India." - Smt. Rajashree Birla, Aditya Birla Group and Chairperson, Advisory Committee, Habitat for Humanity India

Families of four martyred soldiers from Kolhapur district will now move one step closer to having a home of their own, under Habitat for Heroes housing project.

This was announced by Smt.
Rajashree Birla of the Aditya Birla
Group and Chairperson of Habitat
for Humanity India's Advisory
Committee at the groundbreaking
ceremony organised on October
21st to mark the milestone of serving
1.1 million lives through Habitat for

Humanity India's Road to Recovery COVID-19 Pandemic Response. She dedicated the homes to the families virtually due to COVID-19 restrictions.

"My three year old daughter Aparna was diagnosed with cancer a year ago. My husband Pinto and I have spent more than three lakhs for her treatment. Thankfully, she is responding well. We are grateful for the provisions we received in this difficult time in our lives thanks to Habitat India and Nargis Dutt



Cancer Foundation of Washington State."

- Jayanthi Ravi Das, Bengaluru



Archana Birange (R) with her mother-in-law

"When my husband was martyred in 2001, our family was distraught. We were trying to get back on our feet but the floods last year destroyed our home. Habitat for Humanity India helped us survive and we will soon have a home of our own. During the pandemic, this home can also protect us from the virus." - Archana Birange, Habitat Homeowner

Archana hails from Sainik Takli village, where at least one member from every family is serving in the Indian Army. Along with Archana, Geetanjali Charapale, Akkatai Mane and Vijutai Chaware will realise their dream of building a new home.

The homes of martyrs' families are supported by R. Ramakrishnan, D.T. Thomas, Charandeep Singh, Ashish Kacholia and D.C. Patel, among others. R. Ramakrishnan, Managing Partner, Transformia Advisors LLP raised money for the houses through

crowdfunding after playing Habitat's Annual Charity Golf Tournament in December 2019.

In the past 286 days, Habitat for Humanity India has served over 11,22,746 people from 19 states by providing them with 4,09,035 hygiene and essential kits.

As many as 29,440 families have been supported with conditional cash transfers and 64,636 people have been trained in hygiene habits. Twelve COVID-19 Care Centres with 1375 beds have been set up to shelter people in isolation.

Benefactors of Habitat's COVID-19 Response include 70 corporates, 34,480 individuals and 1903 students. 71 grassroot partners, 2534 volunteers and 29 government departments have helped reach out to families across the country.

We are grateful to each of our supporter for their contribution.



In October 2020, with support from SBI Capital Markets Ltd and Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation, four Habitat Care Centres equipped with 125 beds were set up in Sant Dnyaneshwar Hospital (Nigdi), Lokmanya Hospital (Chinchwad), Sterling Hospital (Nigdi), and Star Hospital (Akurdi) in Pune (Maharashtra).

"We want to curb the spread of COVID-19 in Pune and these Care Centres will serve as an important tool to isolate people, especially those who are not able to follow physical distancing norms in their homes." -

Smt. Ushatai Dhore, Mayor, Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation, Pune.

Another COVID-19 Care Centre was set up in Mhalunge village in the Chakan industrial area in Pune with support from the Chakan plant of Mahindra and Mahindra.

"We are grateful to SBI
Capital Markets Ltd, The
Mahindra Group and Pimpri
Chinchwad Municipal
Corporation for joining hands

with us. Our HCC initiative began with a partnership with Anant National University and we are thankful towards all our supporters." - Rajan Samuel, Managing Director, Habitat for Humanity India.

Habitat India has implemented the COVID-19 Care Centre project by collaborating with local and government departments. Till date Habitat India has set up 12 COVID-19 Care Centres in Mumbai (Maharashtra), Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala), New Delhi and Bengaluru (Karnataka) with 1375 beds.



(Clockwise): Rajan Samuel, MD, Habitat India; Niranjan Hiranandani, President (NAREDCO); Anindita Mukherjee, Senior Researcher, Centre for Policy Research and Shubhagato Dasgupta, Senior Fellow, Centre for Policy Research during the Policy Lab: Rental Housing dialogue

Realizing that Rental Housing is one of the critical solutions to the problem of poor housing conditions in India, a series of Rental Housing Labs have been jointly organised by the Centre for Policy Research (CPR), Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Cities Alliance, World Bank, Asian Development Bank (ADB), Housing and Urban Development Corporation's (HUDCO) Settlement Management Institute (HSMI), International Finance Corporation. Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and Habitat for Humanity.

