



annual impact report

July 2019 – June 2020

**A WORLD WHERE EVERYONE HAS
A DECENT PLACE TO LIVE**

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a vision & mission for south africa

Habitat For Humanity South Africa brings people together to build homes, communities, and hope.

By seeking to put God's call into action, WE are creating a South Africa where everyone has a decent place to live.



the value of donors & partners

NO MATTER WHO WE ARE OR WHERE WE COME FROM, WE ALL DESERVE TO HAVE A DECENT LIFE.

We deserve to feel strength and stability day after day. We deserve to know that we have the power to take care of ourselves and build our own futures.

Your financial support, your voice, and your time has allowed us to partner with people and provide decent shelter, improve livelihoods, and reduce housing poverty for low-income families.

Your commitment has ensured that Habitat for Humanity South Africa builds strength, stability, and self-reliance through shelter.

With your help, those homeowners achieved the independence they need to build a better life for themselves and their families.

THANK YOU



our development approach

Our approach recognises the potential of the community in shaping their own developmental journey, and takes into account the existing resources and capacities of community members in contributing to sustainable community development.

This approach also prioritises bottom-up planning, community participation, community empowerment, active citizenship, and social capital as the building blocks for sustainable community development.

In contributing towards holistic and sustainable community development, our approach adopts the four Ps and it is visible in everything we do.



our work in south africa

Habitat for Humanity SA: National Footprint

3 PROVINCES: GAUTENG, KZN AND WESTERN CAPE





stories of impact

CYRUS WATUKU

Interim Executive Director Habitat For Humanity South Africa

LULAMA

Homeowner, Builder and Beneficiary

NEDBANK

Donor and Partner

ALEX

Longstanding Volunteer

MDU

Habitat For Humanity South Africa team member

a letter from **Cyrus Watuku**

INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY
SOUTH AFRICA

INDEED 2020 WAS UNDOUBTEDLY A DIFFICULT YEAR FOR MANY ORGANIZATIONS, MORE SO THOSE IN THE DEVELOPMENT SECTOR, AND HABITAT FOR HUMANITY SA WAS NO EXCEPTION.

Volunteer engagement has traditionally been our flagship program and with COVID-19, it meant that we could no longer bring our supporters and partners together to undertake the various house building events that we always hosted. It also meant that the communities that we served could no longer experience our full potential during the year. The potential effect of the Pandemic as projected in our financial analysis was going to be dire and naturally, as good stewards, we had to act. Our actions focused on preserving available cash and retaining critical skills and competencies that would be required to quickly resume operations once it was safe to do so. A few months to the hard lockdown, specifically at the end of November 2019, our Chief Executive Officer had left the organization to take up a leadership role with another NGO in Johannesburg, and effective May 2020, the Board asked me to step in and oversee the operations during the Pandemic.

Looking at what Habitat South Africa was able to do in 2020, I am delighted to say that we stand tall and prepared to face the coming years in a way that we project significant impact that cuts across communities, sector and the society. For this, I am grateful to our many partners that have not only provided us with the financial muscle to generate the impact but also stood with us during a very challenging year. As we enter 2021, and with COVID-19 having shown that housing remains a first line of defence, we are alive to the fact that many individuals, communities and partners are looking up to us to provide leadership in expanding access to affordable housing for the low-income households in South Africa, a very complex sector. We believe in acting together, our partners and communities, and with urgency.

“The pessimist complains about the wind, the optimist expects it to change, the realist adjusts the sails.”

– William Arthur Ward



a letter from **Jonathan Reckford**

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY
INTERNATIONAL

HOW DOES HABITAT FOR HUMANITY BUILD HOMES, COMMUNITIES AND HOPE?

You are the builders. You provide the tools. You help future homeowners and community residents around the world change the places they live for the better. Your generous support has made all the difference for more than 40 years, and recent circumstances have only served to make that even more clear. Because you have been so steadfast and so deeply dedicated to a vision of a world where everyone has a decent place to live, Habitat was able to finish 2019 and enter 2020's unexpected uncertainty on solid ground. And because of the commitment and creativity of our network, we were able to quickly find our footing and continue forging a path forward. Even as COVID-19 has significantly impacted our ability to build at full capacity — and likely will continue to do so in many locations well into 2021 — we still have seen great progress and positive results.

And yet, as we celebrate our impact, there is still so much work to do. We know firsthand the benefits of having a safe, decent and affordable place to call home. We also know that far too many families already struggled with housing before the global pandemic, and we see now how our communities and our neighbors continue to be deeply impacted by COVID-19 — and by the ensuing economic ripple effects that are only exacerbating the existing crisis and will no doubt continue for quite some time. We are compelled to confront the barriers and beliefs, the policies and the systems, that block so many families from having access to so fundamental a foundation.

We will no doubt continue to be challenged. We will no doubt continue to change, to innovate, to keep moving forward. And we will no doubt continue to need your help to do so. Thank you for sharing this vision. May God continue to direct and bless our efforts, and may God continue to bless each of you.

“You are the builders. You provide the tools. You help future homeowners and community residents around the world change the places they live for the better.”



“Goodbye shack. Hello home.”

FOR 21 YEARS, A SHACK BUILT FROM CARDBOARD, PLASTIC, RUSTED NAILS, AND SHEET METAL PROVIDED SHELTER FOR MY FAMILY. WE HAD LITTLE SPACE AND MY CHILDREN SLEPT IN THE KITCHEN. WHEN THE CAPE WINDS BLEW, WE WERE ALL COLD AND WET.

I am a domestic worker and that means I don't earn enough to afford a decent house, but Habitat For Humanity South Africa and my employer Dr Raoul Goldberg changed everything I thought was possible.

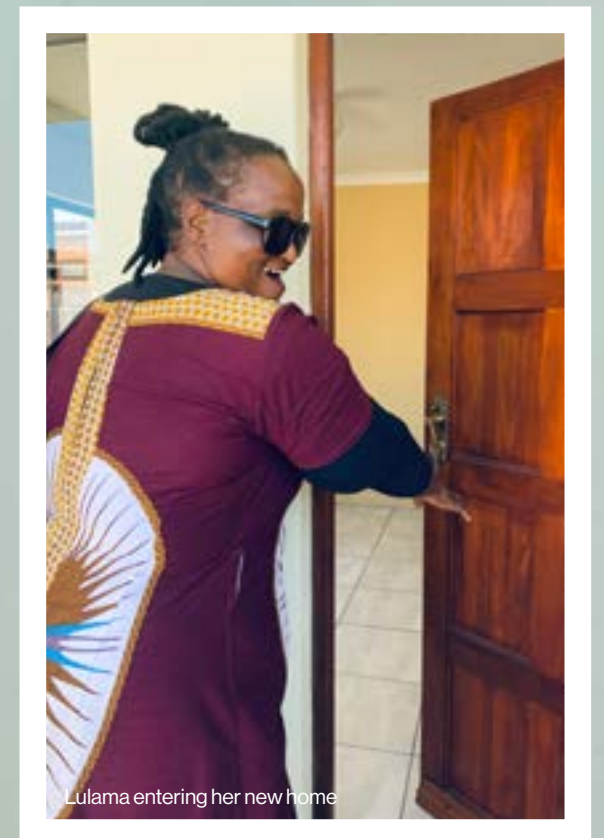
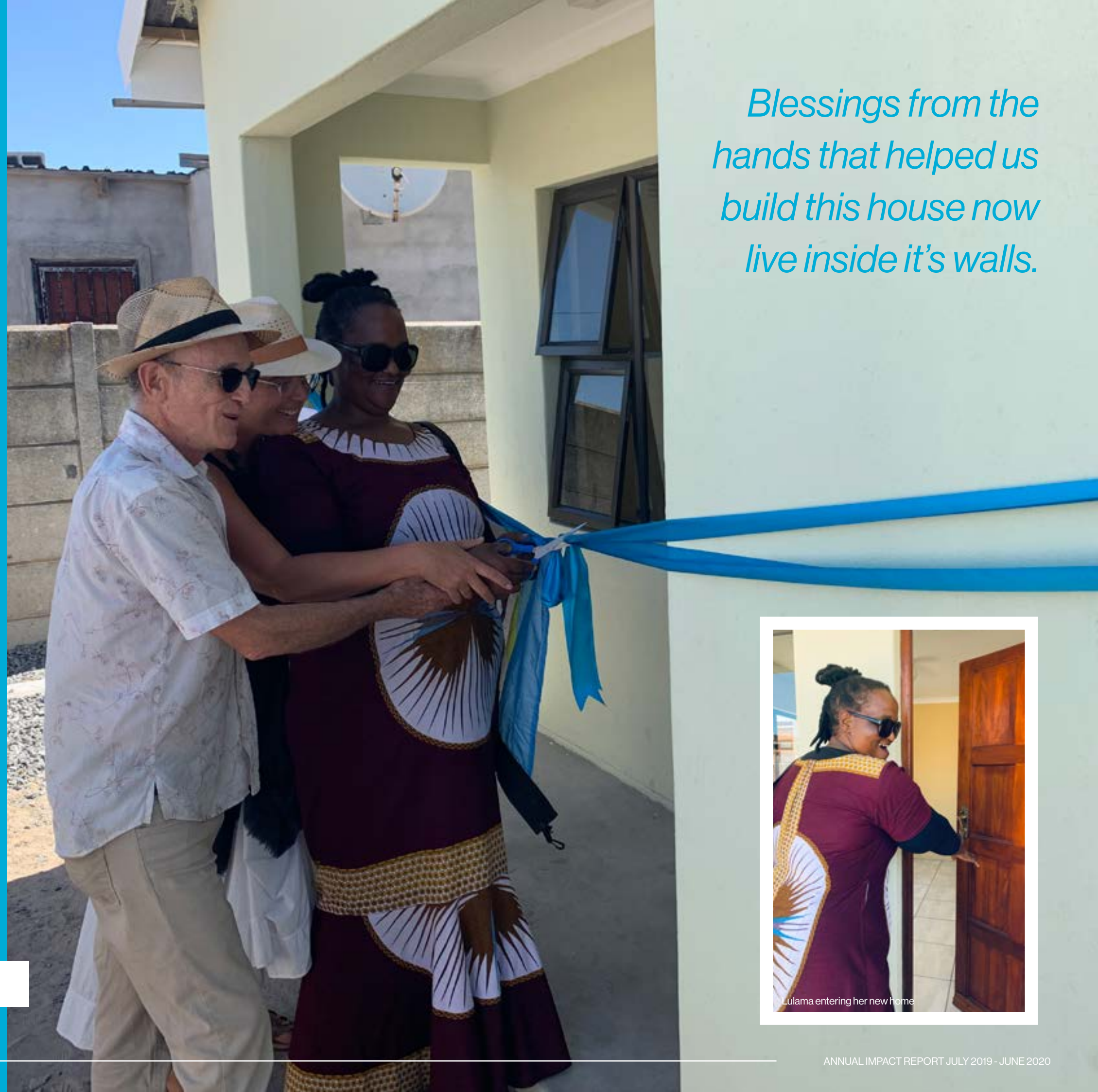
When Dr Goldberg heard about my living conditions, he donated a portion of his pension savings, and called Habitat For Humanity South Africa to assist with new housing for us. That call changed my life.

