

## March 2010

On March 22, the world marks the Day of Safe Water to draw attention to the problems faced by many impoverished communities. In some developing countries of Central Asia, for example, almost half of the rural population does not have clean drinking water.

On the same day, world leaders and development organizations will gather for four days in Brazil's Rio de Janeiro to discuss the most pressing urban and housing problems.

March 8 is the day of the International Solidarity of Women. Women often take an active role in leading their families out of poverty. They seek new working opportunities, renovate their homes with their own hands and work multiple jobs to pay for home improvement loans. However, the walls of social exclusion are hard to break.

**Join the fight against poverty housing!**

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### **Kyrgyzstan: Women who build homes**

This year, local and international women will get together in Kyrgyzstan for a weeklong build to work on the construction of new homes for low-income families. The aim of such builds is not to exclude men but to empower women to take action against poverty housing. You can still sign up for the event and learn how you can offer a helping hand to the families like the Sapaevs. [Read Kyrgyzstan: Women who build homes.](#)



### **Tajikistan: Giving access to clean water**

Access to water is the most pressing need affecting close to 885 million people in the developing world. In 2000, the world's leading countries and development institutions agreed that eight Millennium Development Goals would be met by 2015. Among them is the promise of halving the number of people without access to safe water. A lot needs to be done to fulfill the pledge. Read [Tajikistan: Improving access to clean water.](#)



### **Europe and Central Asia: Slums in the Skies**

Slums in big metropolitan areas are a major housing problem in the rapidly developing world. Skeleton-like grey apartment buildings that dominate skylines of most cities in Eastern Europe and Central Asia are reminders of such slums. Watch a slideshow of [Slums in the Skies.](#)



## Latin America and Caribbean: The World Urban Forum in Rio

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, from March 22–26. To learn more about how Habitat for Humanity will be contributing, visit [Latin America and Caribbean: World Urban Forum 2010](#).

## News in Brief

### Earthquake strikes Chile

Habitat for Humanity is responding to a devastating 8.8-magnitude earthquake that struck the coast of Chile 200 miles southwest of Santiago. Early reports indicate extensive damage to buildings and houses. Our ability to respond effectively to this disaster will require support from donors, volunteers, churches, corporate partners and other community organizations. Make a [donation](#) now!

### Emergency shelter kits for Haiti

Habitat's threefold plan for Haiti begins with the distribution of 10,000 emergency shelter kits. As soon as conditions on the ground allow, Habitat will begin building homes using a core house model. Learn more: [Habitat for Humanity aims to help 50,000 earthquake-affected families in Haiti](#).

### 100,000 families served in Latin America and Caribbean

On March 19 and 20, 2010, Habitat for Humanity Latin America and Caribbean celebrates 100,000 families served in the region. The event takes place in both Sao Paulo and Guarujá, Brazil, in conjunction with the 5th annual World Urban Forum, held in Rio de Janeiro the following week. Visit [Habitat for Humanity Latin America and the Caribbean](#) to learn more.

### Habitat World magazine launches 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!](#)

### 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 [Global Village](#) now and organize a team of volunteers from among 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 and Child Build: Armenia July 10–17, 2010](#).



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

### Social media news

Watch [music celebrities' appeal for Haiti](#), and download Habitat Earthquake Recovery web banners to support our efforts for Haiti! Check out new pictures 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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