



# 2017 Annual Report



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“Change will not come if we wait for some other person, or if we wait for some other time. We are the ones we’ve been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.”

*President Barack Obama, February 5th, 2008, Chicago, Illinois.*

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Change has always been part of Build Change. Change construction practice. Change the system. Change people’s lives.

At Build Change new relationships are opening unforeseen doors. We are not only protecting tens of thousands of people and homes directly, but we are also changing fundamental policy. After collaborative projects in Indonesia and Guatemala, the World Bank has now incorporated retrofitting into its housing policy. At our prevention-oriented office in Colombia, we are working with local governments. Both partnerships could safeguard millions.

Change at this scale was born from a simple idea. Build Change was first envisioned as the result of an Earthquake in an Indian village in 2001, which killed 20,000 people. After I arrived and saw the piles of rubble, I had a moment of clarity – this disaster was manmade. Growing up in a brick-laying family and having dedicated my academic life to understanding the structural integrity of buildings, I saw an immediate life-changing application of my knowledge. It wasn’t the earthquake that killed these people, it was the collapse of poorly built buildings.

During the first years after our founding, the full magnitude of our mission struck me. While we first focused on tsunami-hit Sumatra, Indonesia, we gradually broadened our awareness to other vulnerable countries. Most of the time we opened offices reactively, on the heels of a tragic event. After the earthquakes and tsunami

of 2004, we rushed into Indonesia. After the 2008 Earthquake, I jumped on a plane to the stricken Sichuan province in China, and proceeded to live there. Devastating seismic catastrophes led to offices in Haiti and more recently in Nepal.

But things are changing now. We are elated and honored to receive the most prestigious award and partnership in our field: A Skoll Award for Social Entrepreneurship.

2017 will forever be the year that we forged relationships to have an impact at a new exhilarating scale. Perhaps for the first time, our once difficult-to-fathom goal, to protect 10 million children and families in safer housing within a decade, is achievable.

Thanks to friends like the Autodesk Foundation and RMS, we have unprecedented capacity to impact change. While we are jubilant in our progress, we are now more vigilant than ever. As windstorms increase in number and ferocity, we must shoulder greater responsibility. The race is on to expand access to programs that safeguard lives from that human-made danger -- poorly built housing.



Dr. Elizabeth Hausler  
Founder & CEO



# Letter from the CEO





					
	Safer Buildings	Safer People	Jobs Created	People Trained	Orgs Changed
2017	4,587	33,698	4,243	8,959	9
2004-2017	55,925	291,529	16,695	40,259	56

# Global Impact





Since the devastating earthquake in 2010, Haiti's Ministry of Public Works worked with Build Change to develop building guides for safer houses. Ministry enforcement will allow thousands of homeowners to be protected in the coming years. We have completed 1,500 houses using these codes and have influenced the construction of thousands more.

REZO, a network of trained construction professionals, has now garnered support from government agencies. The REZO certification process provides builders with the expertise to build safer schools and homes, while increasing their earning potential. Nearly 200 builders were trained last year. Since its inception, REZO block makers have sold 13 million high-quality blocks, contributing to an estimated 24,000 safer homes.

In partnership with the Haitian Ministry of Education, Build Change developed tools to evaluate public school buildings and improved strategic decision-making processes for school rehabilitation projects. Thirty-six engineers from the Haitian Ministry of Education were trained to perform architectural and structural evaluations, and ultimately assessed seventy-one public schools around the country.

In the wake of last year's Hurricane Matthew, trainings in safer construction techniques have been conducted for builders in southern Haiti. By leveraging current partners and the REZO network, we can now implement these trainings more quickly than ever before. Each year, we increase Haiti's resilience to future storms and earthquakes.

