



Message from the Country Director

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the wonderful welcome.

It has been an extraordinary year, full of challenges but also great perspectives for the future. The team in Cambodia – with support from across the globe – has worked very hard in overcoming the challenges and taken great strides in extending the reach of our programmes to over 2,000 families in the past calendar year through various construction interventions. I must commend all my colleagues here for the incredible effort they have put to respond to the growing need for housing in the aftermath of disaster and the changing political and economic landscape. Now more than ever is Cambodia in need of our support to address housing problems.

As we enter 2015, Habitat for Humanity Cambodia will continue to build community impact helping vulnerable and homeless families to improve their housing conditions and transform their neighborhoods through improved access to clean water, sanitation or basic services. We will also invest more in building sector and societal impact, scaling up our successful innovative model where we partner with the private sector and government on improving the functioning of the housing market as a whole, making it work for the poor.

In all our activities we will continue to reach out to the extremely vulnerable individuals, marginalized groups and people living with disabilities. By strengthening our programming, we aim to be bolder and wiser, progressively serving the 600,000 families living in sub-standard housing and in delivering our commitment to involve our home partners in fulfilling their right to sustainable development.

We are committed to building impact within individuals, families and communities that we serve, impact within our government and non-government partners, impact within our local and international volunteers and impact within our donors.

Of course, we also could not continue to assist Cambodia without the dedicated support of our donors, and we are grateful for your continued encouragement.

I have spent the past two months appreciating our work and I am excited about the potential of bringing our work to the next level. The beneficiaries I have met shared how Habitat for Humanity Cambodia's work has made a big difference in their lives. This alone makes me optimistic for 2015!

It is a dynamic time to be in Cambodia, with many difficulties but also great opportunity to improve and become more open to positive change to maintain our relevance. As the new Country Director for Habitat for Humanity Cambodia, I wish to extend my deep thanks for your support, and I look forward to strengthening our network. There are so many great things we can accomplish together, so may you continue this mission of building impact with us!



Kif Nguyen

Project Highlights

Sharing Experiences: Program Exposure Visit

With the aim to learn from successful water and sanitation projects and further improve program implementation, Habitat for Humanity Cambodia Siem Reap program team organized an exposure visit along with two partners Malteser International and Cambodian Health and Human Rights Alliance (CHHRA). The exposure visit was held in Odor Mean Chey Province on January 14 to 16 this year.

Malteser International and CHHRA are working to improve the health status and the living conditions of low-income rural families through water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in Oddor Meanchey and Banteay Meanchey Provinces.

Six project staff from the HFH Cambodia Wat-San program joined the exposure trip together with three Sanitation Action Group members and two School Water, Sanitation, Hygiene Group members. On the first day, the group met with Malteser International and visited successful school WASH groups at Cheung Tein Primary School and observed their hand washing areas, their nutrition garden, rain water tank, the school toilet maintenance, and the interaction between school and the community people in regards to WASH promotion. The group also met with the Village WASH Committee at Cheung Tein Village and visited some of their community ponds and upgraded mix wells.

On the second day the participants were hosted by CHHRA, an organization successful in applying Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) Approach. The team visited O-Preal, Char Thmey and Pong Ro Taley Villages. They learned that even the poorest families contribute their resources in the maintenance of sanitation facilities.

After each visit, the group reflected on their observations and learning.

The participants shared key learning from their experience, which included the importance of promoting contributions (financial, labor and other useful resources) from the community for the maintenance of the facilities and straightening school and community committee capacity by holding weekly and monthly meetings. "We learned that we need



Exposure visit group

to make sure there is a continuous effort to engage the community people through simple but meaningful demonstrations to promote lasting changes in their behaviors," said Seom Thoeurn, S-WASH Team Leader.

The exposure visit participants are stakeholders of the three-year Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion project of HFH Cambodia, which aims to improve the hygiene and sanitation practices, as well as increases the accessibility to safe drinking water and sanitary latrines to 15 villages and eight schools in the Angkor Chum District, Siem Reap.

"It is important for program staff to practically learn and exchange experience with other organizations and partners to continue to strengthen our capacity," said Oep Oann, HFH Cambodia Siem Reap Program Manager.