I look back and remember how the volunteers became part of our family. My grandson, Mingcobo, came back from the dentist one day whilst we were building our home. Our new family of volunteers stopped to comfort him, sometimes they would stop to marvel at my granddaughter, Iviwe's daily face paints. I'll always remember how much everyone loved my dombolo! (homemade steamed bread).

On 21 February, I received the keys to our future and dignity. What I didn't expect was for my story to encourage others. Dr Goldberg's action and my story has encouraged other employers to start a conversation with their domestic workers. Habitat for Humanity South Africa has been receiving enquiries on how others can do the same.

LULAMA - HOMEOWNER, BUILDER AND BENEFICIARY

Blessings from the hands that helped us build this house now live inside it's walls.



Lulama entering her new home

“We’ve done it yet again!”

THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY GIVEN TO NEDBANK TO BE PART OF THIS COLOSSAL, LIFE-ALTERING PROJECT. HABITAT FOR HUMANITY SOUTH AFRICA HELPS US AT NEDBANK TO LIVE OUT OUR PURPOSE IN THE MOST FULFILLING WAY.

We thank you for allowing the team at Nedbank to bring our head, heart and hands to the July 2019 Habitat for Humanity house build initiative, what a wonderful way to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Nelson Mandela Day.

A special thank you for the onsite help and always being available to assist and go the extra distance for the Nedbank team. We salute the Habitat For Humanity South Africa team for such outstanding work and the support you give in the background is sterling. Lastly, we celebrate you and your incredible work you are doing in the Western Cape and KwaZulu Natal region.

Thanks to you, Nedbank is the money expert doing good this 2019 Mandela month. We appreciate you immensely.

THE MANDELA BUILD WEEK COMMITTEE AT NEDBANK



Nedbank volunteer during Nelson Mandela Build 2019 in Palm Ridge



Nedbank Home Loans team pic during Nelson Mandela Build Event 2019 in Palm Ridge JHB



Nedbank volunteers with their beneficiary during the Nelson Mandela Build Event in KZN 2019

“

Unity is strength...when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved.”

– Mattie Stepanek

“I am Alex...”

a social worker who understands better than most the dire need for decent housing in South Africa.”

MORE THAN THE DIRE NEED, IT IS THE IMPACT THAT DECENT HOUSING CAN MAKE ON FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES BY EMPOWERING THEM TO TAKE CHARGE OF THEIR OWN FUTURES THAT KEEPS ME COMING BACK EVERY YEAR.

I have been a volunteer for Habitat for Humanity South Africa since 2009 and celebrated my 10-year volunteering anniversary during the World Habitat Build Event October 2019. My passion for Habitat for Humanity South African was ignited during my first build experience, and I’ve been using my leave from work to give back to communities since then.

I build with Habitat for Humanity South Africa once a year, and every year I’m impressed with the people I build with and even more so by the homeowners. Some of the homeowners we build with have been waiting 28 years for a decent house, it’s simply incredible to be part of the process and I always leave with so much more than I leave behind.

This year I was able to contribute financially to the work we do. I feel a great sense of connection by helping in a way where I can lend my voice, and time, and financial support to families in need of decent, affordable housing.

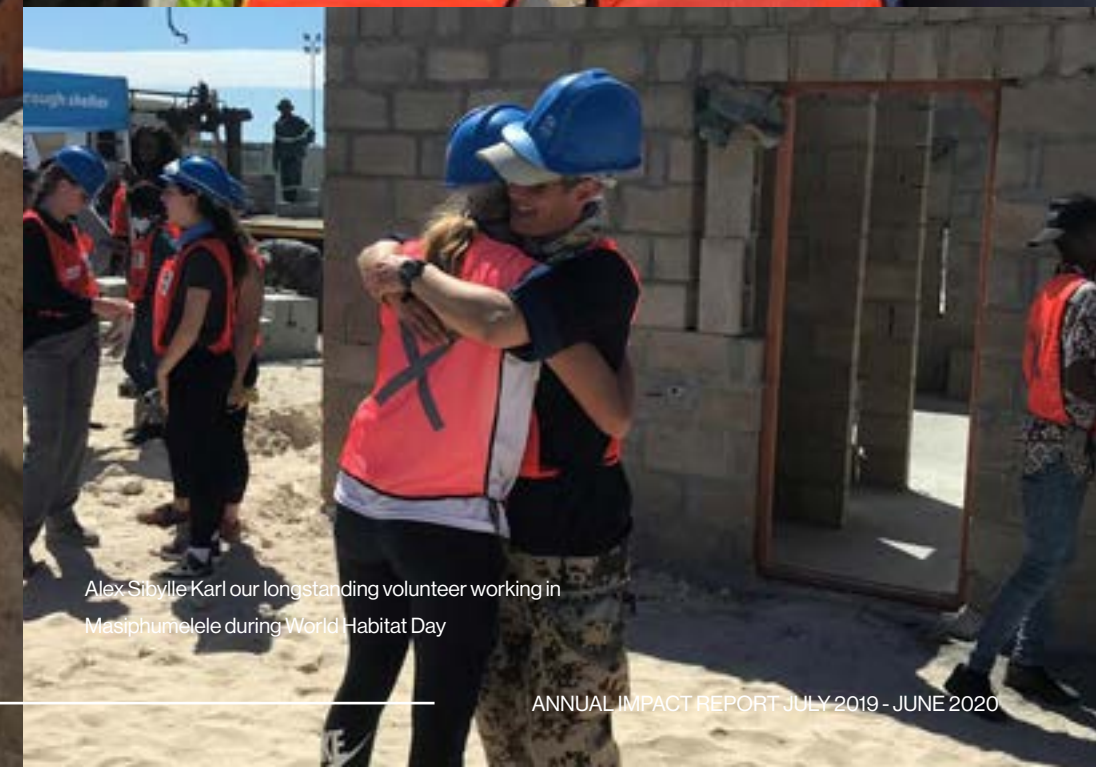
ALEX SYBILLE KARL - LONGSTANDING VOLUNTEER



Alex Sibylle Karl (clear) Habitat longstanding volunteer working in Masiphumelele during our World Habitat Day Event



Gavin Thompson, Longstanding Habitat Volunteer working in Masiphumelele during the World Habitat Day event



Alex Sibylle Karl our longstanding volunteer working in Masiphumelele during World Habitat Day

“Covid-19 and the many restrictions

imposed as a result, has made our work so hard to do this year, but not even Covid-19 can stop us”

WE AREN'T ABLE TO ENGAGE WITH OUR BENEFICIARIES AS WE WANTED, AND LIMITED HUMAN RESOURCES IS A CONSTANT CHALLENGE OUR ORGANISATION FACES - BUT WE KEEP READJUSTING OUR SAILS, BECAUSE WE SHARE A VISION WORTH ADAPTING FOR.

I started working for Habitat for Humanity South Africa in March 2007, and I still feel the same way about this organisation as I did 13 years ago. Habitat For Humanity South Africa has taught me a lot about communities, our people, and development at large.

All of the work we do puts people at the centre. The fact

that we are serving people that are at the bottom of the pyramid, people who have lost hope, and people who define themselves as poor - that gives me the drive to wake up every day and smile as I try to make life better for one family at a time. It's a privilege to serve others.

My colleagues are family, making it easy for us to navigate uncertainty and complex issues because we all share one common belief - everyone needs a foundation to build a future. Every home is a building block. Every home improvement gives children a better chance for a stronger future. Every donation helps a family help themselves. Every helping hand makes a difference.

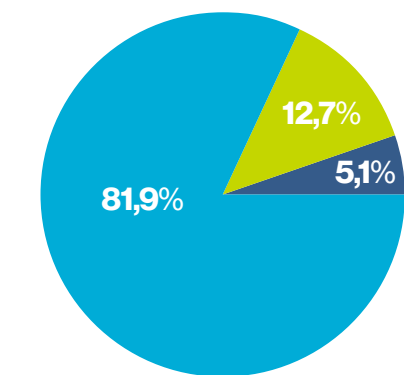
“...we keep readjusting our sails, because we share a vision worth adapting for.”

MDU LUTHULI - HABITAT FOR HUMANITY SOUTH AFRICA TEAM MEMBER



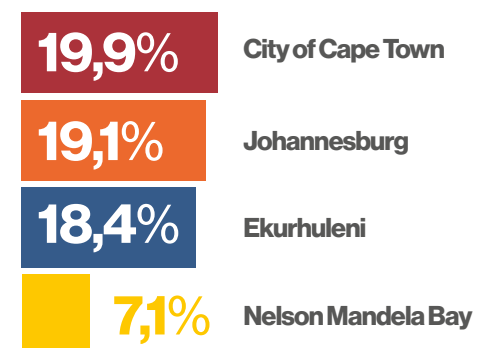
the South African housing context

Where did South African households live in 2019



- Formal dwellings
- Informal dwellings
- Traditional dwelling

Informal dwellings are most common in



A NATIONAL DISCUSSION is required on the future funding of housing in South Africa and the role of the state, the private sector and individual households in providing housing and creating integrated and sustainable human settlements. This links inextricably to goal 11 of the Sustainable Development Goals, which seeks to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.



17%

of South African households considered to be living in inadequate housing earn between

R3500 & R12800 p/m

and are excluded from the fully-subsidised, as well as mortgage-financed housing market.

