

Building a Better World

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Volunteer snapshots

We're sharing our favourite photos from Global Village builds and across the countries we work in.

Remember to share your photos with us on social media for your chance to see them pictured here. Just tag us in the photo using #HabitatAustralia

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Team work on the Ain't No Mountain High Enough build, Nepal



The Pho-Nomenal Team in Tien Giang, Vietnam



Laura hard at work on the Y Build in Cambodia

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VOLUNTEER AND BUILD A HOME
FOR A FAMILY IN NEED

Nine Dragons Build
Vietnam - June 13, 2015

Hands and Hearts Build
Cambodia - May 16, 2015

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Transforming lives in Nepal



Adam and Lisa weaving bamboo

Last November, we sent a team of 24 volunteers to Nepal to build homes for families living in slums as part of Habitat for Humanity's third annual Everest Build.

The team worked alongside our Nepalese home partners and Habitat Ambassadors and TV personalities, Adam Dovile and Lisa Lamond.

Our Australian volunteers weren't the only ones lending a hand. As part of the Everest Build, 500 volunteers from around the world travelled to Chitwan, Nepal to build 36 homes over one week.

Adam and Lisa and the rest of our Global Village volunteers spent a week constructing two safe and decent homes made from locally sourced mud-and-brick, bamboo and "green" clay bricks. Each new house has an outside sheltered toilet, which will improve sanitation and overall health, allowing families to attend school and work more frequently.

Habitat partner family, Kali and Birbahadur used to live in a single-room house with mud walls and a tin sheet roof, with their three children. The family had many health problems and their children were unable to study or play in the cramped, dark and poorly ventilated home.

For Kali, having a new home is a dream come true and offers her family real hope for a prosperous future. For the first time, they own the land on which they live, giving them security for generations to come.

Adam and Lisa visited a slum area to see where families like Kali's lived for up to forty years without electricity, a weather-proof roof or a toilet.

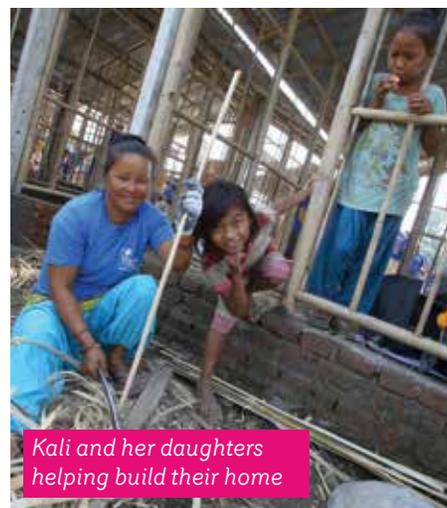
"Volunteering with Habitat was a chance for us to give back after our good fortune," said Lisa.

Adam recalls "seeing the difference we created with our two hands was such a rewarding and memorable experience."

Progress in Western Nepal

We are also making great progress in our Community Development Project in Mahendranagar, Western Nepal. Here's what we've achieved with your help:

- 142 wells installed (135 planned originally).
- Livelihood training: 50 people trained in brickmaking and 100 in candle making.
- 210 people trained in safe shelter awareness, focusing on building safe houses and the appropriate methods and tools to use.



Kali and her daughters helping build their home



The Everest Build team in action

Health and hygiene training in Mon State



Hygiene training at local school in Myanmar

In Mon State, Myanmar we've entered the second year of Project LifeChange supported by homeheaven.com.au

Project LifeChange is working in 14 villages in Mon State, including Phar Pain to improve water, sanitation and hygiene.

Before Project LifeChange, there was no proper drinking water system in Phar Pain and water had to be fetched from villages and streams far away.

The arduous job of collecting water was left to women and young children and water sources were often contaminated.

With only a few toilets in the village, most households in Phar Pain practiced open defecation in bushes and fields.

This saw the spread of diarrhoea, skin diseases and other water-borne diseases in the community, particularly among children.

As part of our work in Myanmar we are facilitating sanitation training so communities can better understand how open defecation spreads diseases.

Water supply systems have also been developed, including constructing new wells and distributing water treatment

Recent achievements:

- Water and sanitation training completed in 6 schools, with follow up training planned in the next few months.
- 172 of 185 households have built clean, sanitary toilets.
- 491 households have received water treatment containers.
- 5 new water wells dug in three villages.

containers and filters to the community.

