

## Policy successes from the campaign's challenge grants in Asia-Pacific

### HABITAT FOR HUMANITY AUSTRALIA

Habitat Australia successfully advanced advocacy efforts to position housing as a critical component of climate resilience within Australia's international development policy. We conducted high-level meetings with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, or DFAT, and relevant ministerial advisors, shared a policy brief to influence policy discussions and facilitated outreach in Fiji and Solomon Islands. Habitat Australia also supported country partners in consultation with DFAT and leveraged evidence from past projects to strengthen the case for climate-resilient housing. These efforts resulted in increased recognition of housing's role in climate adaptation and opened new funding opportunities, including a climate grant for Habitat Nepal. Moving forward, Habitat Australia plans to generate more evidence and integrate housing into multi-sectoral resilience initiatives.

### HABITAT FOR HUMANITY CAMBODIA

Habitat Cambodia works to expand access to safe, decent, affordable homes for families living in informal settlements by strengthening inclusive housing policy frameworks and scaling climate-resilient solutions. It is supporting the government to adopt a national affordable housing policy. This includes the creation of incentives for small and medium-sized developers to build low-cost housing units, as well as the streamlining of government approval processes for affordable housing projects through the establishment of a new information technology-enabled platform. Habitat Cambodia also intends to continue engaging with the NGO Housing Network to amplify civil society voices and share best practices on adequate housing.

In parallel, Habitat Cambodia will deliver direct housing solutions to families living in informal settlements, demonstrating the feasibility and market demand for affordable housing models. It will develop a handbook for low-cost, resilient housing models and launch a mobile app that will make construction guidance for these more widely accessible. Aside from building and repairing homes in Siem Reap and Battambang, Habitat Cambodia will improve water, sanitation and hygiene, or WASH, infrastructure as well as empower women-led Participatory Approach for Safe Shelter Awareness, or PASSA, groups to drive community-based housing and resilience planning. Through these efforts, it seeks to reduce the country's housing deficit and improve the living conditions of the most vulnerable families.

### HABITAT FOR HUMANITY INDONESIA

Habitat Indonesia initially focused on improving housing and settlement quality for low-income families in Tanjung Kait in the Tangerang District through a combined advocacy and programmatic approach. Key achievements include legalizing technical housing guidelines, securing government commitments for infrastructure and developing a model for land access through microfinancing. The project prioritized community empowerment through participatory planning, women's groups for inclusive land ownership, and financial literacy initiatives. A major milestone was securing land tenure for 110 families via a microcredit

scheme with KOMIDA, supported by legal certification from the National Land Agency. Programmatic efforts included site planning, soil stabilization, and construction-related activities.

Now, Habitat Indonesia aims to provide safe, climate-resilient housing for low-income families in Gresik Regency by promoting the use of village funds for housing, influencing local regulations, and expanding housing finance through cooperatives and microfinance. It will also advocate for government investment in water, sanitation and climate adaptation, while raising public awareness through media campaigns and community dialogues. On the ground, Habitat Indonesia will build and renovate homes with passive cooling designs, improve WASH facilities, and engage women, fisherfolk, and youth in participatory planning. Training on resilient construction and waste management, along with technical manuals and policy briefs, will support sustainability and scale-up.

### **HABITAT FOR HUMANITY NEPAL**

Habitat Nepal advanced land and housing rights for marginalized communities in the Koshi, Madhes and Sudurpaschim provinces through policy advocacy, land literacy and programmatic demonstrations. It established Land Service Support Centers in three districts. Habitat Nepal also developed and scaled a land literacy program to reach over 580 participants—60% of which were women—and facilitated the issuance of 413 land ownership certificates—82% of which reflected joint ownership with women to promote gender equity. Key policies and housing guidelines were endorsed by local governments; municipal budgets began integrating housing priorities. Programmatic demonstrations included the construction of climate-resilient housing using compressed stabilized earth blocks, or CSEB, and co-financing of homes with local governments.

Despite challenges like the dissolution of the National Land Commission, the project strengthened local governance, advanced women's land rights and created scalable frameworks for secure tenure and inclusive housing. By combining advocacy with practical interventions, Habitat Nepal influenced systemic policy changes, improved community awareness of land rights and promoted climate-smart housing solutions—laying the foundation for sustainable replication and scale-up across Nepal.

### **HABITAT FOR HUMANITY VIETNAM**

Habitat Vietnam focused on improving housing safety, climate resilience and security of tenure for vulnerable households in informal settlements in the Mekong Delta. It repaired homes in flood-prone areas of Dong Thap, conducted WASH and land rights training for 356 households and established two commune-level project management boards to ensure local ownership. They held participatory planning sessions that identified sustainable livelihood models—including dried fish production and broom-making enterprises—to enhance income stability for beneficiary families.

In Kien Giang, Habitat Vietnam worked to improve construction standards applied to the government's pro-poor housing program. After consulting local communities and partners and studying locally available construction materials, cultural considerations and market prices, Habitat Vietnam proposed three affordable and durable models to be used in the construction of new homes. It also worked to strengthen community engagement and legal literacy through training on the 2024 Land Law, enabling households to better understand land registration and inheritance processes. These efforts combined not only improved living conditions but also created a foundation for future advocacy and policy dialogue on inclusive housing and land rights in Vietnam.