

MD's Quill

Felix A. Fernandes
Managing Director

Habitat for Humanity's primary mission is to assist needy families to build and own their own safe and decent home. Providing shelter remains the cornerstone of our programs. However, we also realize the importance of an integrated approach to overall development of the families we assist.

In many cases, Habitat, partners with grass root NGOs who has been working in an area providing a variety of different development solutions in health care, education, women's emancipation or income generation. We partner with selected organizations to include decent housing as part of an integrated program which adds substantial value to the community.

We are indeed fortunate to have so many wonderful and dedicated partner organizations across the country to help us in implementing our programs and integrating other development activities to make a real change to the lives of the families of the homeowners.

In a recent initiative we have now included tree planting as a contribution to improving the environment, while helping the families earn an income.

God Bless .

“BEYOND HOUSING”...

The importance of trees as natural resources, as medicines, in maintaining the ecological balance, preventing soil erosion, providing nutrients to the soil, purifying air, habitat for faunal species, etc. is well known.

Habitat for Humanity, India the largest not-for profit organization addressing the need of poverty housing, having understood this took the initiative to take its interventions, beyond housing. While planning the 'Green Fingers' project care was taken to address the livelihood opportunity for the families it works with. Special care was taken to choose saplings from among the native species like Mango, Lime, Guava, Cashew, Curry leaf which in addition to being eco-friendly would provide food for the family or help generate income.

Habitat launched its '**Green Fingers**' project, at Karjat, Maharashtra, where the air, water, soil and climate of the region are most conducive for the growth of these native species, providing for a high rate of survival .The project launch took place on the 12th of June,2009 with the participation of volunteers from Allied Digital Services Ltd and Crisil. This was followed by volunteers from Fujitsu Consulting, Wells Fargo, Bank of America and Merrill Lynch.



▲ Volunteers from Wells Fargo

These volunteers worked with Habitat home owners to plant more than 100 saplings. Volunteers were very happy to participate in a program which they knew would help the eco system and also assist these families earn an income.

The volunteers dug pits at pre-identified spots under the supervision of a horticulture expert . After the saplings were planted the beneficiaries built a tree-guard to protect the plants.

Similarly, employees of CISCO who volunteered for the Habitat build in Bangalore donated to the Habitat beneficiaries whose houses the volunteers helped build.

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▲ Volunteers from Allied Digital Services Limited

▲ Fujitsu Volunteers in Action



» A Holistic Approach

A team of nine members from Deutsche Bank, Bangalore volunteered for a build at Hegdenagar. These volunteers also visited two of the villages and distributed books to 350 children .

Employees of Goldman Sachs through their "Community TeamWorks" volunteered with Habitat for Humanity in Bangalore to make a tangible difference in the communities. Along with building homes the volunteers used their expertise in mapping the locality, identifying garbage dumps that needed attention and remedial measures to beautify the surrounding areas. They also interacted with



▲ Volunteers in Action

the Self Help Group members and shared better ways of book keeping and different aspects of development. Goldman Sachs sponsored concrete cement rings used as garbage dumps. These activities have helped build inter- and intra-divisional camaraderie within the company.



» A World Where Every Child Has A Decent Place To Live



▲ Bikram Saluja, Joe Mathai - Bangalore HRC Director, Nirmala Rani - Manager and Himmat Bhutalia - Marketing Head, Sony Pix interacting with the children

▲ Himmat Bhutalia - Marketing Head, Sony Pix distributes gifts while Bikram Saluja and Joe Mathai - Director, Habitat Bangalore HRC look on

Children of Habitat supported beneficiaries spent a day with Bikram Saluja, model turned actor at Hegdenagar, Bangalore. Children were given gifts by Sony Pix. These home partners are daily wage earners and were resettled from Ejjipura slum to Hegdenagar by the government and their homes built with assistance from Habitat. The Marketing Head of Sony Pix, Mr Himmat Bhutalia also attended this function.

The children shared their aspirations. One of the children Shubhalakshmi said *“The house has made a great difference. Earlier, when it rained, my books used to get wet as water entered our house. But with the new house my books are safe and I have enough space for studies at home. I want to become a doctor”*. Habitat for Humanity matched the savings of her mother Alamelu to help her build this home.

All the children expressed their joy for being a part of the event and thanked Sony Pix for the gifts.

Bikram Saluja was very appreciative of the good work done by Habitat for Humanity and it’s partner NGO, BIRDS and for being invited to spend time with the children. Himmat Bhutalia thanked Habitat for organizing the event on behalf of Sony Pix.



