

April 2010

The bleak winter months are finally over, and the region welcomes a new spring. This is the time of one of the greatest religious holidays in some countries and the period of new happenings for Habitat. It opens an active volunteering season with teams coming to work on the construction and renovation of homes after a winter break, when working outside was a challenge due to the cold. At the same time, Habitat welcomes renewed commitments from its corporate and community partners, as well as new families that have been selected to partner throughout the region.

**Habitat Europe and Central Asia wishes all its supporters and volunteers a happy Easter! View the [Easter card from Habitat ECA](#).**

Many families in the region will soon start new lives, either in their new Habitat homes or in renovated and repaired apartments. With your help, Habitat can help even more families into simple and decent homes.

**Join us in the fight against poverty housing!**

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### **Volunteering in Europe and Central Asia: What comes next?**

In Europe and Central Asia, Habitat is launching a new volunteering season through its Global Village program. An individual or a group can go on a weeklong build from Portugal to Kyrgyzstan and from Poland to Armenia to work on the construction of new homes and improve the lives of low-income families. To learn how you can improve the world, visit [Volunteering in Europe and Central Asia: What comes next?](#)



### **Macedonia: Meeting new Habitat partner families**

Construction of the first apartments in the first Habitat neighborhood in Veles, central Macedonia, is in full swing. Once completed, it will provide 90 homes for local low-income families. The first Habitat partner families have been selected and they have been contributing hours of sweat equity to qualify for a new Habitat home. View the slideshow: [Macedonia: Meeting Habitat Partner Families](#).



### **Whirlpool and Habitat: Every Home, Every Where**

Despite the current world economic downside, Whirlpool Europe remains committed to its support of Habitat for Humanity. The corporation continues to provide funds, volunteers and appliances for new Habitat houses and future homeowners. To learn how Whirlpool Europe supports low-income families in need of simple and decent homes, visit [Whirlpool and Habitat: Every Home, Every Where](#).



### **Latin America starts video appeal for Haiti and Chile**

Singer Ricky Martin and fellow Latin American artists star in a video appeal that calls for donations to support reconstruction in earthquake-struck Haiti and Chile. The Ricky Martin Foundation is partnering with Habitat to rebuild lives and communities in the two countries. Watch [Ricky Martin Foundation celebrity appeal videos](#).

## News in Brief

### **Best practices in housing reconstruction**

The World Bank releases *Safer homes, Stronger Communities: A Handbook for Reconstructing after Natural Disasters*, a knowledge tool developed by the Bank in partnership with the Earthquake and Megacities Initiative, Habitat for Humanity International, the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, Shelter Centre and the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. To learn more, read [World Bank launches publication consolidating global best practices in housing reconstruction](#).

### **Habitat highlights women's day in Asia and Africa**

In March, Habitat affiliates around the world participated in Women Builds to support International Women's Day. Learn more about the events that took place on this day by visiting [Habitat highlights women's needs on International Women's Day](#). In Europe and Central Asia, Habitat will hold a Women Build event in Kyrgyzstan, from July 3–11, 2010. To learn more and to sign up for the build, visit [Come build in Kyrgyzstan](#).

### **Get involved with Habitat**

Global Village is a great opportunity to travel, learn about another country and make a difference in the global fight against poverty housing. Visit our [Global Village section](#). Organize a team of volunteers from among your friends, co-workers, school or other groups, or join one of our featured trips.

- Trip to Tajikistan: You can take part in the build and help Tajik families out of poverty housing from September 24–October 7, 2010. To join the trip, [send an e-mail to Global Village](#).



[Connect with Habitat on your favorite sites](#)

### **Social media news**

Put [Habitat banners](#) on your personal Web site or blog! Check out new pictures or add your own pictures of builds on Habitat for Humanity's official [Flickr page](#).

*Habitat for Humanity International is a Christian non-profit organization dedicated to the cause of eliminating poverty housing. Since its foundation in 1976, Habitat has built and renovated more than 350,000 houses worldwide, providing simple, decent and affordable shelter for 1.75 million people.*

*In Europe and Central Asia Habitat for Humanity International works in 20 countries, building and repairing houses, offering housing microfinance services, improving water and sanitation, working on disaster mitigation and response and advocating for affordable housing. In this region, Habitat has served more than 8,000 families together with volunteers and homeowners.*

Find out more at [www.habitateurope.org](http://www.habitateurope.org)

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