



Habitat
for Humanity®
Australia



Building a Better World

Autumn 2022

Disaster Risk Reduction and Response

We know that \$1 spend on reducing the risk of disasters saves up to \$7 in response. We work to reduce vulnerabilities and build community resilience - especially those located in disaster-prone regions.

We know that people with shelter assistance are safer and more self-reliant when faced with extreme weather events. We incorporate proper building techniques to make homes better able to withstand future shocks.

Direct Impacts

- Climate protection
- Immediate safety and security
- Privacy and dignity
- Facilitating access to additional services

Indirect Impacts

- Health
- Livelihood improvements
- Education
- Food Security
- Economic Growth and gender equality



Tonga Update

On January 15, underwater volcano Hunga-Tonga-Hunga-Ha'apai violently erupted, causing a major catastrophe for Tonga. We continue to support the people of Tonga to rebuild and foster resilience in the face of this disaster.

Together with local partners, our aim is to help families and communities build back safer. This means working with them and taking a long-term view of what they may require, aside from immediate repairs.

Together with your support we have successfully repaired and strengthened more than 800 homes damaged during recent cyclones in Tonga - Gita and Harold. We will be working closely with our partners to respond to this devastating disaster, to reach the most vulnerable communities in need of vital repair work to their homes and sanitation facilities.

Thanks to kind and generous donations we can work alongside Tongan communities to rebuild their homes, and their lives.



escaping domestic violence

Eleni* and her three children, (son aged 18 and her two daughters, aged 14 and 7) arrived at refuge accommodation mid-last year.

Eleni had to flee the family home because of the significant physical, verbal, psychological and financial abuse her husband was perpetrating towards her.

Her marriage had been characterised by abuse since it began.

All of her children had witnessed the abuse, particularly her oldest son and the abuse had escalated since they had moved to Australia after fleeing their home country where they were persecuted as a minority.

They would fight about money. They would fight about her leaving the house. Her religion. Everything and anything. Her husband was extremely controlling of what she wore, where she went and who she could speak to.

After a very violent incident between Eleni and her husband, her son called the police who in turn called DVConnect (the main DV telephone line in Queensland). DVConnect assisted the family into a motel until refuge space could be found a few days later.

Support workers assisted Eleni to get the younger children into school and to get her son into a training program. Eleni also asked for assistance to enrol into an English course as her grasp of English was limited.

Eleni was seen for support sessions at least once a week and was assisted with food vouchers, transporting the children from school, taking her to appointments, court support to obtain a protection order, NDIS for the middle daughter and help to obtain secure and sustainable housing.

Throughout the month of March, 450 corporate volunteers worked across a total of 45 days to help provide a safe, comfortable and healing space for women and their children, just like Eleni and her family.

Through our Brush with Kindness program, volunteers helped to paint and clean domestic violence refuges that are used to safely house countless families. The turnover is high, and the impact of this work is life changing.

A manager of one of the refuges expressed their gratitude for our volunteers. "This is a house that we have had for considerable time and it has had high tenant turnover and subsequently, it was looking very tired."

"Habitat for Humanity brings a new life to the house for the next tenant and we are grateful for their efforts. We would not be able to get our transitional houses renovated without their assistance and we are extremely grateful."

Without the support of our volunteers, refuges could not provide a welcome place for women and their children to stay, often resulting in them returning to their unsafe and dangerous situations.



Water for Women

BULA!

Your support provides improved water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services in Fiji through our Water for Women project.

Community members are involved in the design of the project, which aims to increase fair access to WASH for 50 communities. This project addresses the needs of the most marginalised in Fijian communities, most vulnerable to natural hazards and climate change. Through this project, women and girls, people with disabilities, and people from the LGBTIQ+ community will be the drivers of WASH in their communities, becoming actively engaged in changing behaviours.

Under new pandemic restrictions our teams continue to deliver training and building infrastructure in the 18 identified communities and 11 primary schools in the provinces of Ba and Ra.

The Tippy Tap Takeover

'Tippy Taps' are simple and economical hand-washing stations, made with commonly available materials and not dependent on a piped water supply. Since we've started introducing tippy tap building demonstrations in our training sessions, we have found that some of the communities we work in start erecting their own tippy taps even before our teams leave!

This is because tippy taps don't cost much to create, they don't use as much water as a running tap and can be setup anywhere, making hand washing a more convenient and frequent exercise.



Tippy Tap in practice

Osea Suka and his family are one of Habitat Fiji's project partners in Navitilevu Village. Last year, Osea and other villagers completed a 3-day water, sanitation and hygiene training where they learnt about the benefits of Tippy Taps. Osea immediately went on to make 2 Tippy Taps after the training.

"I found that it was a very simple design that I could easily build, and at home my kids love to use it and it encourages them to wash their hands frequently especially after playing outside" shared Osea.

While many villages across Fiji have piped water, taps might be shared among a few households and are sometimes located quite far from homes. Village common areas like halls may not have taps nearby. Tippy Taps have become a solution for these situations. The Community health worker of Navitilevu - Rasilivia Navo says: "It's easy for people to use, and we've asked our youths to install tippy taps for our homes. For me, our bathroom and sanitation facilities are located quite a distance away, so I find that the tippy tap helps and encourages frequent hand washing."

Building MHM Blocks in Schools

Creating Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) blocks is a new initiative. Having good menstrual hygiene facilities in schools is an important part of helping young girls feel safe and comfortable in school. These MHM blocks will be fitted with a shower and change space that female students can use if they have their first periods in school or if their menses arrives unexpectedly.

