

Country profile

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, HFH Thailand has been operating through its national office in Bangkok and resource centers located in the north, northeast, central and south.

The housing need in Thailand

Since the 1980s, Thailand has achieved remarkable progress in economic growth and poverty reduction. According to World Bank, rising incomes have helped Thailand to reduce poverty significantly, from 67 percent in 1986 to 11 percent in 2014. More than 80 percent of the country's 7.3 million poor live in rural areas although a third of the poor are currently in urban areas outside of Bangkok. Regions in the deep south and northeast as well as some ethnic groups are not benefitting equally from the country's economic success. Increased urbanization, coupled with insufficient planning, has contributed to the creation of slums, particularly in the Bangkok metropolitan region which accounts for a majority of the slum settlements in Thailand.

How Habitat addresses the need in Thailand

Habitat for Humanity Thailand works with donors and volunteers in providing affordable housing solutions. Corporate partners include Dow, Coca-Cola, HMC Polymer, Cargill, Ananda Development, Siam Commercial Bank, Seagate, Caterpillar, Nissan, Cigna, Bank of America, P&G and HSBC. International schools and universities also lend a hand. In recent years, public sector support has come from the Government Housing Bank who not only funds Habitat Thailand's projects but also sends their staff as volunteers on Habitat builds.



Volunteers from New Zealand building a wall of a Habitat house in southern Thailand. Photo: Habitat for Humanity/Mikel Flamm

COUNTRY FACTS

Capital	Bangkok
Population	Nearly 68 million (July 2015 est.)
Urbanization	50.4 percent lives in cities (2015)
Life expectancy	74 years (2015 est.)
Unemployment rate	1 percent (2015 est.)
Population living below poverty line	12.6 percent (2012 est.)
Access to improved water sources	97.8 percent (2015 est.)
Access to improved sanitation facilities	93 percent (2015 est.)

Source: World Factbook

HABITAT FACTS

When Habitat started in Thailand

1998

Families served*

More than 11,500

Volunteers hosted*

More than 25,000

*cumulative figure since 1998

Housing solutions

- Building decent, affordable housing
- Disaster response
- Sustainable community development



Building decent, affordable housing

Habitat for Humanity Thailand partners with low-income families and vulnerable groups to build, repair or rehabilitate their homes. Volunteer labor helps to reduce the cost of house construction. A Habitat home partner saves 10-15 percent of the cost of the house before construction begins. Each home partner's monthly repayments enable Habitat to help other families build homes and hope.

Disaster response

During the devastating floods of 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 three multi-purpose buildings were built in Ayutthaya and Phitsanulok provinces.

Sustainable community development

In northern and southern Thailand, Habitat has rebuilt school dormitories and improved water and sanitation facilities in local schools and communities.

Meet a Habitat family



Sanit Srinuan (center) in front of his Habitat house with his wife Pawinee on his left, his daughter Yosada and his nephew.
Photo: Habitat for Humanity/Edmond Ho

For 13 years, firefighter Sanit Srinuan and his family had to share a small house in Pathumthani province in central Thailand with six other relatives. When it rained, water would come into the house and his children's textbooks would get wet. During the heavy flooding in 2011, Sanit could not go to work for two months and had to borrow money from his relatives for living expenses. Life looked up when he became a Habitat home owner. "I did everything during the build. My wife also cooked lunch for the volunteers. I was very proud of our work. There was heavy rain but we kept going. I could not say 'thank you' enough to the GV team when they were leaving as I was crying. This Habitat house is real," said Sanit.

Habitat for Humanity Thailand


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What you can do

DONATE, VOLUNTEER or **TITHE** to help families break the poverty cycle through decent homes. To learn more about HFH Thailand's work, please contact us.