» A HOME means so much ...



▲ Sarvari Begum in front of her old house



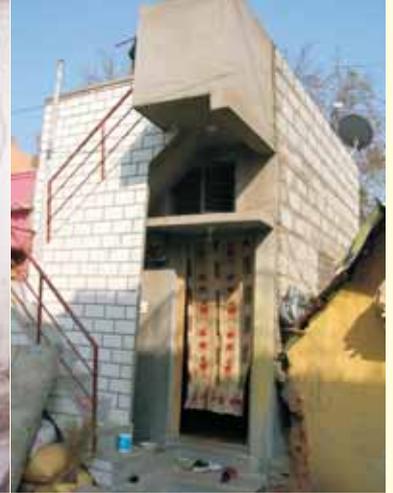
▲ Sarvari Begum in her new Habitat house

Sarvari Begum, aged 50, thanks Allah for enabling her to build a home at Bhalaswa with the support of Habitat and its partner Chetanalaya. Bhalaswa slum is situated on the North-Western edge of Delhi, surrounded by an overused landfill site. She is now happy that when her husband returns from the hospital after a hernia surgery, he will have a proper place to rest and recover. She has many reasons to thank the Almighty. Among other things, she says, "I do not have to stand in long queues to use the public bathroom and toilet. I do not have to live in fear of destruction of property and life from fire or storms. We are able to celebrate festivals better and live happier lives." Sarvari lives with her husband and son, both of whom work in a cycle repair shop. She and her daughters earn at home by stitching, making beads and other daily jobs as available to them.

Rani a widow with two teenaged daughters, makes her living as a domestic maid. One of her daughters Jyoti lost her eyesight. Rani's house in Dr. Ambedkar slum at Bypanahalli was deplorable and the security of the family was always at risk. It was difficult for her to leave her daughters and go to work. The living conditions of the family were unpredictable, especially during monsoons. Rani recently moved into a safe, secure and clean shelter built by Habitat and its volunteers. Rani says, 'Help from Habitat allowed me build a house for myself. Without Habitat, I couldn't have even dreamed of my own house. I can now take up more jobs. My house is safe for my daughters so I am not worried even if I return home late at night.'



▲ Prabhu Peter's Old House



▲ Prabhu Peter's Habitat House

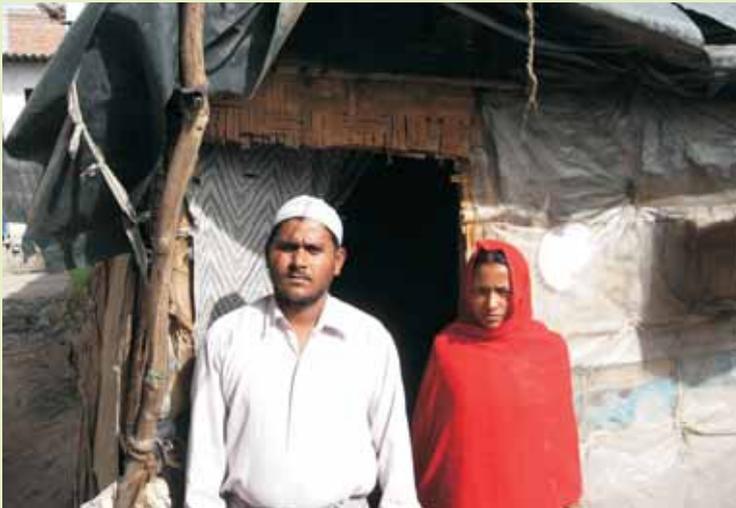
Usha and her husband Prabhu Peter live with their four children in Dr. Ambedkar Nagar Slum in Bangalore. Prabhu Peter drives an auto while Usha works as a house maid. Their slum house provided no protection during the monsoons. They endured bad weather on the streets with their children. Habitat along with its partner NGO FEDINA worked to build a house for this family. Volunteers also provided unskilled labour. 'The new house is God's gift to us through Habitat', says Usha. 'I have taken up work after getting a secure house for my family and I am now able to supplement the family income.'



▲ Rani along with her daughter Jyoti

A makeshift hut constructed from plastic sheets, bamboo and tarpaulin was home to Asmati Parveen after marriage at Bawana, Delhi. She lived here with her husband and his family after moving from Darbhanga, Bihar. Life was a constant threat, with water logging inside her house during rains and damage caused by storms. Asmati, like everyone else in her slum, also faced a major problem of being unable to have access to public toilets late at night.