# Haiti





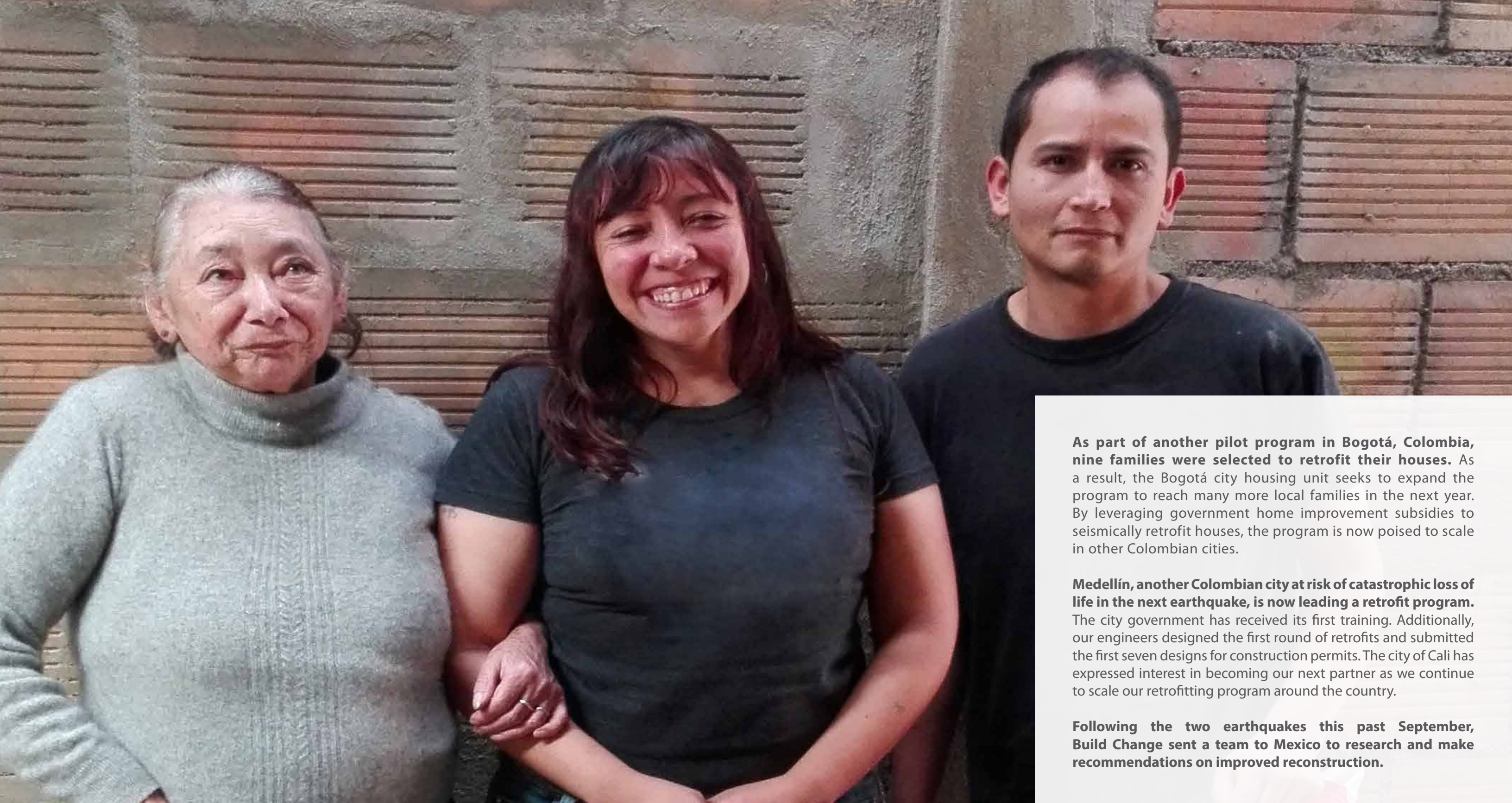
**In 2017, forty students who attend school in Padang are now safer.** This project successfully demonstrated that the more than 1,000 vulnerable school buildings in the area can be strengthened using simple, cost-efficient retrofitting techniques.

**The Bata Jaya brickmakers cooperative has expanded its market to four districts in West Sumatra.** The cooperative is now using improved marketing, billing, payment, and supply chain strategies to increase its sales capacity.

**Two disaster-resistant timber-frame model houses were constructed during an awareness-raising campaign in Pidie Jaya after the December 2016 earthquake in the area.** As a result, 80% more people in the area regard timber-frame housing as being safer in an earthquake.

# Indonesia





**As part of another pilot program in Bogotá, Colombia, nine families were selected to retrofit their houses.** As a result, the Bogotá city housing unit seeks to expand the program to reach many more local families in the next year. By leveraging government home improvement subsidies to seismically retrofit houses, the program is now poised to scale in other Colombian cities.

**Medellín, another Colombian city at risk of catastrophic loss of life in the next earthquake, is now leading a retrofit program.** The city government has received its first training. Additionally, our engineers designed the first round of retrofits and submitted the first seven designs for construction permits. The city of Cali has expressed interest in becoming our next partner as we continue to scale our retrofitting program around the country.

