



Annual Report FY24



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Message from the National Director

The past year was the period of transformation and renewal for Habitat for Humanity Nepal. It was a year in which we not only deepened our impact across communities but also laid the foundation for the next phase of our journey with the launch of our new Country Strategy in April 2024.

The new strategy is rooted in inclusivity, resilience, and sustainability and charts a clear course for the next three years. It builds on the lessons of the past decade while responding to the emerging realities of Nepal: increasing climate vulnerabilities, persistent housing inequality, and the urgent need for affordable, resilient, and dignified shelter solutions.

During this reporting period, together with our partners, we reached more than 8,600 individuals through safe housing, land tenure support, and water, sanitation, and hygiene WASH initiatives. We worked with local governments to institutionalize disaster risk reduction and climate resilience measures, ensuring that vulnerable communities are not left behind in planning and decision-making. Women's leadership continued to be at the heart of our work, many of whom are now leading community housing committees and advocacy efforts.

One of the highlights of the year was our bamboo-based construction project, which demonstrated how locally available, sustainable materials can reduce costs while improving resilience. At the same time, we advanced advocacy efforts at local and national levels to influence policies that guarantee land and housing rights for marginalized communities.

The launch of the new Country Strategy in April 2024 was a moment of reflection and recommitment. It represents our shared aspiration to scale up impact, ensuring that by 2027, thousands more families in Nepal will have access to safe, resilient, and affordable housing, and that housing will be recognized as a fundamental pathway to equity and resilience.



On a personal note, I am humbled by the dedication of our staff, the courage of the families we serve, and the unwavering support of our partners and donors. Each home we help build is not only a structure but a story of dignity, strength, and hope.

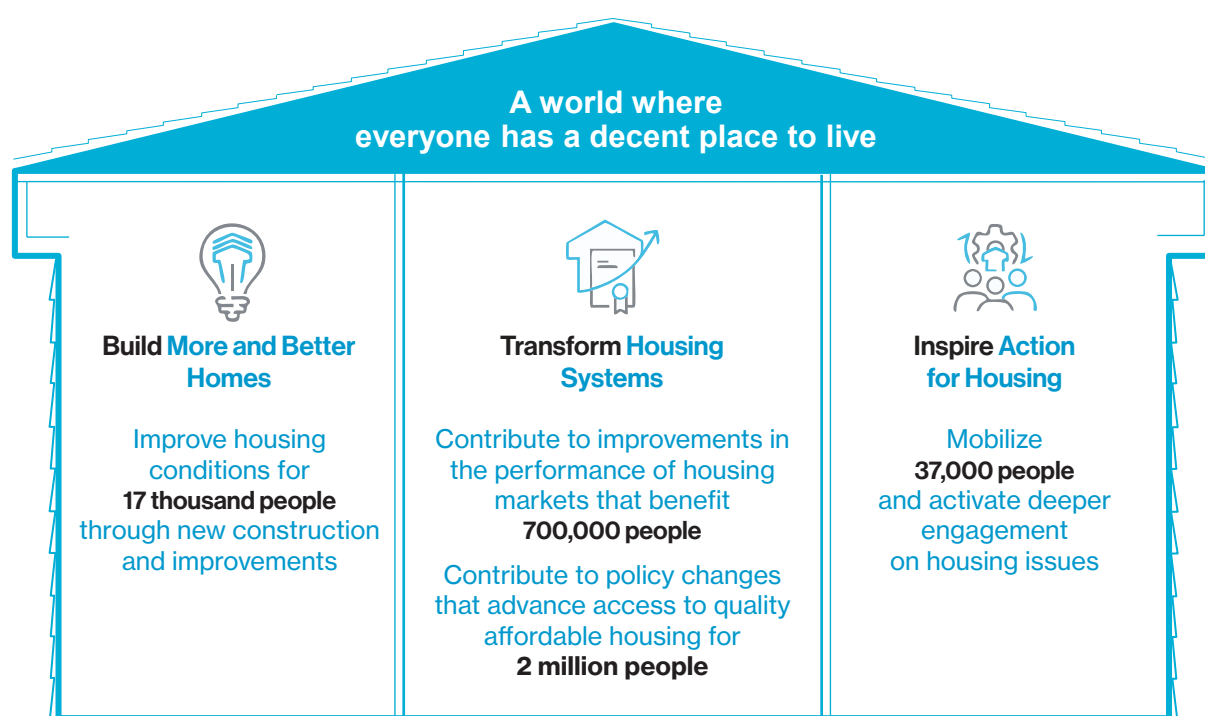
As we move forward, I invite you to continue walking this path with us. Together, we can ensure that safe shelter is not a privilege for a few, but a right for all.

