



Autumn 2023

building a better world

Celebrating Women | Breaking Barriers | Strengthening Community Resilience



As the world continues to struggle with the impacts of increasing natural disasters and ongoing conflict, your support in providing access to safe, decent and affordable housing is more important than ever. A safe home not only protects our physical health but also plays a crucial role in sustaining our mental and emotional well-being.

Together, we have done more than just build homes. Over the last 12 months you have helped to empower women in remote communities in Fiji with access to safe water and sanitation infrastructure and services. Here in Australia, your support is addressing the gender gap in our construction industry through our Habitat Women social enterprise. Your support also means that women and children escaping domestic violence have a comfortable and healing space where they can begin to rebuild their lives.

We've been so inspired to see our supporters returning overseas to take part in our Global Village overseas volunteering program. Our first groups will be working shoulder-to-shoulder with partner families in Cambodia and Vietnam. Registration is now open for builds in July and November, so if you want to be part of a team of like-minded people and make lifelong memories, please do join us!

Our work is only possible thanks to your commitment and shared vision. We invite you to read our newsletter and help us build a better world together.

Nicole Stanmore

Nicole Stanmore
Donor, Volunteer and CEO.



habitat women breaking barriers in the construction industry

Habitat for Humanity Australia is addressing the gender gap in Australia's second largest employment sector. Women make up only 11% of the total construction industry workforce, and less than 3% of trades. Our social enterprise, Habitat Women, is working to remedy this imbalance one woman at a time.

We identified the gender disparity in construction, lack of employment opportunities for women, and barriers in education and training for women wanting to learn construction skills. Habitat Women provides a safe, inclusive space to give vulnerable women opportunities they may not otherwise be able to access.

Securing employment is crucial for women to be able to obtain permanent housing and improve their life. Many of the women participating in our program face significant barriers that prevent them from participating in the mainstream job market, including a lack of work experience. Habitat Women trains women in building and construction skills whilst also equipping them with pre-employment skills such as regular attendance, interview skills, working with others, and being punctual. Especially important is the fact that this work experience is paid.

Emma was a member of the first group to complete training with Habitat Women. Her home cleaning and maintenance work had reduced drastically as a result of the pandemic, leaving her uncertain of her future. Living with mental illness had also diminished her self-confidence. Training with Habitat Women sparked a passion and purpose that she didn't realise she was capable of.

Before I started the program I had issues with confidence, but now I feel like I'm on the right track, it just feels really right. This program has already built up my confidence. I am meeting like-minded women who want to support each other on their journeys, and we are learning together how to navigate the industry and try new things.

If you would like to participate in the program, partner with us or get involved with Habitat Women visit habitatwomen.org.au

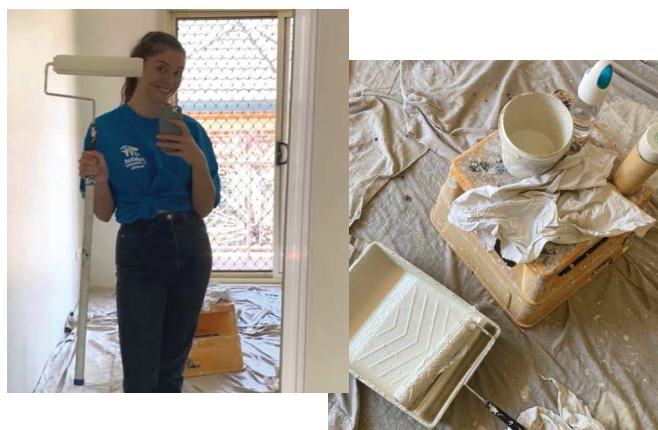
women supporting women

a day in the life of a first time habitat volunteer

Have you ever wondered what it's like to volunteer with Habitat Australia locally? Maybe you're considering volunteering, but you are a little uncertain about what to expect? Or worried you don't have enough experience.

Chloe takes us through a day in the life of a Habitat Australia volunteer, an incredibly rewarding experience with some amazing and inspiring people.

