

# Rebuilding India



Habitat for Humanity India Newsletter:  
June 2021

Year Six  
Issue One

# Editorial

Dear Friends,

As the second wave of COVID-19 ravages our country, we are persuaded that now more than ever a safe and secure home is the need of the hour!

Habitat India and our partners have been working towards building a better India, impacting over 1.32 million vulnerable individuals since March 2020 through our Road to Recovery Strategy.

We were encouraged by the first quarter of 2021, hoping that we were beginning to see the end of the virus in our country.

However, this storm is now raging fiercer than ever. As we launch our Road to Recovery 2.0: COVID-19 Response, we believe that within these pages you will see the flickers of hope that we were able to light in the homes of those we could serve even through these times.

Together, we can put humanity first and build a world where every family can be safe.

**In partnership,  
Rajan Samuel  
Managing Director  
Habitat for Humanity India**

## CREATIVE TEAM

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

## COPYRIGHT

Habitat for Humanity India



Families served

**9,48,830**



Individuals served

**47,25,167**



Homes built and repaired

**5,12,975**



Sanitation units built

**11,66,892**



People served through  
S2S coalition

**3,25,53,233**



People served  
through DRRR

**11,39,400**



Funds leveraged

**INR 67.18 Cr.**  
(USD 9.33 Million)



Volunteers

**1,06,05,743**



Number of States

**26**



**Pooja Bedi**  
**Actress and**  
**Motivational Speaker**



**Sabira Merchant**  
**Etiquette Trainer and**  
**Habitat India Trustee**

## **Build Yourself Build India**

Habitat for Humanity India launched a series of interactive workshops for corporate leaders titled Build Yourself, Build India. The series hopes to help personal empowerment, teaching us how to deprogram our own limiting beliefs and reinvent ourselves through the power of positivity. This series targets mind, body and soul to develop ourselves in the pandemic.

The first session was held on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021 for 63 individuals with noted TV, film, media personality and renowned motivational speaker Pooja Bedi leading those attending in how to think out of the box, energise work environments and infuse a

spirit of excellence into everything.

**“Working remotely in the wake of the COVID-19 has been a challenging and disorienting factor for many. It has brought to the forefront the issue of mental health. Through this workshop, our goal was to inspire corporate professionals to reinvent themselves.” Pooja Bedi.**

The second session was held by top etiquette trainer and Habitat India’s

Trustee Ms. Sabira Merchant. She dwelt on the importance of etiquette training, communication skills and personality development in a Masterclass for 62 individuals on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

**“Self-development is an integral part of our personality. Being well-groomed boosts your morale and has a significant impact on enhancing productivity. Life skills can equip you to face the world with confidence and courage.” Sabira Merchant.**



## Road to Recovery 2.0 : COVID-19 Response



Distributing Hygiene and Family Essential Kits following social distancing and good hygiene in Bhawanipur, Kolkata

Habitat for Humanity India has been responding to COVID-19 pandemic since March 2020 through the Road to Recovery strategy, serving over 13,27,076 people through Family Essential Kits, Hygiene Kits, Conditional Cash Transfer, Behaviour Change Communication training and Habitat Care Centres (HCCs).

Road to Recovery 2.0 is Habitat India's response to the deadly second wave of COVID-19 pandemic.

### Road to Recovery 2.0: COVID-19 Response:

**Hygiene Kit:** Humanitarian aid in the form of a hygiene kit consisting of

digital thermometer, oximeter, soaps, masks, handkerchiefs, dishwashing soap, sanitary napkins and liquid hand-wash.

**Family Essential Kit:** All items from the hygiene kit and other essential items.

**Habitat Care Centre (HCC):** A Habitat Care Centre augments the existing medical infrastructure and supports vulnerable individuals with safe spaces to isolate or quarantine, keeping families safe and preventing transmission. Habitat India has also set up 18 HCCs so far in Mumbai (Maharashtra), Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala), Delhi, Bengaluru

(Karnataka), East Godavari and West Godavari (Andhra Pradesh) with an aggregate capacity of 2,075 beds.

