



2023 Achievements



New Homes Built:	21
Retrofit Builds:	54
WaSH Infrastructure:	11
Provinces Worked in:	10
Volunteers Engaged:	42
Communities Served:	15
Training Sessions:	23
No of Attendees:	471

“I’m glad to be part of this training because at home, we only use a styrofoam cut from old freezers to close off our tank mouth, but now I’ve seen that its not ok and we need to have standard taps”.

Solo - Waiqori Village, Oneata, Lau. UNDP Project WaSH Training

Nakanacagi Benefits from New Homes

Six new homes were handed over to home partners in the village of Nakanacagi, Dreketi in Vanua Levu. This was a partial relocation project to support families who were displaced as a result of flooding caused by Tropical Cyclone Ana back in 2021.



Part of the infrastructure development also included, construction of an 8m bridge across a local creek to improve accessibility for persons with disability and the elderly and construction of nine toilets and shower facilities. The village water system was also upgraded by drilling additional bore wells, and a new solar pump system was installed.

The bore wells successfully augmented the water capacity by an additional 20,000 liters, effectively doubling the existing 20,000 liters. Furthermore, the village hall saw an upgraded rainwater harvesting system, contributing another 20,000 liters to the overall water capacity.

Sisters of Strength

During the transformative four-month implementation period in Nakanacagi Village, a total of 18 dedicated community members actively participated in the *Build Back Safer (BBS)* and *Participatory Approach to Safe Shelter Awareness (PASSA)* training program. Notably, eight of these participants were women, and among them were four inspiring sisters. Together, this group successfully constructed six homes, demonstrating their newfound skills and determination in contributing to the betterment of their community. Their newly acquired skills will not only allow them to rebuild homes for other members of their community but has also challenged traditional gender roles where construction was mostly done by men.



With combined efforts, the community now has access to essential resources and improved living conditions such as clean drinking water, cyclone-safe homes, improved hygiene and sanitation facilities and proper solid waste management.

This holistic approach to community development reflects not only a commitment to physical infrastructure but also a dedication to fostering empowerment, promoting gender equality, and building a resilient, sustainable future for all.

"Everyone deserves a decent place to live"

Since 1991 we have helped more than 115,000 beneficiaries in Fiji

Community Relocation Update

This month saw a development with the relocation project, with an urgent need to focus on Nabavatu Village, a community of 37 families who have been living in tents since TC Ana in 2021, after which their land was deemed unsafe by a GeoTech survey, so far they have not received any assistance.



THIS MONTH'S HIGHLIGHT

Vunuku Village

In 2019 Habitat Fiji ran a series of BBS and PASSA training in Vunuku Village, a remote island community with a population of 157 people. This intervention resulted in the creation of a 10 year development master plan for the community. The goals included mitigating climate change impact, strengthening community infrastructure and creating social enterprises for women and persons with disabilities. Since then the community has used this masterplan to make significant strides in achieving these goals, through engagement with other development partners. Successful projects so far include: River bank protection using natural resources, construction of a boat shed, concrete paths and solar street lighting. In addition, social enterprises such as mushroom farming, crab fattening and art and crafts has improved social economic status of the community. The key driver of success in this community is the involvement of women and persons of disability.

Habitat Fiji Transforms School

Habitat Fiji with the help of community volunteers was able to carry out various upgrades and installations to create a more conducive and sustainable learning environment at the Tau District School.

The scope of the project included the construction and enhancement of handwashing stations, coupled with extensive painting works throughout the school premises. Recognizing the critical importance of water accessibility, the project team installed boreholes equipped with pumps, seamlessly powered by a solar installation. This not only improves the school's water system but also aligns with environmentally friendly practices.

Additionally, a new driveway was constructed to replace the gravel pathway, connecting the school to the main road. This upgrade ensures smoother access and safer transportation for students and staff alike. Furthermore, the construction of a shelter along the pathway from classrooms to toilet facilities demonstrates a thoughtful consideration for students' well-being, providing protection from the elements such as rain.

The collaborative effort between Habitat Fiji, community volunteers, and the generous donor not only resulted in major improvements to Tau District School but also exemplifies the positive impact that can be achieved through collaborative efforts.

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Meet Eroni Rukuvau



Habitat Fiji is nothing without its donors and our amazing team. People like Eroni Rukuvau who joined us in 2019 and has worked as a Carpenter and Joiner for the last 4 years.

When asked about his time at Habitat, Eroni recalled his very first day. He described working in Kalabu settlement in Nasinu, where him and his colleague had to build a 40m uphill pathway for a wheelchair user. He described how difficult it was to carry all the materials up that hill, and how because of circumstances they had to knock up all the concrete by hand, he described this experience as one of the hardest days of work he had ever done. When asked why he continues to work for Habitat, he said, because of the people, because of the reward of helping others.

Eroni reflected on Jesus, stating that he came not to be saved but to save others, and how this inspires him every day to do the work he does in helping others.

Eroni, thank you for everything you do for Habitat Fiji.

Rebuilding Lives Beyond Homes



The Nabavatu Village in Vanua Levu is one of the priority communities that has to be relocated due to a landslide which affected the community during Tropical Cyclone Ana in 2021. 38 tents were set up in the Savadra Settlement to cater for the 261 displaced individuals.

Habitat Fiji partnered with the Lodge of Fiji 1931EC to provide medicinal supplies to the villagers after it was identified that the community had been suffering from a chronic fungal infection known as Tinea Imbricata. The condition presents itself as multiple, scaly, annular and concentric rings that overlaps and affects most parts of the body. More than 61 individuals have been infected as a result of overcrowding, poor personal hygiene and sanitation.

Responding to this health crisis, a collaborative effort between Habitat Fiji and the Lodge of Fiji 1931EC resulted in the procurement of \$1500 worth of medication. The supplies, including Terbinafine Cream and Tablets, have been distributed to the affected community through the District Office. Habitat Fiji National Director, Susan Naidu says that "During a recent community visit, we recognized the urgent need and our commitment extends beyond rebuilding homes; it's about building resilient communities. Together with the Lodge of Fiji we're pleased to have been able to facilitate vital support to the community, especially as we approach the Christmas season."

Staff Reflection and Planning Workshop

Habitat Fiji recently ran a Staff Reflection and Planning Workshop, marking the first gathering of its kind in many years. During this collaborative event, the dedicated Habitat Fiji staff came together to engage in meaningful discussions aimed at aligning their shared vision for the organization. The workshop provided an invaluable platform for reflecting on the achievements of the past year, sharing key lessons learned, and collectively charting the way forward. Each staff member had the opportunity to express their perspectives on how they envision the organization's support for them personally and professionally.



An essential component of the workshop included a session dedicated to Mental Health and Self-Care, facilitated by BIRTH Fiji. This session highlighted various strategies for staff to effectively cope with stress and prioritize their well-being. The emphasis on mental health demonstrates the organization's commitment to fostering a supportive and healthy work environment.

Following the informative sessions, the team actively participated in team bonding activities, fostering camaraderie and strengthening interpersonal connections. The interactive nature of these activities contributed to a heightened sense of engagement within the staff.

The overall impact of the Staff Reflection and Planning Workshop extends beyond individual insights; it serves as a catalyst for organizational cohesion, ensuring that the team is aligned in their mission and motivated to collectively contribute to the success of Habitat Fiji.

The planning session was supported by Habitat for Humanity Australia and Habitat for Humanity New Zealand.

Our work is only possible thanks to kind donations from the public and our sponsors

