

SCHOOL LEAVER'S BUILD NOVEMBER 2019, FIJI

Global Village Information Pack
habitat.org.au/globalvillage
1800 88 55 99





PROJECT INFORMATION

Your team will be working on a house constructed as part of the Island Build Project in Lautoka.

Since Habitat for Humanity began working in Fiji in 1981, over 1,000 families on the island have been served. Habitat for Humanity Fiji not only builds much-needed homes, but also helps in disaster response and prevention, provides water and sanitation facilities to help improve health, and works on projects to enable people with disabilities.

The number of people in Fiji living in substandard housing is on the rise, and already stands at 140,000. Over the next 15 years, there is an expected need of more than 30,000 new homes. Poverty continues to be a problem in Fiji. While official statistics estimate that 31% of people live in poverty, the local social services council are under the impression that 60% would be a more accurate statistic.

As housing prices are too high for many, families have no choice but to

live in accommodation without running water, sanitation facilities, rubbish disposal facilities or electricity. Habitat for Humanity Fiji allows families to take out loans that are minor and do not create a burden of debt upon the family, but allow them to obtain a home that they would alternatively have no method of acquiring. Families play a part in building their new homes for themselves to drive down costs, and their loan repayments are then used to build homes for other families in need.



FAST FACTS

Trip dates:
16 - 23 November 2019

Deposit:
\$200

Fundraising goal:
\$1000

Approximate in country costs (including all accommodation, meals and transport):
\$800 - \$1000 (twin share)

Registration deadline:
7 Aug 2019



ABOUT US

Habitat for Humanity Australia is a not-for-profit organisation that aims to build homes, communities and hope. Our vision is a world where everyone has a safe and decent place to live.

Our work extends beyond building and repairing houses – it also addresses land security, gives communities access to clean water and sanitation, provides education and training, and offers families in desperate need real hope for the future. To ensure lasting, sustainable change and to break the cycle of poverty for good, we take an approach that is holistic, community based and focuses on empowering families.

Habitat works to alleviate global poverty by developing long term, sustainable solutions that provide a ‘hand up, not a hand out’. Our partner families help with the building process, by joining the volunteers and tradespeople to build their own home. We call this ‘sweat equity’. They also repay a low interest loan and undertake financial literacy training.

Global Village, our international volunteering program, offers an exciting opportunity for you to learn about another culture, travel to destinations that are off the tourist track and enhance the ongoing work of Habitat for Humanity. It also gives an insight into certain areas of international community development. The Global Village Program is a vital part of Habitat for Humanity’s work.

ABOUT THE COUNTRY

Fiji is much more than idyllic palm trees and white sand. Blessed with rich forest, mineral and fishing resources, Fiji is one of the most developed Pacific Island economies and serves as a hub for many small island nations in the region.

However, a chronic lack of investment and under-employment pose obstacles to sustainable and equitable economic growth. Poverty and inequality continue to be a major challenge, with 35 percent of Fijian citizens living below the poverty line. In rural areas, families have access to community-owned land on which they can build homes, provided that they can afford construction costs. In urban and suburban areas, people have difficulty finding sufficient, affordable land with secure tenure.

It is estimated that about 140,000 people, or 17 percent of Fiji’s population, live in one of more than 180 squatter or informal settlements. An estimated 80 percent of people living in these settlements live below the national poverty line, earning less than 90 Fiji dollars (US\$50) a week. The poorest households lack important facilities, including piped water, adequate sanitation, electricity and rubbish disposal.

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PARTNER FAMILY PROFILE

Kelesi is partially blind. He is supported by his wife and adult son, whose own family also lives with them.

Kelesi wiped away tears as he told us how a group of volunteers from Communities for Communities helped him over one week to build their new home.

Kelesi lives in Tavuya, Fiji which sees a cyclone once a year and flooding every five years – the severity of which is predicted to increase as a result of climate change.

“I am very grateful to have a new home,” said Kelesi. “Whatever savings we are able to make we put toward the house.”