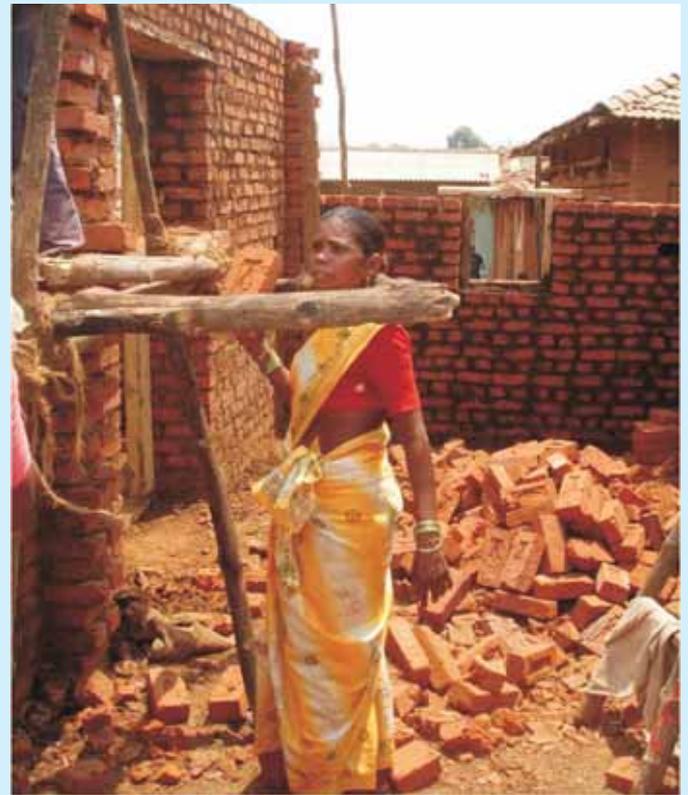
When asked what it feels like to have a house of her own, she says, "PEACE". She continues to say, "I now do not know when there is rain or storm outside. I feel safe at home. All my fear is gone. I do not have to worry about paying to use the public toilets. I only pay to clear my loans for a house I own." Asmati has understood the value of earning and saving. In her new house, she has made space for a sewing machine. She now earns from her tailoring job while her husband continues to work in a production house that manufactures utensils and her father-in-law works as a helper in a shop.



▲ A. Abdul Malik and Asmati Parveen before construction



▲ Asmati seen in her new house cutting clothes and surrounded by children from the neighbourhood