"My name is Chloe and today was my first-time volunteering with Habitat for Humanity Australia. Here is a photo of me and my trusty paint roller:



Step One: arrive at the site! Arriving at around 9am, we meet the other volunteers and our Supervisor, Greg. Greg gives us a short briefing about what the game plan for the day is and most importantly tells us what not to do. For example, do not accidentally paint the ceiling or trek paint across the carpet! This is also an opportunity for him to tell us a little about the project.

Today the project we are working on is repairing and maintaining a shelter for families escaping domestic violence. A new coat of paint makes it a little cozier and more welcoming for when they arrive. On the day **I learned that people fleeing domestic violence often arrive at shelters and consider returning to unsafe situations with their children because these shelters are not inviting or comfortable.**

We're a smaller group today so we split up the tasks, two per room. I get to paint-rolling and my co-volunteer, Riekie starts on the edging. Next door two other volunteers are doing the same, everyone is chatting away, listening to music and enjoying the day.

At 10:30, we have a short break for morning tea. This is a great opportunity to get to know the rest of the group. We share some food and chat about the project, travel, and what's going on in the world. After morning tea it's the perfect opportunity for me to have a little chat with the other volunteers about their reasons for volunteering.

First, I spoke to Amira and Levina. Amira is a regular volunteer whilst this is Levina's first project but certainly not her last.

Levina feels that volunteering is a great way to give back and finds the experience really rewarding, when talking about the house we're painting she says, **"The family moving in needs it. You're doing a little something to make it a nicer, more welcoming place."**

Downstairs I chat to Lou. This is her eighth volunteer day. She loves how friendly these days are and the diversity of the people who participate, particularly that she gets to meet and make friends with people of all ages whilst really giving back to the community through these projects.

Not wanting to abandon my post for too long, I get back to painting bedroom one. We're almost finished and it looks great. We chatted about the family who might move in here and are hopeful that the fresh feeling helps them get through such a challenging time and gives them a boost to restart their lives.



Currently in Australia, 1 in 4 women has experienced emotional abuse by a current or former partner since the age of 15. There are many more cases that go unreported. Leaving a violent or manipulative relationship can be especially difficult if these families have nowhere to go. After lunch, Lisa who works at the property comes to speak with us about the project and who might eventually live in this house.

After lunch we finish our painting and pack up. This includes setting up a few pieces of furniture for the incoming family to enjoy and of course, taking a photo with the Habitat banner, a Volunteer rite of passage!



It's fantastic to see the progress we have made; we are all so proud of our efforts and hopeful the family that moves in will find a place to call home. I know I am not the only one to feel incredibly grateful to be part of the experience and to have met some wonderful, likeminded people.

I could not recommend this experience enough; it was a wonderful day in so many ways; from the community, to the work, to doing something kind for those in need.

If you'd like to volunteer just head to our Volunteer website **helpinghands.online**, sign up and check the calendar to see if we have any activities coming up near you.

I hope this gives you a better idea of what to expect and cannot wait to see more people on site!

If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic violence please call 1800RESPECT or visit one of the helplines below:

Lifeline | 13 11 14

Kids HelpLine | 1800 551 800

Mensline Australia | 1300 789 978

Elder Abuse Hotline | 1800 353 374

13Yarn | 13 92 76 (For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people)



water for women fiji

strengthening community resilience and inclusion

Your support is empowering women in Fiji with improved access to water and sanitation services through our Water for Women Project, which wrapped up earlier this year after launching in 2018. We have been able to improve community behaviors around inclusive water, sanitation and hygiene and improve access to water and sanitation infrastructure and services.

Gender equality and social inclusion are central to Water for Women. Actively including women, men, marginalised groups, members of the LGBTQI+ community and people with disabilities ensures more equitable and more effective and sustainable outcomes.

18 communities and 11 schools were identified in the provinces of Ba and Ra, where access to safe, adequate water was a significant need. Most communities encountered water scarcity every dry season. During these periods some **communities had to ration water supply to only two to three hours per day, while others utilized lower quality or more expensive water sources.**

In these communities female membership in water committees was only 21%, and the 11 schools within these provinces did not have any menstrual hygiene facilities.

These communities now have improved quantity and quality of drinking water and changes in behaviours (handwashing and solar distillation). Women now make up 41% of water committees. Attitude changes have meant that support from male leaders has resulted in wider community acceptance that women have a significant role to play on these committees.

