



1000
HOMES

THE JOURNEY BEGINS:
THE FIRST 100 HOMES



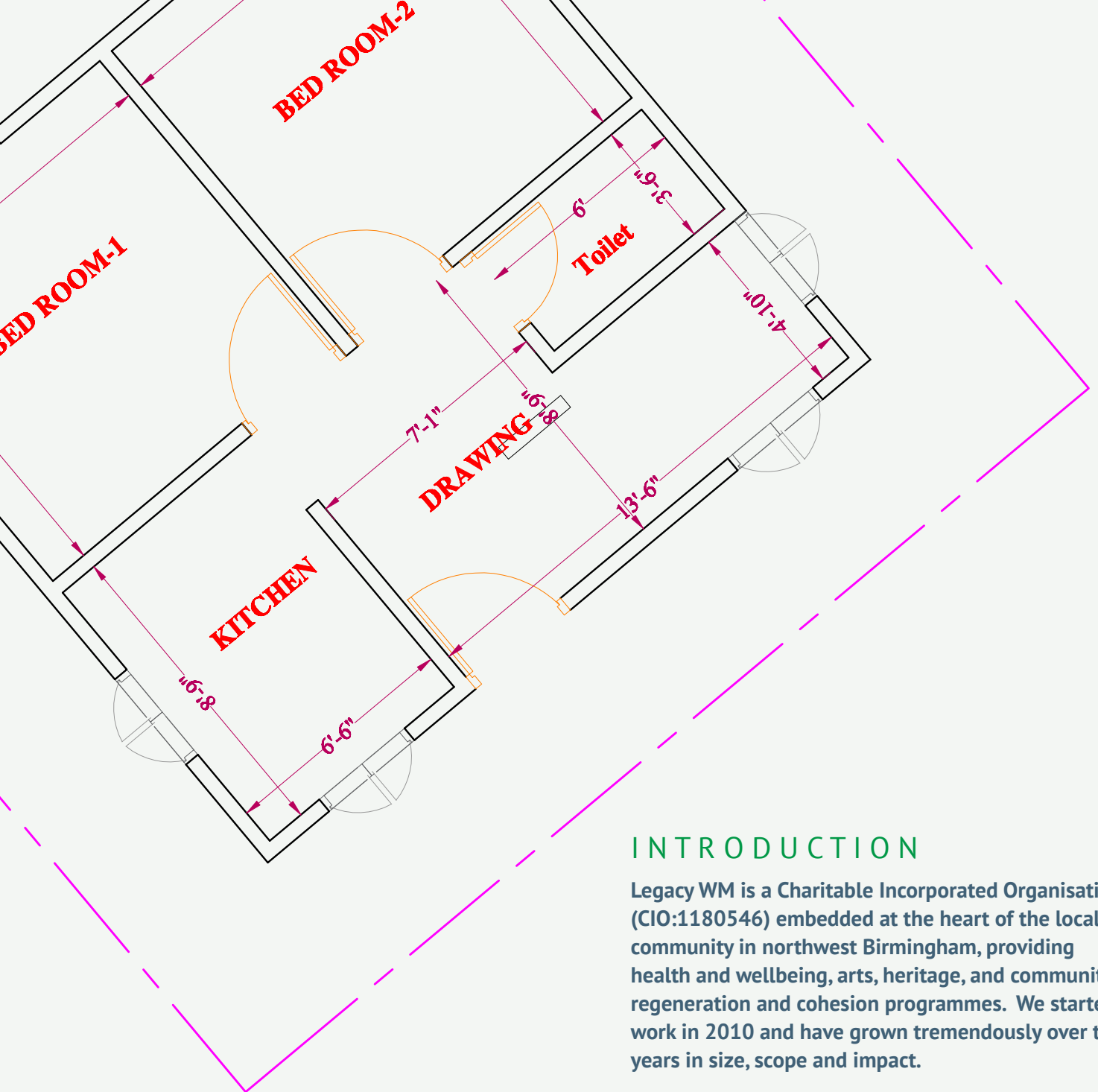
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BANGLADESH



Rahul



INTRODUCTION

Legacy WM is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO:1180546) embedded at the heart of the local community in northwest Birmingham, providing health and wellbeing, arts, heritage, and community regeneration and cohesion programmes. We started work in 2010 and have grown tremendously over the years in size, scope and impact.