Eliza Sthapit

National Director
Habitat for Humanity Nepal

Habitat for Humanity Nepal Country Strategy (2025 – 2028)

In April 2024, Habitat Nepal launched the new Country Strategy 2024 – 2027. It centers on addressing the nation's critical housing and land challenges while building community resilience against disasters and climate change. The strategy's three main programmatic priorities are Land and Housing, Disaster Risk Reduction and Response & Climate Justice, and Market System Development. Habitat Nepal is committed to advocating for equitable access to land and secure housing, particularly for marginalized communities. This will include influencing housing policies and strengthening collaborations with local governments to provide affordable and sustainable housing.



Disaster risk reduction is another central focus, with efforts aimed at increasing community resilience to Nepal's frequent natural disasters. Habitat will integrate climate-adaptive construction to safeguard vulnerable populations, ensuring that housing solutions are both sustainable and climate-resilient. By promoting market-driven development, Habitat will foster the growth of affordable housing

materials and services, stimulating local economies and making safe housing accessible to all.

In line with these core priorities, Habitat for Humanity Nepal emphasizes several cross-cutting themes to ensure holistic, inclusive, and sustainable development. Volunteering for Development remains key to community empowerment, leveraging both local and international volunteers.

A focus on Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion or GEDSI ensures equitable access to resources and opportunities, especially for women, people with disabilities, and marginalized communities. Finally, Habitat is committed to upholding Environmental, Social, and Governance or ESG standards across all its activities, embedding environmental responsibility and ethical governance into its operations. This comprehensive strategy ensures that Habitat Nepal continues to build homes, communities, and hope in ways that are inclusive, sustainable, and resilient.

Looking back on the year

450

New houses constructed

8,670

Total training participants

USD 1,264,403.78

Leveraged from government for social house construction

USD 43,610,358

Disbursed as loan capital for affordable housing

37,404

clients served by MFIs through housing (# of households)

Advancing women's land and property rights

Habitat Nepal continued to make significant strides in strengthening land and housing systems, ensuring that families living in informal settlements move closer to secure, dignified lives. Laljhadi Rural Municipality and Belauri Municipality in Kanchanpur prepared and endorsed their own Housing Program Implementation Working Procedures with our technical assistance. Orientations were provided to local government officials to help translate these policies into action, ensuring that housing priorities are systematically addressed at the community level.

To address land tenure insecurity, three Land Service Support Centers were established in Sunsari, Dhanusha, and Kanchanpur districts. These centers serve as vital hubs for families seeking secure tenure. In Kanchanpur, the center supported facilitation with the District Committee of the National Land Commission, resulting in 279 families obtaining formal land titles. Notably, 235 of these families received joint land ownership certificates, marking a milestone for gender equity in land rights.





Habitat Nepal also piloted a Land Literacy Program in 13 communities across six districts, reaching 338 participants. The program equips communities with essential knowledge of land rights, policies, and processes, enabling them to actively engage in decision-making and claim their entitlements.

To further strengthen systems, Habitat Nepal developed a toolkit for workshops on the seven-step planning process, resource mobilization, and advocacy. Two such workshops were conducted in Madhesh and Sudurpaschim provinces with partners and local government representatives. Lobbying efforts were also initiated with all 10 local governments across the two provinces, reinforced by continuous engagement. HIDR Nepal provided additional field-level technical support to partners.

At the federal level, Habitat Nepal organized a workshop that brought together Members of Parliament, government officials, civil society organizations, and human rights advocates. This multi-stakeholder platform created momentum for advancing inclusive land and housing rights at the national level.

These collective efforts reflect Habitat Nepal's commitment to transforming land and housing systems ensuring families are not only able to secure tenure today but also build stronger, more resilient futures for generations to come.