**Habitat India has served 14,220 individuals through Road to Recovery 2.0 so far.**

For donations and CSR partnerships, please write to Suprita Tambe on [supritat@hfindia.org](mailto:supritat@hfindia.org)



**Road to  
Recovery 2.0:  
Over 14,000  
People  
Served so far**

Habitat Care Centre supported by MetLife Foundation at CSI Hospital and RMR Park in Bengaluru, Karnataka

### **Habitat Care Centres**

- Two Habitat Care Centres were inaugurated in CSI Hospital and RMR Park Bommanahalli, Bengaluru on 26th May 2021. Both Care Centres together have 100 beds along with medical equipment such as oxygen concentrators which will augment India's medical infrastructure.
- 68 oxygen concentrators were distributed to two COVID care facilities in NCR Delhi.
- 12 oxygen concentrators were distributed to Dental College (Ambernath Municipal Council Hospital) in Ambernath, Maharashtra.

- 15 oxygen concentrators provided to Adventist Hospital in Pune and Evangeline Booth Hospital in Ahmednagar, Maharashtra.

### **Hygiene and Family Essential Kits**

- 50 Family Essential Kits and 50 Hygiene Kits were distributed to families of labourers working on coffee and tea plantations in Kodagu, Karnataka.
- 30 Family Essential Kits and 10 Hygiene Kits were distributed to 40 families from the transgender community in Nelamangala, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- 700 families of the Irula tribe in Tamil Nadu received Hygiene and

### **Family Essential Kits.**

- 300 families of daily wage workers received Hygiene and Family Essential Kits in Ulhasnagar, Badlapur located in Thane district, Maharashtra.
- 100 families of frontline health workers in Thane, Maharashtra received Hygiene Kits.
- 275 families in Assam received Hygiene and Family Essential Kits.
- 300 PPE kits and 20 litres of sanitisers were distributed to the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB) office, the office of a member of the Legislative Assembly and a Mohalla Clinic in Delhi.

## India Housing Forum and Impact Andhra Pradesh



Rajan Samuel, Managing Director, Habitat India with Habitat homeowner Fathima Sheikh from Narasapuram, Andhra Pradesh

In 2021, Habitat India is partnering with the government of Andhra Pradesh to accelerate the vision of the Honourable Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy Garu through his unique initiative Navaratnalu Pedalandariki Illu, the world's largest comprehensive program to provide housing for 3 million families from the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) community.

Appointed by the Department of Housing, Government of Andhra Pradesh as Knowledge Partner, Habitat India will support the initiative by building homes for EWS families through a state-wide intervention

called Impact Andhra Pradesh.

To launch the partnership, Habitat for Humanity India held the India Housing Forum - The Andhra Pradesh Chapter on 25<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> March 2021. Organised jointly by Habitat India and Andhra Pradesh State Housing Corporation, the forum saw over 150 delegates and eminent speakers from the state government of Andhra Pradesh, the corporate world, NGOs, construction companies, technology sector and many more, participate in the forum in-person and virtually.

**The forum was launched by Dr. N Bharath Gupta, (IAS) Managing**

**Director, Andhra Pradesh State Housing Corporation Ltd and Rajan Samuel, Managing Director, Habitat for Humanity India.**

The key themes that emerged from the forum looked at convergence, synergy and inclusive partnerships between the public, private and the people to address the housing deficit.

**“The behemoth initiative of Navaratnalu Pedalandariki Illu envisioned by our Honourable Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy is one of the largest**





Pradeep Narayanan - Chief Operating Officer, Habitat India; Rajnish Nandan - General Manager Sales, Roca-Parryware; Dr. N. Bharath Gupta - IAS, Managing Director, Andhra Pradesh State Housing Corporation Ltd.; Rajan Samuel - Managing Director, Habitat India and Bharat Kumar G. - Regional Business Head, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha, Mahindra Rural Housing Finance Ltd. (left to right)

**comprehensive programs in the world to provide housing for over 3 million families from the Economically Weaker Section community. India Housing Forum jointly organized by our knowledge partner Habitat for Humanity India and Andhra Pradesh State Housing Corporation is a significant step in this process,” said Dr. N. Bharat Gupta, IAS, Managing Director, Andhra Pradesh State Housing Corporation.**

As the knowledge partner to the Department of Housing for Government of Andhra Pradesh, Habitat India will propose a roadmap to impact families through holistic interventions in the housing eco-system. We will form coalitions and partnerships to spur scale and impact.

