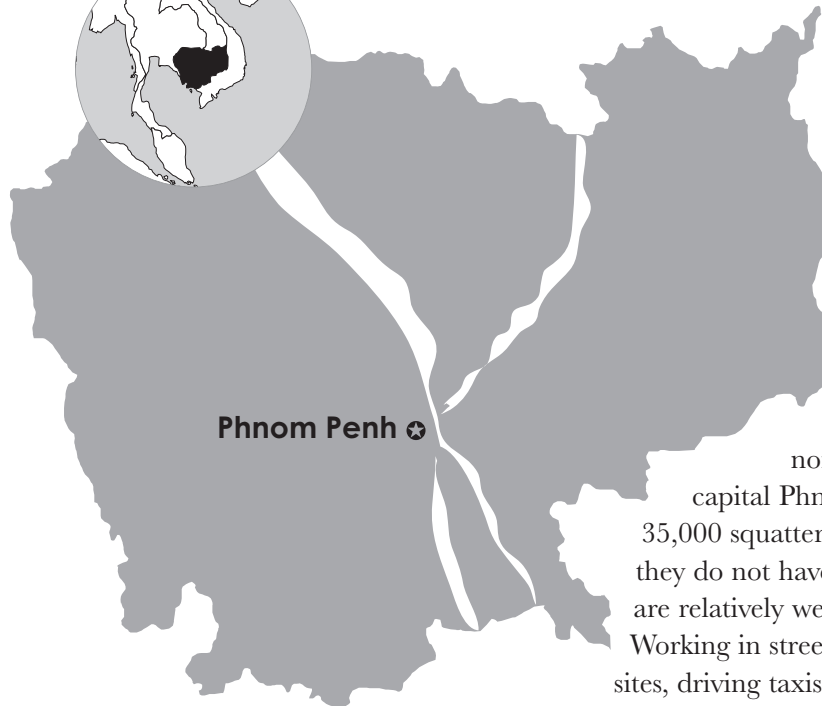


# Cambodia

## Country Profile

✦ Capital, National Office and Affiliate



**THE KINGDOM** of Cambodia, located in the heart of Southeast Asia, is rich in natural beauty and heritage that continue to astound visitors. The world-renowned temple complexes of Angkor Wat date back thousands of years. Yet, shadows of the country's tragic past haunt many Cambodians as they are faced with the consequences of war, the murderous Pol Pot regime and decades of poverty.

Most Cambodians—some 93 per cent—live in the countryside so poverty is primarily a rural phenomenon. Yet in and around the capital Phnom Penh are some

35,000 squatters. Families squat on land they do not have legal rights to. There are relatively well-paying jobs in the city. Working in street stalls, on construction sites, driving taxis or even as soldiers and

police officers, daily incomes average nearly US\$2. This is much higher than in rural areas. But even with steady incomes, squatter families face high living costs, indebtedness, and a lack of water, sanitation or drainage.

Habitat for Humanity Cambodia focuses on urban poverty. It was formally registered with the government in January 2003 and has established strong partnerships with other non-government organizations such as BILEG Community Outreach International, World Vision, and Khmer Kampuchea Krom Human Rights Development Association. HFH Cambodia uses Save & Build micro-finance savings program through the Phnom Penh-Kandal regional affiliate, its only affiliate based in Phnom Penh.

A Habitat house usually occupies 4 x 8 meters of space and is 4.5 meters high. The walls are made from fired brick with a reinforced concrete post. The house comprises a living room, bedroom, and kitchen with a toilet. Partner families repay their Habitat house loan over a maximum of six years. The repayment cost is US\$ 22 per month.

### COUNTRY FACTS

**Population:** 13,607,069  
**Capital:** Phnom Penh  
**Area:** 181,040 sq km  
**Ethnic Groups:** Khmer 90%, Vietnamese 5%, Chinese 1%, other 4%  
**Languages:** Khmer (official) 95%, French, English  
**Religion:** Theravada Buddhist 95%, other 5%

### HABITAT FACTS

Families Helped

**18**

Cost Of One House\*

**US\$2,425**

As of April 2005

\* international sponsorship cost

### Habitat Highlights

- A partnership with an Australian charitable foundation initiated an ambitious US\$582,000 project which will assist 264 poor Kampuchea Krom families.
- The first house was built in September 2004 in Borey Prey Nokor, 10 kms. from Phnom Penh.
- Habitat for Humanity Cambodia's new program gained unusual publicity through the "Great Cyclo Rally of Cambodia". Ten teams riding the ubiquitous pedaled-powered taxis between Siem Reap and Phnom Penh featured Habitat stickers in French.



**HFH Cambodia**

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