3,5 Million

households do not have access to either of the aforementioned options and is illustrative of the inability of the poor to access the property market.

THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2030

is the overarching planning document for the government, which sets out the goals and targets to be achieved by 2030. A core tenet of the plan is active citizenry, which spreads development responsibility across all players including the private sector, government, civil society, and every South African citizen. Habitat For Humanity South Africa is in close alignment with this imperative, and active citizenry is a strategic driver in all of its work.

In the face of a rapid migration to cities, the New Urban Agenda positions urbanisation as being a way of providing for new forms of social inclusion, including greater equality, access to services, and engagement and mobilisation that reflects the diversity of cities.

The national government in South Africa acknowledges its inability to address the enormous challenge of inclusive urban development without mobilising the collective resources, capacity, knowledge and skills of an array of partners.

INCLUSIVITY MEANS THAT ALL SHOULD HAVE OPTIONS FOR HOUSING AND THUS, THERE IS A NEED TO WORK TOWARDS FINDING HOUSING SOLUTIONS FOR MARGINALISED COMMUNITIES AND DEVISING INNOVATIVE FINANCING OPTIONS.

WE ARE THE RIGHT PARTNER

Statistics South Africa 2019 General Household Survey shows that the percentage of households that received some form of government housing subsidy increased from 5,6% in 2002 to 18,7% in 2019, but despite this increase in subsidy allocation; there is a steady increase in the housing backlog and a proliferation of informal settlements. This is compounded by a fiscally unsustainable housing subsidy program, which does not adequately address the demand for affordable and adequate housing.

In response to this, the South African government is developing a new White Paper on Human Settlements, which will look toward shifting away from full subsidisation of housing for the poor and will put forward more sustainable options such as incremental approaches, the development of the housing finance sector, and self-build approaches.

Further, in response to few or no formal housing opportunities, informal settlement dwellers tend to devise their own innovations in terms of incremental shelter solutions, commonly known as shacks or traditional mud homes. While this demonstrates resilience and adaptability, these solutions are typically of low quality and are inadequate due to a lack of means and capacity.

The South African government advances a holistic approach to human settlements development that includes the following elements that contribute to a decent standard of living:

1. Housing, water, sanitation and electricity
2. Clean environment
3. Nutrition
4. Health care
5. Employment
6. Education and skills
7. Transport
8. Safety and security
9. Recreation and leisure

In addition, the South African government defines adequate housing to include:

- Components of location
- Legal security of tenure
- Availability of services
- Materials, facilities
- Infrastructure, accessibility
- Habitability
- Cultural adequacy



our strategy

PROBLEM STATEMENT

THE BIG PICTURE

WHO WE SERVE THROUGH OUR WORK

THE IMPACT OF COVID-19

THE THEORY OF CHANGE

problem statement

Millions of people in South Africa live in housing such as shacks and backyard dwellings.

MANY MORE ARE HOMELESS WITH VIRTUALLY NO ACCESS TO BASIC SOCIAL SERVICES. IN ORDER TO ACCESS HOMES, MANY POOR AND LOW-INCOME FAMILIES RELY ON GOVERNMENT SUBSIDY SCHEMES, AND JOIN AN ALREADY LONG LIST OF PEOPLE WAITING FOR THE HOUSING SUBSIDY APPLICATIONS TO BE APPROVED.

However, the list system is characterised by corruption and maladministration. Policy indications are that due to funding constraints, the government is intending to stop providing free housing in the near future. This possibility, coupled with poor economic growth, and a stubbornly high rate of unemployment, threatens to plunge low-income families further into poverty if no innovative, affordable, and sustainable solutions are urgently found.

Marginalised communities need support and resources to access decent shelter to improve their quality of life. We view access to shelter for poor people as a starting point and a catalyst for broader socio-economic development. Access to shelter provides poor households and communities with assets that can unlock other opportunities. Hence, we seek to address this problem by facilitating resources and working alongside communities and other sector partners to contribute to transformation.

The key limiting internal factor is that we are facing serious financial constraints. Our strategy has to consider this reality and establish the basis for Habitat For Humanity South Africa to re-launch itself and restore relationships with previous donors, whilst attracting new and different types of donors such as foundations, organisations, and institutions.

“

The key limiting internal factor is that **we are facing serious financial constraints.**”

the big picture

Based on the strategic plan outlined by Patrick Kulati, our previous National Director, we are in the third phase of our plan which focuses on builds, community development, advocacy, and income generation.

Efforts for the year were focused on establishing and growing our volunteer build program, contributing to house construction, and building strength and resilience for low-income communities through these four key areas:

1. HOST VOLUNTEER BUILDING EVENTS.

We connected charitable volunteers to communities living in poor conditions, facilitating a first-hand experience of life in a township, and challenges and highlights experienced by residents and beneficiaries. Through our volunteer events we facilitated connection and the breakdown of any walls of fear, stereotypes, and preconceived ideas.

2. BUILDING CAPACITY FOR COMMUNITIES TO DEVELOP

by equipping beneficiaries with relevant skills to become responsible homeowners who value their assets and can make informed decisions. This year we focused skills transfer and education on shelter rights, roles and responsibilities, Do-It-Yourself (DIY), and home maintenance.

3. ADVOCATE FOR DECENT SHELTER AT ALL LEVELS OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT.

Habitat For Humanity South Africa seeks to improve the lives of South Africans in need of improved shelter by influencing systems, improving policies, and promoting laws and behaviors which improve peoples' access to housing.

4. DIVERSIFYING STREAMS OF INCOME

to create a more sustainable organisation. Our journey towards sustainability will allow us to expand our programmatic footprint. We need a wider net of donors and partners who understand.



advocacy approach

Habitat for Humanity's Advocacy approach seeks to drive forward the implementation of proven, practical and replicable best practice models and affect changes in policies and systems to enable and support sustainable community development.

Habitat's Advocacy approach is built around a People-Public-Private-Partnership (P4) Model to achieve integrated and sustainable human settlements. Keeping the community's voice and engagement at the centre, Habitat's P4 Model allows for strong partnerships between the people, government, private sector and civil society.

Habitat's Advocacy approach is also aligned with Government's focus on transforming communities with the aim of improving the lives of citizens as voiced through the National Development Plan (NDP) 2030. Like Habitat's P4 Model, the NDP 2030 acknowledges that the goals set out in the plan can only be achieved through combined efforts and resilient partnerships between the people, the private sector, civil society and government.

1 People

The community's active participation is the key to breaking the cycle of poverty within a human settlement. Through continuous engagement and participation, the community and Habitat co-produce action plans and implement sustainable development projects.

2 Public

Habitat is committed to work with government at all spheres. Our grassroots interventions support our advocacy work with knowledge and experience. Using this expertise, we will demonstrate new models and financing options and promote the effective roll out of integrated and sustainable human settlements programmes.

3 Private

Habitat builds bridges between communities that have identified their resource gaps and private sector stakeholders who want to be part of the South African solution. We are also expanding the role of the volunteer by connecting corporate donors and trustees with communities through various context-specific initiatives.

4 Partnerships

We are uniquely positioned to advocate on behalf of marginalised community partners and drive forward innovative practices and new models. We are also committed to building sector capacity in our partnership model, recognising the interdependencies of various models

who we serve through our work



COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND HOUSEHOLDS

who need decent and affordable shelter and development



VULNERABLE GROUPS

including orphaned children, the elderly, and those who are physically and mentally disabled



COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANISATIONS



METRO CITIES OF SOUTH AFRICA



DONORS

individuals, private, corporates, foundations, institutions



OUR BOARD AND TEAM MEMBERS



NATIONAL, PROVINCIAL, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS



SECTOR NGOS



DEVELOPMENT COMPANIES AND CONTRACTORS

the impact of covid-19 on our strategy

A SMALLER TEAM

During 2020 and with the onset of Covid-19, Habitat for Humanity South Africa underwent a restructuring process due to loss of income from donor sources. During the restructuring, more than half of the workforce was retrenched and a new interim workstream was adopted. We also intended to slowly grow and extend our reach into other provinces, focusing primarily on the major cities that are members of the SA Cities Network - this growth has been halted, but we remain dedicated at our offices in Cape Town, Durban, and Johannesburg. We have adjusted the sails from these key metropolitan areas.

A NEW STRATEGIC DIRECTION

Habitat For Humanity South Africa also needed a revised strategic, and more sustainable direction. During this time, there were changes at the board governance level where a new board chair was elected, an additional board member representing Habitat for Humanity International was added, and an Interim Executive Director seconded from Habitat For Humanity International was introduced to guide the organisational restructure and turnaround. We adopted a new strategic direction where we seek to partner with stakeholders in governments, the private sector, and development agents to unlock resources and build partnerships to support long-term resilience and enhance access to housing.

A NEW PILOT PROGRAMME IS TESTED

We have identified the need for a new approach to housing and commenced plans for piloting our new program: Housing Finance Support – which is a financial inclusion model fulfilled through multi-partner resource pooling. Although this is a new program, it addresses a need within the housing and human settlement sector and is largely driven by the low-salaried workforce. The model leverages the South African Government's FLISP subsidy with a goal of increasing access to housing in South Africa.

A RENEWED SENSE OF PURPOSE

Through the support of local and international partners and donors, we have continued to support the most-vulnerable members of our society in Gauteng, Western Cape, and KwaZulu Natal, through provision of shelter. In addition we put plans in place as part of our response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Covid-19 and the lessons learnt through this pandemic have illustrated that housing remains the first line of defence against pandemics and physical harm for all families and communities. It is a place to feel safe, to socially distance, to practice good hygiene habits, and avoid crowds. Homes are also the places where we look after our sick and nurture our loved ones back to health - the importance of decent and affordable housing can not be overstated looking into the future.

A NEW PARTNERSHIP IS CREATED

We have entered into a tripartite agreement with the Nelson Mandela Foundation and Nelson Mandela University - EasternCape, with the goal of creating a collaborative platform for identification, planning, programming, and implementation of projects aimed at responding to some of the daunting affordable housing and human settlements challenges facing vulnerable communities in South Africa. This partnership will see Habitat For Humanity South Africa expanding its programming into the Eastern Cape.

the theory of change

According to Colby, Stone and Carttar, the theory of change is an organisation-specific way in which an organisation makes practical, verifiable, and impactful changes in communities where it works and it can prove that the change was directly due to its actions or activities.