Now, all six villages from year one of Project LifeChange have enough water for drinking and other domestic purposes, and families do not need to walk long distances to fetch water.

With safe drinking water, there is already less disease. This means community members do not have to miss work and a day's income, and can save for their family's future.

Building disaster resilient communities

In Vietnam we've been working closely with communities to make them more aware of how to prepare for and mitigate the effects of natural disasters.

We've been conducting Disaster Risk Management trainings as part of our work in Tieng Giang in South Vietnam. This is an extremely disaster prone area, and families who live in substandard housing risk losing their homes and livelihoods when disaster strikes.

Thanks to your support, we've been able to build eight new disaster

resilient homes and have achieved our target of facilitating Disaster Risk Management training for 364 community members.

Bong, who lives in Tien Giang told us after the training she was able to better understand the importance of disaster preparedness and also found out she had to strengthen her roof to protect her family against storms and disasters.

As a member of a local women's group, Bong was able to pass on learnings to others to ensure they are well prepared in the event of a disaster.

"Before people would wait for the peak of the storm to run. I know now that is the time to be hiding and taking shelter. I tell people to stay updated with announcements so they know whether to be evacuated in a storm."



Bong outside her home in Tien Giang

From despair to hope in Cambodia



Pokya and Srey Pich are happy and safe in their new home

Imagine raising a young family in a house made of nothing but palm leaves, with no clean water, sanitation or a locking door.

These are the conditions Pokya, her husband and their children lived in for years in one of Phnom Penh's biggest slums.

When their home caught fire, the family was left with no shelter and Pokya was at a loss as to how she could protect her family.

Through our *Building Homes, Building Positive Lives* project, together we have been able to transform the lives of families living in poverty, like Pokya's.

Having a safe, decent home to call her own has made a world of difference to Pokya.

In her old home, Pokya was very worried for the safety of her children, particularly her three daughters.

We're looking forward to helping more families like Pokya's through our Building Homes, Building Positive Lives project. Here's what's coming up this year:

- Livelihood training for 136 families.
- Construction of 20 new homes.
- Repair or renovation of 35 homes.
- Water, sanitation and hygiene training for 136 families.

It is a great relief to her knowing they have privacy with their own toilet, a locking door to keep them safe and access to clean water.

Pokya's 14 year old daughter, Srey Pich told us she and her siblings would often fall sick from the poor living conditions. Now they are healthier and happier, and have a place to study.

"I am happy to live here and am happy to study," says Srey Pich.

Small changes make a big impact

Rehanna lives in Durgapur, Northern Bangladesh where we are currently running water, sanitation and hygiene programs.

Sanitation in Rehanna's village was very poor. Her family of six had a broken and unhygienic toilet and they were often unwell from poor sanitation.

Through Habitat, Rehanna received a new toilet and attended hygiene training, both of which have had positive effects on the family's health. Rehanna now doesn't get sick as often and is also saving money on health treatment.

Seemingly small changes like these have a big impact on communities.

Our *Urban Resiliency* program in Beguntilla slum in Dhaka also focuses on making changes which impact the housing conditions and the health and wellbeing of poor families. This helps build capacity and stronger communities which can grow and sustain themselves.

Here's what your support has helped achieve in Beguntilla slum, Dhaka:

- Construction of a new community toilet block and footpath has been completed.
- 30 home renovations and construction of 4 bath houses are under way.
- 125 children trained on health and hygiene.



Rehanna

Australian program news

South Australia



Tracey and her sons in front of their new home

In September last year, Tracey and her four boys “fulfilled a dream” by moving into their own home in Davoren Park, South Australia.

Before partnering with Habitat, Tracey was living in public rental housing for many years and recently

was living next door to disruptive tenants who made life difficult.

Tracey however, was unable to purchase a home in the general housing market and had to put up with these conditions which she described as “chaotic” at times.

“Now, I have something that is mine,” said Tracey about her new home. “Instead of renting, I’m paying off my house.”

During the building process, Tracey and her family contributed ‘sweat equity,’ a component of the home building program where families donate their own time in the planning and construction phases.