Clean water and dignity for Surti and her family


At 35, Surti Devi carries a quiet strength that has guided her family through hardship. She lives with her husband Manoj, 42, and their two children, Dropati, 9, and Prabes, 12. Life took an unexpected turn five years ago when Manoj suffered a severe electric shock while repairing the community's power line. The accident left him unable to use one hand, and the responsibility of providing for the family fell on Surti's shoulders.

She began working as a daily wage laborer, yet her earnings were never enough to meet even the most basic needs. Often, the entire family joined as laborers, struggling to cover expenses and forced to borrow money from local lenders and microfinance groups. Their small home, built with bamboo walls, a mud foundation, and a CGI roof, lacked a toilet and water supply. Every day, Surti faced the painful reality of fetching water from neighbors and knowing her children defecate in the open. "How can I ever afford clean drinking water and a toilet for my family?" she worried.

That question found an answer through the SAFA WASH project. With its support, Surti's family now has their own toilet and a tubewell with a proper platform and drainage. She attended an orientation session on hygiene and proudly passed on what she learned to her husband and children. Today, the family washes their hands regularly, drinks safe water, and maintains both personal and household hygiene.

The change has been profound. No longer do they feel the shame of using others' water or the dangers of open defecation. Gone are the days of bathing and washing in contaminated ponds that left them sick with diarrhea, fevers, and skin irritation. For the first time, Surti and her family feel the dignity of having safe water and sanitation within their own home.



A woman wearing a vibrant red and orange patterned sari is operating a green manual water pump. She is looking down at the pump handle with a focused expression. The pump is a manual, hand-operated device with a green metal frame and a curved handle. Water is flowing from the spout of the pump. The background shows a rural setting with lush green foliage, including banana leaves, and a wooden fence made of vertical poles. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting it is daytime.

“We feel so fortunate,” Surti shared, her face bright with relief. With clean water, a toilet of their own, and healthier habits, the family now looks ahead with hope, dreaming not of survival, but of a future filled with health, dignity, and happiness.



Response, relief, and resilience after Jajarkot earthquake

A 6.4 magnitude earthquake struck Jajarkot and West Rukum districts on 3 November 2023 resulting in a loss of 154 lives and 364 injured, making it the deadliest shake since 2015. It destroyed 26,557 homes and partially destroyed 35,455 homes in four districts.

Habitat Nepal conducted relief and disaster relief activities in several phases. First, we deployed a Rapid Response team to Jajarkot district for initial assessment, after which, we distributed 400 shelter kits and 35 portable toilets to the most vulnerable families in Bheri Municipality-6 in coordination with District Disaster Management Committee and Bheri Municipality, Jajarkot. 813 winterization kits were also distributed to the affected families of Bheri Municipality 1, 2, 3, and 4.

As the provincial lead of National Housing and Settlement Response Platform, or NHSRP, for Sudurpaschim Province, we also deployed our technical staff to Karnali Province to support their counterparts with data entry and information management. At the central level, we activated our Emergency Response Coordination team to lead the response and ensure coordination with the relevant government authorities and civil society organizations or CSOs for collaborative action.

Over the following three months, a radio program disseminating vital information on building transitional shelters, accessing relief resources, and engaging with local stakeholders, fostering a sense of empowerment and resilience among the affected population was aired with our support. It also served as an effective tool to disseminate information for community engagement and empowerment in crisis. We also provided support for transitional shelter construction, with 120 transitional shelters.

With the support of Habitat Nepal and other INGOs, the District Administration Office in Jajarkot organized a technical training to engineers and sub-engineers with the aim of capacity-building and knowledge exchange, contributing to the overall development and resilience of the communities involved.



Transforming housing systems in partnership with the private sector

Habitat Nepal made important progress in advancing market systems that support bamboo as a sustainable, affordable, and climate-resilient construction material. In collaboration with the Directorate of Province Forest, Habitat Nepal organized a Multi-Stakeholder Platform chaired by the Chairperson of the Province Parliament of Madhesh Province, which brought together government representatives, civil society, and technical partners. The platform marked a significant step towards promoting sustainable housing practices and encouraging the uptake of treated bamboo as a viable, eco-friendly solution for construction.