The Labs have been curated as a platform to deepen the rental

housing policy dialogue in India.

A series of four Rental Housing Policy Lab sessions have been undertaken till date where experts such as Dr. Niranjan Hiranandani, Chairman Hiranandani Group, President National Real Estate Development Council (NAREDCO) and Member of Habitat for Humanity Advisory Committee and Rajan Samuel, Managing Director Habitat India shared their valuable inputs during the sessions.

The group of organizations have successfully completed the labs and are in the process of chalking out the future course of action.

To view the sessions, click on the links below:

- Policy Lab 1: Policy & Legal Framework for Enabling Rental Housing
- Policy Lab 2: Government-Led Rental Housing Model: Options & Challenges
- Policy Lab 3: Private Sector Investment in Rental Housing: Challenges & Opportunities
- Policy Lab 4: Redefining
 "Private" to include Affordable
 Rental Housing Providers for the
 Poor: International and National
 Lessons

Empowering
Women in
Odisha and
Maharashtra
through
Project
Nirmanshree





With an aim to enhance women's entrepreneurial skills in low-cost and green housing related services, and to strengthen the delivery of such services through the government and private sector in India, Habitat India launched Project Nirmanshree, funded by the European Union.

Nirmanshree messengers (field workers), Civil Society Organisations (CSO) partners, representatives from the government, private sector and Habitat International joined the launch event.

Nirmanshree will focus on providing technical and entrepreneurial skills to 3000 women in the housing sector.

The project also aims to set up 50 social enterprises, by supporting women through entrepreneurial trainings and skills.

By creating these local networks, resources and ecosystem for sustainable construction, the project hopes to improve the quality of habitat for 200,000 families in these areas, making them sustainable and climate resilient.

The project will be implemented in Beed and Osmanabad districts, Maharashtra and Dhenkanal and Jajpur districts, Odisha.

An Inception Workshop for Stakeholders was also held on 25th September 2020, to give a brief orientation on project goals, activities, deliverables and indicators.

Nirmanshree as a social enterprise will be established to strengthen the voice of women for undertaking policy dialogue with decision-makers to enhance women's participation in habitat-related interventions. Women and girls that were part of the project would be able to participate at the local level in planning, designing and implementation of service delivery for families living in poor housing conditions with emphasis on vulnerable women.



In a Meet and Greet event, Bollywood actor, national award winning producer and Habitat India's brand ambassador John Abraham felicitated students and principals of schools across India that have partnered for our Rupee for Change campaign.

John Abraham lauded the students for their efforts and inspired them to continue to give back to society more than ever during the COVID-19 pandemic. The event was hosted online on 7th August 2020.

In the 2019-20 edition of Rupee for Change, more than 44,267 students from 225 schools raised funds which

have been utilized towards Habitat's housing, WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene), and disaster response projects, including COVID-19 relief work.

Students across India took part in marathons and initiated crowdfunding campaigns to serve vulnerable communities such as migrant workers and daily wage labourers adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, alongside us.

"Habitat for Humanity India is doing great work by building homes, sanitation units and supporting people

during disasters. As much as you can give, all of you must give because there are countless people without a roof over their heads." - John Abraham, actor and Habitat

for Humanity India Brand
Ambassador.

Watch the Meet and Greet with John here:





26 Habitat homeowners gather to take the key to their new homes in Mundar, Kerala

The devastating floods of August 2018 severely affected the village of Mundar and 236 families who reside in it. Two years later, the village has undergone a complete transformation thanks to the partnership between HSBC India and Habitat for Humanity India.

On 18th November 2020, a dedication ceremony was held in Mundar to handover newly built disaster resilient homes to families and to mark the completion of Phase I of the project in Mundar, Kerala.

Housing is at the core of this holistic disaster response project in Mundar where Habitat India has rebuilt the

lives of 236 families. 26 families now live in newly built disaster resilient homes equipped with sanitation units. 129 families have repaired their damaged homes and have access to a sanitation unit.

Over the coming months the following infrastructure will be provided - a community centre, an anganwadi, two RO water plants and street lights.

As part of rebuilding lives and livelihoods, women have been empowered as masons and in tailoring, farmers have received training and families have been supported for livestock rearing.

The project has also involved identifying and training women leaders and forming Self Help Groups to ensure sustainability of the programs.