Sweat equity, Tracey says, is “a good thing, the fact that you put effort

into your own home makes you appreciate it a lot more. I actually enjoyed doing the work and knowing it was going to be mine at the end of it. It was exhilarating”.

Since moving into their new home, Tracey has found part-time work and her teenage sons both have jobs. She also says her two younger sons are more settled at school and are enjoying their new home.

Tracey says having a lock-up garage where things are safe and living in a neighbourhood where people have great respect for their home gives her peace of mind. She feels positive about the future and is very grateful for the hand up her family has been given. “From here I can achieve anything now,” Tracey says.

New South Wales



University of Melbourne volunteers

Over the last four months, Habitat for Humanity’s Illawarra Chapter has been busy building an addition to a group home for teenage foster children through their partnership with CareSouth.

They welcomed 19 volunteers

from the University of Melbourne who assisted with painting, roof framing and window placement. The Illawarra Chapter are looking forward to finishing the addition soon.

Infor also joined us for *Brush with Kindness* at the end of last year.



Infor volunteers lend a hand

The team of 23 volunteers spent the day helping our partner family in Bidwell by removing weeds, mowing the lawn and clearing rubbish. *Brush with Kindness* allowed the Infor group a chance to give back to the community and was a great team building exercise. Thank you to all who volunteered.

Building stronger communities through corporate partnerships

Home handovers in Crib Point



Yvonne and her daughter



Krystal and her children

Habitat for Humanity Victoria, with the support of our Foundation Partner QBE, has helped three families build new homes in Crib Point on the Mornington Peninsula.

At the end of last year, just in time for Christmas, the families received the keys to their new homes and moved in. Having a safe, secure

home to call their own is a dream come true for our partner families.

At the handover ceremony, Habitat Victoria was able to thank and acknowledge the hard work of the volunteers from the Mornington Peninsula Chapter and the contribution of our corporate partners. QBE's generous support

has been vital to our Australian home building program for almost 14 years.

The completion of these three homes brings the total number of houses built in Victoria to 49. There are also another five homes under construction in Victoria and two more homes planned.

Preparing for disaster in Quang Nam



An evacuation simulation in Quang Nam

In Quang Nam, Central Vietnam, we are running a Disaster Risk Reduction project thanks to the support of international building and construction materials company, Boral – our Building Disaster Resilience program partner.

Recently, we facilitated two disaster response simulations in a flood prone area to train community members on home reinforcement and safe relocation.

269 community members and local authorities attended and learned the

importance of disaster preparedness and what to do in the event of a disaster. As extreme weather conditions are common in Quang Nam, training like this is vital in ensuring communities are better prepared when disaster strikes and can plan ahead.

Boral is also supporting an urban slum upgrade project in Jogyakarta, Indonesia, as well as our rebuilding efforts in The Philippines after 2013's Typhoon Haiyan.

The incredible impact of our most dedicated supporters



HopeBuilders are a very special group of supporters, whose regular donations are transforming the lives of families and communities living in poverty, and building real hope for the future.

With a safe and decent home comes access to clean water, and improved health and hygiene. Parents can focus on their livelihoods, their

children's education and breaking the cycle of poverty, for good.

In 2014, HopeBuilders provided enough funds to build over 1,000 clean and sanitary toilets, provide over 750 community members with livelihood training and provide 200 communities with access to clean drinking water.

What could your monthly donation achieve each year?

- \$30 a month could give a community access to clean water and improved sanitation, reducing illness and improving work and school attendance
- \$50 a month can contribute to health, sanitation, financial and livelihood training to create long-term independence
- \$210 a month, over the course of one year, could build a whole new home for a family who may never have had such safety or security

Thanks to the support of our HopeBuilders, we're able to commit to more effective, long-term projects.

Please join us to help build homes, communities and hope. Become a HopeBuilder today. Call 1800 88 55 99 or visit www.habitat.org.au/hopebuilders

Ways to help

DONATE

Your donation will help us carry out vital work building homes and communities at home and across the Asia Pacific region.

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Help give families a safe, secure place to call home by leaving a bequest to Habitat for Humanity Australia in your Will. To learn more, call 1800 88 55 99 or visit www.habitat.org.au/bequest

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Address: PO Box 1048
North Sydney NSW 2059
Australia

Phone: 1800 88 55 99

Website: www.habitat.org.au

Overseas ABN: 36 747 459 174

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