To multiply impact, Habitat Nepal successfully leveraged approximately USD 845,000 from local and provincial governments and an additional USD 310,000 from private sector investments. Partnerships were further strengthened through collaboration with the Ministry of Urban Development and the Department of Urban Development and Building Construction on the development of bamboo construction guidelines. Habitat Nepal, together with technical partner Base Bahay, also signed a three-year research MoU with Madan Bhandari University of Sciences and Technology to expand knowledge and innovation in bamboo housing.



This year also saw a growing recognition of housing within municipal planning frameworks. Two municipalities, Shambhunath and Krishnasawaran, endorsed housing in their annual plans, while 13 municipalities formally endorsed bamboo housing and partnered with Habitat Nepal to promote sustainable, safe, and affordable housing in their jurisdictions.

In addition, Habitat Nepal convened seven private sector companies and four NGOs through a human-centered design process to develop prototype solutions that can be taken to the market. Two innovative products emerged from this collaboration, bamboo roofing sheets and prefabricated bamboo wall panels, both of which hold strong potential to provide affordable, resilient housing solutions at scale.

These achievements reflect the essence of market system development: shifting from isolated

interventions to systemic change. By aligning government endorsement, private sector investment, research partnerships, and community-level adoption, Habitat Nepal is helping create an enabling environment where sustainable bamboo housing can thrive as part of the formal market. This means that bamboo is no longer viewed as an alternative or temporary material, but as a recognized, commercially viable, and environmentally responsible solution that benefits families, communities, and the housing sector.



First liberation, then safety: Safe housing for ex-bonded laborers in Western Nepal

Laxmi, 31, is one of thousands of former Haliyas in Kanchanpur, Nepal. For generations, Haliyas, were trapped in bonded labor, working the land for landlords without wages. Though the government declared their liberation in 2008, many remain landless and without opportunities. “I received some support, but not fully,” Laxmi shared, noting she only got two-thirds of the government’s promised compensation.

Determined to create change, Laxmi volunteered with the Freed Haliya Society. With some support, she helped organize skills training in tailoring, beauty services, masonry, farming, and painting. “Women who were once shy to leave their homes now join the training,” she said. She hopes this will help women gain independence in a society where most still rely on their husbands’ earnings.

Compared to many of her peers, Laxmi has made progress. She and her husband Prakash built their own two-room house in 2021, after months of carrying bricks and mixing mortar themselves. Though simple, the home is a source of pride. “This is my own house. I believe my home is a temple, it should be clean, beautiful, tidy, and safe.”



Kamal's first steps toward independence: Inclusive, adaptive housing for people with disabilities

Kamal, 14, has lived most of his life with a disability that makes walking on his own impossible. For every task, from moving across his room to stepping into the yard, he depended entirely on his devoted mother. Her care was unwavering, but for Kamal, the inability to move freely left him feeling deprived of the independence other children his age enjoyed.

Yet, behind his quiet demeanor, Kamal's eyes have always carried something more: determination, deep love for his mother, and hope for a brighter future. "I often dreamt of walking on my own, even if it was only across the small lawn outside."

That dream came closer to reality when Resilient Inclusive Sustainable Eastern Nepal or RISEN project installed strong, carefully designed railings in his yard. What may seem like a small change has transformed Kamal's daily life. Now, he grips the railings and takes steps on his own, discovering the simple joy of moving without constant support.

For Kamal, this newfound freedom means more than mobility; it means dignity, happiness, and the confidence that people with disabilities should never be excluded or deprived of opportunities. His first independent steps are also steps toward a brighter, more inclusive future.



"I often dreamt of walking on my own, even if it was only across the small lawn outside."

Global village returns

Habitat Nepal's Volunteering program has been transformational to a community's health.

In April and May 2024, we welcomed two enthusiastic teams from New Zealand, marking the revival of our program. Over 10 days, 22 volunteers contributed a total of 504 hours of service in five communities, boosting the local economy by over USD 15,000, creating jobs and supporting local businesses. The program not only met its goals but also achieved a 100% satisfaction rate among the volunteers, who felt a strong sense of accomplishment and connection to the communities they served.