Swayam Sikshan Prayog has supported Habitat India in implementing the project.



Training of Women Leaders and Self Help Group formation in Mundar, Kerala



Mrs. Saraswathy and Mrs. Sharmila Venugopal receiving the key to their new home

"Kerala witnessed the worst floods in almost a century which destroyed thousands of homes and left people with no access to basic necessities. Habitat for Humanity India and HSBC India have made an earnest effort to rebuild the lives of the flood-affected people. We are proud to witness the transformation that has taken place in Mundar."

- Surendra Rosha, Group General Manager and

Chief Executive Officer, HSBC India.

HSBC India and Habitat for Humanity India had joined hands previously to build a model village in Pedda Bidda, Visakhapatnam district, Andhra Pradesh which was devastated by Cyclone Huhud in 2014.

The Mundar Development Project in Kerala is the second such holistic disaster response project undertaken in partnership by HSBC India and Habitat India.



Distribution of livestock for livelihood and sustenance in Mundar, Kerala

Habitat India has served 1,56,671 families in Kerala in the aftermath of the devastating floods of August 2018.



Habitat homeowner Vithabai Laxman Sonavne carrying out groundbreaking ceremony on her land

Life's Good - Hope Village

LG Electronics (LG) is partnering with Habitat India for a housing project titled "LIFE'S GOOD - HOPE VILLAGE" that will help 12 families build homes and 15 families construct sanitation units in Kharoshi and Dehane villages, Pune district, Maharashtra. In addition to the construction of homes, consumer durables including water purifiers and refrigerators will be donated to the communities in these villages.

The project is expected to be completed by October 2021.

"LG is always looking for ways to make life better, and we are honored to support the good work of Habitat for Humanity India and to protect the wellbeing of the families they help with our healthy home solutions."

 Young Lak Kim, Managing Director of LG Electronics India.

"Our homes have become the frontline defense against COVID-19. But for many, a safe and affordable home remains elusive during this pandemic. At Habitat India, we believe that a healthy home helps families build resilience to cope with disasters. We are thankful for the support of LG Electronics for our project in Pune that helps families living in unfavorable conditions to build decent homes."

 Rajan Samuel, Managing Director of Habitat for Humanity India.



Habitat homeowner Ramesh Bhoir carrying out groundbreaking ceremony in Vangani, Maharashtra

Energy Efficient Homes for 33 Families

Ramesh Bhoir is specially abled and runs a small shop in the nearby station of Vangani in Maharashtra. He has a wife and two children - a son and daughter - and is the sole earning member of the family, meaning that they struggle to make ends meet.

On 27th November 2020, we held the groundbreaking ceremony for a new housing project in partnership with Selco Foundation. These homes will be energy efficient with roof insulation to reduce the amount of energy required to heat the house in winter and keep it cool in summer.

One of the new homes will be for Ramesh and his family. Through this project, 33 low income families in Thane and Raigad districts of Maharashtra will build energy efficient homes of their own.

Area Development Project

On 24th September 2020, Habitat India held a ground-breaking ceremony for a holistic development project in Vallam, Thanjavur district, Tamil Nadu supported by Eicher Group Foundation. Through the

project, Habitat India will help 400 families in the village with improved sanitation units, rainwater harvesting, solar streetlights, reverse osmosis water plant and a sanitation complex for the local school.

On 11th November 2020, Rajan Samuel, Managing Director, Habitat India and the Eicher Group Foundation team met with the local representatives from 4 hamlets with a population of over 5000 families to discuss their vision for improvement of their villages. From 4 hamlets, 16 members will be elected to form a Project Management Committee.



volRUNteer Marathon held during the launch of Habitat Young Leaders Build 2021

Habitat India launched the 2021 edition of Habitat Young Leaders Build (HYLB) by organising a marathon in association with fitness app StepSetGo.

The marathon titled volRUNteer was held virtually on the StepSetGo app on 5th December 2020, a day celebrated as International Volunteer Day. Over 1700 individuals ran to support Habitat India.

Habitat India's new Youth Ambassador

Young change icons can empower the youth across the country. Habitat India is proud to announce Srishti Jupudi - World Junior Badminton Champion and conqueror of Gladwell's 10,000 hour rule - as the official Youth Ambassador for Habitat India. Srishti hopes to create 10,000 Young Leaders for sustainable social change. Guest of Honour Mr. Shankar Garigiparthy, CEO and Country Head of Lloyd's along with Mr. Rajan Samuel, Managing Director, Habitat for Humanity India welcomed Srishti as the Habitat Youth Ambassador on 17th November 2020.