In summary, at the basic level the Habitat For Humanity South Africa theory of change is that we work alongside partnered communities to:

1

Identify community needs, assets, and resources that can be leveraged to achieve community-identified objectives and goals

2

Identify gaps in capabilities and resources through formulating a Community Action Plan

3

Equip the community with the skills and tools through targeted capacitation to leverage resources and networks in line with identified needs

4

Assist communities to leverage internal and external resources to address the community's needs.

Our objective is to equip and capacitate the greatest possible number of households to make a successful transition to a sustainable and transformed community reflected in their capacity to meet their developmental needs.

new measurement framework

Habitat For Humanity South Africa has always reported on the impact of our work using the Global Measurement Tool, but this year, we have developed a more detailed measurement framework that not only highlights the numbers, but tells a better story of how communities, the housing sector, and society have been impacted through our work.



Impact Measurement Framework For South Africa

Community Impact

	2018	2019	2020	Total
New Houses Constructed	73	233	122	428
Home Repairs	3	55	28	86
Community Members Trained	1122	1377	457	2956
Community Members engaged	4138	3252	2467	9 857

Our community impact seeks to be as holistic as possible incorporating a large element of homeowner training and development that equips homeowners to take responsibility for their homes and take ownership of their own development. When we combine the provision of quality homes with the foundation of training it leads to improved outcomes for communities.

Sector Impact

Sector impact refers not only to market approaches that increase products, services and financing for affordable housing, but also to influencing policies and systems at a national level. Influencing policies and systems resulting in an actual change to policy takes time, effort and persistence and often is a long-term initiative. During 2017 Habitat for Humanity SA formed part of a collective that led to the formal adoption of the Western Cape ISSP (Informal Settlements Support Plan) by the Western Cape government. Since then, we have been actively working to continue to influence policy and systems that will lead to increased access to decent shelter amongst vulnerable communities. This is an area where we plan to increase our efforts in future.

Societal Impact

	2018	2019	2020	Total
Volunteers hosted	6589	6049	2834	15 472
Volunteer Hours performed	40 231	42 347	18 155	100 733

Nothing is more impactful than having a direct engagement with communities when working side by side on a construction site. A significant portion of individuals are repeat volunteers inspired to do more for our country. Whilst on-site volunteers learn, impart knowledge and seek to effect change within their circle of influence. During the reporting period we have seen a significant decline in volunteer numbers due to COVID-19 and continue to seek ways in which individuals can still contribute towards the vision and mission of our organisation.



community impact

Improve housing conditions

NATIONAL

- FEM

GAUTENG

- Palm Ridge

KWAZULU NATAL

- Vulnerable group homes
- Ethikwini Ephp special needs project:
Umgababa

WESTERN CAPE

- Pelican park
- Langeberg informal settlement support programme
- RUO EMOH

The Federated Mutual Assurance Company

THE FEDERATED MUTUAL ASSURANCE COMPANY (FEM) AWARDED HABITAT FOR HUMANITY SOUTH AFRICA THE CONTRACT TO CONSTRUCT AND UPGRADE THE HOMES OF THEIR IDENTIFIED PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ACROSS SOUTH AFRICA. THESE WERE SOME OF THE MOST VULNERABLE BENEFICIARIES WHOSE DIGNITY AND LIVELIHOODS WERE IMPAIRED BY THE CONDITION OF THEIR HOMES.



BACKGROUND

According to Statistics South Africa:

- 45,2% of households headed by persons with disabilities have access to a flushing toilet facility
- 37,1% use pit toilets
-

We believe that a decent home enables independent living for persons with disabilities. Most houses in South Africa are not designed to accommodate wheelchair users or the elderly. Homes therefore need to be modified or reconstructed according to accessible design solutions through architectural design or by integrating accessibility features.

“Accessibility is a basic human need and we all have a constitutional right and privilege to participate in all of life’s experiences in some unique way or another and should therefore have barrier free access to enjoy easier, friendlier and healthier environments.”
- Igor G. Rix

Never before has it been safer to say that most of us are spending more time “sheltering in place” and this has increased the need to adjust a person with disability’s home to make it easier to get around and complete day-to-day tasks. Something as simple as entering and exiting your home or going to the toilet, can become challenging if your home has not been properly made accessible for your physical disability.

GOAL (SIX MONTHS)

- The construction of nine toilet facilities
- Building three new houses (45m2)
- Supply of building materials to two beneficiary families

IMPLEMENTATION

This project commenced 10 June 2020 and we partnered with Ithwini Plant Hire, the construction partner to help execute the project

EVALUATION

Despite Covid-19 challenges, we will make every effort to achieve these goals, however our timeframes will need to be adjusted to a 18 month period.

CHALLENGES

- From the outset, it was clear that the remote site locations would be a challenge and travel times to any of the sites would be in excess of five hours.
- GPS coordinates for each site would need to be determined within the areas that had no network coverage.
- Due to the remoteness of the location, there were no suitable suppliers within close range and we would have to transport materials to site over vast distances.
- Due to Covid-19, restricted travel between provinces and curfew impacted the planned operations.
- Availability of labour would be a concern due to the pandemic.
- Most sites have very limited to no water supply. Water would need to be purchased and transported over distances.
- Sites have either no, limited, or interrupted electricity supply. A mobile generator will need to be utilised during the implementation.

IMPACT

Identified beneficiaries will have three new 45m2 homes.

Nine beneficiaries will have access to dignified toilets, and two beneficiaries would have received building materials for the rectification of their homes.

The impact will be not only job creation for local labour, but beneficiaries will have access to dignified living quarters including critical water, hygiene, and sanitation solutions once the project can resume.

The deeper impact is that a wheelchair ramp built by Habitat For Humanity, will give the beneficiary the power to be independent and move through their home with dignity. Independence is the freedom to ignite future plans that build one success, on top of the other.

A world where **EVERYONE** has a decent place to live

Palm Ridge

BACKGROUND

Although Gauteng is the economic hub of South Africa, it is also a province with high levels of poverty within township communities. Communities often experience lack of access to housing and services or opportunities that can help change their circumstances. We have predominantly hosted volunteer build events within this province in selected communities.

This year, Habitat For Humanity South Africa partnered with Temi Construction to host volunteer build events in the community of Palm Ridge Extension 19. Palm Ridge is a 306-hectare piece of land next to the Rietfontein area located in the greater area of Thokoza/Katlehong Ward 61 in Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality, Gauteng. This was a greenfields project forming part of the South African Government's Rapid Land Release Programme, implemented on 31 August, 2018.

GOAL (SIX MONTHS)

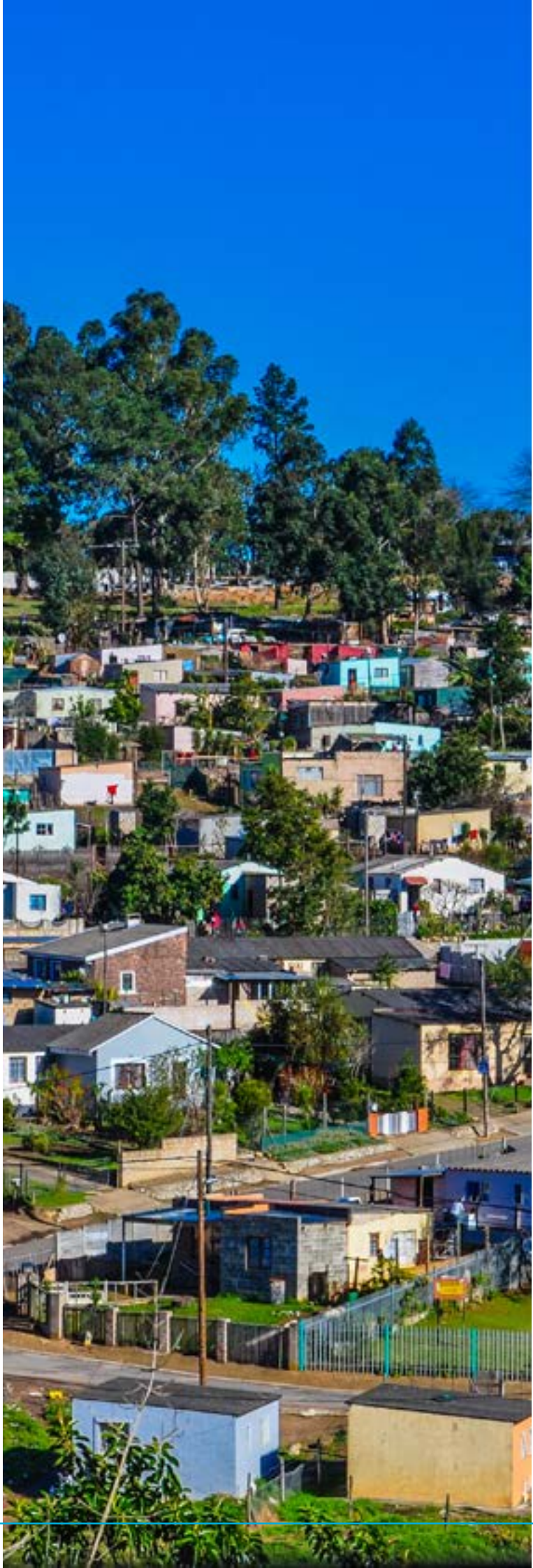
To alleviate housing poverty through our partnership approach whereby we connect volunteers, funding partners, and other stakeholders to help build homes, communities, and hope.



