



CHINA has become a global economic power house in recent years.

Yet an estimated 200 million Chinese people – 16% of the population – live on less than the equivalent of one US dollar a day each. With so many families, especially in rural areas, surviving on subsistence incomes, achieving decent housing is a major challenge.

Habitat for Humanity's operations in China began in Kunming, in the country's southwest, in 2000. There are field offices in Kunming, Zhaotong and Wenshan. In 2004, new offices were initiated in neighboring

Guangxi and Guangdong provinces. The former, based in the provincial capital Nanning, is the result of a strategic partnership with the Guangxi Poverty Alleviation Development Office and the Guangxi Disabled Persons' Federation; the latter, based in the provincial capital Guangzhou, involves a partnership with the Guangzhou Disabled Persons' Federation.

Habitat works in rural areas in China. A typical rural home is constructed with earth and wood supplemented with a tile or thatched roof. The rooms are usually dark with little or no ventilation. Water requires trips to communal wells. Electricity is common in most areas, but toilet and bathing facilities are not.

Habitat builds houses with red brick and stone and compressed earth blocks. A flat roof design is preferred as home owners can use the space both for drying grain and for collecting rain water. Houses are about 70 sq. m. in size, and are suitable for three to six people.

Habitat builds houses in groups, normally about three at a time. Construction takes place over about seven weeks. The average loan repayment period is five years.

COUNTRY FACTS

Population: 1.3 billion
Capital: Beijing
Area: 9,596,960 sq. km.
Ethnic groups: Han Chinese 91.9%, 55 other ethnic groups 8.1%
Languages: Mandarin (official language) plus local dialects
Religion: Officially atheist. Confucianism, Taoism, Buddhism, Muslim 1%-2%, Christian 3%-4%

HABITAT FACTS

Families Helped
170
 Cost Of One House*
US\$1,990

As of April 2005

* international sponsorship cost

Habitat Highlights

- Siemens International management trainees actively joined a build in Fusui County, Guangxi in June 2005.
- In March 2005, teams from Singapore, USA, Kunming International Academy and American International School of Guangzhou built houses for Miao tribal families in Ganhaizi in Wudin county.
- Volunteer teams from Tianjin Teda International School, Electronic Science & Technology University, American International School of Guangzhou, Shekou International School, and Hong Kong International Middle School built in Yunnan.
- Partnerships with American Leprosy Mission and with Project Grace to build houses for leprosy families.
- Strategic partnership with Yunnan Provincial Poverty Alleviation Development Office and Provincial Disabled Persons' Federations.
- Commodities giant Cargill sponsors ten houses in a Miao village.
- Moneygram sponsors six houses to be built in Zhaotong and Ganhaizi.

Updated August 2005



HFH China

C1-10-301, Yukang Hua Yuan, 4 Wanhong Lu, Jinxing Dong Men, Kunming, Yunnan, PRC 650224 Tel/Fax: +86 (0)871-570-0282
 Email: admin@habitatchina.org Web site: www.habitatchina.org