



e-Newsletter

World Habitat Day 2015

Habitat for Humanity Cambodia raising housing need awareness and building civil society support in Cambodia



Since 1986 the first Monday of October every year has been designated by the United Nations as World Habitat Day. The aim of the day is for organizations and communities to reflect on the state of towns and cities and on the basic right of all to adequate shelter. The campaign ties directly with Habitat for Humanity Cambodia's core strategy, and as an organization we have been enthusiastically implementing the campaign for several years. This year, HFH Cambodia aimed to gather increasing numbers

of people to join together to raise awareness on the needs of vulnerable families in Cambodia and the need for affordable and safe housing for all.

Habitat for Humanity Cambodia launched a widespread awareness raising campaign on October 5, which involved partnership with various stakeholders, including the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. Habitat for Humanity Cambodia teamed up with private companies

like SMART Axiata, a champion partner, that sent out eight million SMS broadcast message promoting World Habitat Day and the need for adequate housing to Smart subscribers across the country; this kicked-off the campaign. Companies like Grant Thornton Cambodia and Ly and Fung, Coca-cola also provided financial and in-kind support together with Smart.

A university/school road show and television and radio interviews followed throughout the week. The HFH Cambodia resource development team visited sites across Phnom Penh including; Royal University of Phnom Penh, Cambodia International School, Royal University of Law and Economics, Build Bright University, and International School of Phnom Penh. During the road show the team gave talks about the need for increased support towards promotion of adequate housing in Cambodia, among hundreds of Cambodian and international students and encouraged them to support HFH Cambodia programs and volunteer for the World Habitat Day Community Build and other upcoming mobilization events.

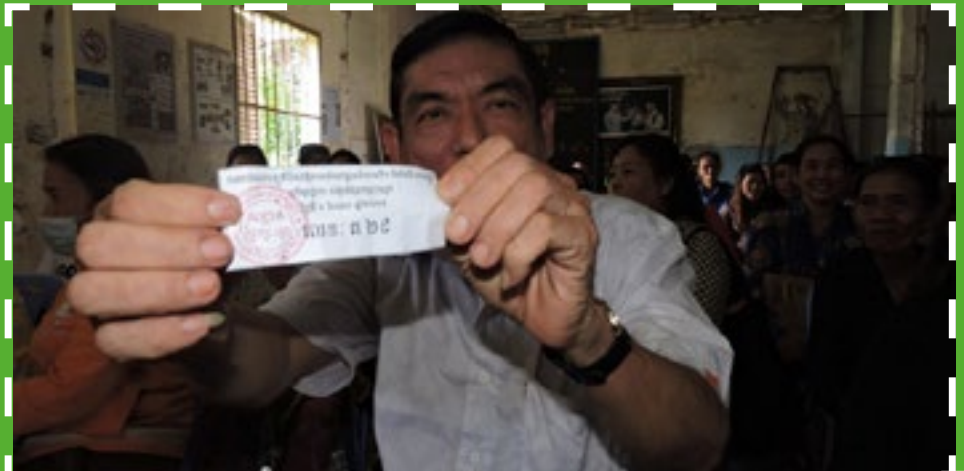
A series of television and radio interviews also provided HFH Cambodia a platform to raise awareness across all levels of society.

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Land plot location lottery in Battambang

On October 6, 2015 Habitat for Humanity Cambodia worked in collaboration with Battambang municipal government to organize the first land plot location lottery for 30 households living in informal settlements that are applying for secure tenure through the urban social land concession (SLC) program.

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World Habitat Day 2015

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HFH Cambodia social media tools such as Facebook and Twitter also served as effective means of coordinating efforts with youth groups and networks prior to and after the weeklong campaign.

The campaign culminated on October 9th with a Community Build at Bek Chan community. In the early morning, as a large crowd of young and enthusiastic Cambodian and foreign volunteers began streaming down the road towards the Habitat for Humanity homes it was clear that all the campus presentations, meetings with students, fundraising, media events and logistic planning had paid off. In total 470 volunteers from student groups, schools, colleges, universities, and private companies had worked together to support vulnerable families and the surrounding community.