**Following the two earthquakes this past September, Build Change sent a team to Mexico to research and make recommendations on improved reconstruction.**

# Latin America





**In Nepal, the Surakshit Ghar mobile application allows thousands of rural homeowners and builders, still rebuilding after the 2015 earthquake, to access safer building designs.** This game-changing technology was endorsed by the Nepal Government to support country-wide safe and efficient reconstruction. This year alone, the app has facilitated technical assistance for thousands of earthquake-affected families.

**Following government approval of a retrofit type design in June, the Ministry of Urban Development requested an introductory training to all 2,000 government reconstruction inspectors.** These trained inspectors can now recommend retrofitting, a cheaper option than complete reconstruction, to thousands of families like Ishwari Majhi's.

**A second school building in Sindhupalchowk is now safer for the dozens of students studying there, and 700 houses were reconstructed by the end of the year.**

# Nepal





Ishwari Majhi, 42 years old, lives in Eklephant village of Sindhupalchowk district. She resides with her husband, two children, and father-in-law. The family's main source of income is sand mining in the Indrawati river. The family's income barely suffices to meet expenses, and they have no ability to save for the future.

When the disastrous earthquake struck the community in April of 2015, Ishwari's village was devastated. Most of the houses in Eklephant were either destroyed or severely damaged. After the earthquake, Ishwari and many of her neighbors shifted to living in temporary shelters made from metal sheets. The living conditions were brutal, and families had no protection from cold weather and wild animals.

Because Ishwari's house was damaged but still standing, Build Change recommended that she seismically retrofit her house. Ishwari gratefully accepted the plan to strengthen her existing house rather than build a new one, and agreed to work with Build Change. Engineers designed the retrofit for her house, harnessing a Build Change technique which strengthens poorly built masonry buildings. The retrofitting was not only completed quickly, but it also provided on-the-job training to nine local builders.

After the completion of the retrofit, Ishwari boasted, "I am very confident that the house is now safe to live in with my family."

Moreover, after seeing the newly retrofitted house, many members of Ishwari's local community elected to salvage what was left of their homes through retrofitting rather than rebuilding. In total, eighteen homeowners in Eklephant have now worked with Build Change to retrofit their houses. Each of them has expressed a new psychological well-being and sense of relief in addition to sturdier homes.

# Ishwari's Story





**In Metro Manila, eight houses benefiting 14 families were retrofit in 2017 using an innovative “Pay What You Can” loan structure.** At the end of 2017, loan recipients demonstrated an average repayment rate over 99%. By aligning this loan program with the local financing market, Build Change plans to offer this program to more homeowners around Metro Manila in 2018.

**The Ramon Aboitiz Foundation, Inc. (RAFI) built more than 300 safer classrooms in 2017 using the safer tools and designs we provided.** This partnership has been incredibly efficient, rendering students safer at a cost of just over one dollar per child. We will continue to support RAFI to build safer schools in the years to come.

**The Swiss Red Cross and Philippine Red Cross used our new tools to design and build safer timber houses.** More than 470 safer houses were built in 2017, which made 2,050 people safer at a cost of about \$17 per person.

# Philippines



Awards

**2017 Skoll Award for Social Entrepreneurship** - awarded to Elizabeth Hausler & Build Change

**2016 Shah Family Innovation Prize** - awarded to Lizzie Blaisdell Collins

Build Change Events

**April 7 - Housing Reconstruction: Solutions & challenges in providing effective technical assistance to homeowners mixer** Kathmandu, Nepal

**June 5 - Innovative Use of Technology in Post-Disaster Reconstruction Convening, Clinton Global Initiative** NYC

Press

**January 31 - Departures Magazine**  
Going the Distance

**March 9 - Philippines Daily Inquirer**  
Over 400 Makati homes must move away from fault line

**March - City TV, Bogota**  
Retrofitting houses to be earthquake-resistant

**March 25 - The Philippine Star**  
Arise pushes awareness on disaster risk reduction

**March 27 - The Denver Post**  
Build Change receives \$1.25 million grant to retrofit homes in emerging nations before disaster strikes

**April 4 - Thomson Reuters Foundation**  
Shocked by Indian quake damage, ex-bricklayer makes disaster-proof buildings her mission

