

Hong Kong University

Proposal for student volunteers

1. Overview

Cambodia occupies a land area of 181,035 km² in Southeast Asia with a population of 15.7 million. Nineteen percent of the population is living under poverty line, which earn less than US\$ 1.25 per day. Cambodia's poor and vulnerable households have faced an array of recent shocks, from the price hikes and job losses associated with the food, fuel, and financial crises to natural disasters.

While poverty in Cambodia has been recorded to have fallen dramatically over the past two decades, it is estimated that over ten million Cambodians still lack access to decent housing. Without adequate shelter, families lack security and are likely to suffer from natural disaster and abuse. Adequate housing is a development goal in its own right as well as a crucial element in addressing the broader challenges of poverty.

Habitat for Humanity Cambodia's (HFHC) mission focus is to improve the lives of poor families by providing them with sustainable, decent and affordable housing solutions. Habitat for Humanity Cambodia has seen firsthand how critical housing is to families and to communities; HFHC goes beyond the building of a house as a structure, but promotes housing as a catalyst for development building dignity, hope and opportunity for families. It is about helping families lift themselves out of poverty to become self-sufficient. For over thirteen years, HFHC has been helping people realize improvements in health, education outcomes and employment, and we have regenerated communities and beginning initiatives that drive change in policies and systems that hinder access to adequate shelter.

In partnership with homeowner families, Habitat for Humanity Cambodia builds, rehabilitates and repairs simple, decent homes with the help of volunteer labor and donations of money, materials and other gifts-in-kind. By working with partners in Phnom Penh, Siem Reap, Kandal, and Battambang HFH Cambodia helps families gain access to livelihood opportunities, clean water and sanitation, housing finance services, and secure land tenure. Habitat for Humanity Cambodia's model has evolved from one that provided only housing to a more holistic approach that includes securing land tenure and developing thriving communities with access to clean and affordable water and electricity, as well as engaging multi-stakeholders in partnerships to develop the housing market particularly for low income earners.

Since Habitat for Humanity International registered a branch office in Cambodia in January 2003, HFH Cambodia has served over 15,000 families and strives to serve more than 50,000 in the next three years.

2. Volunteer need

Volunteers play a crucial role in our success. Habitat for Humanity Cambodia has been proficient in hosting different volunteers in weeklong volunteer engagement through the Global Village program, the Habitat for Humanity international (HFHI) volunteer program, and long-term engagements like local volunteer/internship program, as well as through partner school programs/ volunteer agencies like Boston College internship program and Australian Volunteers for International Development (AVID), respectively, among others.

A vital component of the volunteer engagement effort of HFH Cambodia is the identification of clear volunteer outputs that contribute to specific programs and growth initiatives of the organization. This way, volunteers are provided key objectives (in collaboration with HFHC staff) that will need to be fulfilled by the end of the volunteer assignment making the whole experience valuable and meaningful to the volunteer, HFHC and the families and communities that HFHC serves.

The following section presents possible projects for Hong Kong University students.