IMPLEMENTATION

Habitat For Humanity South Africa's partnership in the Palm Ridge project provided the platform and entry point to implement our enhanced Community Development programme (see diagram) which will commence after the construction of the new homes. Programme initiatives are:

1. Organise Volunteer Build Events. Habitat For Humanity South Africa believes that the Team Build Event is a catalyst to the broader, long-term impact of achieving a solution to the cycle of poverty through working together with families on a household level. Volunteers are invited to 'leave their mark' on the formation of the new community as they contribute their 'sweat to the soil'
2. Train and employ community members to act as Logistics and Crewleaders during the builds in Palm Ridge.
3. Facilitate the process to establish a Community Leadership Committee.
4. Conduct Homeowner Training; beneficiaries of the project will have the opportunity to participate in structured homeowner education workshops which cover important issues including understanding the roles and responsibilities of owning their own home, help become familiar with DIY tips for maintenance, know and understand the role of the municipality and the role of the local authority in building homes, and the major advantages of becoming a homeowner in terms of succession planning and financial security.
5. Seek external partners to provide accredited skills development programmes for local artisans thereby increasing the skill levels within the community which in turn will provide a firmer foundation for future employment opportunities or start up's for small businesses. Here, we seek partners who focus on enterprise development and assisting small emerging contractors who would in turn employ local labour from within the community.
6. Conduct door-to-door campaigns to educate the broader community on Disaster Risk Reduction and Relief, Individual Rights & Responsibilities, and Community Service Providers



EVALUATION

Habitat For Humanity South Africa was able to host our Nelson Mandela Build Event in Palm Ridge, partnering with Temi construction, and employing individuals from the local community to form part of our logistics and crew leader team. We were also able to use the services of the local caterer thereby supporting local enterprises.

We were not able to complete our door-to-door campaigns or establish a community leadership committee. Palm Ridge was a Greenfield project and the community engagement would only commence once the beneficiaries moved into their homes.

CHALLENGES

- We were unable to complete the community development and homeowner training within the required time frame due to delays in beneficiaries moving into their homes.
- There was also conflict in the community regarding the allocation of homes which also delayed our intervention.
- There was clear discontent amongst community and government officials which needed to be addressed

IMPACT

- Temporary job creation for local community members
- Providing homeowners with necessary training allowing them to become responsible homeowners
- Provision of quality homes for families who have never owned their own home

LEARNINGS

Community dynamics in every location is very different and development cannot be rushed. Although we were eager to complete the homeowner training, we could not proceed until some of the community conflicts were addressed. never owned their own home

vulnerable group homes



BACKGROUND

We have tailored our response to support the Government's efforts in addressing the shelter needs of Orphaned and Vulnerable Groups, which includes the elderly, vulnerable women, orphans, and child headed households, persons with disabilities, and socially excluded groups.

Habitat For Humanity South Africa collaborated with Old Mutual Foundation to pilot our Orphaned and Vulnerable Children project in Umbumbulu KZN where we will be constructing three homes for orphaned and vulnerable households.

EVALUATION

Due to Covid-19, this project has not yet started as planned.



Ethekwini ephp special needs project - umgababa



BACKGROUND

The Ethekwini Special Needs project was identified as a priority because of the community's inherent vulnerabilities. The Umgababa community consists of many disabled residents, flood victims, elderly folk, vulnerable children, and people living with HIV/ or AIDS, and Tuberculosis. Municipal service provision in areas such as health, water, housing, and electricity are insufficient, which exacerbates livelihood conditions and plunges residents further into extreme poverty.

Rural communities located within the eThekweni municipality often struggle with poverty, unemployment, and lack of access to quality housing and services. Due to the location of these communities and the distance from economic nodes and the city centre, securing affordable housing is very problematic. Often when employment is secured, the majority of income is spent on travel to and from work.

GOAL (SIX MONTHS)

Habitat For Humanity South Africa was awarded a contract by the KwaZulu Natal Department of Human Settlements Water and Sanitation during 2018, to provide 1000 quality housing units within wards 96, 98, 99 and 100 in eThekweni, KZN.

To complete the construction of 893 new homes and 107 home rectifications for qualifying beneficiaries within the required time frame. A key objective of this project was meeting the targets for construction training of students, employment of community contractors, and employment of females and youth to meet the developmental targets set by the Department of Human Settlements KwaZulu Natal.



CONTINUED...

IMPLEMENTATION

The project was initiated in 2008 through a partnership between Habitat For Humanity South Africa, the KZN Provincial Department of Human Settlements, National Department of Human Settlements, and the eThekwin Municipality in which we were appointed as a Community Resource Organisation (CRO) to provide social facilitation assistance towards the construction of 275 houses in Umgababa, KZN. After constructing an initial 107 houses, the project was converted to an enhanced Peoples’ Housing Process (ePHP) pilot in 2010, following the approval of the KZN Department of Human Settlements and the eThekwin municipality.

Habitat For Humanity South Africa’s social facilitation program extended to promoting an enhanced People’s Housing Process through building capacity for local leadership structures and home partners in order for them to adequately engage with the construction of 1000 new homes which were expected to serve over 5000 vulnerable families in ward 96,98, 99 and 100.

Construction of new housing units in partnership with our construction partner

Facilitating training for homeowners focusing on shelter rights, homeowner roles and responsibilities, and DIY and maintenance

Capacitating local labour and contractors in the project

EVALUATION

Employment targets have been achieved for youth, women and local contractors.

Skills training targets have been achieved and more students are expected on the project from the EtheKwini Academic department to be trained on brick laying, electricity, painting, plastering and carpentry.

CHALLENGES

- The slow pace of construction that led to a two-month production loss due to COVID-19 and the rainy season
- A shortage of building materials
- The remoteness of individual sites
- We experienced difficulty in tracing some beneficiaries
- We also experienced political conflict in neighbouring wards
- The national government budget constraints

IMPACT

- Families helped build 398 new brick and mortar homes with 2 bedrooms, open plan lounge and kitchen and internal bathroom. These families also have access to clean, running water as 479 rainwater harvesting tanks instantly improve their quality of life. More time is spent dreaming and less time is spent collecting unsafe water, from unsafe sources.
- 81 families have renewed dignity in their safer homes, and understand how to maintain their homes a bit better through DIY education.
- Families will have safe and secure homes protecting them from harsh environmental factors
- 103 employment opportunities reduce poverty and provide a sustainable livelihoods for those being employed in the project
- The housing deficit in the province is reduced through the provision of new houses, 13 local contractors will have a local project to showcase as part of their work history to secure future work - further impacting the housing deficit in the province
- Training leads to individuals becoming employable.
- Security of tenure for individuals who have never owned their own home
- The housing deficit in the province is reduced through the provision of new houses, 13 local contractor will have a local project to showcase as part of their work history to secure future work - further impacting the housing deficit in the province
- Training leads to individuals becoming employable.
- Security of tenure for individuals who have never owned their own home

LEARNINGS

Local contractors require more support and training in terms of their development, the EPHP programme is much slower than other housing programmes due to the fact that it requires capacitation of the local community and also the use of local contractors which have never engaged in a big project.

Communities are very patient and understanding if you are transparent about your project. This project started in 2011, with a full-force attitude to engage with the beneficiaries. To date we have beneficiaries that have not received their homes but are patiently waiting without making any issue about it.



The Western Cape is the only province where we implemented all of our Informal Settlement Upgrade Projects in partnership with the Government and other sector partners. This is also the only province where we were able to conduct an impact evaluation to assess our social facilitation program conducted in Pelican Park over a period of 5 years. The evaluation unearthed key findings and valuable learnings and insights related to our interventions within this community.

Pelican Park



BACKGROUND

Pelican Park was a flagship project for both Habitat For Humanity South Africa and Power Construction as it provided the opportunity to translate the philosophy of a 'Hand-Up' into reality through meaningful social facilitation.

The Integrated Residential Development Programme (IRDP) in Pelican Park is one of the largest in the Western Cape. It sought to reintegrate families across different income levels, races, and religions into a cohesive human settlement. The main role of Habitat within Pelican Park was to help establish a cohesive Human Settlement and provide opportunities for volunteers to participate in house construction activities alongside community members. Once the project was closed out our next step was to conduct an evaluation to assess our impact in the community.

GOAL

The main goal of the outcome evaluation was to examine the extent to which the social facilitation interventions achieved its desired implementation objectives/outcomes and to generate insights and understanding for the recognition and support for social facilitation in housing programmes, such as the IRDP. The evaluation also sought to understand the material benefits of social facilitation in building cohesive, economically viable and sustainable human settlements.

HFH SA' social facilitation is rooted in a people-driven development approach which recognises the potential of ordinary people to define and participate actively in their developmental journey. The model of social facilitation adopted by HFH SA is characterised by the following fundamental and complementary elements that are critical in addressing shelter poverty.

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Collectively build mutual understanding of the community's social fabric through social scoping activities

After a formal partnership is established with the community, social facilitation begins with a baseline study (scoping research) as a first step to understand and map the community's needs, challenges, and opportunities in order to develop a roadmap for social facilitation in Pelican Park. In Pelican Park, this process involved recruiting and building the capacity of selected community members to facilitate surveys and report findings back to the community. Therefore, ensuring effective targeting, mutual understanding and commitment of the community to the process of understanding challenges and opportunities for community development. Social scoping is a pre-condition to implementation of subsequent activities.

Facilitate establishment of community leadership structure/committee

The social facilitation programme recognises the potential role of community leaders in the community's developmental journey. For the programme to achieve its desired outcomes, it is essential to establish a community leadership structure that is capable of leading ethically and promoting the welfare/or interest of the larger community. This phase of the programme involves facilitating elections and engagements to democratically elect community representatives who will serve on a recognised community leadership structure. The roles and responsibilities of the structure are established at the outset and a constitution is drafted to guide the operations and conduct of leaders.

Facilitate targeted capacity-building interventions to enhance community capacity

The capacity of homeowners and community leaders is important in building a sustainable and cohesive human settlement where residents have increased access to livelihood opportunities. The capacity-building strategy is deliberately aimed first at building the capacity of homeowners to maintain their dwelling, to actively participate in the community's development process, and to access their political rights. The training also targets community leaders specifically to build their leadership skills and ability to lead and manage the community's action plan (CAP) for development. The training is informed by the evidence from the initial community needs assessment, as well as from ongoing engagements with the community to establish skills development gaps, needs and opportunities. HFH SA in Pelican Park facilitated targeted assistance to build members' capacity in partnership with relevant individuals and organisations to achieve specific outcomes.

Facilitate the development of a community action plan

An integral part of the social facilitation programme is the development of a community action plan which consolidates the key developmental actions designed to improve socio-economic wellbeing of the community. The CAP also helps the community to connect to ward-level and municipal integrated development plan (IDP) that drive service delivery and resource allocation in the local area. The main CAP activities including the development of the actual plan are facilitated systematically by the local leadership and HFH SA, focusing on the needs and priorities of the community, and a constitution is drafted to guide the operations and conduct of leaders.

