

PROJECT FACTSHEET

Title of project	SCBF 2012-05: Cambodia Capacity Building for Housing Microfinance
Country/ region	Cambodia / Phnom Penh
Financial Intermediary	THANEAKEA PHUM (CAMBODIA), LTD. (TPC), Micro Finance Institution
Competence Centre mandated for execution	Habitat for Humanity International (endorsed by Credit Suisse) Inc, 270 Peachtree St. N.W., Suite 1300, Atlanta, GA 30303 ("Habitat")
Overall project budget	CHF 160'106 (42% self-contribution by partner)
SCBF contribution	CHF 93'278 (58% SCBF funding share)
Date of project approval	08.10.2012
Project period	12.2012 until 04.2014
Context	Microfinance in Cambodia began in the early 1990s as a result of Nation building efforts by the international community. The sector continues to grow in leaps and bounds and is regulated by the National Bank of Cambodia. With the development of Cambodia Microfinance Association (CMA), the national MFI network, is promoting global standards and best practices and has recently established a Credit Bureau to mitigate over-indebtedness among borrowers. The 2008 Census shows that only 47% of households have access to clean water sources and 34% have access to toilet facilities on the premises of their homes or in their communities. Additionally, 87% of Cambodians are without electricity. The demand of Cambodians to access improved sanitation, water and housing offers a market opportunity that well-positioned, client-focused MFIs can fill by offering housing loan products. It not only allows them to diversify their loan product offerings but builds client satisfaction and attracts new clients in a highly competitive environment. The role of housing in the economic development is well recognized. Housing is one of the principal sectors that can revitalize economic growth of a country; it is one of the essential tools of development. Investment in housing and related infrastructure and services has a multiplier impact on the national income.
Current status	Habitat has launched the Center for Innovation in Shelter and Finance (CISF) to collaboratively work with a wide variety of actors in the public, private and third party sector. The focus was on helping partner institutions to build internal capacity to design housing microfinance (HMF) products for low-income families, along with affordable and sustainable housing support services. In March 2012, Habitat for Humanity International's CISF conducted housing preparedness assessments with two Cambodian microfinance institutions: TPC (Thaneakea Phum Cambodia) and AMK (Angkor Mikroheranhvatho Kampuchea), as a precursor to receiving the MicroBuild funding. MicroBuild HFHI has secured financing for 10-15 countries and will use this fund to supply debt capital to MFIs to provide HMF.
Objective and main activities	<p>The objective is for Habitat Cambodia in consultation and collaboration with regional experts of Habitat's Center for Innovation for Shelter and Finance to build the capacity of two microfinance institutions (TCP and AMK) to provide scalable and sustainable housing microfinance products. Additionally, it would enable the MFIs to leverage \$5 million from Habitat for Humanity International's MicroBuild fund. This in turn could help AMK and TPC provide housing finance and technical assistance for up to 20,000 families over the next three years. The main activities include the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct Institutional Diagnostic Analysis (IDA) for mapping out Institutional Technical Assistance (ITA) and Construction Technical Assistance (CTA) interventions for microfinance institution partners. 2. Develop HFHI's Global Housing Microfinance Toolkit for the Cambodian context drawing on our international expertise and local market knowledge. 3. Build the capacity of TPC and AMK using the Global Housing Microfinance Toolkit to conduct market research and design housing microfinance products which respond to the needs, preferences, and capacities of low income customers. 2. Provide technical assistance and training on Housing Support Services and Financial Education to microfinance institutions, their staff, and technical service providers. 3. Facilitate a one-day workshop to raise awareness among all major national stakeholders for the opportunity of Housing Microfinance to improve shelter and well-being of low income families. Furthermore, it will be presented to other market players and the broader industry to demonstrate the need for housing finance.