Family of Men build a MHM block

Nalaba District School is one of six schools where Habitat is piloting the build of MHM blocks.

With the support of plumbers, School Manager Akini has been leading the build. Akini called on his brothers and cousins who all live in a close-knit farming community near the school to come and assist.

The build required a lot of commitment from the men as they had to walk a few kilometres to and from the construction site. They also had to leave their daily farming routine for the four-week period of the build. However, being able to provide a space for girls to deal with their first menses in school with dignity seemed to outweigh any of the challenges this family of men faced.

Volunteer Epeli said: "Building the MHM facility is something I'm truly proud of. When I attended the school, this was something that was not promoted and girls would often get teased in school if they had their menses during school hours."

Menstrual hygiene is still a taboo topic in some communities in Fiji. The work completed by this family of men not only helps young girls deal with their menses in a more dignified way, but it also challenges the conservative way menstrual hygiene is discussed within their community.

Eurobodalla Bushfire Recovery



Meet Caty. She lost everything in the 2019-20 Black Summer bushfires.



She designed and built her home with her own hands and the help of her friends.



Through tears, she beamed with pride as she showed us photos.



All that remained after the fires was this plastic Buddha



The Habitat team of volunteers created a garden and moved her veggie patch.

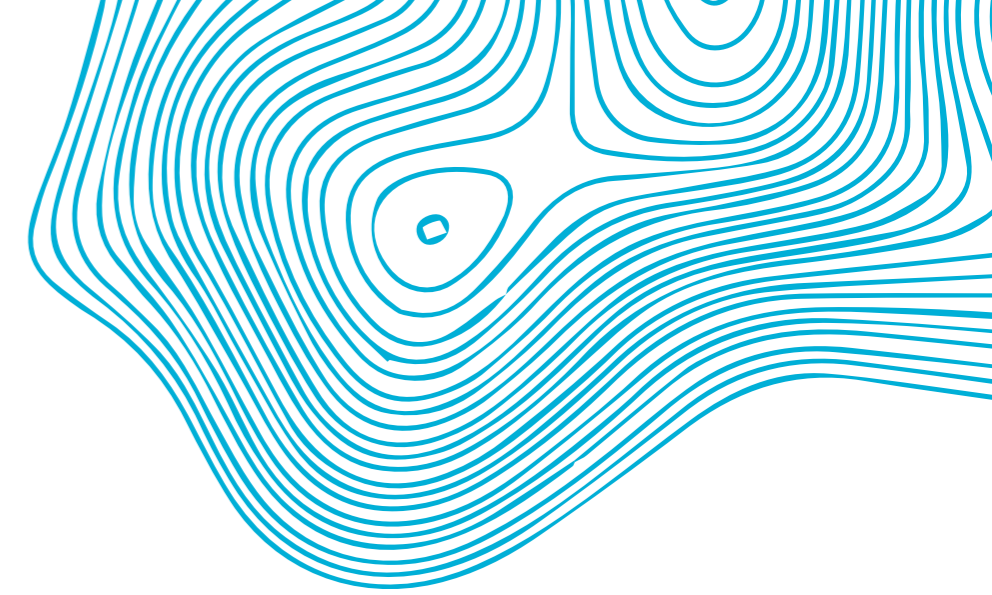


But more importantly, we showed her we care.



We felt privileged to meet you and help in a small way.

hike for Habitat



Hike, Bike and Raft your way across New Zealand's Coast

Are you a thrill seeker? Join us on the 5 day Coast-to-Coast adrenaline adventure in picturesque New Zealand. Discover NZ's most diverse and remote landscapes by cycling, hiking, and white water rafting your way through the country. This stunning journey takes you from the Tasman Sea, over the Southern Alps to the shores of the Pacific Ocean.

Location: Christchurch, New Zealand

Dates: January, 2023

Registration: \$200

Cost: \$2240 (flights not included)

Fundraising: \$2,500



Hike the breathtaking Larapinta Trail

Join us on an epic 5-day adventure through Aboriginal Dreaming tracks and trek beside one of the world's oldest river systems. You will journey along the most spectacular and rewarding sections of the trail, gazing at the beautiful mountains, valleys, rivers and the dramatic desert landscapes of the Red Centre. You are then rewarded with delicious meals and banter with your new friends around the fireplace at night.

Location: Larapinta Trail, Northern Territory

Dates: 18th – 24th July 2022

Registration: \$440

Cost: \$2,999 (flights not included)



For more information email: volunteer@habitat.org.au

every
person

can help build a
brighter future

Habitat for Humanity Australia & Safewill



We believe building a decent home provides much more than bricks and mortar – it provides real hope for the future. We are so pleased to be partnering with Safewill to help our supporters plan for their future, and leaving a lasting legacy for others.”

“Habitat is pleased to partner with Safewill to help you take care of your loved ones. When you remember Habitat in your Will, you become part of our special community, dedicated to helping make transformational and lasting change possible.” – Dan Peyton, Head of Impact Giving and Engagement.

Safewill is Australia’s highest rated Will writing platform, making it easy and affordable for Australians to write their Will – with just a few clicks. To help you take care of your family we’re happy to have teamed up with Safewill to offer you a free Will today. Available to the first 25 supporters to take up the offer, visit safewill.com/habitat

I came into this world with nothing and I will leave this world with nothing, but I can ensure my childhood dream ‘lives on’ through a gift in my Will to Habitat for Humanity. – Andrew

For more information, see the enclosed flyer or visit safewill.com/habitat

get
involved

ph: 1800 88 55 99

www.habitat.org.au/autumn2022

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