Most families in Tavuya,

including Kelesi’s work in farming. Many grows fruit and vegetables on their land which is used for food. This allows families to put aside money they otherwise would spend on food, and save for the future. From this, and their income selling coconuts, Kelesi’s family have already been able to add on a toilet and bathroom facility which is easier for him to access.

“The structure of the home is so strong,” said Kelesi. “I feel younger than before with this home! I feel so happy to have received help.”

With your continued support the community of Tavuya will be able to prepare for and reduce the effects of natural disasters.



The village of Tavuya, Fiji



“Before in our old house, when it flooded, we were always wet! Now when it rains or if there are strong winds I know we are in a safe area and I do not have to worry at all...”
- Kelesi

YOUR ITINERARY

Saturday 16th November Arrive in Nadi

Your adventure begins today with your arrival in Nadi. We will arrange your transfer from Nadi International Airport to your hotel, where you can take some time to unpack and unwind. Take yourself on a walk to acquaint yourself with the city before heading back to your hotel for dinner. You'll meet your fellow volunteers, your team leader and the Habitat for Humanity coordinator who will be accompanying you for the week. This is your opportunity to get to know one another and get excited to spend the week working together.



Sunday 17th November Take in the local culture

Today, Habitat for Humanity will arrange for you to see Nadi and take in the sights. After some R&R, you'll reconvene for dinner, where Habitat for Humanity staff will give you a thorough orientation for the week ahead, including construction safety and building tips. Make sure you have a good rest to prepare for your first day on site!



Monday 18th November Begin construction of the house

Arriving on the build site for your first day of construction, you'll meet the family whose home you will be helping to construct, and will have the opportunity to learn about their stories. The construction supervisor and local labourers will show you the ropes, and you can get started on the house construction. There will be rest breaks for morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea, which will all be provided on site. You can stop for a drink of water and a break as often as you need. At the end of the day, you'll enjoy a team dinner and a well-earned rest!



YOUR ITINERARY

Tuesday 19th - Thursday 21st November Full days of building with your teammates

On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, you'll see the new house take shape, and you'll be amazed at how much can be achieved in just one week. From building the wooden frame to mixing cement and digging holes, there are plenty of ways to contribute. One afternoon during the week, you'll travel off site to meet some families living in completed Habitat houses, and see how their lives have changed. Each night we will take you to some local restaurants, where you can unwind with the team and get to know one another better.



Friday 22nd November Handover ceremony and farewell lunch

The final day of building is emotional for everyone involved. You'll add the finishing touches to the house and maybe even add some decorations too. You will welcome the partner family to their new home, and reflect together on the contribution that you have all made. This is the time to celebrate all your hard work and imagine the new life that the partner family will have in the home that you have built (be sure to bring tissues – there won't be a dry eye in the house). You'll share a final meal with everyone on site before saying farewell.



Saturday 23rd November Conclusion of the build

Today you will depart for home or further adventures. You might like to combine your build with travel to other overseas destinations or indulge in some well-deserved R&R. Although your trip has come to a close, you will be left with amazing memories and long lasting friendships that will keep the experience alive.





COSTS

Cost type	Amount	What's included
Deposit	\$200	This amount covers medical and evacuation insurance, your online fundraising page, police check and a build pack to get you on your way. <small>*cost for volunteers who are under 18, or hold a valid police check or Working With Children card.</small>
Minimum Donation	\$1000	This contribution is tax deductible and we encourage you to fundraise this amount. Once received this will be split between Habitat for Humanity Australia and the Habitat host country to fund life changing projects, like your build.
In-country expenses	\$800 - \$1000	These expenses can be fundraised but are not tax deductible. This amount will go towards the budget the Team Leader and the Habitat host country will devise to cover your accommodation, meals, bottled water, ground transportation and local activities.

Flights, visa, vaccinations, travel insurance and personal expenses aren't included in your Global Village trip costs.

ARE YOU UNDER 18?

If you're under the age of 18, there will need to be someone 18 years or older on the build site with you. You can bring an older friend or a guardian - ask if you have any questions!

