



AT A GLANCE

Families served to date¹

763

Families served this year²

629

¹New houses and rehabilitations

²New houses, rehabilitations, repairs and assistance in the year to June 30, 2010

— Updated January 2011 —

THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA, located in the heart of Southeast Asia, is an ancient land with a young population. The median age of its people is 22 years. Regardless of age, Cambodians are often poor.

According to the 2010 Human Development Report published by the United Nations, about 26 percent of the Cambodian population lives on the equivalent of less than US\$1.25 a day. A great number of the poor are concentrated in the rural areas.

After the fall of the communist Khmer Rouge regime in 1979, there was an influx of migrants from the rural areas to the capital Phnom Penh. About 250,000 people, or 20 percent of the city's population, live in squatter settlements, slums and other poor urban communities. They lack secure tenure or basic services as they settle in every conceivable empty space, from courtyards and rooftops, to sides of railway tracks, riverbanks and swamps.

A 2009 World Bank report stated that the poorest Cambodians live in inadequate housing made of thatched roof with bamboo or wood walls and floor. Access to piped water is extremely low while few people have access to proper sanitation facilities.

Habitat for Humanity International registered a branch office in Cambodia in January 2003. HFH Cambodia's housing and community development programs in Phnom Penh, Siem Reap, Prey Veng and Kandal aim to reduce poverty. Habitat provides families with livelihood training such as agriculture, animal husbandry, business management, and other initiatives such as liquid soap production and handicrafts in an effort to increase daily income and family savings.

HFH Cambodia has unveiled a five-year strategic initiative which aims to assist 10,000 low-income families while inspiring individuals, groups, organizations and the government to champion innovative housing solutions for Cambodians in need.

HFH Cambodia's holistic housing solutions program will bring

secure housing to 320 orphaned and vulnerable children (OVC) and those affected by HIV/AIDS in Cambodia. HFH Cambodia is partnering with four local and international NGOs – Khemara, Save the Children Australia, SEAD and Sihanouk Hospital Center of Hope – which are currently running successful programs for OVC and people living with HIV/AIDS in Cambodia. Habitat's program will complement and enhance the NGOs' on-going programs by providing land, houses and undertaking house repairs for their beneficiaries.

In Siem Reap, HFH Cambodia's water, sanitation and hygiene promotion project aims to improve hygiene and sanitation practices, as well as increase access to safe drinking water and sanitary latrines, for 15 villages and eight schools in the Angkor Chum district.

Habitat is also closely involved in a major government initiative to improve land rights for squatter families through a World Bank supported project in Battambang – Cambodia's second largest city.

A Habitat house in Cambodia is usually 31.5 sq. m. in size. Traditionally, houses have been built using fired bricks or as wooden houses on stilts. In 2009, HFH Cambodia introduced a new building technology – hand-made stabilized soil blocks, which offer Habitat home partners a more economical, environmentally friendly housing solution. The layout of the house comprises a living room, bedroom and a kitchen with a toilet.

HFH 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.

HFH Cambodia hosted its first Global Village volunteer team from Australia in July 2006. Since then, HFH Cambodia has been a popular build destination with volunteers from Australia, Korea, New Zealand, Singapore and the U.S., among others. 🏠

COUNTRY FACTS

POPULATION: 14,453,680 (JULY 2010 EST.)

CAPITAL: Phnom Penh

LAND AREA: 181,035 sq. km.

ETHNIC GROUPS: Khmer 90%, Vietnamese 5%, Chinese 1%, other 4%

LANGUAGES: Khmer (official) 95%, French, English

RELIGIONS: Buddhist 96.4%, Muslim 2.1%, other 1.3%, unspecified 0.2% (1998 census)

LITERACY: 73.6% (2004 est.)

URBANIZATION: 22% (2008)

POPULATION LIVING ON US\$1.25 A DAY: 26% (2009)

ACCESS TO IMPROVED WATER SOURCES: 61% (2009)

ACCESS TO IMPROVED SANITATION FACILITIES: 29% (2009)

Sources: CIA World Factbook, World Bank



HFH CAMBODIA Highlights

- In November 2011, hundreds of volunteers from all over the world are expected to join the "Khmer Harvest Build" in Oudong. The week-long "blitz" build will see a further 20 homes go up. Volunteers will also spend one day on the new farm where Habitat homeowners work.
- In December 2010, HFH Cambodia's partner, Sihanouk Hospital Center of HOPE, opened a new health clinic in Oudong. The clinic provide free services to local residents, including families from New Life Community – one of the 2009 Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project sites. HFH Cambodia built the clinic using stabilized soil blocks made by Habitat home partners and local workers.
- By end of 2010, HFH Cambodia had provided solar panels to 37 families in Oudong who do not have access to electricity. It also provided two communities with solar-powered water pumps.
- On World Habitat Day, 5th October 2010, HFH Cambodia held a special house dedication at the New Holistic Hope Community in Oudong, Kandal province. In the run-up to the United Nations event, HFH Cambodia mobilized over 150 local volunteers to work during the "Hard Hat Days" builds. Volunteer teams came from Panna-sastra University, University of Cambodia, Logos and Northbridge International Schools, ANZ Royal Bank and TWR Radio Cambodia.
- In March 2010, HFH Cambodia marked World Water Day by providing a Global Village volunteer team from the Shanghai American School with a taste of the difficulty in getting safe drinking water in a Phnom Penh community. The volunteers helped two families fetch water in barrels and carted them back to the families' houses as well as make the water safe for drinking.
- In February 2010, a volunteer team comprising the board and patrons of HFH Great Britain helped to build two row houses in Oudong. The house dedication ceremony was attended by the British ambassador to Cambodia, Andrew Mace, as well as the former deputy governor of Phnom Penh, His Excellency Mann Chhoeun.
- In December 2009, the provincial governor of Battambang announced the approval of converting state public land into state private land to further the goal of providing secure land tenure to urban landless poor living in the Reserved Garden Area of Battambang.
- In November 2009, the Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project brought together more than 250 local and international volunteers to work with Habitat home partners in Oudong, Kandal province. Twenty-one homes were built over five days for families who voluntarily relocated from a dump site in the capital Phnom Penh.
- In tandem with the 2009 Carter Work Project, Habitat launched the Cambodian Youth Initiative where local young people built homes together with their international counterparts in Oudong. The youth volunteers also took part in leadership and cultural exchange activities.
- In September 2009, Habitat hosted contestants in Cambodia's first reality TV series, "You're the Man", who took part in challenges including making soil blocks in Oudong.
- ANZ Bank contributed nearly US\$5,000 in February 2009 for water and sanitation improvements in the resettlement community of Sen Sok in Phnom Penh and Angkor Chum in Siem Reap.



Habitat for Humanity Cambodia
#35 bis, Street 478, Sangkat Phsar Doeum Tkov, Khan Chamkar Morn
PO BOX 2452, Phnom Penh 3, Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia
Tel/Fax: +855 2399 7840
Email: info@habitatcambodia.org
Website: www.habitatcambodia.org