Build meaningful partnerships or collaborations for a self-sustaining community

Partnerships are necessary in ensuring continuity of interventions as well as in sustaining community development gains. The objective here is to mobilise the key resources (financial and human capital) and develop the important relationships or connections both within and outside the community with a variety of stakeholders that have the resources to support the achievement of specific CAP priorities. The outcome envisaged from this latter phase of the social facilitation programme is a co-created sustainability strategy to ensure self-reliance and independence of the community before an exit strategy is implemented through meaningful collaborations.



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IMPLEMENTATION

Our Social Facilitation Programme in Pelican Park focused on developing the skills of both homeowners and community leaders as part of the process of achieving cohesive and sustainable community development.

The objective was thus to empower community members to make informed decisions and actively participate in the community’s developmental journey. The main activities included:

- Facilitating the election and formation of a body of community leaders and equipping them with the requisite skills and knowledge to lead their community
- A series of workshops to help the community understand their own housing development project
- Providing homeowners with essential knowledge - ranging from practical home maintenance information, to the role of external stakeholders and the costs, materials, regulations and basic architecture of their homes.
- Social scoping research, which formed part of the Social Facilitation programme, revealed that most residents (mostly pensioners) sought active change in Pelican Park, while others were somewhat content with their situation and did not seek active change. This necessitated a shift in the approach to strategically target active or passionate community residents. Members of the Pelican Park Owners Association (PPOA) (which was one of the outcomes of the social facilitation programme) were targeted as beacons of change in the process of building an economically thriving community for Pelican

EVALUATION

Conduct training for home partners and PPOA members, Facilitate learning exchanges

- Facilitate Community Action Planning
- Conduct social scoping
- Facilitate build events
- Implement Poverty Stoplight Tool
- Facilitate enterprise development training
- Skills development services for PPOA & Homeowners
- Partnerships developed
- Learning exchanges organised
- Do-It-Yourself education
- Learning kits developed

CHALLENGES

One of the objectives of social facilitation in Pelican Park was to build collective action and a capable leadership that can hold local government accountable in the delivery of essential services that impact community wellbeing. The evaluation has revealed moderate levels of satisfaction with regards to service delivery during the period of implementation. While satisfaction with electricity and sanitation services has been relatively high, the data shows relative decline in satisfaction levels with regards to water amongst homeowners. It must be noted that seasonal drought in the municipality impacts adequate supply of water due to decrease in water in the absence of rain. Cape Town has witnessed a perennial water crisis in the last three years due to a severe drought.

Despite the inroads made in Pelican Park with regards to building a viable community, social facilitation implementation was impacted by a number of challenges. It has been recorded that build events for instance experienced shortage of builders on-site, which resulted in scaffolding delays. To address this issue, we purchased trowels for back-up, as sub-contractors did not always have sufficient equipment.

Another challenge encountered during the process related to the flow of information and communication between Power Construction and sub-contractors, as well as between Block Leaders. It was observed that communication was not as effective as expected. And this resulted in delays in restocking building materials, and confusion during build events. This challenge was mitigated in the interim by holding regular briefings with sub-contractors and volunteers to ensure effective flow of information and communication during build events.

The participation of homeowners, especially men, was rather limited. Instead, the programme engaged more women in capacity-building workshops, especially towards the end of the program. In addition, conflicting and competing interest among the community leadership stalled progress in the early years of its establishment. This was addressed through reshuffling roles, and through conflict management training activities with the community leadership.

IMPACT

- Enhanced capacity of community leadership to mobilise resources (e.g human, physical, financial) to facilitate Community Action Plan process
- Increased homeowner education and capacity of homeowners to provide basic DIY services
- Greater sense of awareness, agency, participation, and ownership of community projects
- Improved social cohesion, confidence, and participation of residents in community development activities

- Increased awareness of shelter and citizenship rights, as well as poverty and livelihood coping mechanisms

- Increased community networks and partnerships

- Better understanding of poverty status and access to poverty reduction tools amongst residents

- Families are successfully integrated into the settlement. The results depict improved social capital and family integration, with community members citing social cohesion events facilitated by Habitat For Humanity South Africa as key contributors. Many residents (86%) perceived the relationship with their neighbours as being “very good”

- Homeowners demonstrated deep awareness of shelter rights and the capacity to maintain their homes. They showed confidence in their ability to fix shelter related problems such plumbing, electric wiring, plastering, and safety precautions. Majority (80%) of homeowners perceived shelter maintenance and education work- shops conducted by Habitat as being “extremely relevant” to their needs, suggesting that these workshops have enhanced both their shelter awareness and capacity to maintain their dwelling.

- Social facilitation has established and empowered a community leadership structure (PPOA) in Pelican Park. Half (50%) of the community leaders found the skills development services provided by Habitat For Humanity South Africa as being “extremely relevant” to their needs. The PPOA until today serves as a recognised community structure that leads community development actions in Pelican Park.

- The program has resulted in meaningful partnerships through its People, Public, Private, Partnership model, which created opportunities for resource mobilisation and new connections with organisations and individuals that can assist the community’s development process. The PPOA has initiated relevant partnerships through their own efforts due to skills acquired from social facilitation.

- Social facilitation has produced the community’s action plan through a collaborative process with the local leadership. Subsequently training was provided to enhance the members’ capacity to manage and facilitate its implementation. To date, the CAP has been completed and adopted by the community as a framework for socio-economic development.

This evaluation is largely a qualitative reflection on the value of social facilitation in building integrated and economically viable human settlements. The key achievements in Pelican Park demonstrate that HFH SA’s model of social facilitation indeed has potential to yield significant benefits for building cohesive and sustainable human settlements. It has been observed that, when effectively implemented to support housing programmes, as done in the IRDP in Pelican Park, social facilitation can achieve material benefits for participating communities in many ways.

As seen in the preceding analysis, social facilitation activities carried out in Pelican Park over the last five years have produced tangible social outcomes including the establishment of a capable community leadership structure, a viable community action plan, enhanced knowledge and capacity of homeowners and community leaders, external partnerships and connections, and has produced several active citizens (community beacons) that promote social change in the community.

Other community beacons identified through the project included participants who were involved in the latter part of the social facilitation programme through the Poverty Stoplight Tool (PST), which was implemented to improve livelihoods in Pelican Park. They also included many active citizens who participated in capacity-building workshops, or actively attended meetings and volunteered to support community development initiatives. The rationale for working with ‘community beacons’ is premised on the assumption that by investing in “passionate community members” it is possible to create ripples of change (domino effect), as the engagements of beacons in the community could potentially influence, empower and create other active citizens through the transfer of knowledge and skills for social change.

LEARNINGS

Achieving meaningful social facilitation outcomes is possible through cooperation and willingness of community members to support the programme objectives and activities.

This evaluation has found that the willingness of community members to cooperate with Habitat during the implementation process was a crucial factor for the success of the programme. The community demonstrated a shared understanding of the programmes’ objectives and assumed ownership of the process through participation in key activities such as shelter awareness and home maintenance training workshops. Willingness and cooperation from the community are essential pillars for successful social facilitation.

A charged and capable community leadership is an important catalyst for success

The social facilitation results achieved in Pelican Park reaffirm the importance of relinquishing power to local leaders in ensuring successful social development programmes. This evaluation has found that the community's leadership (the PPOA) which was birthed through the social facilitation program was instrumental in mobilising the community to collectively support implementation activities. The leadership showed a strong sense of commitment to co-creating the Community Action Plan (CAP) and subsequently supporting its implementation. This was made possible through the capacity development assistance that was provided by Habitat For Humanity South Africa to enhance the PPOA's capacity to drive the community's development process.

External partnerships and social support networks have proven to be fundamental drivers of successful social facilitation

One of the key outcomes of the programme in Pelican Park was to facilitate the development of key partnerships and connections or networks that could facilitate the development priorities envisaged in the CAP. The results achieved in Pelican Park can partly be attributed to the influence and support rendered by other external stakeholders and organisations that came into process with the assistance from us. Partnerships developed with the City of Cape Town, Power Construction, Maria Marina Foundation, Poverty Stoplight SA, WESSA, the Pebbles Project, NACOSA among others have resulted in significant contributions towards building an economically vibrant and sustainable community in Pelican Park.

Community stability is an essential precondition for successful social facilitation

Peace and stability are important prerequisites for the success of any developmental intervention in any context. Although the Cape Flats are replete with violence and crime, Pelican Park has been relatively stable with a few sporadic disturbances posing risk to project activities. However, the moderate peaceful atmosphere assisted project facilitators to enter and work with the community to implement social facilitation activities. Overall, the programme faced minimal political risk, violence and public unrest that could jeopardise the program and safety of HFH SA staff and volunteers on the ground. A stable atmosphere cannot be overlooked in the implementation of social facilitation programmes.

The capacity of implementing agents or facilitators is a key determinant for success

This evaluation has shown that the capacity of implementing agents has a direct impact on the outcomes of social facilitation. In this regard, HFH SA demonstrated significant capacity in mobilising the community and the skills necessary to achieve planned activities and objectives of social facilitation. Its community development practitioners worked around the clock to achieve specific implementation outcomes, from planning to logistics to facilitating workshops. HFH SA's ability to manage community-level politics, conflict and competing interest in the community enabled members to forge a common vision for the community.

Building the capacity of "community beacons" has proven to be a critical catalyst for successful social facilitation

Passionate and active community members play an important role in social facilitation. The results in Pelican Park have shown that 'community beacons' showed immense enthusiasm to drive change in their community. Capacitating these individuals could have positive ripple effects as beacons become teachers and facilitators of community development events/actions. Deliberately targeting and including 'community beacons' in formal meetings and engagements contributes to tangible community development outcomes.

Langeberg informal settlement support programme



BACKGROUND

The Department of Human Settlements Western Cape contracted Habitat For Humanity South Africa during 2020 to assist them in their Informal Settle Upgrade Project (ISSP) in the Langeberg municipality, which incorporates Mandela Square and Boekenhoutskloof. Our role has been to conduct enumeration activities mapping existing infrastructure and implement community development processes.

The objective of upgrading is to improve the quality of life of people in informal settlements through an array of interventions which include (but is not limited to) improving access to land, providing secure tenure along a continuum of rights, providing basic services and social infrastructure, stimulating economic opportunities, finance and incremental housing opportunities. Since the ISSP is focussed on outlining a progressive and transformative approach to upgrading informal settlements in the Western Cape, this strategy will have a direct impact on people's housing conditions.

