

Building a Better World

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Disaster recovery in Vanuatu and Nepal

Earlier this year, Vanuatu and Nepal were both hit by major natural disasters causing widespread devastation and damage.

We asked our supporters to assist our recovery efforts and your support and generosity has been overwhelming. Together, we are rebuilding homes and lives, and giving hope to communities devastated by these disasters.

In Vanuatu, Tropical Cyclone Pam tore through the tiny island nation on March 13. On some islands, up to 90

percent of homes, schools and other buildings were destroyed or severely damaged.

The capital Port Vila was one of the hardest hit areas. However, just outside the city, more than a dozen houses built in 2002 by Australian Global Village volunteers survived intact, despite weathering the full force of the Category 5 Cyclone.

But the ferocity of the storm left thousands of other families without homes and in desperate need.

Five months on from the disaster, families have started

to rebuild their homes using salvaged materials. However, without the skills and money to afford appropriate materials, these homes will not be strong enough to protect families against future disasters.

Thanks to your support, and to our partners Arup, SMEC and BarterCard Foundation, we have started helping families in their recovery by distributing shelter repair kits, assisting with shelter upgrades and providing skills training so communities can build back better.



Shelter kit distribution begins in Port Vila



Habitat-built houses still standing after the cyclone

We are distributing
SHELTER KITS
and providing training for



180
FAMILIES
in

5 COMMUNITIES
around **PORT VILA.**

As well as providing
14 COMMUNITY
TOOL KITS

including
materials
such as
chainsaws
and battery
operated
drills.



In Nepal, we are assisting with recovery efforts after two huge earthquakes and a series of aftershocks destroyed or damaged over 700,000 homes.

Habitat for Humanity was on the ground in the immediate days after the first earthquake, and thanks to your support we are making great progress in our recovery efforts.

Working in Kavre district, we are distributing transitional shelter kits and providing technical support to community members on how to construct safe shelters.

Habitat's transitional shelter kits include corrugated galvanised iron roofing, steel tubing, re-enforcing rods, fixings and tools – all of which can be reused for permanent house construction at a later stage.

Rubble removal in Nepal



"Now I am not worried that a strong wind might blow my home away." - Sanila, on receiving a shelter kit after losing everything in the earthquake.



*"Today I am so happy to get this transitional shelter as I am sure that I will be safe from heavy rainfall and storm."
- Ranju*

Our progress in Nepal so far

- ✓ 2,000 shelter kits distributed across four districts, with plans to distribute 5,000 by the end of August
- ✓ 161 shelter kits distributed to families with visually impaired persons.
- ✓ 20,000 water backpacks distributed to families to help transport and store potable water.
- ✓ Ongoing rubble removal activities underway focusing on salvaging usable bricks and wood for the reconstruction of homes.
- ✓ Groundbreaking ceremony held in Kavre for the first permanent house to be constructed. This will be the first of many to come in Habitat's recovery efforts.

Help rebuild Nepal

Would you like to volunteer and assist in the rebuilding of homes destroyed in the Nepal earthquake? Turn to page 8 for upcoming Global Village builds and get involved!

Uplifting communities in Bangladesh

Dhaka is one of the world's most densely populated cities, and home to some of the world's largest slums.

Being highly congested, slums in Dhaka are vulnerable to natural disasters, and face a number of challenges around poor housing and lack of sanitation and clean drinking water.

Recently we completed work in Beguntala slum where we've been making improvements to housing, health, hygiene and infrastructure.

These changes make a big impact in the community and in the lives of the families we work with. Here's what we've achieved with your support:

30 home upgrades completed
Families have reported they feel more secure and can now sleep indoors safely during storms and strong winds.

1000 feet of walkways constructed
The slum's existing roads are muddy and prone to flooding, rendering them largely unusable. The new walkways offer a safe

alternative for getting around. Community members also help sweep and clean the paths.

875 adults and children trained on health and hygiene

Families have started to actively adopt healthy habits such as washing their hands after using the toilet and before preparing food.

Construction of 6 community toilet blocks

Each toilet block has four cubicles, shared by 10 families who are responsible for maintenance and cleaning.



Jobeda and her family 's home was upgraded by Habitat

Work starts in Takerbari

Your support has enabled us to recently start working in nearby Takerbari slum to build healthier and stronger communities. We'll also be entering phase three of the project in January. Stay tuned for more updates!

Safe shelter awareness in Indonesia



PASSA participants

In Yogyakarta, our program, supported by Boral, is empowering community members to identify, understand and raise awareness of the vulnerabilities they face related to shelter and natural disasters.

