

# Building a Better World

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Build 2018

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Habitat





## Every family needs a safe home

*Over the past year, your support has made a real impact in the lives of those in great need.*

This includes helping families like Diep's in Vietnam. Over the years, Diep's home had been pummeled by storms and strong winds, and inundated by flooding – weather conditions that are common to the area.

As a result, water had seeped through the roof, crumbled the walls and damaged the electrical wiring. The family lived in constant fear of being electrocuted, but simply did not have the means to repair or rebuild.

Over the past year, your support has helped build safe and decent homes that have changed the lives of families like Diep's. Thanks to you, these families now have a locking door, a roof that provides protection from the elements, running water, a toilet and a place to thrive.

However, as you know, together we aren't just building homes. We're building hope and change for generations to come. Your support empowers families and provides them with the strength, stability and independence to make a fresh start.

On behalf of the families and communities you have been able to impact through your generosity, thank you. We hope you enjoy reading some of their inspiring stories in this newsletter.

## Every door opens up new opportunity

Like Diep, Dong's home in Quang Nam, Vietnam had also been badly damaged by strong winds, storms and flooding over the years.

As the state of her home further declined, Dong's four grandchildren who lived with her, had to move away as they were too often falling ill from the damp conditions.

With your support, Dong has been able to something that was previously out of reach – build a new home. For Dong, having a new home means greater security and comfort, but most importantly allows her family to reunite under one roof. "Thank you," Dong said. "This blessing makes me feel like I can live longer."



*Dong's former home*



*Dong's new home protects her family from the elements*





## Every one deserves a fresh start

*In Nepal, your support has made it possible for vulnerable families devastated by the 2015 earthquakes to build safe and decent homes and a brighter future.*

Binda, 31 remembers the earthquakes like they were yesterday. The fear, the darkness, the uncertainty of how her family could ever rebuild, having lost everything in the disaster.

"The earthquake brought about complete chaos," said Binda. "All our belongings were buried under the rubble when our house came down. Thankfully our family members and cattle were unharmed."

Binda tried to put the pieces of her life back together, but with two young children, aged 10

and 13, to feed and no proper place to live, the road ahead was fraught with challenges.

Thanks to your support, along with her local community and volunteers, Binda was able to build a safe and disaster-proof home she can call her own.

"Volunteers from far away came here to help us. I am very happy. We had been living in a shed after the earthquake but now after the house has been built we have shifted here. Having your own home frees you from so many anxieties. Now I can focus on educating my children," Binda said.

You can help more families like Binda's rebuild by lending a hand and volunteering through the Global Village program. Sign up to join a team of like-minded women as we venture to Nepal to build homes for earthquake affected families over International Womens' Day next year. Join us from 3-10 March 2018 and empower communities through the provision of safe and decent housing. To find out more and sign up visit **[habitat.org.au/womensbuild](http://habitat.org.au/womensbuild)**

## Every home should provide protection

As you can see from Binda's story, poor families with inadequate housing are the most vulnerable when natural disaster strikes. Sadly, Nepal is currently reeling from another disaster which has received little news coverage despite the scale of the damage.

Monsoonal flooding, which started around mid-July and reached a peak during mid-August, has devastated communities, destroyed homes and displaced thousands.

Dev lost his home in the flood but thankfully his shop, his only source of income, is still standing.

A relief kit from Habitat for Humanity has helped turn his small shop into a makeshift shelter for his family. "The tarpaulin sheet has given us a temporary roof over our heads and relief during the disaster," he said.

The kits also include water backpacks, water purifiers and mosquito nets. So far more than 400 families have been assisted, however there are many more in need. Your continued support will provide emergency relief and assist with long term recovery and rebuilding of flood-affected communities.

To donate and help more flood-affected families in their recovery visit **[habitat.org.au/nepal-floods](http://habitat.org.au/nepal-floods)**



## Every child deserves a healthy future

*Clean water saves lives, and thanks to your support, children in Dala, a slum outside Yangon, Myanmar now have access to clean water while at school.*

Households in Dala currently rely on large, unprotected ponds as their main water source. These ponds are easily contaminated due to the lack of sewage and rubbish collection facilities in the community. Each day, women and children collect water from this questionable source, or spend their hard earned, limited income on purchasing water.

