

India



Habitat for Humanity in India

Habitat for Humanity began operations in Khammam, Andhra Pradesh state, southeastern India, in 1983. Among the largest Habitat programs in the Asia-Pacific region, Habitat India has helped more than 319,375 families gain access to decent shelter as well as rebuilt their homes and lives in the aftermath of disasters. By 2022, Habitat India plans to reach out to 60 million people in need with improved housing solutions, safe sanitation, post-disaster reconstruction and by engaging the youth in its work.

The housing need in India

The world's largest democracy, India has seen rapid economic growth and made progress toward achieving most of the Millennium Development Goals. Income inequality remains a challenge though the poverty rate has been declining. World Bank data showed the national poverty rate has fallen from 37 percent in 2005 to 21.9 percent in 2012. To meet the country's vision of a home for all by 2022, India will need to build an additional 20 million housing units.

How Habitat addresses the need in India

Given the immense need for adequate housing in the country, Habitat for Humanity India engages donors, supporters and volunteers in its mission to ensure that everyone has a decent place to live. According to UNICEF India, 524 million people still defecate in the open in India. Habitat India's "Sensitise to Sanitise" campaign aims to address the problem by building sanitation units as well as promoting behavioral change. In July 2015, Habitat India launched the Sensitise to Sanitise Coalition, a network of organizations that aim to end open defecation. The 25-member S2S Coalition has served over 17 million people across the country. Voluntary labor for Habitat's housing and disaster response projects comes from international teams under the Global Village program and from local corporates and schools.



Habitat ambassador, actor John Abraham (center, back) and Habitat for Humanity India's managing director Rajan Samuel (left) thanking the students for supporting the Rupee for Change campaign.

COUNTRY FACTS

Capital	New Delhi
Main country facts	Gained independence in 1947
Population	Over 1.28 billion
Urbanization	33.5 percent live in cities
Life expectancy	68.8 years
Unemployment rate	8 percent
Population living below poverty line	21.9 percent

Source: World Factbook

HABITAT FACTS

When Habitat started in India
1983

Individuals served in FY17
940,430*

**Includes construction professional services and market development*

Volunteers engaged in FY17
22,240

Housing solutions
Decent and affordable homes;
Disaster response and preparedness;
"Sensitise to Sanitise" Coalition
Engaging with volunteers



Decent and affordable homes

It is estimated that more than 73 million families in India do not have access to decent shelter. Habitat for Humanity India works with low-income families to build new homes and incremental housing as well as to repair and rehabilitate houses. In line with the Government of India's vision to ensure "Housing for All", Habitat India believes that every person has the right to safe and adequate shelter.

Disaster response and preparedness

Since 1999, Habitat India has been responding to disasters ranging from cyclones to earthquakes to floods. Among the largest projects was the response to the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami which helped more than 13,000 families. Habitat India also implemented a community-based disaster mitigation and preparedness program which has trained more than 49,000 individuals. The response to the 2015 flooding in Tamil Nadu had the support of actress Jacqueline Fernandez who appealed for funding and led a 150-volunteer build in Chennai. To date, Habitat India has built and repaired 561 homes, constructed over 350 sanitation units and distributed about 7,000 humanitarian aid kits containing items such as tarpaulin sheet, nylon rope, water filter and a personal hygiene kit. In September 2015, a disaster insurance scheme developed by Habitat India's partner, insurance firm HDFC Ergo, was launched. The scheme offers policies to help low-income families rebuild or repair their homes after disasters. Annual premiums range from 100 to 250 Indian rupees (about US\$1.60 to US\$3.90).

"Sensitise to Sanitise" campaign

In India, nearly half of the population or 524 million people defecate in the open, a problem that the Indian government seeks to end by October 2019 through "Swachh Bharat Abhiyan" (Clean India Mission). Habitat India's "Sensitise to Sanitise" campaign, launched in November 2014, provides access to safe sanitation through building toilets in individual households, schools and communities. In addition, Habitat India runs a structured, community-driven program on behavior change communication to fight open defecation and raise awareness of the importance of sanitation and hygiene. In July 2015, Habitat India led the formation of the Sensitise to Sanitise Coalition. Together, the 25 partner organizations have served a total of over 17 million individuals.

Volunteer engagement

India is a popular destination for Habitat's Global Village volunteers with teams coming from countries such as Australia, New Zealand and the United States. Local volunteers from corporations, international schools and universities also supported Women Build and the 2017 Habitat Young Leaders Build campaign.

Meet a Habitat family

Over the last few years, Maharashtra state in western India, has witnessed a high incidence of farmer suicides. In 2016 alone, a total of 3,063 farmers took their own lives. Mannabi, 45, lost her husband nearly 10 years ago when the debt-ridden farmer committed suicide because he was under severe stress. Since then, Mannabi has struggled to provide for her children – a daughter and two sons – by working as a daily wage laborer. Living in a dilapidated house worsened their situation. Today, however, Mannabi can walk tall. When she was asked about the benefits of her new home that was built in Osmanabad district, she responded instantly: " 'Sukoon' (meaning peace)". She takes pride in her house where she runs a tailoring business. A safe, affordable home has given her family joy and stability, and an opportunity to build a better future.



Mannabi (left) with her daughter-in-law and grandson.

What you can do

You can help Indian families improve their living conditions by taking one or more of the following actions:

DONATE

USD \$: [habitat.org/donate/india](https://www.habitat.org/donate/india)

VOLUNTEER

Join one of the scheduled Global Village trips to India or lead your own. For more information go to: [habitat.org/gv](https://www.habitat.org/gv)

TITHE

Establish a strong and rewarding tithe partnership to help build houses globally! Quote **INDIA** on your checks sent to: Habitat for Humanity International, Attn: Affiliate Tithe, 121 Habitat St. Americus, GA 31709

To learn more about Habitat projects in India or in other parts of the region, please contact us.

CONTACT

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