



HABITAT YOUNG LEADERS BUILD 2018

For Habitat for Humanity Cambodia, the 2018 Habitat Young Leaders Build with the theme ‘Young leaders supporting the National Housing Policy to advance access to affordable housing’ has just come to an end. The approach was based on the successful integration of Solid Ground: raising awareness on adequate, affordable and safe housing in Cambodia, SDG 11, and the National Housing Policy.

The campaign was implemented in Phnom Penh, Siem Reap and Battambang, engaging over 6,500 youth in university talks to advocate against poverty housing, and

mobilizing almost 2,300 volunteers in three culminating builds where they showed their combined strength in serving 677 households and three state schools through painting, upgrading school gardens, playgrounds and toilets, community clean-up, and by providing hygiene education to 770 primary students.

Over 500 signed the petition declaring: “We, the youth of Cambodia, recognizing the impact of housing shortage in our generation, encourage the acceleration of the implementation of the National Housing Policy through formulation of frameworks for application, adoption of

multiple collaborative governance mechanisms, fostering of a culture of creativity and innovations in the housing sector.



SIEM REAP

KANDAL

BATTAMBANG



SERVING THE MOST VULNERABLE GROUPS

The GRACE Project, one of Habitat Cambodia's main projects under its housing program for the most vulnerable groups, marked its second year this July.

The project aims to help build self-reliance and resilience through providing holistic housing support to extremely vulnerable families living in inadequate housing in Phnom Penh, Siem Reap, Battambang, Kandal and around the Tonle Sap Basin. The housing intervention includes new houses on existing secure land, and house upgrade and repair. Through the project, target communities are also supported with community safe water filtration plants and tailored livelihood trainings that aim to improve productivity and income generation.

In one year there have been positive results in the lives of 1,470 vulnerable people (318 families). These numbers are part of the project's overall target of serving 2,000 families within five years. The construction targets achieved within the first year include 318 individual housing interventions, which is 115.64% of 275 house construction planned for year 1. Each new core house includes a latrine, water filter, water connection, and electrical connection. All construction outputs adhere to the minimum housing quality standards of Habitat for Humanity International.

"For 20 years, I did not have a house to live. I can happily say that we now have our own space. With support from my nephew through having a piece of his secure land, and our village chief for processing my land title, my house is now a reality," says Men Em, 64-year-old amputee who works as a seasonal cashew nut picker together with his family.

As a supplemental intervention, families receive identification and mapping of available social services such as hospital, health centers, markets, job opportunities, schools, and how to access free administrative services from the government. The families also receive family development support equipping them with the knowledge they need to manage their assets better, make use of the skills they learned from their livelihood training, maximize the space and opportunities offered by their new or improved homes, and effectively integrate with and participate in their communities.

Lao Thou said, "I will not worry about leaking roofs and the strong winds. I am now able to focus more on earning, saving and taking care of my children, and have so much more energy to do so," she said. On a normal day, Thou can earn around 150,000 KHR (US\$ 27.50) from selling food - her profit is 1/3 of this gross income. With this amount, she can support their daily expenses (minimum 20000KHR or US\$5 per day).

Sanitation and hygiene education has also been extended to communities and schools to improve health and promote hygienic practices. 13,117 people attended education sessions and have improved awareness, increased understanding and practiced proper hand washing. Two community safe water stations, a social water enterprise which promotes community driven development, are now operational in Siem Reap and Battambang, making clean and safe drinking water more accessible to 1,134 people every day. The target community reported that the water stations allow them to access safe drinking water at a meager price of and the quality and taste also exceed their expectations.

The housing program for the most vulnerable groups enables Habitat Cambodia to increase the provision of individual housing solutions to the most vulnerable who cannot be targeted by community-based programs and market-based approaches. Their limited economic means and/or specific vulnerabilities call for individually tailor-made



Upgraded house in Siem Reap

support, including family development follow-up intervention.

The funding from an anonymous donor for the Grace Project, through the partnership and support of Habitat for Humanity Singapore is significantly helping Habitat Cambodia in scaling up efforts to make decent housing accessible to the most vulnerable. In order to effectively reach the target families,

Habitat Cambodia is in partnership with nine non-government organizations that provide psycho-social, health and livelihood support including Women Organization for Modern Economy and Nursing (WOMEN), Capacity Building for Disability Cooperation (CABDICO), Rural Economic and Agriculture Development Agency (READA), Community Care First Cambodia, HelpAge Cambodia (HAC),

Operations Enfants du Cambodge (OEC), Village Support Group, Komar Rikreay Association (KMR) and Human Resource and Rural Economic Development Organization (HURREDO).