▲ Nani Bhagat contributing her sweat equity in construction of her dream home

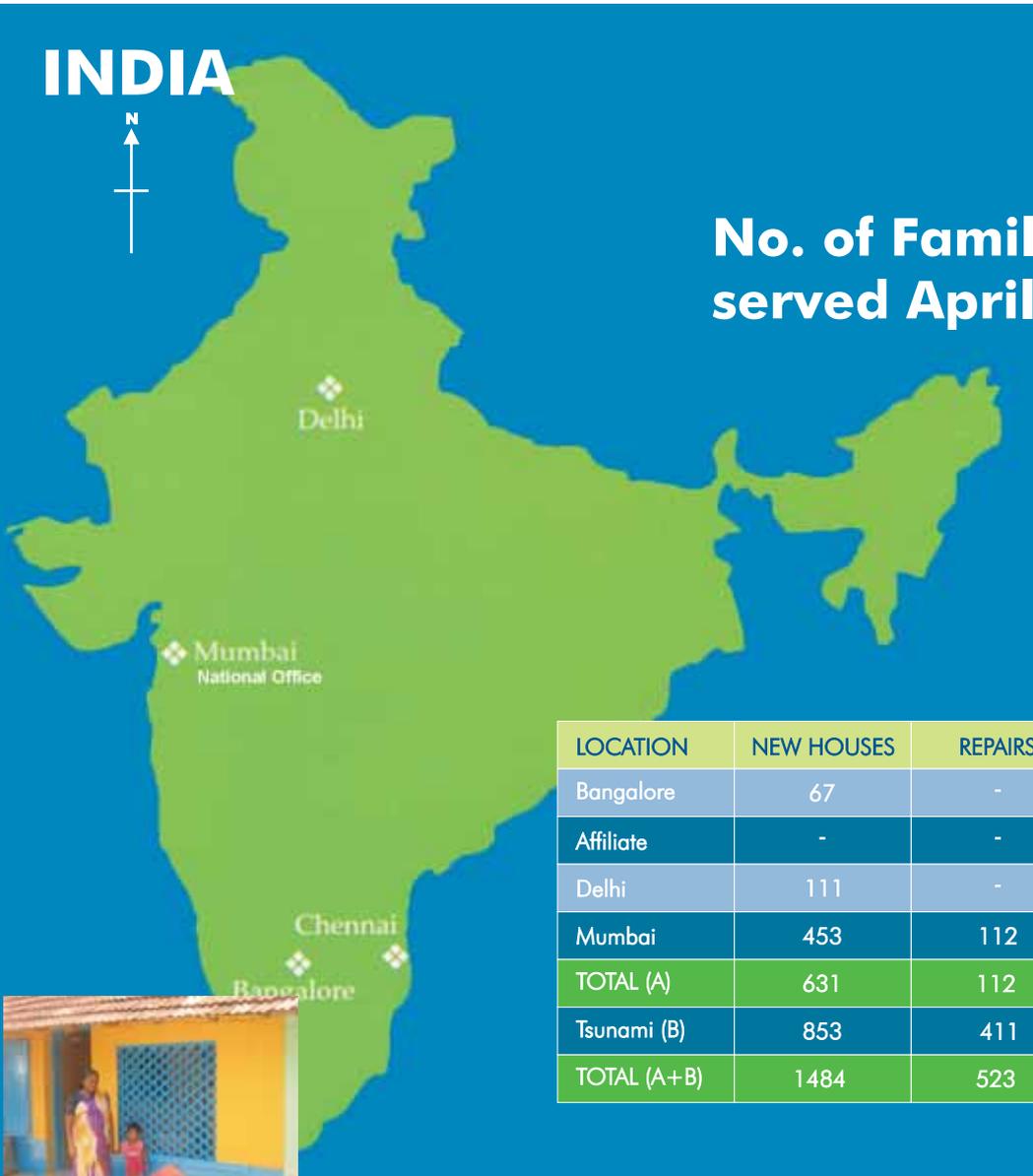
Nani Vinayak Bhagat is a tribal widow who lives with her five children in Karjat, 130 kms from Mumbai. Her eldest son quit his studies to work as a bullock cart driver. Every monsoon brought horrible experiences because of leaking roofs and walls and she would have to move into her neighbour's house. The foodgrains she stored would also get damaged resulting in the family going hungry.

She got in touch with Academy of Development Science, and along with Habitat for Humanity, was able to build her dream home. A team of volunteers helped build her home.



▲ Homepartner Geetha outside her New Habitat Houses at Kanyakumari district

INDIA



No. of Families served April 09 - June 09

LOCATION	NEW HOUSES	REPAIRS	REHAB	TOTAL
Bangalore	67	-	82	149
Affiliate	-	-	13	13
Delhi	111	-	15	126
Mumbai	453	112	-	565
TOTAL (A)	631	112	110	853
Tsunami (B)	853	411	-	1264
TOTAL (A+B)	1484	523	110	2117

▲ Homepartner Padras-Enayam Puthenthurai standing outside her renovated house at Kanyakumari district

» Events

Asia Pacific Capital Campaign: Habitat India is proud that Mrs. Rajashree Birla the Co-chair of the *IndiaBUILDS* Advisory Committee has been appointed as member of the Asia Pacific steering committee of Habitat for Humanity's Global Capital Campaign, along with representatives from four other countries. The objective of this campaign is to raise resources in the Asia Pacific region to eliminate poverty housing.

John Abraham, Habitat for Humanity India's Goodwill Ambassador is now a "Habitat Hero", a part of Habitat's Global Ambassador Program. John joins other global celebrities like Jon Bon Jovi, Ricky Martin, Nobel laureate Desmond Tutu and others who support Habitat's work around the world. As a Habitat Hero, John Abraham will use his influence and reach around the world to advocate on behalf of those in need of decent shelter and to raise resources to help Habitat eliminate poverty housing from the face of the earth.

