



WHAT WILL YOU BUILD? VOLUNTEER. BUILD "ECO-FRIENDLY" IN MONGOLIA IN 2012

BUILD DATES 1st July - 7th July 2012



About Mongolia

Flanked by giant neighbors Russia and China, Mongolia is a vast country with wide open steppes, deert lands and snow capped mountains. Known as the Land of the Blue Sky, this is a country with rich traditions and a cultural legacy going back to Chinggis (Genghis) Khan and beyond. Mongolia is also a country in transition. The three million inhabitants, many of whose lives still revolve round nomadic herding, today battle more than the hardships of brutal weather conditions and extreme temperatures. Since the fall of the Soviet-style communism in 1990, the planned economy has givenway to a market economy. Investors now flock to the mineral wealth; tourists to the natural beauty. But the transition has not been without pain: many Mongolians face low wages, unemployment and a lack of affordable housing. Poverty is endemic – affecting more than one third of the urban population and an even larger proportion in the countryside. Two-out-of-five Mongolians live in substandard and inadequate housing.



After the success of the first BLUE SKY BUILD in 2010, Habitat for Humanity Mongolia is once again bringing together corporations, individuals and partner organizations to build homes with local families in need. Next summer, volunteers from all over the world will join together to shine a light on the scourge of substandard housing and demonstrate what can be accomplished when families, communities and nations come together to build a future where every man, woman and child has a decent place to live.

BLUE SKY BUILD 2012 emphasizes building environmentally-friendly, energy-efficient homes. Structures are designed take less wood to build. More importantly, the homes use less fossil fuels to keep warm in the harsh Mongolian winters. That means reduced carbon and toxic emissions. And families can use money saved on fuel bills for better food, better clothes, better schooling, better medicines.

From 1st to 7th July 2012, volunteers will join families to build 20 energy-efficient houses in Ulaanbaatar, the capital of Mongolia. Immediately after celebrating the completion of the homes, volunteers can join the celebrations for the Naadam holidays, the country's nationwide midsummer festival of wrestling, horse racing and archery.

The BLUE SKY BUILD 2012 will also mark a milestone in Habitat for Humanity Mongolia's ambitious campaign to support the building of 1,000 more homes in three years.





BLUE SKY in Ulaanbaatar

The capital city, home to more than one million people, will be the site of a project to build 20 homes in one week. Mongolia's largest city, with its sprawling outskirts, sits on the banks of Tuul River surrounded by mountains. It lies 1,350 meters above sea level.

BLUE SKY BUILD 2012 will focus on a community currently living in traditional *ger* tents, or ramshackle wooden huts or costly but poorly built rented dwellings. Families in such communities often live in overcrowded and unhygienic conditions. They lack connections to the city's central heating – vital to combat the winter cold – and water systems. Each 32. sq. m. Habitat house will have a small bedroom, a living room and a kitchen, and a separate toilet. Each family will have access to a small garden.

ECO-FRIENDLY & HEALTHY BLUE SKY

REDUCED WOOD: Wooden house frames replaced with high-insulation polystyrene-concrete blocks.

SOLAR-POWER: Solar panels mean hot water for a community bathhouse.

LOCATION: Each house oriented to capture sun's warmth.

SAFE WATER: Water pumps powered by wind turbines pump.

CLEAN WATER: Each house harvest rain for water supplies.

CLEAN AIR: Internal air quality monitored.

LAND IMPROVEMENT: Fruit trees planted to reduce soil erosion.



FACTS

POPULATION: 3,086,918 (July 2010 est.)

CAPITAL: Ulaanbaatar

LAND AREA: 1,564,116 sq. km.

ETHNIC GROUPS: Mongol (mostly Khalkha) 94.9%, Turkic (mostly Kazakh) 5%, other (including Chinese and Russian) 0.1% (2000)

LANGUAGES: Khalkha Mongol 90%, Turkic, Russian (1999)

RELIGIONS: Buddhist Lamaist 50%, Shamanist and Christian 6%, Muslim 4%, none 40% (2004)

LITERACY: 97.8% (2000 CENSUS)

URBANIZATION: 57% (2008)

POPULATION LIVING ON US\$1.25 A DAY: 22% (2009)

ACCESS TO IMPROVED WATER SOURCES: 76% (2009)

ACCESS TO IMPROVED SANITATION FACILITIES: 50% (2009)

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY IN MONGOLIA

Habitat for Humanity Mongolia was established in 1999 to address the need for decent and affordable housing. It has affiliates in Ulaanbaatar, Darkhan, Erdenet and Khangai. Habitat families enroll in housing microfinance schemes to save for their homes and also contribute "sweat equity", helping to build their own houses. A typical 36 sq. m. home is constructed with bricks or concrete blocks, wood, concrete roof sheeting and insulation against the harsh winter. Toilets are built separately. Because of the climate, building is only possible from May to October each year. But during those months, Mongolia is a popular destination for Habitat volunteer builders. Each year, HFH Mongolia hosts teams from Europe, Asia and the Pacific, and North America.



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