The vision encapsulated by the ISSP is that by 2030, informal settlements in the Western Cape Province will be transformed into liveable, integrated, vibrant and resilient neighbourhoods. The goal is to ensure that marginalised people will have a better and secure place of residence by 2030

Habitat For Humanity South Africa, with its sector partners aims to achieve this nationally despite our initial focus in the Western Cape.

GOAL

The overall goal In this program was to improve the quality of life in informal settlements through an array of interventions which includes, but is not limited to improving access to land, secure tenure, services and social infrastructure, economic opportunities, finance, and incremental housing opportunities.

Moreover, our upgrading approach seeks to address social and

economic exclusion by focusing on community empowerment, the promotion of social and economic integration, building social capital through participative processes and addressing the broader social needs of society through shelter. To this end, dignified living is the main objective of the settlement upgrading.

During 2020 the the department of Human Settlements Western Cape contracted Habitat for Humanity South Africa to achieve a few critical goals in helping them achieve their ISSP objectives.

The project will respond to the following issues:

- Facilitate the establishment of community-based participatory planning to support the in-situ Mandela Square and Boekenhoutskloof Upgrading of Informal Settlements Project (UISP), including the establishment of Project Steering Committees;
- Conduct surveys of each household in the two informal settlements;
- Conduct the necessary community-based participatory planning to support the in-situ upgrading process in the Mandela Square and Boekenhoutskloof informal settlements;
- Drive all streams of work pertaining to the social facilitation and mobilisation process of the Mandela Square and Boekenhoutskloof UISP Project;
- Develop a stakeholder communication strategy and continuity plan;
- Regularise existing community structures and mainstream local information from the communities and technical information from state and vis-à-vis; and
- Facilitate the establishment of Community Registration Officers (CRO) and capacitate municipalities to manage these positions in order to carry out human settlement administrative functions.

This project was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and South Africa had to enter a hard lockdown which delayed the roll-out of our programmes.

Ruo Emoh grey water project

BACKGROUND

The Ruo Emoh project was initiated through a partnership between Habitat For Humanity South Africa, the People Environmental Planning (PEP), and the Ruo Emoh community to implement household-level Water, and Sanitation and Hygiene (WaSH) solutions for the Ruo Emoh community of Mitchells Plain in the City of Cape Town. The project was closed out during December 2019. A comparative analysis was also conducted between Pelican Park and Ruo Emoh.

In South Africa, low-cost housing is delivered to citizens earning below R3,500 per month, combined monthly household income, or as determined by the National Housing Code through a number of progressive housing delivery programmes which give guidance to the formation of human settlement developments across the country. One such housing programme is the Enhanced People's Housing Process (ePHP) which is a subsidy housing programme aimed at delivering better human settlement outcomes based on community contribution and leveraging of additional resources through partnerships.

The problem with the implementation of the ePHP is however that the housing subsidy quantum that is available per household only allows for a very basic dwelling with very little to nothing invested in any form of water saving technologies, or any other improved environmentally friendly systems. Many communities and organisations in the human settlement sector have identified this as a major challenge taking into cognisance the increasing poverty level and the growing water challenges affecting many such human settlements. The provision of water in such settlements is never enough to meet the water demand of households such as cooking, cleaning, washing, sanitation and general consumption. Water scarcity will become a greater burden as the cost of water continues to rise and with the increasing risk of droughts as experienced in recent years. It was therefore envisioned that the installation of household-level WaSH systems in this particular community would have far reaching benefits. By incorporating innovative water saving and water management systems, the 49 low-income households will be able to better protect themselves against escalating costs while simultaneously improving the comfort level of their new homes.

The Ruo Emoh development is a community driven medium density housing project situated on a well-located piece of infill land on the corner of Weltevreden Parkway & Caesars Drive in Colorado Park, Mitchells Plain. Houses will be located adjacent to public transport and nearby schools, a community hall, shops and a hospital. It is

envisaged as an integrated medium-density development which will include 49 housing units, a commercial enclave and a small open public space to be used as a playground or meeting point. There will be a variety of housing typologies, including double storey, semi-detached and free standing.

The project was started more than a decade ago by a community, composed largely of backyard dwellers, who wanted to build their own houses and identified a piece of land that was then purchased by uTshani Fund on their behalf. Instead of waiting on the City's ever growing housing waiting list, the group formed the Ruo Emoh (Our Home spelt backwards) Housing Saving Scheme, part of the South African Homeless People's Federation and Federation of the Urban Poor and have been saving their money for over a decade to build their houses.

Throughout the history of the Ruo Emoh development, one of the main challenges has been the objection by the Colorado Ratepayers Association. As a result, the subdivision and rezoning approval process took over 5 years (2001 – 2006). Once obtained, the approval was only valid for five years. By the time the subsidy approval was granted in May 2011, the subdivision approval was about to lapse. PEP, on behalf of uTshani Fund, had applied for an extension of the subdivision approval 10 months prior to the expiry date (August 2010) and received written confirmation from the CoCT that the approval would be granted, and the installation of infrastructure could proceed.

Within 1 month of being on site, the Council issued uTshani with a 'cease works order' because the rezoning and subdivision approval had lapsed on 26 June 2011 and Council had not yet made a final decision on the application to extend the validity thereof. uTshani Fund was forced to terminate the contract with Civils 2000 with only half of the underground services having been installed. uTshani Fund also had to pay substantial penalties to both the contractor and the consulting engineers for terminating the contract prematurely. Subsequent to the above events that culminated in the "cease works order" uTshani Fund, assisted by Peoples Environmental Planning worked tirelessly to find the funding, re-unite the community and overcome the institutional and administrative hurdles needed to restart Ruo Emoh. In late 2015, after numerous consultations with Province and the City of Cape Town (and many other stakeholders), the project was included in the cities official budget at the level of the new subsidy quantum. After many challenges the community eventually received their homes.

GOAL

Installation of an alternate water solution in the form of a grey-water system to address the water challenge and to contribute to the development of sustainable human settlements.

Installation of 49 household level grey water systems.

Capacity Building Workshops:

WORKSHOP 1: To facilitate a workshop with the homeowners focusing on Home-based DIY Maintenance.

WORKSHOP 2: To facilitate a workshop with the homeowners focusing on Homeowner Rights and Responsibilities.

WORKSHOP 2: To partner and facilitate with PEP to develop a technical WaSH-related homeowners' workshop - focused on basic maintenance of the grey water system.

GREENING INITIATIVE: To identify and partner with a local organisation specialising in greening and plant production to rollout the greening initiative, which includes purchasing and planting of water-wise (succulent) plants and seedlings, as well as teaching homeowners about home gardening.

GREY-WATER SYSTEM MANAGEMENT AND

MAINTENANCE: To appoint and provide technical training to a water warden. The Water warden will be responsible for the general grey water system management and maintenance. Habitat For Humanity South Africa will fund the training and provide a six-month stipend to the water warden.

To conduct continuous monitoring and evaluation of project activities in order to document most significant successes and challenge

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IMPLEMENTATION

- Facilitation of a technical (Workshop 3)-WaSH and Grey water system maintenance for the homeowners within this community. We facilitated one training engagement with the homeowners focussed on WaSH practices and maintenance of the grey water system. The aim was to help the homeowner to better understand and effectively use the grey water system and to equip them with basic plumbing skills.
- The successful facilitation of the DIY home maintenance workshop with 36 homeowners in attendance on 14th Sept 2019
- The successful facilitation of the homeowner rights and responsibilities workshop. 36 homeowners attended the workshop on 14th Sept 2019
- We also collaborated with Southgate Project, a local greening and landscaping organisation to help implement the greening initiative. The partnership has started designing home gardens and soil preparation for plantation.
- Homeowners also received training in how to care for their gardens.
- The selection and training of a water warden on a six month basis to take ownership of the project and track the water usage. The Water warden is responsible for the general grey water system management and maintenance. In collaboration with PEP the water warden received training and a stipend for a duration of six months.
- All of the intended goals were achieved in this project which was a great success given that it was a pilot project.

CHALLENGES

It was challenging to find a time where all the homeowners were present for the facilitation workshops.

IMPACT

Project activities were designed to enhance and strengthen the community to create sustainable water solutions. Through collaboration and empowerment of the wider community, the project created a sense of ownership amongst residents of Ruo Emoh with many homeowners taking the initiative to support and participate in all project activities.

In the case of Ruo Emoh, our project approach encouraged and prioritised community participation as a key element to co-create participatory development of sustainable and thriving human

settlements. As a result, the Ruo Emoh Project Steering Committee confirmed their support for the water strategy from project inception. There was also support for capacity building and training workshops as well as community volunteerism in the greening initiative.

The Ruo Emoh grey water project was a success whilst the supporting social facilitation roll-out deepened its wider social impact. Home owners were not only given access to grey water for household consumption and garden use but were capacitated with information about home-owner rights and responsibilities as well as various technical skills such as basic DIY home maintenance skills, grey water system maintenance and related plumbing skills. The greening project initiated a culture of environmental awareness and water wise practises. HFH SA and its interventions were well received by the community and is substantiated by the high number of participants during our workshops. More community members were engaged with each workshop and this created platforms for wider community dialogues. The successful roll-out of the project also leaned on the successful partnership between HFH SA and its implementing partners PEP, Isidima, Southgate Projects and the larger community of Ruo Emoh.

LEARNINGS

Building partnerships for sustainable development

The adopted approach to the project recognised the importance of engaging a variety of stakeholders. The project partnership recognised that the public and private sector, as well as ordinary individuals all have a critical role to play in bringing about sustainable water solutions. This was evident in the project partnership composition, namely Habitat SA, PEP, Isidima, local community and Southgate Projects.

Community participation

HFH SA believes the role of communities and the associated institutions such as local community structures in community-based projects is crucial in effecting meaningful social and environmental change. In the case of Ruo Emoh, our project approach encouraged and prioritised community participation as a key element to co-create participatory development of sustainable and thriving human settlements. As a result, the Ruo Emoh Project Steering Committee confirmed their support for the water strategy from project inception. There was also support for capacity building and training workshops as well as community volunteerism in the greening initiative.





sector impact

Partner to increase
shelter access

sector impact

Partner to increase shelter access

SECTOR IMPACT OCCURS ON A NATIONAL BASIS. HFH SA IS PART OF THE NGO COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVE (COMPRISING OF CORC, DAG, ISANDLA INSTITUTE, PEP, VPUU AS WELL AS UBU) AND DURING 2019 / 2020 WE WERE IN DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING STRENGTHENING THE ROLL-OUT OF THE INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS SUPPORT PLAN AND, ULTIMATELY, TRANSFORMING INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS IN THE WESTERN CAPE.