**April 20 - Cadalyst Magazine**  
Humanitarian Outreach + Design Technology = Saved Lives

**May 4 - Wall Street Journal**  
Saving Lives Through Safer Buildings

**May 10 - The Kathmandu Post (and others)**  
NRA's mobile app for better building

**May 17 - Building Enclosure Online**  
Build Change, Simpson Strong-Tie Announce Fellowship

**June 7 - The World Bank Blog**  
A housing policy that could almost pay for itself? Think retrofitting

**June 8 - Boulder Weekly**  
Building change through changing buildings

**June 20 - Adaptation Clearinghouse**  
Cities Taking Action: How the 100RC Network is Building Urban Resilience

**July 25 - The World Bank Sustainable Cities Blog**  
To build resilient cities, we must treat substandard housing as a life-or-death emergency

**July - Change Creator Magazine**  
Building Homes for the World

**August - Challenges Magazine, Haiti**  
Cinq outils pour construire en toute sécurité

**September 7 - Insider Quarterly**  
Built-in Resistance

**October 10 - Change Creator**  
Why Social Enterprise Matters

**October 25 - Forbes**  
How A Social Entrepreneur -- And Builder -- Is Creating Safe Homes, One House At A Time

**December 11 - The Guardian**  
What would an earthquake-proof city look like?

**December 18 - The Insurance Journal**  
The Charity Issue: Photos of Giving

Podcasts

**April 6 - Social Design Insights Podcast**  
Build Change – A Homeowner-Driven Approach to Rebuilding After Disaster

**April 28 - Humanosphere Podcast**  
Build Change: Pioneering engineer works with communities to protect homes from disasters

**November 12 - Arch St Press Innovate Podcast**  
Dr. Elizabeth Hausler and Build Change: Disaster Resistant Homes & Schools

**December 20 - Jeff Schlarb Podcast**  
Interview with Elizabeth Hausler

Speaking Engagements

**January 9-13 - 16th WCEE** Santiago, Chile

**March 6-10 - CSR Asia Disaster Preparedness** Manila, Philippines

**March 28 - ANA Inspiration Conference** CA, USA

**July 24-27 - 100 Resilient Cities Global Summit** NYC

**September - Colombian Society of Engineers Event** Bogota, Colombia

**September 18 - World Economic Forum Sustainable Development Impact Summit** NYC



# Spotlights

Awards, Press, Podcasts, and Speaking Highlights



**"Fault lines lie beneath every continent on earth and fault lines fracture human society."**

- Sally Osberg, President & CEO of The Skoll Foundation

**skoll**  
FOUNDATION

**Build Change was awarded the 2017 Skoll Award for Social Entrepreneurship, the most prestigious award of this type in the world.**

The Skoll Foundation presents this award to an extremely select group of social entrepreneurs who have already made a significant and proven impact on the world's most pressing problems. Build Change was evaluated against rigorous criteria including impact potential, innovation, and collaboration focused on optimizing and scaling our model.

It is an honor to have been selected as a Skoll Award recipient in 2017, and we shoulder our responsibility as a member of the Skoll community with pride.



# The Skoll Award





### Additional Partners

AmazonSmile Foundation • Bonaparte Charitable Fund • Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP • Carrington Risk Consulting • Cisco • Conrad-Shah Family Fund • Friedman Cohen Fund • Geosyntec Consultants • Happy Hearts Fund • Hutton Family Foundation • Imagine Nation Books • Kiehl Friedman Fund • Microsoft • Oxfam • Pan American Development Foundation • Rato Bengala Foundation • Salesforce.com Foundation • Stone Ridge Asset Management • Team4Tech Foundation • Vizient, Inc • Zoback Family Charitable Fund

### Global Platform Partners \$100,000+ for 3 years

Anonymous Donor

THE JTI FOUNDATION

### Changemakers \$100,000+

### Retrofitters \$50k-\$99,999

### Builders \$25k-\$49,999

### Brickmakers \$10k-\$24,999

ARUP

Elmo Foundation

Faultline Foundation

Friedman Family Foundation

Grace Hanson

Pauchon Research Foundation

The Schauble Family Foundation



Thank you to our incredible donors, whose support inspires  
and drives us every day.