This approach, traditionally known as Participatory Approach

to Safe Shelter Awareness (PASSA), has been adapted by Habitat and applied to communities for the first time.

Farid, who lives in the Jogoyudan community, participated in the activities. Farid has a prosthetic leg and often felt vulnerable when disaster struck as the community was ill equipped to assist people with disabilities.

The PASSA activities facilitated by Habitat brought together community members of Jogoyudan so they could be proactive in putting an action plan and shelter safety strategies

in place to address these vulnerabilities and create stronger and more secure communities.

"The program has motivated us all to work together to improve our community. We can now anticipate the likely effects of disasters, and work together to find solutions."

- Farid



A community-led PASSA activity

Creating change in Myanmar

We're pleased to report Phase One of Project LifeChange was completed in Mon State, Myanmar, earlier this year.

With homeheaven.com.au's support, we've helped six villages improve their hygiene and sanitation practices by providing access to clean water and toilets.

We've installed community wells, gravity flow water systems and water tanks, and have distributed water treatment containers and filters to all 491 households in the six villages.

We've also helped families construct hygienic toilets by providing materials such as cement, pipes and toilet pans, while the families provided labour and wood.

Training sessions have been conducted to improve community knowledge as to why open defecation needs to be eliminated from their villages. We also facilitated water, sanitation and hygiene training in schools to educate children.

In addition to working with families, we've also upgraded the

water supply and sanitary facilities of two small health centres in We Yaw and Wine Phone villages. Medical equipment and drug storage facilities have also been provided to each centre.



Phase one complete in Myanmar

Safe homes for brighter futures



Mr Tich building his home

While our Nine Dragons project in Long An and Tien Giang, Vietnam, has come to an end, the impact of having a safe, disaster resilient home will have a lasting effect in the lives of our partner families.

Mr Tich lives in Tien Giang with his grandson Truong, 10, who he raises on his own. Although he is 60, Mr Tich still works several jobs to provide for his grandson.

Mr Tich believes in the importance of education. Even though it has been difficult being the sole provider, as well as dealing with his own health issues, Mr Tich is determined to continue working hard in order to give Truong a good education.

"Only education can give Truong a better future," said Mr Tich. "Every time he promises to keep learning, he gives me more strength."

However, Truong did not have anywhere to study in their old home. When it rained, water

would leak through the roof and seep through the thatched walls. Truong would cover his books and the family's possessions with a tarpaulin, but often this would not be enough to keep his school work dry, let alone protect him and his grandfather during the strong rains and winds common to Tien Giang.

"There were many times Truong and I had to huddle in a dry corner waiting for the rain to stop," said Mr Tich. "It was impossible for us to build a better home."

Thanks to your generosity, we have been able to help build Mr Tich and other families like his, a disaster resilient home.

Their new house is connected to electricity so Truong can study at night, and is secure and sturdy so Mr Tich no longer needs to spend money on housing repairs. Instead, he can put his savings towards Truong's education, and give him a brighter, more promising future.



Truong now has a safe place to study

Breaking down barriers in Cambodia

In Cambodia there are over 70,000 people living with HIV/AIDS, with more than half of these being women, and over 6,000 children.

Many families affected by HIV/AIDS experience a sudden decline in economic status due to their poor health and often find themselves living in substandard conditions. These challenges are compounded by the discrimination they face in their community.

As part of our *Building Homes, Building Positive Lives* project in Phnom Penh, we are working

with vulnerable families and households living with or affected by HIV/AIDS to construct simple, disaster resilient homes.

Ownership of a safe and decent home creates a big impact in the lives of the families we work with. Families have experienced reduced discrimination and a greater feeling of inclusion in their community, an improved sense of security and increased income from livelihood training, which teaches participants how to run household businesses.

Through phase one of our project we have assisted 140 families to access safe shelter and life changing training to improve health and hygiene and livelihood opportunities.

The current phase of this project is working with another 131 families. On top of this, we have been able to assist an additional 10 families thanks to the generous support of our partner, Grant Thornton who sent 137 volunteers to Cambodia in July to build homes for families living with HIV/AIDS.



We are helping 141 families in Cambodia living with HIV/AIDS

Phase two achievements so far



19 HOUSES
built or repaired

23 FAMILIES *trained on water, sanitation and hygiene*



23 FAMILIES
trained on livelihoods and financial literacy

The power of corporate volunteering

Not only do our corporate partners help fund our work, they also play an active role in building brighter, more promising futures for families in need.