In 2024, we adopted five UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Climate Action, Sustainable Cities and Communities, Gender Equality, Good Health & Wellbeing and Clean Water & Sanitation. This agenda is furthered by the work that we are delivering in Birmingham. Our plans for Sustainable Cities and Communities in Birmingham is starting to take shape as we are in the process of acquiring a new site that has land to build ecologically friendly homes. We are now extending this to include Bangladesh to pilot our plans to build 1,000 homes. Our aim is to build 1000 homes in Bangladesh before we roll it out to other countries – we will look at lessons learned and this will be applied to the next country that we focus on. Early thoughts are to potentially focus on Pakistan.



WHY BANGLADESH?

Bangladesh is globally recognized as one of the countries most vulnerable to climate change. Due to its low-lying, delta-exposed geography, the nation faces extreme risks from sea-level rise, catastrophic flooding, and saltwater intrusion. These escalating environmental challenges devastate agriculture, threaten food security, and force millions of people into climate-induced internal migration.

- **Sea-Level Rise and Land Loss:** As a low-lying river delta, a significant portion of the country is highly susceptible to inundation. Projections indicate that the country could lose a considerable percentage of its landmass and agricultural areas in the coming decades, severely impacting the economy.
- **Flooding and Erratic Rainfall:** Climate change has intensified the monsoon seasons. Massive, erratic downpours frequently lead to widespread flooding, destroying infrastructure and displacing millions of citizens.
- **Salinity Intrusion:** Rising sea levels push saltwater inland, contaminating freshwater resources. This significantly reduces coastal rice and crop yields, forcing farmers to pivot toward less traditional livelihoods like aquaculture.

It's a well-known fact that, all around the world, climate change is making rainfall more erratic and often far more intense. In Bangladesh, this reality rings especially true.

This phenomenon of stronger downpours – combined with rising temperatures melting the Himalayan glaciers that feed rivers around Bangladesh – is leaving massive swaths of the country far more prone to devastating floods.

Increasingly, supercharged water levels in the Ganges-Meghna-Brahmaputra River Basin are destroying entire villages and hundreds of thousands of livelihoods. Devastation that contributes to over 10 million Bangladeshis already being climate refugees.

PARTNERS

Legacy WM wishes to build on its work with Human Appeal as an international charity partner. Human Appeal have identified Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) as a local partner. DAM has extensive experience of projects across the relief/development continuum in Bangladesh since 1958 and has specific experience in Sunamganj District over many years, including disaster management and flood response. Since 2020, six disaster risk response (DRR) and humanitarian response programmes have been implemented by DAM and they are currently implementing DRR projects in Sunamganj district in partnership with CARE Bangladesh. The proposed initiative builds upon the learning and expertise developed by DAM's experience in Sunamganj and nationally.



PROJECT LOCATION AND COST

Each house will cost £4,063.08. Our plans are to construct disaster-resilient housing units for marginalized families living in the Tahirpur Upazilla of Sunamganj, an area that is prone to flash flooding and water-logging. Sunamganj is a largely rural district. It is bounded by Meghalaya state of north-east India, is low-lying very close to the mountains and crossed by several major rivers. The district is prone to flash-flooding and waterlogging, and the frequency and intensity of flood events are increasing due to climate change, with major floods almost annually since 2020.

The combination of poverty and the frequency of disasters means that many households are trapped in a negative cycle of vulnerability. Living in inadequate housing in hazard-prone areas, each year they are forced to flee home, losing livelihoods and assets in the process. Once the floodwaters subside, they face the expense of repairing their damaged property.

The proposed project will provide 100 households with a disaster-resilient home. Target beneficiaries will include marginalized households (e.g. landless, below poverty line, elderly) or those displaced by flash floods. The new homes will provide people with shelter, security, social status and privacy. The provision of disaster resilient housing will reduce the households' expenditure on property repair in future floods. The new houses will also reduce ill health (and thereby improve household earning potential) through the provision of clean water and decent sanitation. By providing appropriate housing for below-poverty line households living in flood-prone areas, the proposed intervention will help break the cycle of poverty and climate vulnerability.

household members benefiting at the output level of the project) will be identified through a rapid needs assessment, secondary data collection and coordination with local administration. There shall be no discrimination amongst potential beneficiaries on the basis of race, religion, disability or political opinion.