Launching Srishti Jupudi as Youth Ambassador of Habitat India during the launch of Habitat Young Leaders Build 2021



"Every member of my family is safe in this house. A clean, spacious and hygienic place to live in is something we had long hoped for. We are thankful to Fluor Daniel and Habitat for this act of kindness." - Lal Singh, Habitat Homeowner

Lal Singh (80) and his wife Kamla Devi (75) live in Sehrawan village, Haryana. There are 7 people in their household. Their eldest son Neeraj (36) is married to Rinu (21) and has a son Prince (1). Their two other sons Ashok Kumar (32) and Swaraj (23) are both unmarried. The family had a long struggle to build a house that can shelter seven members.

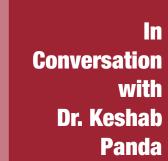
Rinu and Kamla Devi also had trouble maintaining their privacy since there was just one room to cook, sleep in and store things. While they had built a toilet outside the house, it was in a bad shape. The house had long since become a dangerous place to live in - the roof was crumbling and the walls on the verge of collapse. They couldn't afford to fix it because of their financial condition.

Lal Singh has been pushing himself to work as a security guard since the income from his two sons Ashok and Swaraj who worked in a carmanufacturing factory as labourers, was not enough to make ends meet.

When Habitat for Humanity India partnered with **Fluor Daniel** to build homes with vulnerable families in the village of Sehrawan, Lal Singh

was among the 5 families selected. The groundbreaking for the homes was held on 31st January 2020 and the homes were handed over to the families on 19th September 2020.

The core house with a room and veranda provides the base for the family. Since people in the village prefer to wash clothes and utensils outside, a separate space is provided as part of the construction. Earlier the family depended on irregular water supply to maintain cleanliness and hygiene. In their new Habitat home, they can even store water in the tank!





Dr. Keshab Panda, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer - LTTS speaks with us about Project Neelachala and

Cyclone Fani destroyed homes and livelihoods for a large number of people in Odisha.

In a tripartite partnership with L&T Technology Services (LTTS) and the District Collector's Office of Puri (Government of Odisha), Habitat India's Project Neelachala was launched to serve 150 vulnerable families with new disaster resilient houses in Puri district. We also aim to educate and promote the Community Based Disaster Risk Management practices for disaster preparedness.

LTTS supports Project Neelachala's vision to serve the people of Odisha.

What are the values that you personally feel are most important for life?

supporting the people of Odisha

Being a technologist, I believe having a scientific temperament is important, as much as the constant pursuit of knowledge. Curiosity and innovation are also a few traits that the young generation should inculcate. But one of the most important and overlooked value that one should possess is of collaboration and teamwork – these qualities ultimately can lead one towards success.

Could you share which issues you feel particularly passionate about?

Lack of proper shelter is a massive issue in India, crippling our society even as India's influence across the world is growing. It is important that all Indians get adequate shelter, not just the middle, upper-middle class or the rich. LTTS has been doing its bit in helping those who have been displaced due to various natural calamities such as the people of Odisha, after Cyclone Fani hit.

What made you, and LTTS as an organisation, notice the disasteraffected families in Odisha after Cyclone Fani?

Firstly, I am from Odisha. Secondly, lack of proper shelter is a raging

issue in a developing country like India – an issue that is close to my heart. Finally, and most importantly, Cyclone Fani had ravaged parts of Odisha and displaced lakhs of people. Hence, launching Project Neelachala, a program for providing disaster-resilient shelter homes to the families affected by the cyclone, was the natural next step for us. I am happy to share that we have been able to touch and improve many lives through our CSR initiative.

What do you feel having a safe and decent disaster-resilient home can achieve for a family in need?

It is very important to understand that it is not enough for a family to be able to only survive. Every family deserves a meaningful life and hence it is prudent to have a disaster-resilient home and good, strong shelter. By providing India's masses with adequate shelter, we can empower them to have a life that is more enriching and purposeful.

What are the values that LTTS feels are most important, that contributed to the organisation supporting Habitat India?

Being the subsidiary of L&T Group, LTTS has imbibed the responsibility of giving 'back to the society' as a serious business by delving deep into issues that hold the development of people, community and the nation.

