The housing need in Cambodia

Driven by garment exports and tourism, Cambodia’s economy is among the fastest-growing in the world. Having reached lower middle-income status in 2015, it aspires to be an upper middle-income country by 2030. While the poverty rate has continued to fall, the World Bank said about 4.5 million people are vulnerable to falling back into poverty when exposed to economic and other external shocks. Based on a 2019 population census, more than 62% of Cambodian households live in one-room units. Cambodia needs to build an additional 1 million homes by 2030 in order to meet the demands of a booming population, according to the government.

HABITAT FACTS:
- Habitat was established in Cambodia in 2003.
- **Individuals served in FY2020** – 82,920
  - Through new construction – 930
  - Through incremental building – 30,475
  - Through repairs – 395
  - Through market development – 51,035
  - Through civil society – 85
- **Volunteers hosted in FY2020** – 1,915

COUNTRY FACTS:
- Capital city – Phnom Penh
- Population – 15.6 million
- Life expectancy – 75.5 years
- Unemployment rate – 1.3%
- Below poverty line – 12.9%
How Habitat addresses the need

Improving lives through housing
Habitat Cambodia partners with low-income families and vulnerable groups such as people living with disabilities and older persons to build safe, affordable housing that improves health, education and livelihood opportunities. The durable and sustainable homes feature innovations that focus on water and energy efficiency as well as materials conservation.

Climate change adaptation
Disaster risk reduction initiatives are integrated into Habitat Cambodia’s housing programs with an emphasis on primary stakeholder participation and community-based methodologies. Through the design and implementation of adaptation mechanisms, urban and rural communities can be better prepared for disasters and cope with the impact of climate change.

WASH and livelihood improvements
Habitat takes a holistic approach to improving water, sanitation, and hygiene services for marginalized communities living in high-poverty areas that are also prone to flooding and drought. Through livelihood and enterprise training, Habitat Cambodia provides participants with valuable skills that they can use to earn an income as well as impart to others.

Advocacy and volunteer engagement
We advocate to improve housing policies and systems and implement projects to test existing laws to eliminate barriers to adequate, affordable housing. Habitat engages volunteers and mobilizes the youth to join our advocacy efforts in highlighting the less visible but critical aspects of housing such as laws, regulations, systems and rules about land and the built environment.

Market development
Through the MicroBuild Fund, Habitat invests in local financial institutions to provide savings and credit products along with construction technical assistance to help low-income families repair or build homes incrementally.

What you can do

DONATE
USD $: habitat.org/donate
To donate to Habitat Cambodia, click on “Designate your donation to a location or cause.”

VOLUNTEER
The Global Village program was suspended in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Please go to habitat.org/gv for updates, including when and where the program will resume.

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

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