With volunteers working together with home partners and community members the site soon became a hive of activity; there were groups painting, picking up litter, conducting WASH (water, sanitation, hygiene) education, as well as working together on an arduous back filling



tasks, and interacting with home partners to understand more about their needs and aspirations.

Over the course of the day volunteers painted 31 homes, held a community-wide clean up and conducted a water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) education among over 500 young students.

At the end of the event, the WHD partners and student volunteers were hot, sweaty and tired, but still smiling. Habitat for Humanity Cambodia National Director Kif Nguyen said during the brief welcome program, "A house is not just a house. For us a house is combination of many things. Today is a day to remind all of us to think of the importance of a house and to think about many families that need our support."

In celebrating World Habitat Day through social networks, raising awareness and by physically repairing homes and cleaning communities, HFH Cambodia, in partnership with the private sector and local and international volunteers are taking action to make a difference to the lives of low-income families in Cambodia and highlighting housing need in the country.

It is our sincere hope that all of this year's volunteers return in 2016 and bring along their friends too!

Lottery for land plot in Battambang

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The draw was held as one of the steps in the SLC process that would ensure objectivity is maintained throughout the land distribution activity, which came about as part of a memorandum of understanding signed between HFH Cambodia and Battambang municipality. The memorandum enabled HFH Cambodia to manage 82 plots of land for use by families living in informal settlement communities in Battambang City. During the draw, three commune represent-

atives selected a numbered ping pong ball, which corresponded with the new area in which land concessions will be granted. Next, in a transparent and fair allocation process individual families selected a number to correspond with their new plot of land.

Clifford Chance, HFH Australia, and HFH Canada, through its Global Neighbors Program, currently support the program focused on the delivery of secure tenure through

strengthening civil society-government engagement in land tenure and housing solutions.



Ministry of Economic and Finance visits HFH Cambodia project site



Habitat for Humanity Cambodia hosted a group of representatives from the Ministry of Economic and Finance under the leadership of H.E. Ros Seilava, Under Secretary of State, Ministry of Economic and Finance and General Secretary, Steering Committee of the Public Financial Management Reform, in a visit to HFH Cambodia project site and home partners at Trapang Anh Chanh community.

The representatives from Ministry of Economics and Finance aimed to study the Habitat for Humanity housing project in Cambodia. The visitors were highly engaged and asked families about their savings and the impact of their house upon their current socio-economic condition. "The Ministry of Economics and Finance with other relevant ministries are planning to have a social housing program to help the poor in Cambodia," said Chea Sopheak, Economist at the Ministry of Economic and Finance.

Follow-up discussions are underway between HFH Cambodia and the Ministry of Economics and Finance for a possible project partnership.

ASEAN Resilient as One DRR Exhibition at Royal University Phnom Penh



Friday the 9th and Saturday 10th October saw a gathering of key partners across the ASEAN region at Royal University Phnom Penh to take part in the ASEAN Day for Disaster management. Habitat for Humanity Cambodia was well represented across the two-day event as an exhibitor and conference participant to ensure that the organization progressively plays a key role in disaster risk reduction and response here in Cambodia.

The stall, which stood alongside other NGO partners displayed information of HFH Cambodia in particular that in relation to disaster management, as well as displaying models of disaster resilient homes and featuring appropriate building materials as the stabilized soil blocks.

During the day HFH Cambodia staff discussed the impact of disasters and the role we play in supporting those affected, with interested students and delegates from the conference, including H.E Nhim Vanda First Vice President of the National Committee for Disaster Management, pictured.

The aim of the ASEAN Day for Disaster Management was to highlight strengthened collaboration across organisations, sectors and countries when it comes to disaster risk reduction in the region.



Chabpdeum Chivet Themey Training Update



On September 14 to 18, Habitat for Humanity Cambodia Chabpdeum Chivet Themey (CCT) project team organized a successful training for beneficiaries.

The training helped vulnerable families to improve their business knowledge and practical skills in their daily life. The participants, including women from Angsoul District, took part in discussion and group work. Expert facilitation helped the participants get the most out of the training, which focused on business planning, basic cost calculation and analysis, family financial planning, techniques in chicken raising, food processing, and additionally water sanitation and HIV/AIDS care and prevention.