Sadly, this is a common problem around the world. As slums are informal, they are not recognised by

governments and often not connected to public water and sanitation services. This presents many challenges when it comes to accessing clean water. That's why together, we are working with families in Dala to improve access to safe drinking water and upgrade drainage and sewage systems.

As part of this, you have played a vital role in improving the health of school children. In the last month, 1,500 litre capacity rain water tanks were installed in 35 public schools. A hygiene awareness and hand washing campaign was also undertaken in two primary schools. In addition, hand washing basins were built in these schools which will benefit almost 800 students.

A safe water supply means less school days are missed due to poor health. With programming continuing in the community, thanks to your support, soon more households will have better access to clean water and a healthier, more promising future.

## Every community should provide security

Sharmin lives in a slum in Dhaka, Bangladesh where she rents a room with her husband. Without a toilet of their own, they previously used a nearby communal "hanging" toilet.

These toilets are made from bamboo and are elevated over a water source. Unsurprisingly, without any proper drainage, these toilets are highly unsanitary.

To make matters worse, the connecting footpath to the toilet was cracked and broken, making access difficult, while frequent flash flooding in the slum would bring the waste into Sharmin's home.

Thankfully, your support allowed Sharmin and her neighbours to benefit from a slum upgrading program which is improving essential infrastructure in the community so families can have greater comfort and security.

This year, you have helped construct four community toilet blocks with drainage systems, along with a water reservoir, improved footpath and waste bins. These upgrades have impacted almost 1,600 people in the slum.

"The environment has changed radically," says Sharmin. "Since replacing the hanging toilet, we don't have flies and unclean conditions which cause diarrhoea and dysentery. We can now comfortably live in our house."





# Every parent wants the best for their child

*Meet Sreang, one of 78 families you have impacted as part of a home building program for vulnerable households in Cambodia.*

Growing up with nine other siblings, Sreang's parents could not afford to send her to school. As a result, Sreang, now 36, spent most of her childhood working to support her family.

After marrying and having her daughter, Sreang was determined to not let the same fate befall her. Sreang and her husband worked tirelessly to build a better future for themselves. However in 2004, tragedy struck. Sreang's husband passed away in an accident, leaving her to solely raise their young daughter.

The following years were difficult for Sreang as she dealt with her husband's passing while trying to support her daughter.

In 2012, Sreang met her second husband, Mao. Even with Sreang's income from raising pigs, and Mao's as a construction worker, the family were still unable to afford to build a safe and decent home. Instead,

they built a makeshift structure by cobbling together old zinc sheeting, discarded pieces of wood and any other materials they could find.

"Without doors and proper walls we had such difficulty, particularly during the night time," said Sreang. "The leaking roof, the cold and mosquitoes caused so much trouble for us. We wanted to have a proper house where we could sleep safely at night and give security to my young daughter, but we didn't have the money to fulfil our dream."

Your generosity has empowered families like Sreang's by giving them a hand up through providing access to safe and decent housing.

The stability and security of a safe home has lifted a huge financial burden from Sreang's shoulders. Unlike her parents before her, Sreang won't be faced with the prospect of pulling her daughter out of school to help support the family. With your support, she now has a strong foundation to build a better future and provide more opportunities for her daughter.

"We are so happy to have a home with the help of Habitat for Humanity. This new house will give my entire family new hope. We no longer need to worry about the leaking roof or protecting our family at night and can focus on providing our daughter with an education."

Your donation has also transformed lives in Cambodia this year in the following ways:



**55**

PEOPLE TRAINED  
ON **FINANCIAL**  
**LITERACY** AND  
LIVELIHOOD SKILLS



HOMES **BUILT**  
**OR REPAIRED** -  
ANOTHER **34**  
TO GO!