The exposure visit also provided the participants the opportunity to meet with the Provincial Department of Rural Development in Uddor Mean Chey to discuss water and

sanitation projects and the current needs in the five districts of Banteay Ampil, Anlong Veng, Trapang Prasat, Samrong and Chong Karl.



At the Malteser Project- Chuerng Tean Primary School



Group discussion during reflection

New HFHC Office in Siem Reap



The HFH Cambodia Office has moved to No. 125, Group# 08, Veal Village, Sangkat Kokchork, Siem Reap City

Project Highlights

Customer Satisfaction Survey and Market Mapping



Interview with a potential client at Battambang Province.

The Market Development team of HFH Cambodia together HFHI Asia Pacific consultant conducted customer satisfaction survey and market mapping on December 15 to 29, 2014 and January 10 to 15, 2015 in Battambang Province. The survey and market mapping exercises were

conducted in

six districts such as Battambang, Banan, Thma Koul, Sangkae, Moung Reusse, and Ratanak Mondol.

The HFH survey team met and interviewed First Finance current clients, former clients, credit agents, their staff, including non-clients like masons, construction suppliers, developers, government representatives, banks, other MFIs, NGOs, and water and energy companies.

Results of the survey will be used as a baseline for improving the housing microfinance products of First Finance as well as activities to develop accompanying non-financial housing services, particularly targeting low-income families in both urban and rural areas in Battambang Province. The product improvement will be piloted in six months, and aimed to be scale up in order to promote access of low-income families to housing microfinance products.

The survey is in line with the active cooperation between HFH Cambodia and First Finance Plc.

Construction, Family Selection Consultation Workshop

Habitat for Humanity Cambodia conducted a construction and family selection consultation workshop on December 17 to 18, 2014 for the HIV/AIDS-OVC focused projects together with representatives from project partners Maryknoll and ARV Users Association. In the workshop, HFH Cambodia and partners shared new experiences and identified best practices in managing design consultations with home partner families and over-all house designs, and reviewed the processes related to the family selection for improved program implementation.

The HFH Cambodia construction team presented 24 house models to the group, and the participants assessed the suitability, quality, costs and safety of each model. The group also reviewed the family selection

procedures and tools to check if they are still in alignment with the over-all Habitat for Humanity Cambodia guidelines. The participants also identified new alternative solutions to improve the family selection process.

To promote improved program implementation, there were sections in the workshop when the participants conducted practical exercises in field observations, data verification and interviewing. As a result, supporting documents for the selection process were further reviewed and verified and the questionnaire used for conducting beneficiary interviews during baseline surveys was simplified.

HFH Cambodia project teams hold the construction and family selection consultation workshop once every two years.

Disability Mainstreaming Training

HFH Cambodia organized training on Basic Concepts of Disability Mainstreaming on January 19 to 20, 2015 as part of its effort of strengthening its overall programming in the country.

The training, led by disability specialist Mrs. Ngoun Sokanika, was intended to help HFH Cambodia program staff and partners to understand important concepts in disability in order to put more emphasis on disability in their work.

Twenty-four participants, including six women, from NGOs partners Maryknoll and ARV Users Association learned about laws that support persons with disabilities (PWD), the legal framework for PWD, the different levels of disability and conventions on disability, and their needs.

“The training is very important to all of us because it helps us understand how we, as a program staff, should think about disability every time we implement our projects.. We need to make sure our family selection and house design and construction include disability informa-



Participants from different program teams prepare for their group discussion,” said Chhim Samom, HFH Cambodia Project Manager.

At the end of the training, all participants developed a higher commitment to integrate disability promotion in their work. The training was supported by Habitat for Humanity Australia.

Viva Volunteers



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Global Village Update

November 22- 29, 2014: An Australian team of eight people from Flight Centre Company worked on one house at Bekchan Village, Angsnoul District. The team came to finish laying the brick walls, toilet and the roof. They also had the opportunity to visit Stueng Meanchey where the home partners lived.

November 17-27, 2014: The 20-member US team came to help two families in Battambang Province. The team finished a brick house and also helped to repair a house. The team concluded their build by learning traditional Cambodian songs from home partners and participating in a traditional house warming together with the home partners and skilled workers.

