

Country profile: GERMANY



Country facts

Capital:
Berlin
Population:
81.8 million
Urbanization:
74 percent live in cities
GDP per capita:
\$34,000

Habitat facts

Established:
1998
Funds raised in 2009/2010:
more than \$890,000
Number of volunteer teams sent:
more than 65
Focus activities:
Fundraising, sending out corporate and community volunteer teams, advocacy, awareness campaigns

Habitat for Humanity in Germany

Habitat for Humanity Germany began operations in 1998. The national office is based in Cologne, with eight staff members and five people on the board of directors. Its work is primarily focused on raising funds for the international work of Habitat for Humanity.

How Habitat for Humanity works in Germany

In Germany, Habitat for Humanity works through building corporate relations with leading businesses, sending volunteers on international building trips through the Global Village program, and lobbying to find supporters, sponsors and volunteers for worldwide programs. Recently, Habitat Germany has been establishing relationships with institutions and foundations. It is a member of the U.N.-affiliated Global Compact Network in Germany that brings together industry and nonprofits. It is also actively raising funds for emergency relief work for the 2008 earthquake in Tajikistan, the 2008 earthquake in China and the disastrous Haiti earthquake of January 2010 as well as the 2010 earthquake in Chile. Last year Habitat for Humanity Germany raised public funding for the first time: For disaster relief in Haiti more than \$470,000 was raised.

Project support

Habitat for Humanity Germany raised funds to support building projects in Ghana, Lesotho, Indonesia, Jordan, Burma/Myanmar, Vietnam, Argentina, China, Chile and Brazil. In Europe and Central Asia, it has financed building of homes for disadvantaged families in Portugal, Romania, Poland and Macedonia; alternative non- electricity-dependant heating in Kyrgyzstan and winterization of homes in Tajikistan. It also sponsored rebuilding efforts in Haiti after the earthquake in 2010. Each year supported projects and countries vary.

Global Village: Partnering with international schools and corporate volunteer teams

Habitat for Humanity Germany also partners with international schools and colleges in Germany and Switzerland. Every year, teams of students and teachers go for one or two weeks to build or renovate homes alongside low-income families in need of decent shelter. Work with Habitat allows schools to raise their social responsibility and strengthen community spirit through service learning. Habitat for Humanity Germany partnered with about 12 schools in Germany and Switzerland in the last year.

The school and corporate teams that participated in Global Village trips in 2009 and 2010 helped Habitat for Humanity Germany by donating more than \$220,000 in total.

Corporate partners

Habitat for Humanity Germany has developed good relations with a number of corporate partners. Cooperation can take the form of direct financial support or corporate volunteering. Annually, corporate partners contribute more than \$120,000 toward Habitat projects. Among many supporters in Germany are such corporations as Daimler Financial Services, Deutsche Bank, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, Munich Re, Hypovereinsbank, Hetzner Online, SAP and Targobank. An important part of the work with corporate partners is organizing volunteering builds, during which employees work for a few days in Habitat for Humanity projects in Eastern Europe or in other parts of the world. By donating or volunteering, German companies help to fulfill their social corporate responsibility.

Meet a Habitat homeowner

Vasile Dana has never known his parents. He grew up at an orphanage in Beius, Romania and graduated as a brick-layer and painter. After finishing school, he helped a family from Nimaesti with their household. They provided him with shelter and food, but no money. When he grew up, he realized that he needed more resources to be able to start living on his own.

Two German schools volunteered and helped building a house for Vasile Dana. As Vasile was on site during all these building stages, he was very happy to feel that they were helping him with such great joy and enthusiasm.



“It was very hard for me when I finished school at 18. I had no place to go. Now, I cannot believe that I will have my own home. I will be able to have a family knowing that I have a place where I can raise my children,” said Vasile Dana.

What did the volunteers say?

“Working on this project was a life changing experience. It brought me far out of my comfort zone and showed me different perspectives of life.” Student of LeRosey School of Switzerland.

What you can do

DONATE

Visit www.hfhd.de/spenden.html and send your donation to families in need all around the world.

VOLUNTEER

Come build with Habitat and enjoy the experience of a lifetime. Contact anabaldivieso@hfhd.de

PARTNER

If your corporation would like to support Habitat and partner with us, contact christianmichalski@hfhd.de

LEARN MORE

Learn more about how Habitat for Humanity Germany addresses the need worldwide.
Go to www.hfhd.de

SUBSCRIBE

Subscribe to our monthly e-newsletter and get regular updates on our work:
www.hfhd.de/newsletter.html

Spread the word about Habitat! Share this material with your friends and potential supporters.

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CONTACT US

Habitat for Humanity International is a global charity dedicated to eliminating poverty housing. Since its foundation in 1976, Habitat has built and renovated more than 350,000 houses worldwide, providing simple, decent, affordable shelter for 1.75 million people.

In Europe and Central Asia Habitat for Humanity International works with families in need in 20 countries, building and repairing houses, offering housing microfinance services, improving water and sanitation, working on disaster response and advocating for affordable housing. In this region, Habitat has served more than 10,000 families together with volunteers and homeowners. Find out more at www.habitateurope.org.