



AT A GLANCE

Families served to date¹

23,943

Families served this year²

7,179

¹New houses and rehabilitations

²New houses, rehabilitations and repairs
in the year to June 30, 2010

— Updated January 2011 —

THE PHILIPPINES encompasses a thriving economy and a multitude of vibrant cultures. It is also one of the world's most urbanized places, with 65 percent of its population living in cities. Metro Manila, the country's most densely populated region, comprises 16 cities and one municipality. With more than 11 million people, Metro Manila is one of Asia's megacities.

Poverty remains largely a rural phenomenon. As the country urbanizes, however, poverty has become more evident in towns and cities. Currently, about 30 percent of the poor live in urban areas, but, by 2025, more than half of the urban dwellers will be poor. People who live in urban areas are confronted with the high cost of land, which the World Bank considers to be among the greatest impediments to improving housing conditions.

The government estimated that between 2005 and 2010, the country needed some 3.8 million new homes, with demand concentrated in Southern Tagalog, Metro Manila, and Central Luzon. The shortfall does not include people who are displaced by natural disasters and civil conflict. In Metro Manila, more than 126,000 families live in slums and squatter communities where the risk of fire is high.

Since 1988, Habitat for Humanity Philippines has played an active role in providing decent, durable and affordable housing for families in need. It started in the Cagayan Valley Region in the north and in Metro Manila. Through a network of project offices in rural and urban areas, HFH Philippines has built and repaired tens of thousands of homes. Habitat has also assisted more than 5,000 families displaced by typhoons, fire and landslides.

HFH Philippines uses mainly a Building-in-Stages housing micro-finance model for the construction of core houses. These houses have an area of 20-24 sq. m. each. Once an initial mortgage has been repaid, home partners can take out another mortgage to add new rooms or facilities.

Through its urban renewal program, HFH Philippines builds efficient and affordable medium-rise condominium-type structures in areas where land is scarce and expensive. Each unit measures about 26 sq. m. in size with an additional 9 sq. m. in common areas.

In addition to homes, HFH Philippines builds school classrooms with the help of various corporate supporters. Since 2007, Habitat has constructed more than 420 school classrooms.

HFH Philippines works in partnership with government entities, business corporations, non-government organizations and local microfinance institutions. One major partnership is for a seven-year project to clean up the Pasig River in Metro Manila. Habitat is leading house construction for informal riverbank settlers in the resettlement site in Calauan municipality, Laguna province, south-east of Metro Manila.

Tapping on expertise developed from disaster response projects, Habitat is helping to rebuild lives and communities after the devastating Typhoons Ketsana and Parma in September and October 2009. With the support of donors, HFH Philippines has distributed shelter kits which include basic construction materials to help affected families repair their damaged houses. HFH Philippines extended similar help to families who are affected by Typhoon Megi in Luzon region in the northeast in October 2010.

HFH Philippines first undertook post-disaster reconstruction in the BASECO Bagong Buhay community, in the port area of Manila, in 2004. It helped to build 1,000 homes for informal settlers whose shanty town was badly damaged by a fire. Subsequently, Habitat lent its expertise to construct and repair homes and classrooms in disaster-affected areas of Southern Leyte, Bicol and Iloilo.

Several Habitat programs in the Philippines have been supported by multilateral funding agencies. For instance, the European Union funded multi-story residences in Taguig City, Metro Manila, while the European Commission provided a grant to house people displaced by conflict in the southern island of Mindanao.

HFH Philippines also extends the reach of its programs via a resource center located in Manila. The center has developed concrete interlocking block and modified hollow block technologies. Home partners can produce blocks on site, providing them with a source of livelihood and easy access to building materials. The center also works with New Zealand steel frame technology



COUNTRY FACTS

POPULATION: 99,900,177 (July 2010 est.)