They participated in a collaborative build showcasing teamwork and community spirit by working with local partners, homeowners, government representatives, and partner NGOs with the goal of creating safe and sustainable homes. In eastern Nepal, they used bamboo – a locally sourced eco-friendly material – and engaged the community in the design and construction of the houses, fostering a sense of ownership among families.

The Social Learning Exchange Activities enriched the experience by enabling the volunteers to engage in activities which deepened their understanding of the communities they were working at and fostering meaningful connections with the community members.



We helped Habitat Nepal, the local community, and the rural municipality build raised houses with concrete floors to protect from the monsoon waters, treated bamboo resistant to insects, iron roofing, and weather resistant plaster that lasts. And the families themselves (both husband and wife) will own the finished result. It's been an incredible honor to be a small part of this particular house, especially knowing how much it will help the family who we've got to work alongside this week. The impact on the family is massive and generational.

David Monk

GV Volunteer from New Zealand





FINANCIAL OVERVIEW FY2024

REVENUE

	Amount (USD)
HFHI/US Affiliates	1,497,178.21
Global Funding Network	181,007.03
Foundations	865,435.00
Institutions	407,226.78
Individual	166,213.52
Total	3,117,060.54

EXPENDITURE

	Amount (USD)
Administrative	364,419.97
Fund Rasing	41,234.83
Program	2,571,704.60
Total	2,977,359.40

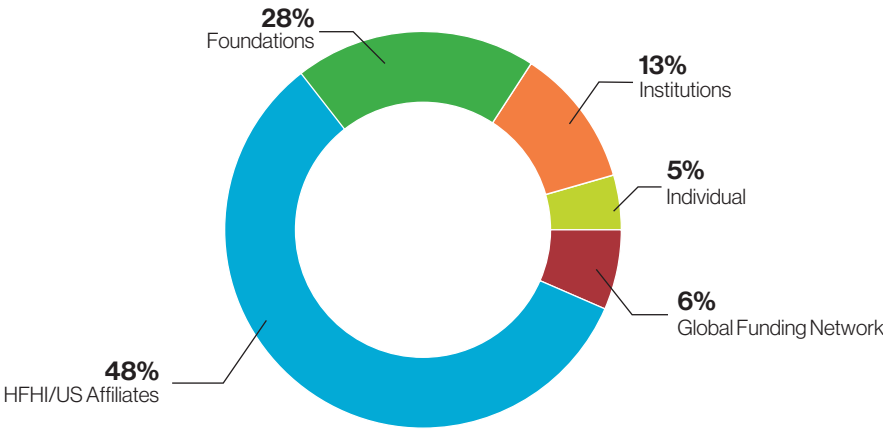


Fig: Revenue Pie-chart

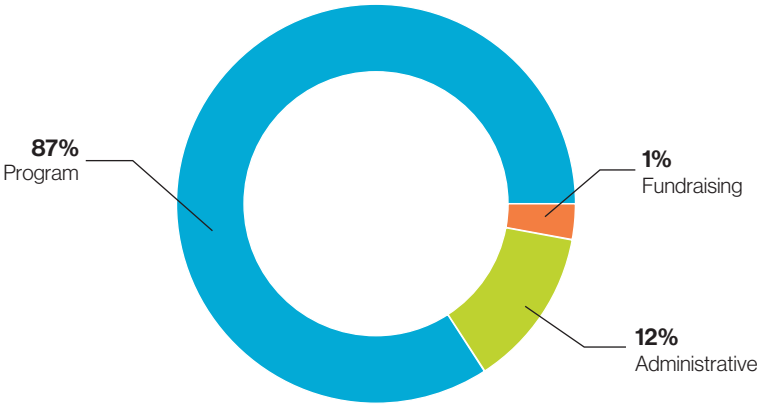


Fig: Expenditure Pie-chart

In appreciation

We are grateful for the support of our partners that made our work possible in the fiscal year 2024.

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Stichting de Waterlander

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Habitat for Humanity Greater Cincinnati (Ohio)

Greater Des Moines Habitat for Humanity (Iowa)

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Habitat for Humanity of the St. Vrain Valley (Colorado)

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Alachua Habitat for Humanity (Florida)

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Habitat for Humanity of Durham (North Carolina)

Habitat for Humanity Menominee River (Michigan)

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