ECOSTP Technology Private Limited, Selco Solar Light Private Limited, Ultratech Cement Limited, Cholamandalam Home Loan, HM United and Parryware set up their booths at the exhibition centre, showcasing their innovative solutions and initiatives in the housing and housing eco-system sector.



Dr. Bharath Gupta (IAS) visits stalls at the India Housing Forum 2021



# India Housing Forum: The Andhra Pradesh Chapter

## We Are Grateful To Our Event Partners

**Mahindra** HOME FINANCE



बामर लॉरी एण्ड कं. लिमिटेड  
(भारत सरकार का एक उद्यम)  
**Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd.**  
(A Government of India Enterprise)

**Parryware**  
always in fashion



## We Thank Our Partner Organisations







## Stakeholder Advisory Group Enterprise (SAGE)

Rajan Samuel, Managing Director, Habitat India at the yearly Women's Build with Lowe's in Bengaluru, Karnataka, 2019

Habitat for Humanity India's Managing Director Mr. Rajan Samuel has been appointed as a member of the Stakeholder Advisory Group Enterprise (SAGE) of UN-Habitat (United Nations Human Settlements Programme). Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN-Habitat has congratulated our Managing Director and welcomed him to SAGE for a two year term, in a letter dated 12<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

The role of SAGE is extremely important in advising UN-Habitat on effective engagement of stakeholders to support implementation of the urban

dimensions of the sustainable development agenda.

This year SAGE is focusing on five main areas of engagement: policy, programmes, monitoring implementation of global commitments, resource mobilization and advocacy.

The group is also developing a roadmap to promote partnerships for sustainable urban development in key events this year such as UN-Habitat's Committee of Permanent Representatives' mid-term review of the organization's strategic plan, the High Level Political Forum, COP 26 and Urban October, as well the



Ref: UNH-QED-OL-210512-09

Nairobi, 12 May 2021

Dear Mr. Rajan,

I have the pleasure to congratulate you upon your selection as a member of the Stakeholder Advisory Group Enterprise (SAGE) and welcome you to this group for a two-year term.

The role of SAGE is extremely important in advising UN-Habitat on effective engagement of stakeholders to support implementation of the urban dimensions of the sustainable development agenda.

This year SAGE is focusing on five main areas of engagement: policy, programmes, monitoring implementation of global commitments, resource mobilization and advocacy. The group is also developing a roadmap to promote partnerships for sustainable urban development in key events this year such as UN-Habitat's Committee of Permanent Representatives' mid-term review of the organization's strategic plan, the High Level Political Forum, COP 26 and Urban October, as well the High-Level Meeting on the New Urban Agenda and 11<sup>th</sup> session of the World Urban Forum in 2022.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation for your interest in contributing to the important work of SAGE and your willingness to commit your time and sustained support. You will soon receive information on the date and time of SAGE meetings including an orientation session for new members where you will be introduced to all the other members. In the meantime, please find enclosed key documents about SAGE and [Stakeholder Engagement](#) adopted at the first UN-Habitat Assembly in May 2019. For more information, please contact [pxylife@un.org](mailto:pxylife@un.org).

I look forward to working with you to advance our common vision for a better quality of life for all in our cities and communities.

Yours sincerely,

Maimunah Mohd Sharif  
Under-Secretary-General and  
Executive Director of UN-Habitat

Mr. Rajan Samuel  
Head  
Habitat for Humanity International, India

P.O. Box 29000, GPO/Harambee Drive, Nairobi, Kenya 00100  
Email: [unhabitat-qa@un.org](mailto:unhabitat-qa@un.org) / Website: [www.unhabitat.org](http://www.unhabitat.org)

High-Level Meeting on the New Urban Agenda and 11th session of the World Urban Forum in 2022.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition of Habitat's Charity Golf Tournament



L-R: Jaggy Shivdasani (CEO - Airtravel, Award-winning Bridge Player), Akshay Kilachand (Director - Indian Commercial Co. Ltd), Arjun Nowhar - Director and Regional GM - APAC, Uber for Business, Shlok Seghal (Managing Partner - Kilowatt Ventures LLP)

Habitat for Humanity India hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of its annual Charity Golf Tournament at the Willingdon Sports Club in Mumbai on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2021, to raise funds for building homes for families of martyred soldiers and to set up Habitat Care Centres in Maharashtra.