Marginalized Families:

- The housing intervention will prioritize marginalized families living in hazardous environments, including landless farmers, fisherfolk, and low-income households.
- Vulnerable groups such as women-headed households, elderly individuals, and persons with disabilities.

Displaced Persons:

Families displaced by riverbank erosion, floods and other natural disasters will be prioritized for housing support, providing them with secure and stable living arrangements.

In most cases, selected beneficiaries will own land on which a house can be built. In cases where beneficiaries are landless then official agreement will be sought to build on Government land.

**Women 133 | Men 67 | Girls 130
Boys 100 | Total 430**

Average household size in rural areas is 4.30 (HIES 2022).

Indirect beneficiaries (benefiting at the outcome level of the project, i.e. those within the catchment area):

**Women 267 | Men 133 | Girls 267
Boys 200 | Total 867**

Final beneficiaries (benefiting at the impact level of the project, i.e. wider impact on the societal/sectoral level):

**Women 400 | Men 200 | Girls 397
Boys 300 | Total 1,297**



EXPECTED IMPACT

By providing appropriate housing for below-poverty line households living in flood-prone areas, the proposed intervention will help break the vicious cycle of poverty and climate vulnerability. The intervention will enable 100 marginalised families to secure decent, disaster-resilient housing. The provision of disaster resilient housing will reduce household expenditure on property repair in future floods. The new houses will also reduce ill health (and thereby improve household earning potential) through the provision of clean water and decent sanitation. The provision of solar power will enhance the education prospects of school-going children in the participating households, with children being able to complete schoolwork at home even after nightfall. The project's implementation in close coordination with district, upazila and local government, other national and international organizations will ensure that duplication of resources is avoided. Providing people with housing support will address a core component of their climate- and economic-vulnerability, enabling them to break the cycle of poverty.

PROJECT DELIVERY

The proposed project will be implemented over a period of 12 months. Following beneficiary selection, land will be identified for the construction of housing (either on the beneficiaries' own land or, where necessary, on government land with permission).

HOUSE DESIGN:

Houses built will be appropriate to the local context, typically semi-pucca two-room constructions with a sanitary toilet, kitchen and veranda. Depending on the selected beneficiaries, some houses may be built on inhabited chars (riverine islands of silt deposits), in which case houses specially designed for chars will be built. Housing units will be elevated on stilts or raised platforms to mitigate the risk of flooding.

Construction materials such as bamboo, reinforced concrete, and locally sourced materials will be used to ensure durability and resilience to natural disasters. Construction features include:

- Foundation: Concrete pillars or stilts to elevate the house above flood levels.
- Walls: Bricks or concrete blocks for wall construction, providing stability and durability. Bamboo or timber may also be used for wall framing and reinforcement, depending on availability and cost-effectiveness.
- Roofing Materials: As roofing materials, corrugated metal sheets or clay tiles will provide protection against rainwater and severe weather.
- Doors and Windows: Doors and windows made of metal or wood with strong frameworks and locks will offer weather resistance and security.
- Flooring: In addition to concrete flooring, bamboo or wooden flooring may be considered due to their better durability and reduced maintenance requirements.
- Insulation and Ventilation: Reduced energy consumption and regulated indoor temperature will be achieved through insulation materials like foam board and fiberglass. Ventilation openings will facilitate airflow and inhibit the accumulation of moisture.
- Sanitation Facilities: The installation of a septic tank or pit latrine for waste disposal and tube-wells adjacent to their house will ensure the benefits of safe drinking water and proper sanitation.
- Power provision: Solar panels will be installed as a renewable source of energy (200 Watt 3 LEDs 1 Fan Solar IPS Package). During the design of this proposal, DAM has considered third-party standards including SPHERE, CHS and WHO, for the greater benefit of project participants.