**40**

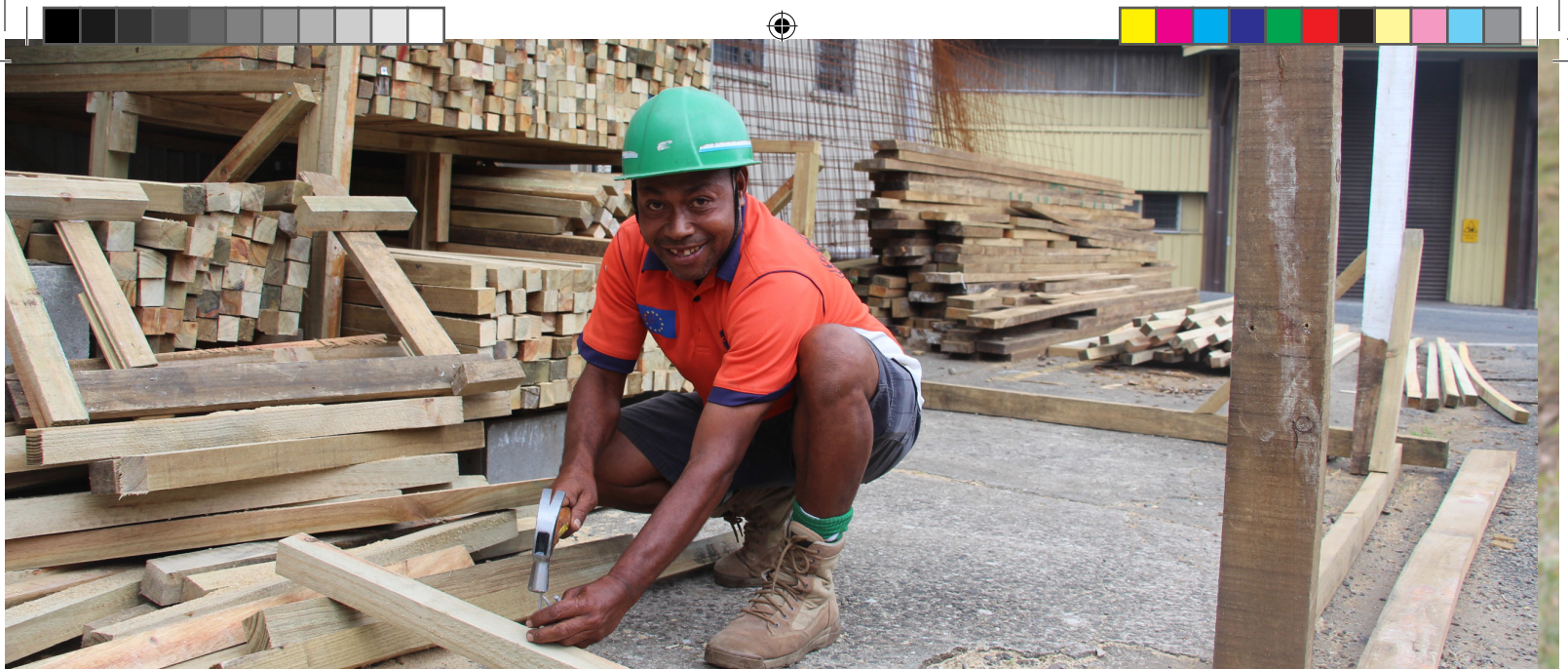
**WATER FILTERS**  
DISTRIBUTED TO  
FAMILIES



**55**

FAMILIES TRAINED ON  
**WATER, SANITATION**  
**AND HYGIENE**  
SUCH AS HAND  
WASHING AND TOILET  
MAINTENANCE





## Every brick makes a difference

*You have empowered people like Alusio in Fiji to make their communities a safer place to live.*

Your commitment to our work has allowed us to complete disaster recovery programming in Fiji, as well as impact more communities in need. Such recovery work, focused on repairing water systems damaged by Cyclone Winston, has benefited 572 households across 15 communities – that's 122 more families than initially planned!

Although this project is now complete, your continued support enables our work to focus on the long term by building strong communities that can better withstand future disasters.

One way we are doing this is by training community members on safe housing construction methods through a 'Build Back Safer' program. Alusio, a senior carpenter for Habitat for Humanity Fiji, is a trainer on this program.

"I like helping needy and vulnerable families and that is exactly what Habitat does. Rebuilding homes for families, sharing construction knowledge and teaching build back safer techniques after Cyclone Winston is a very satisfying profession...I learn something new every day," said Alusio.

Alusio was a former village headman and joined Habitat for Humanity Fiji in 2010 as a volunteer after Cyclone Tomas. After receiving training on disaster resilient construction, he eventually moved into a role as a carpenter and trainer.