WE'LL HELP YOU FUNDRAISE!

We'll support your fundraising efforts by providing you with:

-  A customisable online fundraising page to collect donations
-  Fundraising postcards that you can hand out to family and friends
-  Access to our fundraising toolkit, which includes our best tips and resources
-  Regular updates and reminders to make sure you're on track



NEXT STEPS

	<i>Step</i>	<i>When</i>	<i>Action</i>
1	Sign up and pay registration fee	Immediately	Register online! If for any reason Habitat needs to cancel your build this fee is 100% refundable
2	Tell your friends and family!	Before it's too late	Tell everyone about your trip and invite them along - the more the merrier!
3	Build Confirmation	2-3 months before the build	Teams need a minimum of 12 volunteers to go ahead, once we've reached 12 you'll receive a build confirmation email to let you know that you're safe to book flights and plan your trip! We know it's hard but please hold off on booking flights until your build is confirmed, just in case.
4	Start Fundraising!	Now!	Log onto your online fundraising page and check out our toolkit for great fundraising ideas on how to exceed your target
5	Head off and change lives!	First day of the build	Today is the day! You'll leave for the adventure of a lifetime.

“It’s amazing seeing the difference you have made in someone’s life.
 Helping them into a safe and secure home will change their life forever
 and I am so happy to have been part of it.”
 - Tatum O’Toole, volunteer



CANCELLATION POLICY

Habitat for Humanity Australia will make every effort to conduct the trip as scheduled. In the unlikely event that this is not possible (due to safety concerns, security issues, or other reasons), Habitat for Humanity will endeavour to re-route or defer the team. If the trip must be cancelled or you can no longer take part, Habitat will work with you to find another suitable trip.

Habitat cannot compensate participants for the cost of unusable airfare or any other expenses resulting from the cancellation. Again, it is strongly recommended that team members purchase travel insurance that covers change of travel and/or country closure.

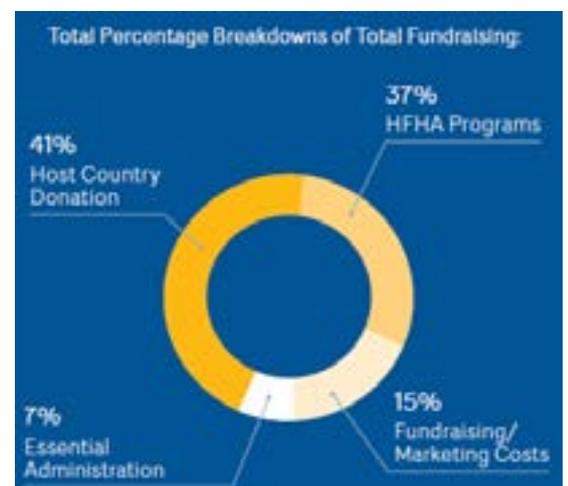
All donations received by Habitat on behalf of the volunteer are committed to the field and are non-refundable. The registration fee is refundable if for any reason Habitat cancels the build before the scheduled start date. If for any reason you can no longer make the build the registration fee is not refundable. However it is transferable within a 12 month period to join another Global Village team.

WHERE DOES MY DONATION GO?

Each Global Village team provides a donation to the project they are working on. Without this financial help Habitat would not be able to continue its life-changing programs.

Your financial contribution may not necessarily be used on the actual house that you will be helping to build. The excess donations go into the revolving fund that is used for the continuous building program. This means that the community may use your contribution to keep the program going even after you have left the country.

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible to the Australian Taxation Office. Sponsors who contribute to your tax deductible donation will receive a thank you email and tax receipt from Habitat Australia.





CONTACT US

When you're ready to join the build, simply fill out an application form. A member of our team will then be in touch to provide you with more information and answer any questions you may have. In the meantime, if you want to contact us, please:

Email: global.village@habitat.org.au

Call: 02 9919 7000

Web: habitat.org.au/globalvillage