For uniformity and to guarantee the quality of the goods for each procurement process, DAM's long-established procurement rules and supply chain compliance policies will be deployed. As a humanitarian organization, DAM will uphold core humanitarian standards, including by guaranteeing accountability, openness, and promptness of delivery—all of which are prerequisites for the intervention. DAM has operational presence in Sunamganj and strong, well-established partnerships with the targeted community and with relevant agencies. The project has the necessary backing of local government, with whom we will collaborate closely throughout the project.

GENDER CONSIDERATIONS

Legacy WM and DAM will ensure that this project creates opportunities for vulnerable and marginalized members of the community, including women, to participate in the various stages of programme implementation. At least 67% of project beneficiaries will be women.

HUMANITARIAN ANALYSIS

As a nation, Bangladesh is ranked seventh in the world in terms of vulnerability to disasters and climate change (Global Climate Risk Index 2021). Environmental shocks such as catastrophic floods, sea-level rise, extreme temperature and heavy monsoon precipitation – all exacerbated by climate change - are becoming more intense and frequent. Flooding inundates more than 50 % of Bangladesh annually, threatening lives and livelihoods. Sunamganj district, situated in north-eastern Bangladesh, is confronted with a multitude of humanitarian emergencies. Low-lying, crossed by multiple rivers and covered by multiple lakes, it is also situated at the base of the mountains of north-east India. Together these factors leave Sunamganj prone to flash-flooding (from high intensity rain in the locality), river flooding (from high volume rain further upstream) and water-logging (slow drainage of flood waters).

Sunamganj district is identified as a very high-risk area by the Bangladesh INFORM Sub-National Risk Index 2022 due to its residents' susceptibility to danger and exposure, vulnerability, and inadequate coping mechanisms. The safety and security of marginalized groups and vulnerable individuals (e.g. expectant women, children, the elderly, and people with disabilities) in the Sunamganj district has been further jeopardized by repeated flood damage over recent years. 86% of the total district population of 2.7 million live in rural areas (Sunamganj District Report, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics 2022), with most people depending on agriculture for their livelihoods. In Sunamganj, 26% of the population is ranked as living in poverty (World Bank). 68% of people in Sunamganj live in modest structures with a typical structure consisting of sand/soil/mud floors (Sunamganj District Report, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics 2022).

Housing is one of the basic needs of human life. It provides shelter, security, social status and privacy of living in a healthy and comfortable environment. It is an asset that allows owners to save, gain access to credit and improve their livelihoods. Aligning with SDG 11 (Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable), housing can address multidimensional vulnerabilities and ensure decent living conditions. The combination of poverty and climate vulnerability in the target areas means that people living in low-lying regions often live in poor housing stock that has been further degraded by repeated flooding events. The proposed intervention seeks to break the vicious cycle of poverty, poor housing and climate vulnerability through the provision of disaster resilient housing. The proposed project will take place in flash flood prone, river bank and haor areas of Tahirpur Upazilla (Population 155,198) of Sunamganj District, specifically within the Unions of Uttar Sripur, Tahirpur Sadar and Balijuri (Population 52,200, 27,950 and 21,336 respectively).



GET INVOLVED

Each house costs just over £4,000.00 and we are creating opportunities to raise funds by cycling. A bike ride in Bangladesh is planned for the second week of January 2027 providing supporters with an opportunity to raise funds through donations managed by Human Appeal. Starting in Dhaka, we will cycle to Tangail. The next day will be a cycle ride to Jamalpur, where we will be able to see the school that is being built through Freedom 50 funds. We will stay on site at the school location and take excursions to the Jamuna River and char areas to see the devastation caused by climate change. On the third day we will cycle to the old city of Mymensingh where we will stay overnight, and the following day we will cycle to the proposed project location of Tahir Pur in Sunamganj. We will spend an extra day there to meet local people and see where we will build the homes. We will then cycle to the scenic final destination of Sreemangal, known as the tea capital of Bangladesh. We hope to organise an event in Sylhet the following day.

For those who wish to donate, this can be through a one off payment or a more manageable direct debit can be arranged with Human Appeal. Organisations and networks who wish to raise awareness of global warming and advocate support for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) can support the project and commit to building one of the homes.