Mrs. Rajashree Birla, Chairperson of *IndiaBUILDS* Advisory Committee presenting a plaque to John Abraham



» Volunteering

VOLUNTEERS ENGAGED IN CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES

Volunteer Team	Build Location	No. of Volunteers
	Bangalore	101
	Mumbai	52
Deutsche Bank 	Mumbai	32
	Bangalore	9
Global Citizens	Bangalore	2
	Bangalore	151
IJM	Bangalore	13
JUSTICE VENTURES  international	Chennai	18
	Chennai	30
	Delhi	17
Saudi Aramco School		
	Bangalore	15
Singapore Institute of Management Studies		
	Bangalore	60
USA Open Team	Bangalore	7
	Chennai	16
	Chennai	18
	TOTAL	541



Mrs Poorvi Chothani, founder of LawQuest and President of American Alumni Association, has graciously offered her services to Habitat for Humanity, pro-bono, and has agreed to assist with legal matters. LawQuest is a law firm, headquartered in Mumbai, offering business and legal solutions.

Zayed University students build in Kanyakumari;

Eighteen female students from Zayed University, Dubai ranging from level 4 in the Academic Bridge Program through 4th year Baccalaureate built four houses at Kanyakumari. The students worked for five days along with the homeowners. Their work involved carrying large rocks and concrete blocks, shoveling sand, filling the foundations and laying the blocks for the lower walls. This was the first time these students have been involved with a Habitat build. Based on the success of this trip team leader Lisa Reber said that this will become an annual event and students will have more opportunities to help families in need in other countries in the Middle East region and Asia.

Sunfeast World 10K Marathon, Bangalore The Bangaloreans put their best foot forward and showed the nation and the world at large, that they care!!! With enthusiastic participation from voluntary sector organisations, corporates, celebrities and locals, 12 volunteers ran for Habitat for Humanity in the second edition of the Sunfeast World 10K Bangalore on 31st May 09. More than 90 NGOs used this as a platform to raise money for their varied causes.

	Volunteer Teams	No. of Volunteers
Domestic Volunteers*	34	558
Global Volunteers**	5	73
Individual Volunteers	-	11
TOTAL	39	642

* Volunteers from India

** International Volunteers

Volunteers engaged in Non Construction Activities

Volunteer Team	Build Location	No. of Volunteers
	Mumbai	20
	Mumbai	27
	Mumbai	6
	Mumbai	16
 	Mumbai	21
	TOTAL	90

VOLUNTEER SPEAK



Bank of America, Merrill Lynch volunteers digging pit for saplings



Volunteers from Zayed University at the construction site



Habitat Volunteers at the Sunfeast marathon



I have volunteered with Habitat for several years in the US and I had my first opportunity to volunteer with Habitat in India recently. It was a blessed experience, just as it has been on all of the past occasions! The dignity, self respect and self assurance that the homes built by Habitat offer their owners is just amazing. I consider it my privilege to share for a brief period of time in this hallowed work. The young team of volunteers who accompanied me felt the same and several of them have committed to returning again and continuing their involvement with Habitat. I hope to have regular and numerous opportunities to work with Habitat in the years to come and I would like to thank the Habitat team and all the volunteers for the difference they are making and the hope they are inspiring in so many!

Suresh Subbarao, Advanced Services Manager, Cisco Systems

"It is wonderful to work with Habitat for Humanity. The fact that we are actually working on building houses for the underprivileged and seeing it grow brick by brick in front of our eyes is most rewarding. The team of volunteers from Timken is keen to participate in more such programs in the future."

Regina Vasudevan, Head-Communications, Timken India

Being extremely touched by her two day volunteering experience with Habitat, Cindy made it a point to encourage all the Senior Managers and Team Leaders to support the cause of Habitat for Humanity India.

Cindy J Goldman, AAP- Vice President- ACH Implementation Manager – JP Morgan Chase

Thank you for providing us with the opportunity to help people build their homes and hopes.

Sameer Bhakhri, Director - Human Resources, CRISIL, a Standard & Poor's Company

Let me start by telling you about my experience that I had from the trip. It was an amazing experience I had in my life because from this trip I had chance to help poor people by building homes for them, by itself a great thing to do in life and another thing when I was carrying bricks, sand, etc... I realized how hard the labor is and how they work and feel while working in the sun, I felt their feelings. Second I love everyone in the team and the girls were very cool and cooperative and supporting. They created a friendly environment. And not to forget Charly! He was a good host. The last thing is I want to thank everyone who was part of the trip and Habitat.

Halima



» Acknowledgment

We express our sincere thanks to our partners, supporters & well wishers

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» Quote

Peace begins with a smile.
Mother Teresa



Be the Change.. Run for Habitat



Habitat for Humanity India on



facebook



Yes, I want to contribute towards safe and decent housing

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