Chabpdeum Chivet Themey is one of HFH Cambodia projects in urban Phnom Penh and Kandal province. Through partnership with Maryknoll and donors such as Towerbrook and HFH Great Britain, HFH Cambodia is able to support people affected by HIV/AIDS, including orphans. The project is an example of HFH Cambodia's holistic approach integrating housing with HIV/AIDS programs.

Habitat for Humanity Cambodia has assisted over 1,000 most vulnerable families through the overall program.

Local partners help make World Habitat Build Day a success

Habitat for Humanity Cambodia would like to thank all the sponsors who helped to make the World Habitat Day 2015 campaign a success. Corporate partnership is key to enabling HFH Cambodia hold campaign and events such as this.

Our champion partner for World Habitat day 2015 was Smart Axiata, one of Cambodia's premier cell phone network providers. Smart not only sponsored the event through financial contribution, but also contributed to the awareness raising campaigning on the need for adequate housing in Cambodia by sending out eight million text messages among Smart subscribers across the country. Forty Smart staff also joined our teams of volunteers to support the event on the culminating build.

Grant Thornton Cambodia also provided financial support and mobilized a group of staff volunteers. The accountancy firm, connected to the Australian group responsible for aiding the original build of ten houses at the community build site, took part in painting and community clean-up activities.

Li & Fung also contributed funds for the campaign and mobilized staff volunteers during the community build. Our long-time supporter Coca-cola has provided us with gifts-in-kind, and American University of Phnom Penh conducted its own school fundraising in order to provide additional financial support.

Once again, THANK YOU for your support!



Training with FIRST Finance Battambang

Habitat for Humanity Cambodia worked in collaboration with First Finance Plc to conduct a client survey and market mapping exercise, to support and improve the housing microfinance products of First Finance on August 24 to 27, 2015.

The two parties agreed to pilot design and planning services for six months in Battambang province. Through the guidance of HFH Asia Pacific Center for Innovation in Shelter and Finance, HFH Cambodia provided training to First Finance staff in its Battambang branch.

During the workshop, the participants shared their practical experiences and discussed ways to improve the tools for the micro-financing, such as a call script. The six participants involved in the training learnt to explain the cost estimation service offered by credit consultants;



explored the design of the service and identified potential aspirants. Finally, the training helped them to come to a clear understanding of how to market

the product and integrate it with current financial product marketing.

Global Village Highlights



August 4 – August 7, 2015 Eight volunteers from Lingnan University, Hong Kong joined the HFH Cambodia team in Battambang municipality to build a home for a family at Prek Preah Sdach Commune. The team worked to build the wooden house alongside skilled workers. After dedicating the house the team enjoyed a shared meal with home partner, Mai Phanny, and her family.

August 22 – August 28, 2015 A 14 strong Japanese team from HIS Corporate came to Battambang Province in late August. The team worked on a renovation programme, building a kitchen and toilet and painting the wall of a house at Prey Kon Sek Village, O'Char Commune. As well as working on the build the team visited the Killing Fields and Land Mine museum at Siem Riep and enjoyed a day out on the bamboo railway in Battambang. During the dedication ceremony the team danced with Habitat staff as well as our home partner and village leaders, with whom they shared a farewell lunch.

September 14-20, 2015 A team of 14 Kiwi volunteers came to Battambang Municipality to build two homes for beneficiaries in Prek Preah Sdach and Prey Koun Sek villages. The New Zealanders helped with laying bricks, plastering and painting. The home partners involved were very happy with the results and enjoyed a shared meal with the team after the dedication ceremony. A big thank you to the team, who also donated a further \$280 to support the ongoing future of the project.

September 26 – October 03, 2015 12 Australian volunteers came to Kandal Province to complete construction on a new home at Sdao Konleng Village, Dei Eid Commune. The team finished the concrete poles and structure of the house. In order to further understand the Cambodian context the team visited the Killing Fields and met with families whose homes have been built by HFHC. At the dedication ceremony the team were taught Cambodian dancing and shared a farewell meal with the commune chief, our home partner, skilled workers and the villagers.

Positive energy under the sun!



More positive energy!

