



An E-Newsletter from Europe and Central Asia

## August 2011

All summer Habitat volunteers have been working hard on building homes and fighting poverty housing. We would like to share with you their stories and news.

It is also true that those who have been a part of Habitat – be it through volunteering, working with colleagues to raise funds, or partnering as a Habitat homeowner – become passionate advocates of its cause; energetic to spread the word of Habitat, or eager to dispel myths, such as that it is impossible to solve the world's housing need.

If you are one of these people who like to share stories of the work you've done with Habitat, we want to hear from you! Tell us your Habitat story by putting pen to paper or keystrokes to keyboards and sending it to [eca@habitat.org](mailto:eca@habitat.org). You may be contacted to have your story featured in one of our regional publications!

You can also join our mission to fight poverty housing following these simple three steps:

▶ SUBSCRIBE

▶ SUPPORT

▶ GET INVOLVED



### The power of women in Armenia

For five days this June, seven women from different parts of the world gathered in Tavush, Armenia. [Find out](#) what made them travel to this beautiful part of the world and what they accomplished there in just one week. You can contribute to the positive change in Armenia too!



### More houses for the needy

In Armenia, Habitat for Humanity is expanding its work in the field of housing microfinance. Can small housing loans be a real and effective [solution](#) to help many families out of poverty housing?



### Habitat moves into Bosnia and Herzegovina

Habitat for Humanity has added Bosnia and Herzegovina to the list of its countries through partnering with a local microfinance organization. After the civil wars of the 1990s the country faces a challenging task of rebuilding its damaged homes and economy. Can Habitat [help local families](#) improve their life?



### **Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter go to Haiti**

At the start of November, Habitat's 28th annual Jimmy&Rosalynn Carter Work Project will kick off a two-year effort to strengthen and [support Haiti](#). The former US President will work in Léogâne considered to be the epicenter of the January 2010 devastating earthquake.

## **News in Brief**

### **One week, 150 volunteers and 10 homes**

From October 1-8, volunteers from Romania and Northern Ireland will gather in the small town of Baltesti, Romania, to build simple and decent homes to the impoverished Roma community as part of the third Big Build event. [Big Build 2011](#) will deliver an integrated project where Roma families will no longer live on the edge of town but beside their neighbors, creating a project that can be used throughout Europe wherever impoverished Roma communities exist.

### **Women and housing**

What are the main concerns facing women and their land and housing rights in your country, or generally in Eastern Europe and Central Asia? We invite you to take part in an online discussion on this topic, created by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing. Please find more information about the project here: [righttohousingdebates.org](#)

### **Impressive speaker line-up at second annual International Housing Summit**

More than 40 housing experts will provide insight and practical advice to delegates at the International Housing Summit taking place on the 1 and 2 November 2011 at the De Doelen congress center in Rotterdam. [Find out more](#) about this event.

### **First International Conference on Architecture and Urban Design in Albania**

Epoka University and the Polytechnic University of Tirana are inviting participants to the first International Conference on Architecture and Urban Design, which will be held in Tirana, Albania, on April 19-21, 2012. Find out more details on the [conference](#).

### **World Water Week off to a roaring start**

More than 2,500 participants registered to take part in the 21st edition of the [World Water Week](#) that kicked off on Monday in Sweden.

### **World Habitat awards apply now!**

The [World Habitat Awards](#) were established in 1985 by the Building and Social Housing Foundation as part of its contribution to the United Nations International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. Two awards are given annually to projects that provide practical and innovative solutions to current housing needs and problems, from the global South as well as the North.

### **Sustainable Shelter in an Age of Climate Change and Disasters**

Vice President of the Philippines, Jejomar Binay, will talk about making national housing policy work for the poor at the [third Asia-Pacific Housing Forum](#). The Forum will run on September 7-9, 2011 in Bangkok, Thailand.

## **Habitat & Social Media**



### **Photo galleries**

This month Habitat features a photo gallery of volunteers building in Macedonia. [View the Global Village Macedonia slideshow here](#).

### **Volunteer with Habitat**

We need volunteers to help build and renovate homes in our communities. The 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 now! Organize a team of volunteers from among your relatives, friends, co-workers, school or other groups, or join one of our featured trips.

- Trip to Armenia: [Building on Faith](#) from October 1 - 8, 2011. Sign up for the trip by sending us [an email](#).

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*Habitat for Humanity International is a Christian nonprofit organization dedicated to the cause of eliminating poverty housing. Since its foundation in 1976, Habitat has built and renovated more than 400,000 houses worldwide, providing simple, decent and affordable shelter for 2 million people.*

*In Europe and Central Asia Habitat for Humanity International works in 22 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 11,000 families together with volunteers and homeowners.*

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