"We have noticed that through this rehabilitation

effort, people feel motivated and inspired to actually move on in life. They feel that something positive is happening and it mentally prepares them to start picking up the pieces to make a fresh start," he said.

"We also thank our donors as their support enabled us to reach out to many desperate communities," adds Alusio, who spent time earlier this year teaching in a remote area.

This includes training small knit communities like Kelesi's in Rewa province. Here, community members have been implementing the safe construction skills they have learned by upgrading 32 homes in their area. From this, Kelesi has been able to build a new home.

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

Along with being disaster resilient, their new home has some small additions that make a big impact, including a hand rail and bathroom facilities which improve access for Kelesi.

"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."



*Kelesi and his family now have a disaster resilient home.*





## Every Aussie needs a place to call home

*Meet Fran, soon-to-be owner of Habitat for Humanity Victoria's 60th home.*

Fran is a single mum and full time carer to her sons, 12-year-old Ibrahim, who is deaf, and 5-year-old Maurice, who is autistic. With both boys needing full time care, Fran has not been able to work for many years. This has made obtaining affordable housing a real challenge, and the dream of owning a home almost impossible.

Currently, Fran spends over 40% of her income on housing and a significant portion on her boys' medical needs. Without any family in Australia, Fran has faced a great deal of emotional and financial

stress on her own. Thankfully, with the help of Habitat for Humanity Victoria, having a safe home will mean one less thing for her to worry about.

Fran's family will be taking part in Victoria's 'Quick Build' program that will see their home constructed in just six weeks.

"When they came to my house to tell me the news, that night I didn't sleep," said Fran. "I thank God so much for the people that have trusted me with this gift. Having a home of our own will be a great relief."

Fran says she is looking forward to moving into Habitat for Humanity Victoria's Yea Estate where her family can connect with, and become part of the community. She is also grateful to be able to leave a legacy for her sons and provide them with the stability of a home they can call their own.

"It's a big burden off my shoulders. Their future is now secure," Fran said.

## Every home provides a strong foundation

Congratulations to Jacque and her family, who recently were given a hand up into home ownership with Habitat for Humanity South Australia.

Jacque is a single mother of five and has provided care for several other children as well. Jacque worked in aged care until a few years ago when she suffered a crippling workplace injury.

Jacque's family combined their efforts to contribute 200 hours of 'sweat equity,' in which partners put in voluntary labour in return for a low-interest mortgage and capped repayments. Jacque is looking forward to many happy years in her new home.



*"Being given this opportunity is life changing. It's a place to call our own. A place where we are much closer to family and where we can finally settle down." - Jacque*



# Every person can be part of the solution

*As a child, Andrew Hii was already thinking about how he could help some of the world's poorest and in need families.*

"I dreamed of becoming an architect so that I could design simple, affordable mass housing for those who were not fortunate enough to have a roof over their heads," said Andrew.

"Although I never ended up becoming an architect, Habitat for Humanity has nevertheless given me the chance to realise that childhood dream in a profoundly practical way."

Andrew has not only volunteered overseas with us, but is also one of our wonderful supporters who has decided to remember Habitat for Humanity in his Will.

"I came into this world with nothing and I will leave this world with nothing, but I can ensure my childhood dream 'lives on' even after I'm gone through a gift in my Will."

Many people mistakenly believe they need to be wealthy to leave a gift in their Will. "Any gift, no matter the size, will help ensure that in years to come, we can continue to help families and communities in need break the cycle of poverty," said Martin Thomas, CEO of Habitat for Humanity Australia.

"We encourage people to remember their loved ones first, but we do hope that they may also consider



*Andrew volunteering with Habitat in Mongolia*

leaving a gift to Habitat when writing or updating their Will."

With a safe and decent home, access to clean water and sanitation, today's children and future generations will have brighter, more promising futures free from poverty.

"I hope to live a while yet, however I'm reassured knowing that if I was to go suddenly, my passing will also bring hope, and enable others to have a better future by providing a secure roof over their heads," Andrew said.

We understand your Will is deeply personal, however if you are inspired by Andrew's plans, and would like to have a friendly, confidential chat about leaving a gift in your Will, please call Annie Pietersz, our Philanthropy Manager on (02) 9919 7024 or email **APietersz@habitat.org.au**, she would be delighted to hear from you.

