



HABITAT FACTS

Families served this year¹

1,409

Families served to date²

3,348

¹ New houses, rehabilitations and repairs for the year July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012.

² New houses, rehabilitations, repairs and other assistance

Key Activities

- Housing and integrated community development.
- Water, sanitation and hygiene including the construction of sanitation facilities.
- Land tenure and housing advocacy.
- Housing for vulnerable people including those living with HIV/AIDS and orphans.
- Disaster response and mitigation.

Habitat for Humanity in Cambodia

Habitat for Humanity International registered a branch office in Cambodia in January 2003. HFH Cambodia is committed to improving lives beyond four walls and a roof. The Habitat programs in Phnom Penh, Prey Veng, Kandal, Siem Reap and Battambang aim to reduce poverty. The emphasis is on the development of sustainable communities that also promote gender equality, income generation and appropriate response to HIV/AIDS and vulnerable groups. Habitat and its partners also facilitate access to adequate and affordable safe water and electricity connections, and proper toilet. The use of solar energy is especially encouraged. Family members are offered training in construction and other skills in order to improve their employment and earnings prospects. HFH Cambodia has a five-year goal of assisting 10,000 low-income families while inspiring individuals, groups, organizations and the government to champion innovative housing solutions for people in need.

Housing needs in Cambodia

After more than 25 years of civil conflict, Cambodia has achieved impressive economic growth since the mid-1990s and has made significant progress in reducing poverty. The government estimates about one quarter of the population was poor in 2010. This compared with 35 percent in 2004 and 30 percent in 2007, according to the Cambodia Socio-Economic Survey. Poverty is largely concentrated in the rural areas. In the 1990s, hundreds of thousands of refugees who were driven out of Phnom Penh by the communist Khmer Rouge regime, returned to the capital city and created huge squatter colonies. They lack secure tenure or basic services as they settle in every conceivable empty space, from sides of railway tracks to banks of lakes or rivers to near dumpsites.

In recent years, the municipal authorities in Phnom Penh have encouraged the revitalization of the city center. Large tracts of public land have been, and continue to be, leased or sold to

commercial developers. Informal settlers who live on these plots are relocated to areas up to 30 km away. Families end up living in places that lack access to water, sanitation and health services. Livelihoods may be threatened as employment opportunities in the city involve costly and lengthy journeys to and from work.

How Habitat works in Cambodia

HFH Cambodia builds houses with families and volunteers. A Habitat house in Cambodia is usually 31.5 sq. m. in size. Habitat seeks to provide additional space for a small home-based business as well as land at the rear for a vegetable garden. Traditionally, houses were built using fired bricks or were made of wood and built on stilts. In 2009, HFH Cambodia introduced a more economical and environmentally-friendly solution: hand-made stabilized soil blocks. HFH Cambodia



CAMBODIA

home partners repay mortgage loans pro-rated to their incomes, enabling even very poor families to benefit. The average repayment is approximately US\$22 per month over a period of about five years.

In Battambang city in the northwest, HFH Cambodia received approval in mid-2011 for a one-year extension on a World Bank supported project to serve a total of 330 families in land tenure security, shelter improvement and livelihood issues. In late 2010, HFH Cambodia strengthened its program to improve the lives of families living with HIV/AIDS with key partnerships supported by the Elton John AIDS Foundation, the UK philanthropic arm of Sir Elton John. Habitat's partners are Save the Children Australia, Khemara, Sihanouk Hospital Center of HOPE and Sharing Experience for Adapted Development. The two-year, £810,000 (about US\$1.2 million) program will bring safe, decent housing to 320 vulnerable families including those living with HIV/AIDS. HFH Cambodia's contribution is to complement its partners' outreach by providing secure land and building or repairing homes for their beneficiaries. The target locations are communities in around the capital, Phnom Penh, and Prey Veng, a densely-populated agricultural region on the eastern banks of the Mekong River, bordering Vietnam.



What volunteers say



"Construction work is always fun because you can easily see your progress! It's a great feeling to work on laying a brick wall all day and, at the end of the day, see how much you've accomplished. I'm inspired by knowing that what we do makes such a huge difference in the lives of the home owner families. Stable housing leads to stable health, education, and economic situation. A house means a new start!"

- Jess Wilson, from U.S. who volunteered in Trapaing Anhchanh community, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, in July 2011.



Habitat for Humanity Cambodia
#35 Bis, St. 478, Phsar Duem Tkov Commune,
Chamkar Mon District, Phnom Penh City, Cambodia
E-mail: Bells Borja (bells_borja@habitatcambodia.org)
or info@habitatcambodia.org
Website: habitatcambodia.org

Habitat for Humanity International
Affiliate Tithe Department
270, Peachtree Street, NW,
Suite 1300 Atlanta, GA 30303
Tel: (404) 962-3473 or 1-800-Habitat Ext.3473
Email: tithe@habitat.org