



Daulomani Home

Lautoka

A social housing initiative for displaced and vulnerable people



Division	Western
Province	Ba
District	Waiyavi
Community Name	Daulomani Safe Home

About Daulomani Home

Daulomani Safe Home is a charitable organization established in Lautoka in the year 2020. It was officially registered in 2021 under the Charitable Trust Act number 1229. The Safe Home was founded by Edwina Byau, a compassionate transgender social worker. The organization provides safe and dignified shelter for the homeless to provide safe shelter and opportunities to empower its residents, enable them to improve their standard of living, and make them self-reliant.

The safe home was initiated as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic which caused many families and individuals to either leave their homes or get abandoned by their families. This was due to compounding stressors (domestic violence, financial stress, grief and loss, fear of uncertainty, stigma, and discrimination) that were experienced during the pandemic.

According to Ms. Edwina, the initiative began due to a lack of attention to the voices of people in need, especially among street dwellers. Many individuals experienced breakdowns, were marginalized, and faced neglect, particularly based on their gender and background. This was especially challenging for young and older individuals who lacked the means to help or support themselves.

At the outset, the Daulomani Home became home to 7 individuals. The number varied over time, reaching a skyrocketing figure of 79 individuals which included survivors of sexual abuse, children at risk of abuse, people with mental illness, homeless elderly, and people from sexual minority groups abandoned by their families. These individuals remain the most disadvantaged due to the social cultural norms thus amplifying the stigma, discrimination, abuse, and negligence they experience, creating further barriers in accessing safe housing.

After moving into the home, the residents have safe and adequate shelter, reduced vulnerability to abuse and violence, enhanced nutrition and food security and improved livelihood and well-being.

Land and Housing Status

Currently, the organization has two parcels of land. The first block comprises ¼ acre of land leased through the Itaukei Land Trust Board (iTLTB) (refer to Appendix 1) which has one substantive structure, a shed, and two tents on site that accommodate single mums and their children, the elderly, those who identify themselves as LGBTIQ+, and the single ladies.

The second block is a ten-acre piece of land gifted by the landowners which is in the lease acquisition process. This land is fondly referred to as ‘the island’ because it has a river running through it. The island is occupied by married couples and their children residing in sheds. The couples manage the vegetable farmland for the home.

The main challenge highlighted by the founder is the lack of safe and adequate accommodation, clothes, and food for the residents. According to Edwina, the families they declined admission for were those facing severe physical disabilities, mental health challenges, and limited mobility. The reason behind this decision is the lack of appropriate facilities. While they do have trained caregivers available, unfortunately, their premises do not provide wheelchair accessibility.

Demographics

Total population: 50

Ethnicity: 4 Indo Fijians & 46 Itaukei

Male: 11

Female: 10

LGBTQI+: 8

Diagnosed mental illness: 1 female

Children: 12

From the total population, there are 6 elderly people, 4 single mothers, 6 married couples, 14 youths, 8 middle-aged people and 12 children. Six shelters accommodate 28 residents of the Safe Home on the ¼ acre land while 18 people reside on the farmland. The residents include men, women, children, disabilities, LGBTIQ+, and families. The home can accommodate 50 people.

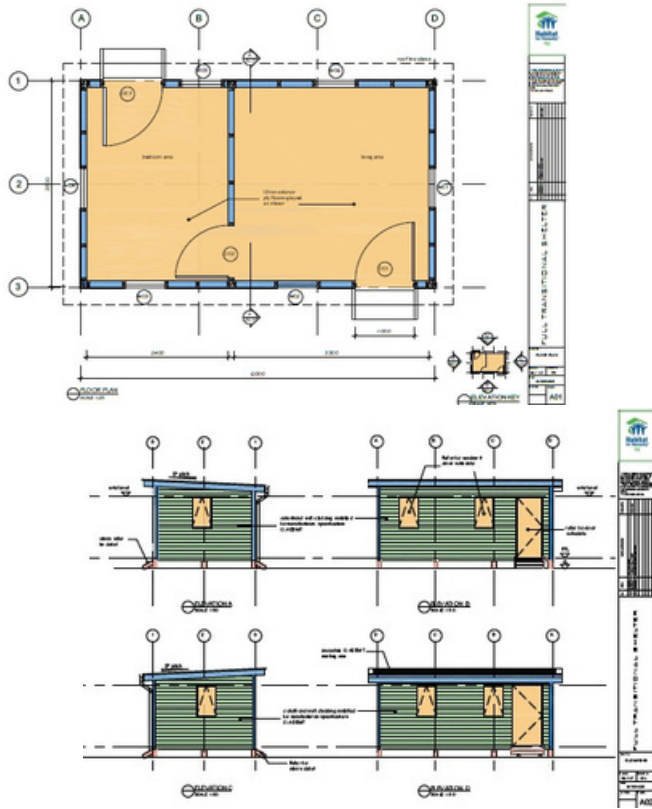
Shelter Type	No. Of People
House 1	5
Shed 2	8
Tent 1	5
Tent 2	4
Shed 3	3
Shed 4	3
Farmland Sheds	18

