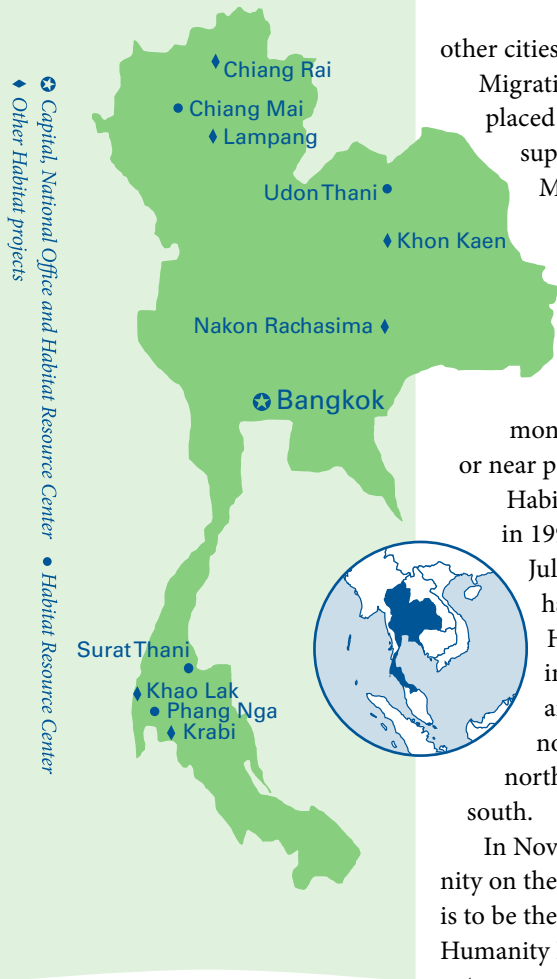


Habitat for Humanity in

THAILAND



other cities in the country.

Migration from rural areas has placed a strain upon on the supply of affordable land.

Migrants face high rents for small rooms and often live in overcrowded areas plagued by a lack of proper sanitation facilities. Squatter settlements are commonly seen along railway lines or near port and industrial areas.

Habitat for Humanity began in 1998 in Udon Thani. Since July 2006, HFH Thailand has been operating through Habitat Resource Centers in Bangkok in the central area, Chiang Mai in the north, Udon Thani in the northeast, Surat Thani in the south.

In November 2009, a community on the outskirts of Chiang Mai is to be the main site for Habitat for Humanity International's global signature event, the Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Project Work.

HFH Thailand's tsunami-recon-

Increased prosperity has driven up demand for land, and land prices.

struction program has served nearly 1,300 families and is being transformed, as planned, into a regular program. The move reflects the continuing strong need for affordable housing in the south of the country.

Habitat both builds and renovates homes using Save & Build, Building in Stages and traditional models. The Save & Build housing microfinance model calls for the formation of groups of families who save toward the cost of a house. When a propor-

tion of the house cost has been saved, Habitat and its partners invest the remaining amount and construction begins on one house. The savings cycle starts again for other houses until all members of the group receive their houses. Building in Stages is a concept where Habitat homeowner partners start by constructing a two-room core house with an open space, built on a cement foundation. Additional rooms and walls are built after three years or once a certain amount of the initial mortgage is repaid.

Nowadays, HFH Thailand's houses are typically 36 sq. m. each in size and the design features the use of concrete interlocking blocks or concrete hollow blocks with a tiled roof. Habitat also builds wooden stilt houses with metal sheet roofs in southern Thailand.

House construction normally takes about 20 days. Average monthly repayments are approximately US\$29.40.

In recent years, HFH Thailand has focused on working with partners and others to provide complete com-

Habitat FACTS

Houses built to date[#]

3,755

[#]New houses and rehabilitations, including tsunami projects

Cost of one house*

US\$4,560

*International sponsorship cost

Families served**

831

**New houses, rehabilitations, repairs, technical, finance and other services in the financial year to June 30, 2009

— As of March 2009 —

THAILAND, "the Land of Smiles", is one of the great economic development success stories of recent times. Yet, the fruits of prosperity are spread unevenly in this tropical Southeast Asian nation.

Many can afford to access the formal private or government housing sectors. Yet, for many low-income families, having a good, regular income is still not enough to access the formal housing sector. Increased prosperity has driven up demand for land, and land prices.

The government's National Housing Authority estimates some 8.2 million people live in sub-standard housing. Problems are particularly acute in Bangkok as the capital has grown into a major metropolis of about 10 million people, dwarfing

COUNTRY FACTS

Population: 65.5 million (July 2008 est.)

Capital: Bangkok

Area: 514,000 sq. km.

Ethnic groups: Thai 75%, Chinese 14%, others 11%

Languages: Thai, English, ethnic and regional dialects

Religions: Buddhist 94.6%, Muslim 4.6%, Christian 0.7%, others 0.1% (2000 census)



MIKEL FLAMM



community programs involving improved water and sanitation, education, and health care as well as housing.

Habitat receives strong support from corporate partners in serving families in need of safe, decent and affordable housing. These partners include insurance company Manulife Insurance; agricultural products group Cargill Siam; consumer finance companies such as Credit Suisse, GE Capital, Bank of Ayudhya, and the Government Housing Bank; pharmaceutical and healthcare company

GlaxoSmithKline; hotel group owner JW Marriott; transportation and logistical services company UPS; real estate companies Ananda Development and Raimon Land; and industrial companies such as POSCO, the Dow group and HMC Polymer.

Thailand is a popular destination for volunteers from different parts of the world. Since 1999, HFH Thailand has hosted hundreds of teams from, Australia, Canada, China, Hong Kong, Japan, Northern Ireland, Singapore, South Korea, and the US. 🏠



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HFH Thailand Highlights

- ▶ US diplomats, local officials and members of local communities participated in the groundbreaking for the 2009 Jimmy Carter & Rosalynn Carter Work Project at a special ceremony in Moo Baan Nong Kan Kru, Chiang Mai, in February 2009. The 17-rai (2.72 hectares) site will eventually be home for 82 families.
- ▶ In January 2009, the state Government Housing Bank agreed to support a 200 million baht housing finance credit that will enable Habitat to provide homes for some 2,300 families.
- ▶ Movie star and singer Rattapoom Tokongsup ("Film") was named Goodwill Ambassador to promote awareness of housing issues and to encourage young people to volunteer.
- ▶ In July 2007, Thai actor Boriboon Janlueang and HFH Thailand staff helped build toilets for the Mlabri tribe in Phrae province.
- ▶ Habitat and Ford Operations (Thailand) completed a 10-house project for flood victims in the northern Uttaradit province in June 2007. In the same month, another 11 houses supported by UPS were completed in Chiang Mai.
- ▶ More than 260 Cisco staff from 15 countries volunteered on their first build in Thailand in Sueyai Ruamjai community, north of Bangkok.
- ▶ In January 2007, HFH Thailand began a 47-house partnership with Cargill.
- ▶ Eight major Thailand-based industrial companies are supporting a Habitat program to build or renovate homes for 60 families in Rayong province.