CAPITAL: Manila

LAND AREA: 300,000 sq. km

ETHNIC GROUPS: Tagalog 28.1%, Cebuano 13.1%, Ilocano 9%, Bisaya/Binisaya 7.6%, Hiligaynon Ilonggo 7.5%, Bikol 6%, Waray 3.4%, other 25.3% (2000 census)

LANGUAGES: Filipino (official; based on Tagalog) and English (official); eight major dialects — Tagalog, Cebuano, Ilocano, Hiligaynon or Ilonggo, Bicol, Waray, Pampango, and Pangasinan

RELIGIONS: Roman Catholic 80.9%, Muslim 5%, Evangelical 2.8%, Iglesia ni Kristo (Church of Christ in Tagalog) 2.3%, Aglipayan 2%, other Christian 4.5%, other 1.8%, unspecified 0.6%, none 0.1% (2000 census)

LITERACY: 92.6% (2000 census)

URBANIZATION: 65% (2008)

POPULATION LIVING ON US\$1.25 A DAY: 23% (2008)

ACCESS TO IMPROVED WATER SOURCES: 91% (2009)

ACCESS TO IMPROVED SANITATION FACILITIES: 78% (2008)

Sources: CIA World Factbook, World Bank

that is cost-efficient, volunteer-friendly and typhoon-resistant.

HFH Philippines has a large, active and multifaceted volunteer program, including a Habitat Youth Council. The Friends of Habitat represents influential individuals from different walks of life who contribute financial resources, time and talent. Church congregations and tens of thousands of students and young people take part in regular “Building on Faith” and “Youth Builds”, and other special events. The Philippines also hosts dozens of international work teams each year. In 1999, some 14,000 volunteers took part in the Jimmy Carter Work Project in the Philippines. 🏠



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HFH PHILIPPINES Highlights

► In December 2010, ING Bank raised 1.8 million pesos (US\$41,000) for HFH Philippines from a charity run held in Taguig, in Metro Manila to mark the Dutch group’s 20th anniversary. ING aims to build another 20 houses in a resettlement housing project, BayaniJuan sa Southville 7, in Calauan, Laguna province, about 70 km. away from Metro Manila. HFH Philippines will refurbish 800 homes and build a total of 375 homes in BayaniJuan sa Southville 7 as part of the Pasig River project in Metro Manila.

► Marriott hotel group organized a “Spirit to Serve” event from November 2010 to January 2011 to raise funds for HFH Philippines. Ornaments hung on a Christmas tree at the lobby of Marriott Manila were sold off to raise funds for house construction.

► In October 2010, members of HFH Philippines’ Habitat Youth Council led 40 classmates and friends from the International School of Manila to build in Calauan. The volunteers, including bloggers and Global Village volunteers, helped to paint houses, produce bricks, sift sand, mix cement and plant trees. Earlier, the Habitat Youth Council raised 19.48 million pesos (nearly US\$441,000) to build homes in Calauan.

► HFH Philippines and its partners have begun a pilot project, Noah’s Ark, to increase capabilities and reduce vulnerabilities of flood-prone communities and provide havens in calamities. The initiative involves retrofitting existing schools or churches to provide refuge after disasters struck.

► In May 2010, nearly 100 executives and staff from Philippine conglomerate Ayala Group of Companies and its subsidiaries worked on Habitat’s resettlement project in Calauan.

► In April 2010, HFH Philippines’ Midsayap affiliate, on Mindanao island in the southern Philippines, launched a “Habitat for All” program for local government workers in the municipalities of Pigcawayan, Alamada, Libungan, Midsayap and Aleosan. The program caters to the housing needs of rank-and-file employees by building 30 sq.m. sized homes.

► In March 2010, more than 8,000 runners took part in the second annual Globe Run for Home was organized by Globe Telecom to raise funds for a project for resettling informal dwellers by its parent firm Ayala Corp. About one million pesos raised from the race went toward HFH Philippines’ effort to help families affected by Typhoon Ketsana (Ondoy) with shelter repair kits.

► In January 2010, HFH Philippines received a boost from local conglomerate Ayala Corp’s commitment to the Kapit Bisig Para sa Ilog Pasig (Arm-in-Arm for the Pasig River) project.

► The 2nd Asia-Pacific Housing Forum was held in September 2009 at the Dusit Thani hotel in Manila, Philippines. Co-organized by Habitat for Humanity, the event attracted nearly 440 delegates. The forum addressed the theme of maximizing urban poverty housing solutions for greater results.

► By June 2009, HFH Philippines had completed 504 new houses and renovated 510 homes under the “Build for Peace in Mindanao” project funded by the European Union. The three-year project aimed to rebuild lives of internally displaced persons, former combatants and their families in the strife-torn regions in the south — South Cotabato, Cotabato province, Sultan Kudarat, Saranggani and General Santos City.