Challenges and Needs Identified by the Community

Daulomani Home, with its limited resources, faces challenges that affect the daily operations of the home and the support of its residents. The home provides a substantive house, sheds, and two tents. The tents are exposed to the elements and the recent rainy seasons have impacted the residents, particularly the younger children. The residents share the sanitation, water facilities, kitchen, and wash tub that are all located outside. This is viewed as unsafe, particularly for the women residents and survivors of sexual abuse and domestic violence. The following table highlights the challenges shared by the home founder and her recommended solutions:

Challenges	Solutions Identified by the Community
Limited adequate shelters to accommodate the growing need.	Build more safe homes for respective groups.
Bathrooms and toilets are shared by everyone.	Build more bathrooms and toilets to cater to each group.
No proper kitchen or dining area.	Build proper kitchen and dining room which can also be used as meeting hall and study area for school students.
High water bills.	Currently connected to WAF but are looking into digging a Borehole for water supply.
No lights.	Install solar lights.

PROPOSED HOUSING PLANS



Habitat for Humanity
FIG
FULL TRANSITIONAL SHELTER
Scale: 1:50
Date: 10/10/2010
Drawing No: A01

Daulomani Home In Pictures

1. Primary Housing



Figure 1 House No.1 (Naiwasetawa, 2024)



Figure 2 House No.2 (Naiwasetawa, 2024)



Figure 3 House No. 2 Interior (Naiwasetawa, 2024)



Figure 4 House No.2 Exterior (Naiwasetawa, 2024)



Figure 5 House No.2 (Naiwasetawa, 2024)



Figure 6 Tent No.1 (Naiwasetawa, 2024)



Figure 7. Tent No. 2 (Naiwasetawa, 2024)

2. Shared Water and Sanitation Facilities



Figure 8. Bathroom & Toilet Block (Naiwasetawa, 2024)



Figure 9. Bathroom (Naiwasetawa, 2024)

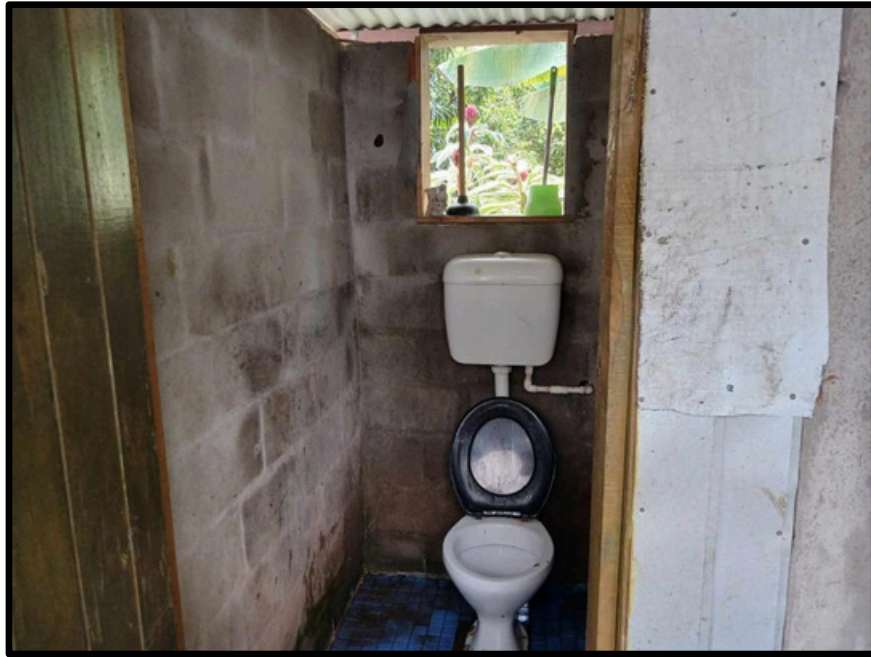


Figure 10. Toilet facility (Naiwasetawa, 2024)

3. Shared Kitchen & Washing Facilities



Figure 11. Kitchen (Naiwasetawa, 2024)



Figure 12. Washtub facility (Naiwasetawa, 2024)



Figure 13. Dishwashing area & Outside laundry area (Naiwasetawa, 2024)



Figure 14. Edwina standing in front of the Biogas for the Home