

Thailand



Habitat for Humanity in Thailand

Habitat for Humanity began working in Thailand in the northeastern province of Udon Thani in 1998. Since July 2007, Habitat Thailand has been operating through its national office in Bangkok and zone offices located in Chiangmai (North), Rayong (Northeast), Pathumthnee (Central) and Phangnga (South).

The housing need in Thailand

Thailand is often cited for its success in pulling millions of people out of poverty, thanks to rapid economic growth over the past few decades. According to the World Bank, poverty declined substantially over the last 30 years from 67 percent in 1986 to 7.2 percent in 2015 during periods of high growth and rising agricultural prices. However, poverty and inequality continue to pose significant challenges. As of 2014, over 80 percent of the country's 7.1 million poor live in rural areas. Moreover, an additional 6.7 million were living within 20 percent above the national poverty line and remained vulnerable to falling back into poverty. Although inequality has declined over the past 30 years, pockets of poverty remain in the northeast, north, and deep south.

How Habitat addresses the need in Thailand

Habitat for Humanity Thailand was established in 1998 with the aim of improving the Thais' quality of life through building homes and transforming communities. It works with like-minded partners to achieve a lasting, positive impact through holistic development and sustainable change. Habitat Thailand has partnered with 11,500 families or over 46,000 people to build, repair and rehabilitate their homes. Based on the needs of families and communities in Thailand, Habitat and its partners also implement community development programs that provide training in livelihood options and assistance in setting up home-based businesses. In addition, health centers, multipurpose community centers, school libraries, vegetable greenhouses, and water and sanitation facilities are also built. Corporate partners include Korean Reinsurance, Destination Asia, Thrivent, Bain & Company, Dow, HMC Polymer, Cargill, Ananda Development & Partners, Siam Commercial Bank, Seagate, Caterpillar, Nissan, Cigna, Bank of America, P&G, Credit Suisse, HMC Polymer, Hilton Pattaya, Benefit Cosmetics and HSBC. Local and International schools and universities also lend a hand.



Volunteers from Korean steelmaker POSCO celebrating with a Thai homeowner in Rayong. Photo courtesy of Suneey Lee.

COUNTRY FACTS

Capital	Bangkok
Main country facts	Population is world's 20 th largest.
Population	Over 68.9 million
Urbanization	52.7 percent live in cities
Life expectancy	74.9 years
Unemployment rate	0.8 percent
Population living below poverty line	7.2 percent

Source: World Factbook

HABITAT FACTS

When Habitat started in Thailand

1998

Individuals served in FY17

435

**Includes construction and market development*

Volunteers engaged in FY17

1,762

Housing solutions

Decent, affordable housing; disaster response; water and sanitation; sustainable community development including school libraries, educational facilities and children playgrounds



Build decent, affordable housing

Habitat for Humanity Thailand works with partners to build, repair or rehabilitate homes with families living below the national poverty line and vulnerable groups. Construction costs are brought down through volunteer labor, gifts-in-kind from corporate donors and donation of soil for land reclamation from the local government, among others.

Disaster response

Flooding in Thailand is an annual occurrence. Following the devastating floods in 2011, Habitat Thailand distributed clean-up kits and emergency shelter kits to nearly 4,000 families in 11 provinces. Habitat also helped more than 1,400 families to rebuild their homes and lives. In addition, 32 schools were rehabilitated and four multipurpose buildings were built in Ayutthaya and Phitsanulok provinces. In response to widespread flooding that hit several southern provinces in January 2017, Habitat Thailand distributed hygiene kits containing items for cleaning up houses to affected families in Trang province. The longer term focus is on helping disaster-affected families to rebuild or rehabilitate their houses.

Community development programs

Throughout Thailand, Habitat has built and/or rehabilitated school dormitories, assembly area domes, libraries, playgrounds and improved water and sanitation facilities in local schools and communities. Under its community development program, Habitat Thailand has helped schools to build greenhouses and start fish farms. The fresh produce is consumed during school lunches while excess is sold to the community, providing another source of income for the schools.

Volunteer engagement

Thailand is one of the favorite destinations for Global Village volunteers from all over the world. In 2017, Habitat Thailand built with teams from the USA, UK, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, South Korea and Singapore. Domestic volunteer efforts continue to be strong with support from local and international educational institutions and open one-day builds.

Meet a Habitat family

Single mother Somrudee, 42, laborer, used to worry constantly when she was living in run-down conditions with her only son Nong Pong who has special needs. When heavy rains and strong winds hit, she was afraid that the roof would be torn off. She was also scared of going to the toilet at night. All these changed when she built a new house in Kanchanaburi province with Habitat for Humanity Thailand in November 2017. "I don't have to pray for my roof not to be blown away when it rained. It is not scary going to the toilet at night as the toilet is now built inside the house." She also feels more connected with the local community. Thankful for the positive changes, she said: "I had never realized that having a secure house could give me such peace of mind."



Somrudee and her son in front of their new Habitat house that was being constructed.

What you can do

You can help Thailand families improve their living conditions by taking one or more of the following actions:

DONATE

USD \$: [habitat.org/donate](https://www.habitat.org/donate)

* You can designate your donation to Habitat Thailand or a specific cause by clicking the designation option.

VOLUNTEER

Join one of the scheduled Global Village trips to Thailand or lead your own. For more information go to: [habitat.org/gv](https://www.habitat.org/gv)

TITHE

Establish a strong and rewarding tithe partnership to help build houses globally! Quote **THAILAND** on your checks sent to: Habitat for Humanity International, Attn: Affiliate Tithe, 121 Habitat St. Americus, GA 31709

To learn more about Habitat projects in Thailand or in other parts of the region, please contact us.

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