Women in these communities are now empowered to take on active leadership roles.

New infrastructure in schools has improved access to water, toilets, handwashing and menstrual hygiene facilities. Previously, none of the 11 project schools had menstrual hygiene facilities, and installation has been a success – teachers are reporting a reduction of absenteeism amongst girls. Teachers and school managers have integrated water, sanitation and hygiene practices into their lesson plans and children are now actively playing a role in advocating for better practices in their communities.

“When I was in primary school at this school, we didn’t have clean water. We had to get clean water from the village. We only had two concrete water tanks at our school and looking back now, the water was not safe for drinking water for children. I want to say thank you Habitat for helping us rebuild this school with the greatest gift - water.”

Makareta, a teacher at Naviti District school

Adi, from the Burenitu community has become an advocate for change in her community and in others. Adi has family members living in two nearby communities called Molituva and Nasukamai. Both face significant challenges with accessing safe drinking water. **“It was extremely important for me to share [my knowledge] because water for Molituva is mainly sourced directly from the creek during periods of drought”** Adi said.

Molituva says, **“We experienced health issues such as diarrhea. Thanks to Adi, we are now seeing the changes in our health, especially with regards to drinking water.”**

Water for Women is the Australian Government’s flagship water, sanitation and hygiene program and is being delivered as part of Australia’s Aid program.



people served



980 households



1140 children



69 teachers



Celebrating a new home

Yip Say lives with her daughter and two granddaughters in Battambang Province in Cambodia. They are one of the poorest families in their village and are supported by the single income of her daughter who earns \$80 USD per month working as a labour seller. To support the family with more income, Yip Say's granddaughters were forced to leave school in grade six.

Living on such a small income meant the family were only able to afford their daily food. Anytime a family member became sick, paying for healthcare and medicines would force them into debt.

In addition to their financial stress, **Yip Say's family were no longer allowed to live on her land and were forced to move to a new location within the same community.** Yip Say never had the opportunity to build a house herself, so they later had to move out of the community into an isolated informal housing settlement.

Yip Say and her family were offered support from a Cambodian housing organisation that recognised their financial insecurity. Unfortunately, the construction of the house was inadequate and within five years the structure had begun to seriously degrade. **Many parts of the house leaked when it rained, and due to the location of the plot of land it was located on, the house constantly flooded during the rainy season.**

Yip Say and her family were identified by a community leader for housing support. Yip Say partnered with Habitat for Humanity and together they completed the building of her a new home on a safer plot of land.

Habitat focused not only on building a shelter but improving overall quality of life for Yip Say and her family. Since being in her new home Yip Say has started to enjoy life more and reports a big change in her emotional wellbeing.

"I'm very grateful to live here. I'm no longer worried about living on someone's land, not scared of living alone. There are many people around me".



Yip Say's previous kitchen had no concrete floor.

Yip Say now takes a lot of pride in her home, spending time growing plants, cleaning and organising and even saving some money to build fencing for security and to improve the land around her home to make it more resistant to flooding. **Your support has given Yip Say a new lease on life, allowing her to take off a mental load, stop worrying about her safety living in an isolated community and enjoy time with her family.**



Yip Say in front of her new Habitat home.



This project receives support from the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP) and is in partnership with our implementing partner Habitat for Humanity Cambodia to provide access to safe shelter.

building back with global village



We are so excited that after a 2 year pandemic hiatus, registrations are now open for our very first Global Village builds of 2023. This year Global Village is travelling to Cambodia and Vietnam to build homes for vulnerable families, and we would love for you to join us.

Over the course of a week, you'll work shoulder-to-shoulder with Habitat partner families and fellow volunteers to build homes, communities and the foundations for generational change. You will be immersed in another culture, make unforgettable memories and change lives - including your own.

Anyone aged 18+ can participate and no skills are necessary!

Mekong Build, Cambodia

You can help to make the dream of a decent home a reality for Cambodian families when you join our Global Village program. Habitat for Humanity works closely with the families in to improve their access to safe, dignified, and affordable housing. Volunteers work shoulder-to-shoulder with Habitat partner families over the course of a week to build them a new home and, most importantly, a foundation for real change.