The objective of upgrading is to improve the quality of life of people in informal settlements through an array of interventions which include (but is not limited to) improving access to land, providing secure tenure along a continuum of rights, providing basic services and social infrastructure, stimulating economic opportunities, finance and incremental housing opportunities.

Since the ISSP is focussed on outlining a progressive and transformative approach to upgrading informal settlements in the Western Cape, this strategy will have a direct impact on people's housing conditions.



The vision encapsulated by the ISSP is that by 2030, informal settlements in the Western Cape Province will be transformed into liveable, integrated, vibrant, and resilient neighbourhoods. The goal is to ensure that marginalised people will have a better and secure place of residence by 2030:

- In liveable neighbourhoods that offer basic conditions that allow people to inhabit the settlement with dignity and security.
- In integrated neighbourhoods that offer a wide variety of public services to people from different social, cultural and economic backgrounds, who see themselves and their neighbours as part of the same neighbourhood.
- In vibrant neighbourhoods that have a thriving socio-economic environment, underpinned by good quality urban infrastructure, public space and services.
- In resilient neighbourhoods that are able to withstand natural shocks and stresses, such as flooding and climate change.

Prior to this reporting period, we had a stronger focus on advocacy and were very successful in lobbying and creating more collaboration between partners lobbying for the upgrade of informal settlements.

July 2019 to June 2020 does not have any specific legislation changes as a result of intentional advocacy. This is due to the impact of Covid-19 on our organisation and the world.

Changing attitudes and behavior is the most impact we have made on a societal and community level. Providing context as to the root cause of community issues is a critical component of our work, and we will continue to partner and lobby for better policy and housing conditions.



societal impact

Inspire action to end
poverty housing

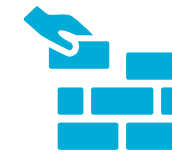
societal impact

Inspire Action To End Poverty Housing

AT HABITAT FOR HUMANITY SOUTH AFRICA, WE MOBILISE VOLUNTEERS AS THE HEARTS, HANDS AND VOICES FOR THE CAUSE OF ADEQUATE AFFORDABLE HOUSING, THEREBY BUILDING SOCIETAL IMPACT.

We recognise the need and potential to include volunteers as a means of contributing towards a sustainable organisation with adequate resources, and so we host local and international volunteers within our volunteer build program.

This year, we hosted two national volunteer build events, namely; The Nelson Mandela Build Event and The UN World Habitat Day which are our 2 most popular and well supported volunteer events. These events were hosted in the Western Cape (Wallacedene and Masiphemelele), Gauteng (Palm Ridge) and KwaZulu Natal (Umgababa). We also hosted a few smaller events where accommodating one or more teams within our projects. In total, we hosted 2 281 local and international volunteers.



These build events allowed local and international volunteers to join hands with us to help eradicate poverty housing within vulnerable communities. Volunteers were given the opportunity to work alongside the community, builders, and homeowners to help build homes for families who have not owned their own home.

We are also privileged to host Global Village teams which are international groups from all over the world who sacrifice time, energy and finances to support our program for a period of one to two weeks. During the reporting period we hosted 15 Global Village teams.

The strategic Volunteer Build Events will play a crucial role as an entry point for, and in facilitating the participation of, volunteers from various backgrounds. Volunteering must always be aligned with, and positively support, the complex and sometimes unpredictable nature of meaningful community development. In practice this means we need our volunteers to better understand development and their potential to positively contribute towards alleviating shelter poverty. Clear messaging and proactive expectation-setting is key to ensuring volunteers have a wonderful time engaging with us and those whom we serve.

Volunteer Build Events serve as entry points and catalysts within multi-year strategic projects where we seek to walk a longer journey with both the volunteers and specific communities. Build Events are strategic in that they will enable the generation of unrestricted funding.

CHALLENGES

- When hosting big volunteer build events, capacity constraints are always challenging
- During the build week, local labour, builders, and subcontractors often cause delays in the building process
- At times lack of building materials and late arrival of builders delay the build process
- In our rural project, the availability of water proved challenging

International and local volunteer groups were going really well at the start of 2019, and then with the arrival of Covid-19 (which included travel and building restorations), we were forced to pause our volunteer build events. It's more clear than ever that home security and helping others help themselves is critical.

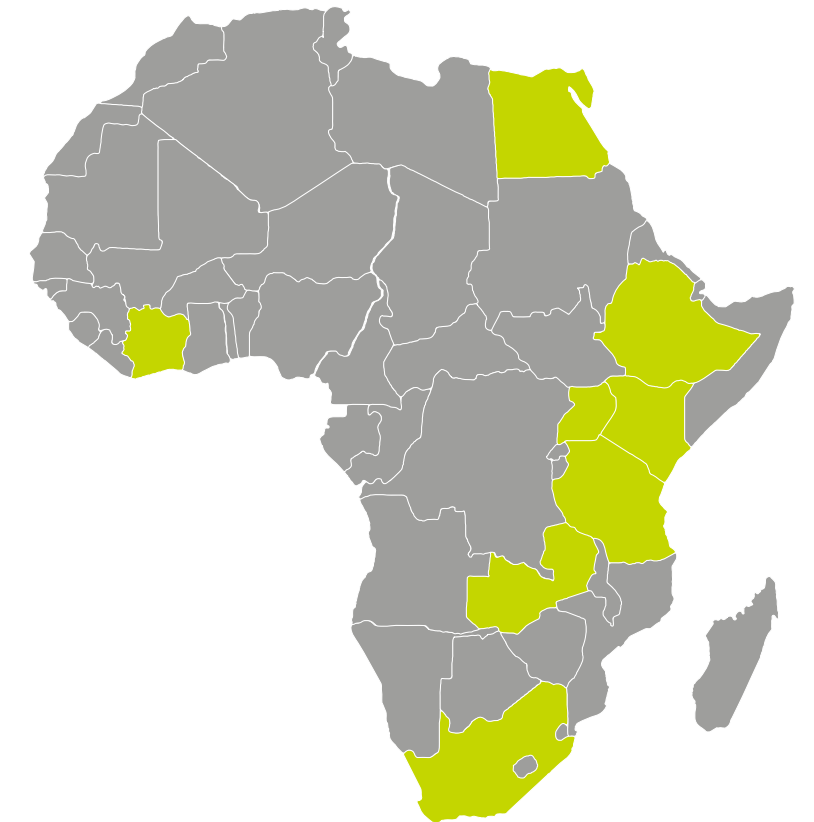
Macro key learnings

- We haven't been as data-driven as we would have liked to have been
- Follow Government for site selection
- We have responded to the complexity of housing needs in South Africa – we have not capitalized on that brand in SA.
- Not been assertive in terms of where we can and can't build – donors have been prescribing - move towards a co-creation model
- Need to improve communication to stakeholders particularly donor reporting which will increase transparency, accountability and build better internal systems.



our work in Africa

Habitat For Humanity International



435
new houses
constructed



9513
community members
engaged



5266
individuals trained



5241
volunteers engaged

of 5241,

724
were GV's

our incredible donors



The work we do wouldn't be possible without our loyal donors, and we'd like to share just one more story of the impact they help us achieve...

the story of Ntombizini (beneficiary)

NTOMBIZINI DREAMS OF A HOME

June 2018 - During The Nelson Mandela Day Team Build, Nedbank Home Loans built a home with Ntombizini

LIFE NOW HAS POSSIBILITIES

July 2019 - Ntombizini feels empowered and makes pillows to sell for income whenever she has money to buy the material. Back at Habitat For Humanity South Africa we wanted to create community-produced 'Thank You' cards or ornaments for our invaluable donors and stakeholders. Ishmael, our Community Development Practitioner, remembered that Ntombizini had been making pillows as a way to generate income from her home, and that she had a desire to upskill and assist her fellow female neighbours in the Lawley community.



"Nedbank and its employees have a long history of supporting and volunteering for Habitat for Humanity, a non-profit organisation that builds houses. By harnessing the power of collaboration and partnership in a practical way, the project has contributed to uplifting vulnerable families from shelter poverty to self-reliance."

The partnership has enabled many people to realise their home ownership dreams with the bank's expertise and care. Through the expansion of the project year on year, Nedbank began leading the builds from 2018 and became more involved with the communities and Habitat for Humanity. Furthermore, the 700 employees taking part is a clear demonstration of their intention to help build the future of the nation."

Nedbank continues to believe in the partnership because it addresses the housing shortage in the country. It's a basic human right for everyone to have adequate housing and shelter. And so, with employee volunteers who share the bank's values, this initiative is a tangible demonstration of the bank's commitment to delivering on its purpose to use its financial expertise to do good for individuals, families, businesses and society."

Debi Potgieter Head : Customer Experience Home Loans

NTOMBIZINI PAYS IT FORWARD

August 2019 - having a decent house has encouraged her to invite other women in her neighbourhood to join her in making pillows and other handiwork, so that they can also earn an income.

It's not just a home, it's a safe place to empower the community

December 2019 - the culmination of this partnership took place as women from the Lawley community were given the tools, beads, design, instruction and confidence to make these small ornaments for us.

THE PARTNERSHIP KEEPS GROWING AND EMPOWERING

Some of the participants arrived on Tuesday with no knowledge about how to create a beautiful piece of art from a selection of beads, yet by Wednesday they had learnt a valuable trade. Ntombizini shared her story with the women, motivating the women with her experience and desire to give back.

The workshop covered the basics of making the beads, the tools needed, the basic patterns for beginners, and the encouragement that a skill can provide income and job creation. Building together to create strength, stability and self-reliance.



Conclusion

Looking back on the last year I am extremely proud of what has been accomplished and as a team we look forward to deepening our impact particularly as we pilot our new model and test its impact in the market. COVID-19 may still be with us for some time but we continue to adjust and refine our model to effect change within the communities we serve. We can only do this together with loyal partners who journey with us.