Organized adhering to strict COVID-19 health advisories and protocols to ensure safety of the players, this iconic charity sports tournament witnessed participation from 118 golfers.

Top corporate honchos from Mumbai such as **Mr. Sudhir Jain (Managing Director – Bank of America)**, **Mr.**

**Kaushik Shaparia (CEO – Deutsche Bank)**, **Mr. John Wilcox (CEO – Navnit Group)**, **Mr. Tarun Rai (CEO - Wunderman Thompson, JWT)**, **Mr. Sampath Kumar (Group Head - HDFC Bank)**, **Mr. Jaggy Shivdasani (CEO – Airtravel)** and other prominent personalities from India's leading businesses, participated in the tournament to express solidarity with the cause.

The winners for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Charity Golf tournament were **Mani Subramanian (Overall Nett Winner)**, **Harmeet Sahney (Best Gross Score Winner)** and **Asha Doshi (Overall Ladies Nett Winner)**. [Click here](#) to read the full list of winners.



R Gopal, Managing Director, Goodrich Maritime Private Limited taking a swing at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Habitat India Charity Golf Tournament



Dr. Perola Menon, Elvira Lobo and Asha Doshi (left to right) play the 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition of Habitat's Charity Golf Tournament

Following a fruitful partnership with the Asian Tour as their official Sustainable Development Partner, Habitat India launched its first-ever Charity Golf Tournament on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2019 with 78 top corporate leaders and professional golfers like **Jeev Milkha Singh, Shiv Kapur, Chiragh Kumar** and **former Indian cricketer Ajit Agarkar**.

The second edition was held in December 2019. 67 business leaders played golf with professional golfers **Rashid Khan, Anil Mane** and **former Indian cricketers Ajit Agarkar and S. Badrinath**.



Kaushik Shaparia (in front) - CEO, Deutsche Bank AG putts during Charity Golf Tournament



John Wilcox, CEO of Navnit Group takes a swing for charity



# 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition of Habitat's Charity Golf Tournament

We Are Grateful To Our Supporters



ANIL  
SINGHEE





## International Women's Day Build with Lowe's

Akkiyamma cutting the ribbon alongside Habitat staff, as she enters her new Habitat home.

On 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021, Habitat India dedicated 2 new homes to Akkiyamma and Nagamma's families. Built in partnership with Lowe's Home Improvement, the homes were handed over to a total of 7 families in Bengaluru (Karnataka). 5 families have repaired their homes thanks to the support from Lowe's.

**“On this occasion, we want to reinstate our belief in women and stand with them as they forge their paths in non-traditional workspaces. I hope every year we continue to make a difference in this**

**community. We look forward to a strong partnership to come!” said Mr. Mohith Mohan (Senior Director, HR - Lowes India),** who joined the home dedication ceremony virtually with his colleagues **Ms. Garima Dimri (CSR Lead – Lowes India) and Ms. Shivani Vyas (Corporate Communications and CSR Head – Lowes India).**

**Akkiyamma says, “We had tried several times to get a new house through different housing schemes, but we were left unanswered. Now**

**that we are living in our new Habitat home, our worries have been lifted.”**

Habitat India participates in a yearly build with Lowe's in the week of International Womens Day. Habitat for Humanity's global partnership with Lowe's spans 18 long years, with their generous support bringing together future homeowners and volunteers to help women build a better future for their families.

**Over 1200 women across different communities celebrated the International Women's Day with Habitat in March 2021.**

## In Conversation with Arindam Banerji



Arindam Banerji, Managing Director and Head, India and Philippines, Wells Fargo International Solutions Private Limited (Wells Fargo India)

Habitat India has partnered with Wells Fargo since 2014 to provide 20 families with new homes in the wake of Cyclone Hudhud and 4 families with disaster-resilient homes with sanitation units post the 2016 Chennai Floods.

Recently, we helped 120 families post Cyclone Amphan with Temporary Shelters. In the midst of the COVID-19 outbreak, we served 1815 families in Bengaluru, Chennai and Hyderabad with Hygiene and Family Essential Kits.