USG Boral, who support our work in Vietnam through our partnership with Boral, recently sent 32 volunteers to help build a disaster resilient home in Tieng Giang.

The team had their hands full over the four days laying bricks, cementing and rendering and

learning about the challenges families living in the region face.

In Australia, we have also welcomed many corporate volunteers through our *Brush with Kindness* program.

Engineering firm, Arup recently volunteered in the Blue Mountains where they helped a family who lost their home in the 2013 bushfires.

Our volunteers, both corporate and individuals, make our work

possible. We would like to thank all our volunteers for their time, hard work and dedication.



USG Boral volunteers at work

Building hope at home

South Australia

Over one week in early January, the Sampson Flat bushfires burned through more than 12,000 hectares destroying and damaging family homes and properties.

After the fires subsided, families were confronted with the enormous task of cleaning up.

Through our *Brush with Kindness* program, Habitat for Humanity South Australia has assisted 35 families affected by the fires with help of 120 volunteers.

Scott and Sheri are one of the families we have



Sampson Flat recovery efforts

recently helped. Volunteers, including students from the local high school where Scott and Sheri's children attend, spent the day clearing burnt debris and trees.

Even eight months on from the fires, there are many families who still require assistance. Habitat

South Australia will continue with fire recovery and clean up activities for the rest of the year.

"They helped clean a lot. It's made the rebuilding process more possible and it's one less thing we don't have to worry about."

- Scott



Thank you to the ASSA ABLOY team

Victoria

In Victoria, we are helping Sean, Taryn and their three children build a home in Yea Heights.

The family are currently sharing in a home with two other families and have been on the social housing waiting list for over 10 years.

Sean has been donating his time in "sweat equity" and worked alongside our partners, ASSA ABLOY (Lockwood) who have generously supplied locks

and doors for Habitat's Victorian homes.

The team from ASSA ABLOY fitted their products into Sean and Taryn's future home and were grateful to give back in a hands-on way, as well as be part of something that will be life changing for the family.

Sean and his family are thankful for the support of Habitat and our partners and are looking forward to having a home to call their own.

New South Wales

After her husband's passing and now dealing with her own health issues, Judy has found it difficult to maintain her once prize winning garden.

Over three days, volunteers from QBE rolled up their sleeves and joined Habitat for Humanity New South Wales for *Brush with Kindness* activities at Judy's home.

Over the years Judy's garden had become

so overgrown it blocked access to her clothes line.

The volunteers spent their time pruning and clearing the tangle of weeds and vines to finally reveal the garden Judy once knew.

"I had people come in who were specialists in overgrown gardens, but after a half hour they walked away. I'm very grateful to Habitat and the volunteers for their help today."

- Judy



Judy and her dogs at home

Volunteer in Nepal



JOIN THE RECOVERY EFFORTS IN NEPAL TODAY

Help Nepal get back on its feet after the recent devastating earthquakes. Join a team to volunteer and build overseas.

32nd Annual Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Work Project
October 31, 2015

Nepal Earthquake Recovery Build
January 9, 2016

FIND OUT MORE
habitat.org.au/volunteernepal
1800 88 55 99



Feeling inspired to give back and build in Nepal? Past Global Village volunteer, Alex shares her experience.

Alex travelled with us to Nepal last year to build a home for a family in need. Here, she and the team visited the slum where the family they were building for were currently living.

"We saw how important it is to have access to proper housing in terms of hygiene, warmth and the basic needs that all humans deserve the right to," said Alex.

Seeing the living conditions and knowing what impact a safe, decent home would create made building and working side by side the partner family all the more powerful and moving.

"Knowing that you are making a difference in their lives has to be the best part," said Alex. "It was also incredibly rewarding seeing an actual physical structure in front of you at the end of the build that your team and yourself built from scratch."

With her first build now under

her belt, Alex is looking forward to planning her next Global Village trip and encourages others to take the plunge.

"Be prepared to work hard and love each moment of it...You also get one of the best gifts of all, the ability to change someone's life."
- Alex



Alex and her partner James

Ways you can help

DONATE

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

Visit www.habitat.org.au/donate

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When you give a loved one a Habitat Gift, you're also giving hope to those most in need.

Buy your Habitat Gift online at www.habitat.org.au/habitatgifts

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Your monthly gift will help us commit to long-term projects, and together we can transform families and communities. To become a Hope Builder call 1800 88 55 99 or visit www.habitat.org.au/hopebuilders

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