HAITI EARTHQUAKE

An E-Newsletter from Europe and Central Asia

February 2010

A devastating 7.0-magnitude earthquake struck the Caribbean nation of Haiti just 10 miles west of the capital, Port-au-Prince, on January 12, 2010. As many as 200,000 people died, and an estimated 1.5 million are now homeless. The United Nations has estimated that 75 percent of the capital will have to be rebuilt.

Damage from the quake has added yet another dimension to the poverty conditions faced by Haiti, where more than 80 percent of the people live on less than 2 dollars a day. In the past two years, political instability, food shortages, tropical storms and hurricanes have made it next to impossible for Haitians to break the cycle of poverty. More than 50,000 homes were damaged or destroyed in 2008 storms alone.

You can help Haitians by donating now or creating your own donation page and inviting your friends, family and colleagues to help reach $2,500, which is the amount it takes to help Habitat establish a permanent home for a Haitian family.

Habitat responds to Haiti disaster
Although the full toll of damaged and destroyed homes in Haiti is unknown, Habitat for Humanity has begun to respond by addressing immediate relief efforts and temporary shelter solutions for families left homeless. Habitat is planning a multiphase strategy from early recovery to mid- and long-term responses. Read more about Habitat's response to the Haiti Earthquake.

Europe and Central Asia pledge support to Haiti
"Today, we are all Haitians." That was the common sentiment throughout Europe and Central Asia following the Haiti earthquake. People were shocked to hear about the scale of the disaster and felt the need to do everything possible to bring hope to Haitians. Emergency donation appeals were sent immediately, and all ECA programs—from Macedonia to Kyrgyzstan—pledged tithes to Haiti. Read about the region's reaction.

Haiti: A land in need of Hope
So many colorful buildings of Port-au-Prince are crushed and damaged. Streets are filled with rubble. People lost their homes and most of their possessions. You can see images of the devastation and chaos in Haiti following the 7.0-magnitude earthquake. Watch Habitat videos: Scenes from Haiti and Tent city refugees.

Ricky Martin joins Habitat efforts in Haiti
The Ricky Martin Foundation/Habitat for Humanity Haiti Recovery Fund was created at the end of January after the singer visited the earthquake-devastated country with Habitat for Humanity International's chief executive officer, Jonathan Reckford. Contributions to the fund will help Habitat for Humanity build and repair housing for families affected by this disaster. Read more about Ricky Martin Foundation/Habitat for Humanity Haiti Recovery Fund.

News in Brief

***Habitat World* launches a photo contest**
Take a picture, take a trip! For this year's readers contest, Habitat World magazine wants to see your images that communicate something vital about the organization's life-changing work. All guidelines and submission rules can be found at Take a Picture, Take a Trip.

World Urban Forum
Since its start five years ago, the World Urban Forum has become the premier place to discuss one of the most pressing problems facing the world today: rapid urbanization and its impact on communities, cities, economies, climate change and policy. This year it takes place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on March 22–26, 2010. To learn more, visit World Urban Forum 5.

State of Central and East European Cities Report for 2010–2011
On January 25–26, 2010, Habitat 's Europe and Central Asia office took part in the expert group meeting on the State of Central and East European Cities Report to be produced by the Warsaw Office of the United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat). To find out more, visit Warsaw Office News & Events.

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 with your friends, co-workers, school or other groups, or join one of our featured trips.

- Trip to Armenia: Special Parent and Child Build will take place in Nshavan from July 10–17, 2010. To sign up for the trip, visit Parent & Child Build.

Connect with Habitat on your favorite sites

Social media news
Download Earthquake Recovery — Web banners to support our efforts for Haiti! See a message from Habitat's CEO Jonathan Reckford from Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Check news and pictures on Habitat for Humanity's Facebook fan 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