Habitat India is grateful to be able to partner with Wells Fargo to build a better India together!

### **Q. What are the values that you personally feel are most important for life?**

Being transparent, doing the right thing at all times and being collaborative are what I hold close to my heart. These are values that guide my every day actions and my long term decisions.

### **Q. Could you share which social issues you feel particularly passionate about?**

I believe having a safe, healthy and affordable place to call home is essential. It is after all, what defines the foundation for a person's well-being, his sense of dignity and economic opportunity.

Unfortunately, for India's poverty-stricken areas, having a decent home can be extremely difficult, if not impossible. With the onslaught of Cyclone Amphan last year and other natural disasters, the sad reality is that families can be easily uprooted and left without shelter and access to basic necessities.

### **Q. What made you, and Wells Fargo as an organisation, choose to support disaster-affected families after Cyclone Amphan, and COVID19-affected families?**

Disaster response, including relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction activities, is one of our Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) thematic



areas that also aligns with our global commitment of supporting our communities by building a more inclusive and sustainable recovery for all.

During unprecedented times like these, we knew we wanted to come forward and help affected communities. This is not just helping in the short run, but a commitment to extending support so that families situated in these areas can soon recover and rebuild their lives.

resilient homes for families affected by typhoons and floods in recent years. Our Wells Fargo employees have also volunteered with Habitat in activities that have helped homeowners build their homes.

**Q. Could you tell us about what you imagine a safe and decent disaster-resilient home can achieve for a family in need?**

When disasters hit, communities often suffer from a double tragedy – the loss of loved ones and the

security for a family unit. They also lay the foundation of support - physical, mental and even emotional - during trying times to keep families safe. Being able to live in safe and decent homes shouldn't be a privilege – it's a basic human right.

**Q. What are the values that Wells Fargo feels are most important, that contributed to the organisation supporting Habitat India?**

Our CSR approach focuses on building strong local economies, helping communities thrive and a commitment to inclusive growth of communities where we operate. We believe this aligns well with Habitat's vision which is geared towards building strength, stability and self-reliance through affordable housing and sanitation facilities.

**Q. Do you have a message for other individuals like you, leaders in the corporate world, about how they could help rebuild the country?**

It's important to lead from the front, which basically would mean that as leaders we should set an example for others to follow and emulate. I personally believe that every little bit counts. So if I could, by my actions and beliefs influence our employees to be more socially-conscious and contribute towards making the world a better place for those privileged, then I have already taken a big step forward in the direction. In addition I actively contribute and participate in leadership forums where we brainstorm on the direction we need to collectively move, to impact the industry and thereby enable the country to progress.



Firuja Laskar outside her temporary shelter in Canning South 24 Parganas, West Bengal

**Q. Why did you choose to support Habitat for Humanity India's work?**

Habitat for Humanity is a pioneer in helping provide disaster resilient shelters, improved sanitation and access to water in affected communities. Wells Fargo and the Wells Fargo Foundation have been partnering with Habitat since 2014, enabling them to build disaster

loss of their most valuable and, sometimes, only asset: their homes. Underprivileged families do not have the capacity nor resources to rebuild their homes and do not have any form of shelter or stability.

Disaster-resilient homes are more than just infrastructure; they create a sense of belonging as well as

## Voices From The Field



Nagamma with her husband Venkateshappa and two of the children from a neighbouring home.

Nagamma (60) lives in Bagalur, Karnataka with her husband Venkateshappa (65). Nagamma has three daughters who are married and live far away. She is overcome with emotion while talking about the son she lost to an accident two years ago.

After the accident, Nagamma and her husband had to work hard to earn their living. Nagamma works as a domestic help and gardener, while Venkateshappa works as a labourer on a nearby farm.

