



August 4 – 10, 2013

The need for decent housing

In the past 20 years, an estimated 30 million Vietnamese people have been lifted out of poverty, according to the World Bank. But the remaining poor, especially ethnic minorities, face difficult challenges with limited assets, low education levels and poor health. Vietnam is also a disaster-prone country with frequent floods, droughts and typhoons affecting the livelihoods of the poor. In Tien Giang province, located in the Mekong Delta region in southern Vietnam, many families are living in inadequate housing — made of palm leaves and thatch, untreated wood and grasses — which only last two to four years. Their meager income leaves them with little savings to make home improvements.

Help transform lives

The Mekong Big Builds will bring international Habitat volunteers and families together to build 25 new homes in Tien Giang from August 4 to 10, 2013. HFH Vietnam will give priority to vulnerable groups such as female-headed households, children, the elderly and/or the disabled in providing decent homes with sanitation facilities. Habitat believes that a safe and decent home opens the doors to improved health, better performance in school, greater economic opportunities and increased community spirit.



HFH VIETNAM AT A GLANCE

Average number of families served per year
2,200
Families served to date¹
10,223
Individuals trained to date²
51,231

¹New houses, repairs and/or upgrades to June 30, 2012

²Various training including financial literacy to June 30, 2012



- **Project duration:** August 4 – 10, 2013
- **Families involved:** 25 (approximately 100 individuals)
- **Primary focus:** Housing, water and sanitation
- **Secondary focus:** Training in basic home maintenance skills and in disaster-resilient construction technology

Objectives

The Mekong Big Builds — Vietnam project will build 25 homes and provide:

- Subsidies and technical assistance for building disaster-resilient homes and sanitation facilities
- Training in basic home maintenance skills and methods of constructing disaster-resilient homes prior to the build

Impact

The project aims to play a role in Vietnam's achievement of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Habitat believes that a decent home transforms lives and breaks the cycle of poverty, thus helping to meet the goal of poverty reduction (MDG 1). Secure and healthy housing, combined with water and sanitation interventions, seeks to make a positive impact on maternal, child and community health (MDGs 4, 5 and 6). Environmental sustainability (MDG 7) is addressed by utilizing an innovative housing design that incorporates disaster-mitigating features and maximizes the use of sustainable resources.

About Habitat for Humanity Vietnam

Habitat for Humanity Vietnam is a branch office of Habitat for Humanity International and began operations in 2001 in Danang in the central coastal region of the country. HFH Vietnam's programs cover construction of new houses, access to water and sanitation facilities, house repairs or upgrades, assistance with obtaining secure tenure and technical support. HFH Vietnam currently has projects in Hai Duong, Hoa Binh and Thai Binh provinces in the north; Quang Nam province in the central region; and Dong Nai, Long An, Tien Giang, Ba Ria-Vung Tau and Kien Giang provinces in the south. HFH Vietnam has also launched disaster response projects in Ha Tinh, Dong Thap and Quang Nam provinces.



Building Bridges to New Homes and Hope