

## Fijian Stories from the Heart of Communities

### Climate Readiness Program

Habitat for Humanity Fiji in partnership with Habitat for Humanity New Zealand and the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade launched the new climate readiness program in June 2024.

The program aims to enhance household and community resilience by improving WaSH facilities, water infrastructure, and housing through locally led workshops, helping residents adapt their homes and community structures to maintain economic, social, and cultural values.



"The Pacific Islands are living with the effects of climate change now," says Alan Thorp, Group Chief Executive Officer, Habitat for Humanity New Zealand.

"Homes, land, traditional ways of life, and livelihoods are under threat. Alongside our local partners, Habitat is looking forward to implementing our climate program in Fiji and Samoa so Pacific communities are able to adapt now, not react later."



The US National Science Foundation reports that despite contributing just 0.03% of global greenhouse gas emissions, the small island states of the Pacific are confronting the brunt of climate change impacts.

Women and girls are disproportionately affected by the impacts of climate change, which amplifies existing gender inequalities and poses unique threats to their livelihoods, health, and safety, therefore the program has a special focus on diversity, equity and inclusion.

"We are aiming to have 50% of the participants in the workshops to include women, persons with disabilities and

individuals' part of the LGBTQIA+ community", says Susan Naidu, National Director of Habitat for Humanity Fiji.

To prepare for these climate induced risks, Habitat's programme upskills community participants in identifying hazard in their environment and supports them in planning and developing projects to minimize these risks. The programme also builds financial literacy to enable communities to manage resources to improve their housing and shelter.

The New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade has committed NZD \$1.3 billion in climate finance for 2022–2025, of which Habitat New Zealand has been awarded NZD \$1.94 million for an initial two-year programme.

Prior to 2024, Aotearoa New Zealand was already financially supporting climate action throughout the Pacific region through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The 2019–2022 commitment of NZ\$300 million was delivered through the International Development Cooperation (IDC) programme, half of that (\$150 million) through a dedicated Climate Change Programme.



## Safeguarding Women in Skill-Building



Ensuring the safety of women and children is a key priority for Habitat for Humanity Fiji as we carry out our programs.

Narikoso village on Ono Island in Kadavu Province, situated on the coast and has been impacted by coastal erosion and storm surges from multiple cyclones. In 2020, seven households at high risk were relocated to higher ground above the existing village. Habitat Fiji was engaged by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade to support with the construction of kitchens for each home.

Habitat Fiji recognizes that well-built kitchens ensures families have a safe, sanitary space to prepare meals which contributes to their overall well-being. To complement the construction, we will also be facilitating a Build Back Safer and Women's Basic Plumbing training sessions. This will support the community in sustaining the infrastructure for long-term use while reducing maintenance costs. To uphold our commitment to safety, we implemented a safeguarding awareness session before these trainings. This session was designed to provide participants with clear reporting pathways and essential contact details,



ensuring that any concerns or issues can be addressed promptly. By prioritizing the safety of women and providing them with the necessary tools and knowledge to protect themselves, we are fostering a secure and supportive environment for all involved.

## Building Safer Communities: GBV Training at Daulomani Safe Home



Habitat Fiji with the support of Fiji Womens Rights Movement (FWRM) conducted a one-day information session with residents of the Daulomani Safe Home. The home was initiated during the COVID -19 pandemic, has been providing temporary shelter to individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

This community-based training is aimed at building awareness on the prevention of Gender-Based Violence and conflict resolution, heightened by the stress associated with climate change. A total of 21 participants attended the pilot community information session on Gender Based Violence.



## Habitat for Humanity Fiji's First Global Village Build after COVID-19

Habitat for Humanity Fiji proudly marked a significant milestone with its first Global Village build in a rural Fijian community in Lautoka since the COVID-19 pandemic.

We were honored to host 28 volunteers from Australia and America for a week-long build. These dedicated individuals participated in various activities, including laying the foundation, constructing the framework for walls, floors, and roof, and painting. Their commitment, along with the enthusiastic support of the local community, was evident in the progress made each day.

This collaborative effort highlights the importance of partnerships in addressing housing needs, enabling us to complete two homes within just one week.

Saili Dharia, 36, remarked, "Given that Pacific Island countries are facing the worst of climate change, Fiji seemed like the right place to start helping from."

To further support our mission in ensuring everyone has a decent place to live, we invite individuals and organizations to join us as your support can make a lasting difference for communities in need.



*"Adequate housing is essential for any human. It is imperative as food and water. Housing security should be a must for all human globally given unprecedented climate change; poverty & unsafe community. It is essential for the younger generation to develop." Saili Dharia (Global Village Volunteer, 2024)*





# Global Village Build in Fiji



## GOOD NEWS

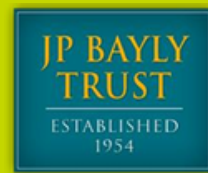
- 10 members of Habitat Fiji have completed Essential First Aid training.







VINAKA & THANK YOU 







- *Habitat for Humanity of Greater LA*
- *Ohana Kava Bar*
- *Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver*
- *HFH of Wichita Falls*
- *HFH of Lenawee County*
- *Griffin Area HFH*
- *Williamson-Maury HFH*
- *Columbia Gorge HFH*
- *Ulster County HFH*
- *Hawaii HFH Association*
- *Sisters HFH*



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