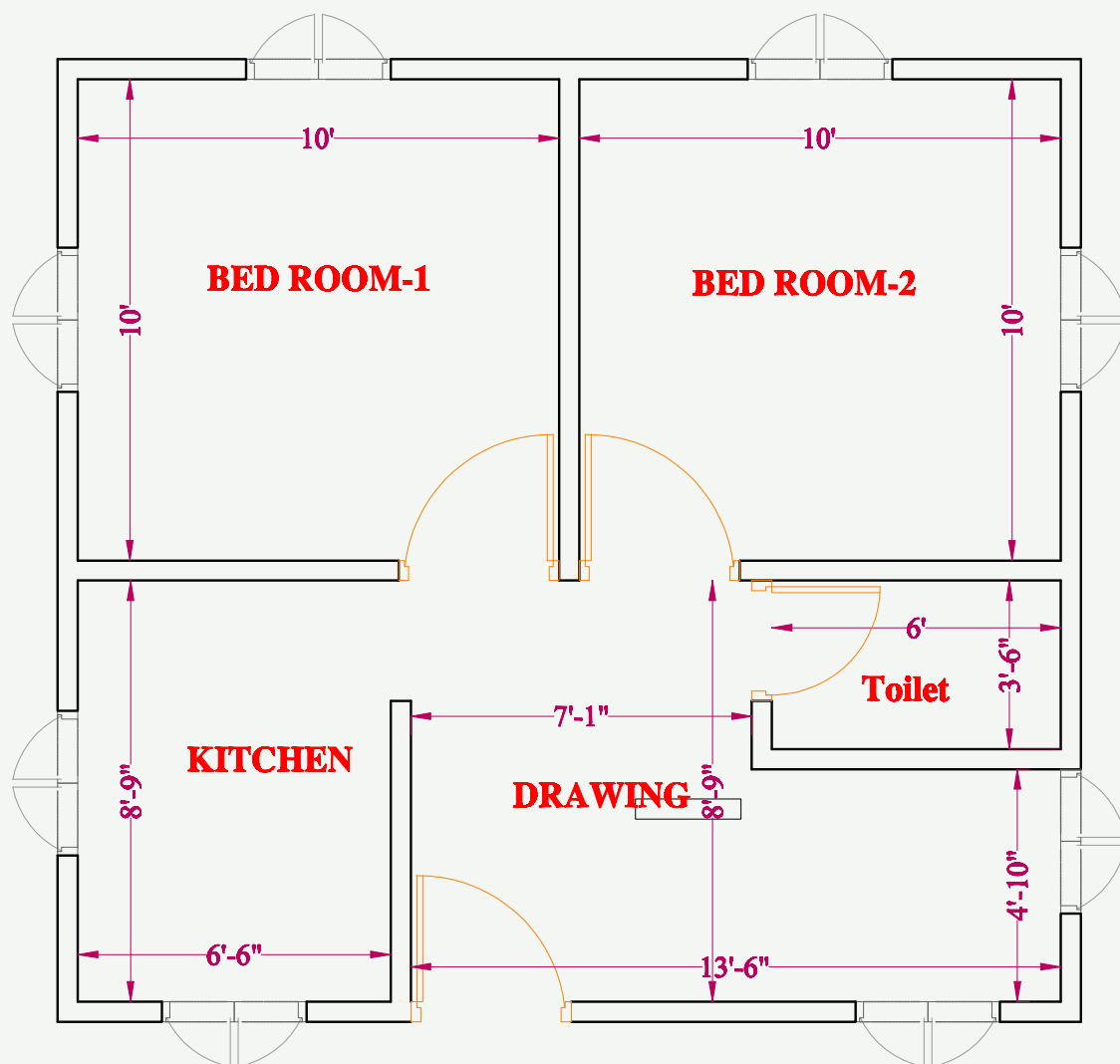
Businesses may wish to build a home to improve their Economic Social and Governance (ESG) profile and adopt this as part of their social values. There is the potential for restaurateurs to add £1.00 to their customers' bill and match this with a donation from their business.

A project launch with potential supporters pledging their support is planned followed by a gala dinner towards the end of the year to create greater awareness and support.





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