Collaborating with an NGO like Habitat India has helped us in achieving our goal of building India's infrastructure.

What are your thoughts about organisations like LTTS, supporting NGOs and non-profits across the country?

For our country to achieve self-sustaining opportunities, a Corporate-NGO partnership is inevitable. The CSR activities of LTTS are identified, evaluated and undertaken by partnering with



credible NGOs and by involving the community at large, in the following areas: Health, Education & Skill Development, Sports, Water Conservation, Environment and Corporate Volunteering Program.

Do you have a message for other individuals like you, about how they could help rebuild the country?

I believe it is important to identify oneself with the cause. understanding the cause and then having a concrete plan-of-action to ensure that the idea towards the cause has been implemented. Creating a sustainable roadmap to achieving your goals is also important – it is not just about fulfilling a corporate duty of allotting budget for a segment in the company, but a great responsibility, involving proper ideation, thought and meticulous planning. As we work towards a higher purpose of creating a more sustainable world, it's a constant endeavour to enhance the quality of life for communities around us.



Bishnu and Sulochana Bhoi with their children outside their new disaster resilient home



Did you catch the special episode about Habitat India on NDTV 24x7?

Titled Rebuilding India: Brick by **Brick,** the episode featured Dr. Niranjan Hiranandani, Co-Founder and Managing Director - Hiranandani Group of Companies, Vijay Sethi, Chief Innovation Officer, Head of CSR, Chief of Human Resources, Hero Motocorp, Priyanka Kripalani, Country Head, India CIPA S.A.S. (France) and Rajan Samuel, Managing Director, Habitat for Humanity India in conversation about sustainable housing related solutions amidst COVID-19. We also had special messages from John Abraham and Smt. Rajashree Birla, Aditya Birla Group.

Women Build for a Better India

Habitat for Humanity's Women Build India (WBI) committee empowers underprivileged women and their families by rallying for the cause of decent homes and safe sanitation for all. We are grateful to Mrs. Sheila Kripalani (Chair, Women Build India Committee, Habitat India) for championing Habitat's cause during this critical time of the pandemic.

During the lockdown, the WBI members went out of their way to support Habitat's work by raising resources for our COVID-19 relief work and housing and sanitation projects. We are thankful particularly to the following:

Pri Shewakramani (Marketing

Consultant) and Scherezade Shroff (YouTuber) for launching Quarancharity to raise funds.

We are also grateful towards Ms. Sabira Merchant (noted media personality and Trustee, Habitat India), theatre personality Raell Padamsee (MD and CEO, ACE Production), Malti Jain (Director - Public Relations, SP Jain School of Global Management and President - DCW Ltd), Radhika Nath, Piloo Tata (M.K. Tata Trust), Sneh Koticha (Jean Claude Biguine), Joanna Irzyk (Wife of Consul General of Poland) for their support in providing improved housing and sanitation facilities to low income families.



Sheila Kripalani (Chair, Women Build India Committee, Habitat India)

Awards and Recognition

Global Economy Change Makers 2020 Charity Leadership Award



Our Managing Director Mr. Rajan Samuel was honoured with the Global Economy Change Makers 2020 Charity Leadership Award on 1st December 2020. This award celebrates his prominent impact in Habitat's work contributing towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11 of building sustainable cities and communities.



PeopleQ Inspiration Award

Habitat for Humanity India won the PeopleQ Inspiration Award in 'Best Initiatives Towards Contribution to Society' on 12th September 2020.

PeopleQ Inspiration Awards is an initiative to recognize organisations who have battled the COVID-19 crisis with courage, creativity and compassion.

Tata Mumbai Marathon Certificate of Excellence

Habitat for Humanity India received the Certificate of Excellence in the Platinum category for our work in the field of housing and sanitation at the Tata Mumbai Marathon Philanthropy Awards held at Raj Bhavan on 27th October 2020.

The Governor of Maharashtra Shri Bhagat Singh Koshyari presented the award to Habitat India.



3rd Edition of Habitat for Humanity India's Charity Golf Tournament

Sunday **10th JANUARY 2021** Willingdon Sports Club, Mumbai



After two successful golf tournaments, we are excited to invite you to the 3rd Edition of Habitat for Humanity India's Charity Golf Tournament.

The tournament will be held at the Willington Sports Club, Mumbai on 10th January 2021. Catch a glimpse of the 2nd Edition of Habitat India Charity Golf Tournament here.





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

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