November 21-28, 2014: The Korean International School Team of 16 members helped Svay Primary School in Trey Nhor Commune, Pouk District, where they built the foundation of the rainwater tank and repaired the school well. The volunteers enjoyed playing with the kids during breaks. They taught the kids Korean games and also learned to play Cambodian games from them.

November 29- December 6, 2014: Telstra Company was here on their second GV build. The team from Australia had 19 members who came to build two houses at Pheakdey Village, Prey Pauch Commune, Angsnoul District, Kandal Province. The team worked on the foundation and laid bricks for both houses, and they finished 95 percent of the house structures. Besides the building, the team also visited the killing fields to understand more of the country's history.



Viva Volunteers



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Global Village Update

November 30-December 6, 2014: Members of the Global Village team from US and Mexico came to build in Battambang Province. Ten volunteers spent a week working to complete the home of South Yoeunthol and So Heng families. The team completed a brick house and also helped in repairing another. The team enjoyed building together with the home partners and interacting with the community

December 8-13, 2014: The Prince Alfred College team with 31 members from Australia helped families supported by the Building Homes, Building Positive Lives Project in building two brick houses. The team concluded their community service with a traditional Khmer house dedication along with the home partner, their new neighbors and skilled workers.

January 5-9, 2015: An Australia team with 16 members came to help a family to build their brick house in Kandal Province. The team completed the house in five days. During the building, the members also learned about the other issues many families are facing from their home partner, learned basic construction techniques in Cambodia from the skill workers and HFH Cambodia staff.



Smile Village Update



We visited the first fifteen families at Smile Village this month and we were greeted by many happy and hopeful faces. Kids were running around playing while their parents were busy cleaning-up their house.

Families are now settled-in and some have even began their home based business of selling groceries like Proum Chantha, some of them applied to work at the garment factories located close by while others are looking forward to working as part of the construction team for the second phase of Smile Village. "My business is small, but I don't worry about paying for the rent. I have even started saving a small amount from my earnings," said Proum Chantha while looking after her grocery space in front of their house.

Twelve of the 15 families - Keith Pros and Tuy Ty, Pheoun Tola and Srin Mom, You Saran and Ny Phoun, Soum Klo and Houn Neang, Proum Chantha and Jeom Sophann, Yob Yoy and Keo Srey, Bo Try and Dang Yeab, Horm Eang, Phong Try and Ke Kear, Lev Phan, Joun Sophal and Khong Jeo, and Nét Ny - were supported by the 2013 Mekong Big Build volunteers. They all shared that they will take care of the house that they now live in and relish the fresh air and clean environment.

Just like the other families, Chantha is encouraged to make life better in their new community, "Since I moved here, my children never got sick and I noticed that my neighbors are so friendly and helpful. I hope other poor families will also have a good chance like us," Chantha added.

Individual family updates of MBB home partners will be released soon.

Upcoming Events

03 February
Meak Bochea Day

06-12 February
Global Village Team from
Canada in Siem Reap

07-16 February
Global Village Team from HFH-
Northern Ireland in Phnom Penh

12-19 February
Global Village Team from
EMEA in Phnom Penh

13-22 February
Global Village Team from
USA in Siem Reap

20 February- 01 March
Global Village Team from
USA in Phnom Penh

23 February- 09 March
Global Village Team from
Japan in Siem Reap



Special Feature

In Focus: HFHC Construction Supervisor, Chea Chamnan

Chea Chamnan is one of Habitat for Humanity Cambodia's Construction Supervisors. He declared that he began to see life differently when he started with Habitat for Humanity.

Chamnan was born in Prey Veng province where his father worked as a District Council Representative and his mother managed a small fertilizer business. His family is not rich but they had enough to support three children.

Chamnan left his parents and two little sisters and brother at 22 to continue his studying at Cambodia University of Specialties in Phnom Penh where he lived with an uncle for a short time, but soon decided to live in a school dormitory instead. Chamnan shared a four by eight meter space with fifty other students. He had to learn quickly to adapt. His parents were able to provide him 100,000 Riels per month (US\$25) for other school and dorm fees and his daily food. Chamnan had to learn how to manage his money wisely.