Nagamma and her family have lived in a dilapidated house for over 40

years. **“The old house was not ideal as it lacked proper infrastructure,” recalls Nagamma. “We had to cook, live and sleep in the same space, which made things very difficult because there were no windows.”**

During the monsoon, heavy wind and rain would cause the roof to collapse, flooding the house. Nagamma and her husband had to count on their relatives and relief shelters to take care of them during those trying times. Habitat for Humanity India stepped in to help

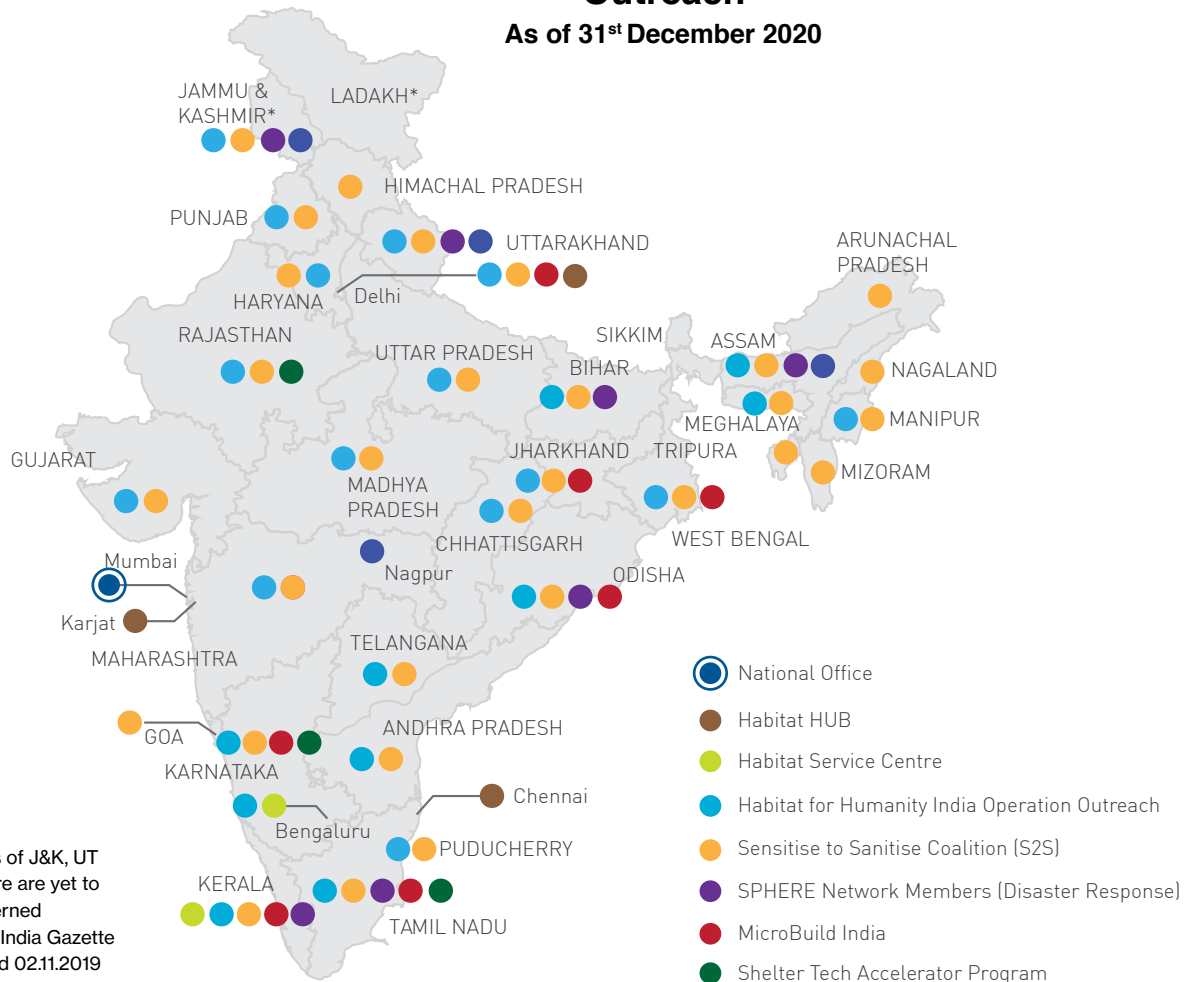
build a decent home with Nagamma and her family with support from Habitat's corporate partner Lowe's.

Nagamma is happy her new Habitat home has partitions and assigned areas in her house for living, cooking and sleeping, a luxury she did not have before!

She says with a full heart, **“We could not be happier. We have all that we could ask for and more! It's our own home where we are safe. It was something we thought was impossible!”**

# Outreach

As of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020



\*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



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

Habitat for Humanity India

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