

THE CITY state of Singapore is at once an entrepôt, a cosmopolitan metropolis, a hi-tech hub and an international financial center. In two generations, the highly interventionist government has created a nation that today enjoys one of the highest standards of living in the world.

The elimination of poverty has, in part, been driven by official concern to create decent housing. Singapore has had an extensive public housing program since the late 1940s. Most of the population still lives in high-rise public housing estates called HDBs. As land is scarce and expensive, housing units, whether in the public or private sector, tend to be small.

Habitat for Humanity Singapore was registered in March 2002 in order to mobilise money, resources and people to support other Habitat programs in the region. Singapore is one of Habitat's designated "non-building" countries.

HFH Singapore has successfully organised and dispatched dozens of volunteer build teams around the region. Its "Under No Roof" campaigns have raised awareness about the issue of poverty housing throughout Asia.

HFH Singapore is forming close links with HFH Indonesia's Batam affiliate. Batam island is only a short ferry ride from Singapore, making it an ideal location for short volunteer builds.



COUNTRY FACTS

Area: 667.5 sq. km.

Population: 4,353,893

Capital: Singapore

Ethnic groups: Chinese 76.7%, Malay 14%, Indian 7.9%, others 1.4%

Religions: Buddhist (Chinese), Muslim (Malays), Christian, Hindu, Sikh, Taoist, Confucian

Languages: Chinese, Malay, Tamil, English

Habitat Highlights

- *First Builders team from Singapore is the first team to rebuild in tsunami-affected Asia following the December 2004 tsunami.*
- *More than 40 volunteer Global Village teams sent overseas to Indonesia, Mongolia, Nepal, the Philippines, South Korea, Sri Lanka and Thailand.*
- *Seven houses built on the nearby Indonesian island of Batam, as part of the "100 House Campaign" which started in Autumn 2004.*
- *"Under No Roof" mass sleep-overs in the open air in 2003 and 2004 attracted hundreds of teenagers and students to experience what it is like to be without a home. Planned for 2005, the project hopes to encourage more young people to be aware of the issue of poverty housing.*



HFH Singapore

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