Need	Assignment	Expected output	Location	Number of student needed	Duration Stay
<p>Providing housing solutions through the construction, repair and renovation of houses is one of core activities of HFHC, as well as water and sanitation facilities Houses built are expected to meet the HFHI minimum quality standards.</p> <p>A follow-up quality and impact assessment is necessary to supplement the current quality assessment efforts.</p> <p>Results of this assessment will help guide housing improvements, future housing designs, and program designs.</p>	<p>The student will carry out a housing quality and impact assessment on houses and water and sanitation facilities built, rehabilitated or repaired. The assessment approach will be considered on quality of material, housing designed, impact on health, safety, durability, accessibility, sustainability, and local factor etc. The assignment will serve as an important exercise that will guide further improvements in approaches, underpin future housing and WatSan designs and future programs.</p>	<p>Students are expected to conduct the assessment (in collaboration with the PDME officer and other relevant program staff) and produce a report with recommendations by the end of the assignment.</p>	<p>Students will be based in Phnom Penh with travels to Siem Reap, Kandal and Battambang.</p> <p>Alternately, a group of 2 students may also be assigned to focus in the provincial locations of Siem Reap and Battambang</p>	<p>A team with about 5 students</p> <p>An additional team of 2 students in Siem Reap/Battambang</p>	<p>2 months (or if 3 months if permissible)</p>
<p>Fundraising is an important activity in HFHC to catalyze the sustainability of the organization. Corporate social responsibility (CSR) is an emerging opportunity in Cambodia. In its effort to diversify donors/funding sources, HFHC aims to continue its research on in-country CSR activities and international CSR programs that considers Cambodia as a priority country.</p>	<p>Conduct a research on companies that have Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programs in Cambodia and other multi-national companies that prioritize Cambodia as one of their recipient countries, and research on successful practices in local CSR that can guide HFHC in implementing its fundraising action plan.</p>	<p>Reports on researches conducted on CSR in Cambodia and on relevant multi-national companies.</p>	<p>Based in Phnom Penh; students will work in the Resource development unit</p>	<p>2 students</p>	<p>2 months (or if 3 months if permissible)</p>
<p>HFH Cambodia has a communications arm that</p>	<p>Production of brief program videos, program/projects briefs, volunteer</p>	<p>In-house production of program videos,</p>	<p>Based in Phnom Penh</p>	<p>1-2 students</p>	<p>2 months (or if 3</p>

<p>focuses on the development of external communication materials. To supplement the newly refocused strategy of HFHC, additional support is needed in the development of brief project theme videos and project briefs. Currently, HFHC has about ten programs and in order for HFHC to actively promote these programs among prospective partners and donors, new materials have to be actively developed.</p>	<p>engagement manual, among others. The student/s should be design and communications-oriented.</p>	<p>program/projects briefs, development/design of hosting manual for Volunteer Engagement.</p>			<p>months if permissible</p>
<p>The promotion of access to water and sanitation is one key focus in Siem Reap.</p>	<p>A design student that qualifies in the provision of technical support on designing other water facilities, among others. Likewise, this student volunteer can support the program team in other program-related work.</p>	<p>Designed facilities and other program-related support work</p>	<p>Based in Siem Reap</p>	<p>1 student</p>	<p>2 months (or if 3 months if permissible)</p>

Description of assigned location

Depending on the assignment, the volunteer/s will work at the National Office located in Phnom Penh City or and in Siem Reap province. A proper workstation that includes a desk will be provided to the volunteer/s.

Habitat for Humanity Cambodia will provide transportation (organization's car or public bus) and allowances when the volunteer/s need to travel to the province for work purposes.

A vast majority of HFHC's 50 staff members are Cambodian nationals; most are able to speak varying levels of English. The location of the head office is near the Russian Market, about 15 minutes by car from the Independent Monument, the Riverside area. The office is a villa located at No. 107, Street 450, Sangkat Phsar Toul Tumpung, Khan Chamkar Morn, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

There are many apartments nearby the head office. The price ranges from US\$300-US\$1,000 depending on location and amenities. Transportation is not a problem in Phnom Penh, there are several options such as taxi, 'tuktuk' and motorbike taxi. If the volunteer chooses to stay in an apartment near the office, they can walk or cycle to work.

The capital Phnom Penh is rapidly 'westernising' with numerous cafes and restaurants serving all types of cuisine. The numerous markets and malls ensure you are able to purchase nearly anything you need, and the supermarkets have many international and Australian brands. The large expat community in Phnom Penh has also provided a number of sporting activities and there are several high quality gyms. The larger towns in Cambodia have also 'westernised', however the rural areas still remain very traditional. There is significant urban drift and large differences in economic situation from rural to urban environments.

Volunteers are strongly encouraged to undertake individual research about Cambodia and its history and culture before arrival.

For my information about HFHC, visit <http://www.habitatcambodia.org>

And

<https://www.facebook.com/habitat.for.humanity.cambodia/?ref=settings>