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Sharon Weinstein  
Lydell Wiebe  
Montgomery Woods  
Barbara Wuchte  
Eric Zimmermann  
Mary Lou Zoback



# Our Donors



# Statement of Financial Position

(Audit Pending)

## CURRENT ASSETS

Cash	\$ 861,773
Accounts Receivable	\$ 732,047
Contributions & Grants Receivable - Short-term	\$ 1,032,595
Prepaid Expenses	\$ 57,157
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$ 2,683,572</b>

## PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT

Equipment and Furniture	\$ 399,771
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	\$ -398,626
<b>Total Property and Equipment</b>	<b>\$ 1,145</b>

## OTHER LONG-TERM ASSETS

Donations & Grants Receivable - Long-term	\$ 226,898
Deposits	\$ 19,847
<b>Total Other Long-Term Assets</b>	<b>\$246,745</b>

<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 2,931,462</b>
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## CURRENT LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	\$ 37,986
Due to Related Party	\$ -
Credit Cards Payable	\$ 4,008
Accrued Liabilities	\$ 254,414
Deferred Revenue	\$ 132,044
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 428,452</b>

## NET ASSETS

Unrestricted	\$ 174,168
Temporarily Restricted	\$ 2,230,504
Board-Restricted Reserve Fund	\$ 98,338
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 2,503,010</b>

<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 2,931,462</b>
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# Statement of Activity

(Audit Pending)

## REVENUE AND SUPPORT

Grants and Contributions	\$ 5,812,823
Contract Income	\$ 987,335
Interest Income	\$ 303
Awards & Honorariums	\$ 3,500
<b>Total Revenues and Support</b>	<b>\$ 6,803,961</b>

## EXPENSES

### Program services:

Indonesia	\$ 322,708
Innovations	\$ 242,150
Latin America	\$ 438,166
Philippines	\$ 338,800
Nepal	\$ 1,448,786
Haiti	\$ 3,324,615
<b>Total Program Services</b>	<b>\$ 6,115,226</b>

### Management & General Services:

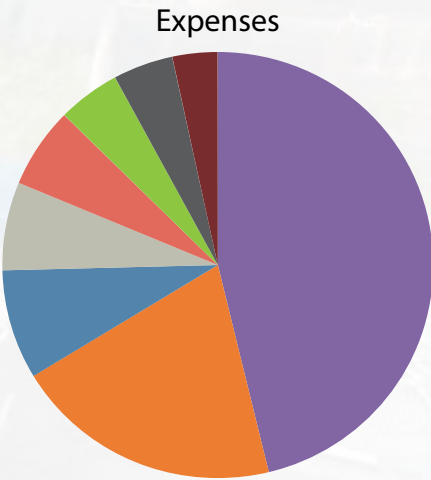
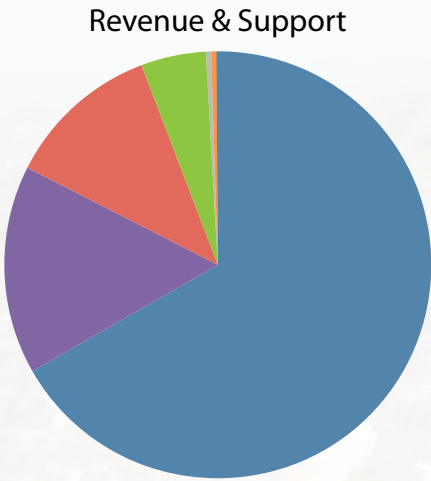
Fundraising	\$ 598,207
General and Administrative	\$ 475,678
<b>Total Management &amp; General</b>	<b>\$ 1,073,885</b>

<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 7,189,112</b>
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Increase/(Decrease) in Net Assets	(\$ 385,151)
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Net Assets - Beginning of Year	\$ 2,888,162
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<b>Net Assets - End of Year</b>	<b>\$ 2,503,010</b>
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# Financials



**People everywhere** rely on their homes and schools to protect them from the elements. When buildings succumb to earthquakes and windstorms, the damage is not just physical and economic - we lose our sense of security as well.

**You can reduce the impact disasters have on people around the world, so that families can sleep at night knowing they are safe in their homes.**



**Become a partner today.**

**Donate**

[buildchange.org/donate](https://buildchange.org/donate)



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**Build Change saves lives in earthquakes and windstorms by working with people in emerging nations to build homes and schools that will protect their families and children.**

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**International Headquarters**  
535 16<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 605  
Denver, CO 80202 USA  
[info@buildchange.org](mailto:info@buildchange.org)  
**+1 303-953-2563**

**Global Operations**

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- Guatemala
- Haiti
- Indonesia
- Nepal
- Philippines