The following year the dorm closed and Chamnan with four of his friends found a room to rent for US \$30 per month, "I remember the first time the rent was due for the house, and we did not have enough money. So, I decided to sell my cellphone in order to pay my share. It was not worth much, but it was the only property I had," he said.

Chamnan first worked for a private company.

His mother passed away in 2008 and his father experienced challenges at work. In order to help his father, Chamnan took his two siblings to live with him. Later that year, Chamnan moved to work in Siem Reap as the Volunteer Coordinator for Habitat for Humanity Cambodia.

Because Chamnan used to live in Prey Veng Province, it was easy for him to adapt to living in the countryside. He enjoyed working within communities and meeting different people, "It was fun to work with villagers around Siem Reap and to help the poor, but it was also a bit hard for me to travel through bumpy roads to Phnom Penh every Saturday and Sunday because I had to come to the city for my engineering classes."

Despite having to move between different provinces for different Habitat projects, Chamnan has found working with different communities most enjoyable. He is now a Construction Supervisor and he is responsible in providing technical support to home partners in designing and building their homes. Chamnan thinks it is important to carefully monitor the construction quality and process, "I have learned many valuable lessons working with Habitat, which have improved my engineering skills. I like to follow up with families I work with every once in a while, and check on their homes, and most importantly, check on how they are doing.



Chamnan building with Global Village teams



Working with community members around Cambodia has helped me to learn about life, and I love to see the lives of people improve. I feel excited to when I see them feeling secure in their own house that they can afford, where they do not have to be afraid of the weather or of being evicted," said Chamnan.

Chamnan is now happily married and on his seventh year with Habitat Cambodia.

New Arrivals



It's a great pleasure for HFH Cambodia to welcome our new Country Director Kif Nguyen. Kif officially started working with us on December 1, 2014. His most recent experience was with ACTED Myanmar as Country Director. Kif has more than 14 years of experience in international and program management with NGOs and the private sector. Kif has served at different organizations and institutions, mainly in Asia and Africa. He has a Master's Degree in International Relations from the Graduate Institute of International Relations and Development Studies in Switzerland and a Bachelor's degree from the Institut d'Etudes Politiques (France) in Political Science.

You can contact Kif at KNguyen@habitat.org



We welcome Mr. Chhoeurn Chhunna our new Phnom Penh Program Manager. Chhunna officially assume his new role with HFH Cambodia in October 2014. Chhunna holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration. He has been working in the Health Sector particularly on HIV/AIDS, Research and Community Development.

You can contact Chhunna at chhoeurn_chhunna@habitatcambodia.org



We welcome back Mr. Heng Piseth as our new Finance Manager. Piseth worked with HFH Cambodia from June 2009 – January 2014. His last position was Finance Officer. He recently worked with TI as Finance Officer and previously worked as Finance Assistant with ADRA.

You can contact Piseth at heng_piseth@habitat-cambodia.org



Wewarmly welcome Ms. Toch Sokunthea, our new Product Development Coordinator for Market Development Program. Sokunthea hold Bachelor Degree of Agriculture, Associate Degree of IT and Pedagogy Certificate in Mathematic and Physics. She is pursuing Master's Degree in Business Administration. She has previously worked with World Vision Cambodia as Peace Education Project Coordinator, and worked with Khmer Youth Association.

You can contact Sokunthea at toch_sokunthea@habitatcambodia.org



Warm welcome to Mr. Mainul Islam Khan (Mainul), our new Country Finance Manager. Khan holds a MBA in Finance from the University "Tun Abdul Razak" in Malaysia and a Bachelor of Business Management from Bangalore University in India. Khan has over 7 years of experience working with non-profit organizations. He has also previously worked with the private sector in Bangladesh and Cambodia.

You can contact Mainul at MKhan@habitat.org



We welcome Mr. Vy Tak our new Civil Engineer. Tak officially assumed his new role with HFH Cambodia in October 2014, and is now based in Saang. Tak graduated Bachelor Degree in Civil Engineer and has internship experience with CCT Project, HFH Cambodia from July 2014.

You can contact Tak at vy_tak@habitatcambodia.org.

Or Kun!



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