Working hard and successfully, finding friendships, learning cultures, enjoying the Cambodian food, playing with beautiful children, bringing happiness and a new future to a special family.



Another house inaugurated! Another happy family!

“They were so happy and grateful. Eyes in disbelief, tears of joy, a dream come true! We were tired but satisfied.”

Don Dasler Van, Global Village Team Leader from The Netherlands

▶ World Habitat Day 2015



A new chance for Hour Moch



Hour Moch and her family moved into their new home six months ago, she is a single mother and widow with three daughters. All five members are happy and in good health. Moch says she is thrilled with her new home and that, "now I am not concerned about paying room rental nor living in an unsafe place." Furthermore, the neighbors are great, says Moch and always take care of each other.

Moch's oldest daughter Sreyleak and her husband Sokrim work as fabric workers in the house getting an income of US\$10 per day. In addition her other daughters, Sreyleak and Sreyleen, are working as factory workers; generating an income of US\$150 each per month. From this Moch is able to save US\$ 200 per month.

Compared to their previous situation life is far better for Moch and her family. Moch provided laundry service with an

income of US\$ 2.50 per day. Now Habitat for Humanity Cambodia has built their new house, the family has a place where they can all live together. The house, with electricity connected, from the state grid also gives her children.

In their freshly painted house, thanks to World Habitat Day community build, the family can now look to increase their income and have started to increase their work at home, offering piecemeal labor to garment factories. The family has purchased two sewing machines to help them undertake more work. Moch reports that she is pleased by this development, adding that "we are happy to be who we are now. We have our own home and our real house, a safe place to live a stress free life."



Calendar of events

November 24-25-26
Water and Moon Festival

November 30-December 7
Global Village Team from South Korea in Phnom Penh

November 28-December 5
Global Village Team from Australia in Phnom Penh

December 5
International Volunteer Day

December 10
International Human Right

December 4-13
Global Village Team from America in Siem Reap

December 12-20
Global Village Team from Australia in Battambang

December 18-23
Global Village Team from China in Siem Reap



THE NEED FOR ADEQUATE HOUSING IN CAMBODIA



45.9%
of the population live
in multidimensional
poverty



54%
of the population
are practicing open
defecation



9.8 million
are in need
of adequate housing



6.3 million
lack access to safe water



18.6%
of the population live
below the poverty line
of US\$1.25 a day



Over **100,000**
people are living in slums
in Phnom Penh with 23%
growth rate in 2013



Over **150,000**
throughout the country
are at risk of forced
eviction

New Faces



◀ **Mr. DOEU
Chhon**

Chhon is a Civil Engineer and works as a Construction Assistant based Battaambang.

You can contact him at doeu_chhon@habitatcambodia.org



◀ **Mr. Benjamin
Jackson**

Benji is volunteering with HFHC for ten months through the Scope Global International Volunteer Program. He is an expert in web management & digital marketing.

You can contact Benji at benjamin_jack@habitatcambodia.org



◀ **Ms. VISAL
Hantriya**

Hantriya is our finance intern.

She can be contacted at 086 611 886.



◀ **Mr. Hem Serey**

Serey is our Internal Compliance Officer. He previously worked as an Audit Supervisor.

You can contact him at hem_serey@habitatcambodia.org



◀ **Ms. Chhang
Vanna**

Vanna is our Project Design, Monitoring & Evaluations Officer. Vanna is an expert in Computer and Information Technology.

You can contact Vanna at chhang_vanna@habitatcambodia.org



◀ **Mr. Ciaran
Porter**

Ciaran is volunteering with us for six months supporting the Resource Development & Communications unit.

You can contact him at ciarar_porter@habitatcambodia.org

Thank You

FOR BUILDING
HOMES, COMMUNITIES &

HOPE



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Your generous financial gift, no matter the size, means Habitat Cambodia can reach more families and help build more decent and affordable housing in Cambodia.

Visit <http://www.give2habitat.org/cambodia>
Create your fundraising page.

GIVE and BUILD HOPE

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VOLUNTEER

Become a part of the Habitat for Humanity Global Village program in Cambodia,
be an intern or a builder
<http://www.habitat.org/cd/gv/schedule.aspx>

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