Join us for an unforgettable trip where you will take in the wonders of the vibrant Cambodian culture, you will make new friends and change lives.

MEKONG BUILD FAST FACTS

DATES: 1st to 8th July 2023

LOCATION: PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA

COST: \$200 Registration, \$1,800 Fundraising minimum, \$780 - \$1,000 in country expenses.

Flights, visa, vaccinations, travel insurance and personal expenses are not included.

REGISTRATIONS CLOSE: 15th May 2023

Hoa Binh Build, Vietnam

Habitat volunteers will work alongside vulnerable Vietnamese families to improve their living conditions and overall wellbeing by building safe, disaster-resilient homes of concrete blocks. In just a week, the team of volunteers will make a tangible difference to the lives and futures of the low-income community.

HOA BINH BUILD FAST FACTS

DATES: 4th to 11th November 2023

LOCATION: HOA BINH, VIETNAM

COST: \$200 Registration, \$1,800 Fundraising minimum, \$800 - \$1,000 in country expenses.

Flights, visa, vaccinations, travel insurance and personal expenses are not included.

REGISTRATIONS CLOSE: 7th July 2023



To express your interest please scan the QR code, visit helpinghands.online/global-village, email volunteer@habitat.org.au or call 1800 88 55 99.



Hike For Habitat

LARAPINTA CHALLENGE

Experience the majesty of the Larapinta Trail and deep dive into Australia's Indigenous history. Join Habitat for Humanity Australia and a wonderful team of supporters from the 19th - 24th of July and tackle the trail together. On this once-in-a-lifetime adventure, you'll trek through the Australian outback on one of the most spectacular walking tracks in the world. Give a hand up to those in need while you get a hand up one of the Northern Territory's highest peaks.

For more information visit helpinghands.online/hike-for-habitat, email volunteer@habitat.org.au or call 1800 88 55 99.



caring for loved ones

We are so grateful to our special community members who have chosen to support us with a gift in their Will. This support is an incredible investment in future generations and helps some of the world's most vulnerable obtain safe and decent housing, along with the strength, stability and independence to build a better future.

Andrew is one of our wonderful supporters who has chosen to remember Habitat for Humanity in his Will.

'I dreamed of becoming an architect so that I could design simple, affordable mass housing for those not fortunate enough to have a roof over their heads. Although I never ended up becoming an architect, Habitat for Humanity has nevertheless given me the chance to realise my childhood dream in a profoundly practical way.'

You may already have a current Will. But more than 60% of Australians don't. Making a Will has traditionally been complicated, time-consuming or expensive. Habitat for Humanity Australia has partnered with Safewill, Australia's leading online Will-writing platform. Through this partnership, we are offering our supporters the opportunity to write a bespoke Will for **FREE**.

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. It takes as little as 20 minutes to complete, is reviewed by an Australian solicitor to ensure it has been filled out correctly and comes with a year of free and unlimited updates.

This offer is available until the 9th of April, so get started today!

After your loved ones have been provided for, a gift in your Will can help secure safe and decent housing for some of the world's most disadvantaged families, transforming their lives for generations to come.

A gift of as little as 1% of your estate can make a significant impact, or simply include the amount that feels right to you. Any gift, big or small, in your Will can make a difference.

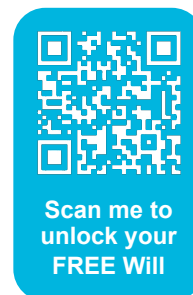
'Just imagine the difference a safe home and clean water can make. Today's children and those who follow will be happier, safer and better educated. It is an incredible investment for future generations.'

Annie Pietersz, Gifts in Wills Specialist

Habitat for Humanity Australia invites our supporters to write their Will for FREE.

To write your Will today, or for more information go to safewill.com/habitat

If you would like to have a friendly, no obligation and confidential chat about leaving a gift in your Will today, please contact us at givinghope@habitat.org.au or on 1800 88 55 99.



Habitat for Humanity Australia invites our supporters to write their Will for free (usually \$160). Write your Will today and create a gift that empowers families and builds resilient communities.



get involved

1800 88 55 99
habitat.org.au/autumn2023

Habitat for Humanity Australia, PO Box 1048 North Sydney, NSW, 2059