New brick house design in Siem Reap



New wooden house design in Battambang



Community Safe Water Station



Partners:



GLOBAL VILLAGE HIGHLIGHTS



St Joseph's College, Northern Ireland
Wooden house for Hom Sophean
Siem Reap | Jun 27 - Jul 09, 2018



See Serve Speak, Northern Ireland
Wooden house for Sok Saly
Battambang | July 2-6, 2018



Hong Kong
Wooden house for Riel Hoeut
Battambang | July 7-9, 2018



Australia
Wooden house for Rom Phoun
Siem Reap | July 2-6, 2018



Australia
Wooden house for Hout Komsort
Siem Reap | July 2-6, 2018



Australia
Wooden house for Chea Sopheap
Siem Reap | July 2-6, 2018



Canada
Wooden house for Aet Sokun
Siem Reap | July 9-14, 2018



South Korea
Two wooden houses for Nou Tan and Lous Lornh
Siem Reap | July 11-19, 2018



"We come here without any construction skills, but we come with our hearts to help. We are glad that the house is nearly 100% finished. Hope what we have done to you will give you happiness in your new house."

- Philip McMaster,
team leader from St Joseph's College, Northern Ireland



WORKING FROM THE HEART

In 2011, Habitat Cambodia saw the need to increase its presence in the local community by establishing real partnerships with the youth. During this time, Habitat Youth Build in Asia Pacific has already begun. Volunteering in Cambodia was mainly accepted through skills-based programs, but was limited in terms of leveraging the country's young population. There were many school events, but programs were more sporadic and uncoordinated. School activities remained within the school grounds, and students were mainly inclined to having limited understanding of the goings-on within their local communities. They were more eager to learn about foreign fads than what they could possibly significantly do locally.

Seng Chandara or Dara is a city boy. He lived a self-centered life before being exposed to community work. Dara did not care about what happened around him. He only focused on studying, graduating, finding a job, and being rich. "I was only focused on finishing school fast, so I could earn my own income and spend for my own happiness, but I came across Habitat Cambodia's Youth Build back in 2012. The program meant to encourage young Cambodians to learn about volunteering, and to expose us to the housing situation in our country. Hesitant, but wanting to feel cool, I joined their talk. Everything changed since then," said Dara.

Dara has been an active Habitat Cambodia volunteer. On his first volunteer work, he was shocked seeing the poverty that his fellow Cambodians face - living in poor conditions outside and within the city. Dara then developed a sincere appreciation of the role he could play for his community, and the power he has to help others like



realize what they can also do. His second youth build in 2013 deepened his involvement. He became a key partner, and even after graduating, Dara continued to be an active advocate for affordable housing in Cambodia - organizing talks among youth groups, mobilizing volunteer teams, leading teams, and raising funds and more friends for Habitat Cambodia. Just recently, Dara sponsored beverage for the HYL B and also led a mixed team. He opened his own café as a space to help spread the word and gain more support.

Aside from local engagement, Dara also appreciate meeting and working with international volunteers. This exposure made him even more committed to volunteering. "I used to ask myself - why can't I become a change agent when those volunteers who travelled miles away to help my people can?"

In his volunteer journey with Habitat Cambodia, Dara has seen significant

change in his attitude and actions. "I was not good in communicating and leading people. I was simply not involved and did not care about my own people. Through partnering and with Habitat Cambodia, I can now proudly say that I am an involved Cambodian citizen. "My volunteering with Habitat Cambodia, made me a part of the positive change for Cambodia. In being grateful for my life, I made a commitment to continue helping others by pursuing a Masters in Rural Management and Development," Dara said.

As an advocate, Dara continues to engage more people. He has also donated cash and gifts in kind, mobilized hundreds of volunteers to join Habitat's affordable housing campaign every year. "I volunteer from my heart, expecting to see my people living in better shelter conditions," Dara said.

During the 2018 Habitat Young Leaders Build, an international school volunteer member of Dara's mixed team came forward to declare how thankful she was to be part of Dara's team.

"We came from various schools, but Dara made sure we all shared a strong common purpose. While in the bus, he spent time orienting us about the housing situation in Cambodia and what we could do to help create a country where affordable housing can be a reality for all. I think Habitat Cambodia has found a strong advocate in him," Jules Manampan said.



HABITAT CAMBODIA ANNUAL STAFF RETREAT 2018 | MONDULKIRI





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Phnom Penh Office

#170, street 450,
Toul Tompoung II, Chamcar Morn,
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Phone: +855 23 997 840

E-mail: info@habitatcambodia.org

Siem Reap Office

Veal Village, Sangkat Kok Chork,
Krong Siem Reap, Siem Reap
Province, Cambodia

Phone: +855 23 997 840

Battambang Office

#286, Group # 7, Bek Chan,
Sangkat Preak Preah Sdach,
Battambang Municipality
Battambang, Cambodia

Phone: +855 53 645 2000