

Senghouch – Cambodia



Senghouch and her husband Cheat lived with their four children in a small, poorly constructed and unsanitary house just outside Phnom Penh. The children were often ill, the family had little income and spent a lot on temporary home repairs to try to keep the family dry. A hopeless situation, until March 2019. That's when the construction of their new Habitat home started.

Now they live in a safe and sturdy home, have clean drinking water, their own toilet. A completely different life. "Our new home is safe, our concerns are less and we are much less stressed. My husband and I can finally have a conversation with each other and watch when it rains or storms no longer fearful around us to make sure nothing gets wet or breaks down", says Senghouch.

The health of the family improved thanks to their new home, but the training was also important. "We have learned how important good hygiene is and what we can do about it ourselves. That really helps. And abiding by the rules is much easier in our Habitat home."

The family's income has also improved considerably. There is less money spent on repairs of the house, or on medicines and the family makes more money thanks to their safe base. "Here I can calmly weave my rugs" explained Senghouch. "Now that my loom and the rug can stay dry under the shelter at our house, I'm making extra money from it, we have plans to start a workshop or clothing store. We are happier, healthier and finally building our future!"

Questions:

1. Who was in the story?

Senghouch and her family

2. Where are they from?

Cambodia

3. What are some of the issues facing the family?

Unhygienic living conditions, no access to proper water & sanitation, poorly constructed house, leaks, poor health, small income spent on ineffective repairs/ treating family sickness.

4. How has Habitat helped their lives improve?

Improved living conditions, improved health and hygiene, improved income.