



An E-Newsletter from Europe and Central Asia

March 2011

Without water life would not exist. We need water for our daily needs. Yet, not all of us can get it just by opening a tap. In developing countries, women can spend more than 200 million hours in just one day for the most basic of human needs — collecting and carrying water for domestic use.

According to Water.org, people in the slums often pay 5-10 times more per liter of water than wealthy people in the same city. An American taking a five-minute shower uses more water than a person in a slum uses in a whole day.

Water is important to make homes a healthy place. Many viruses and diseases are contracted by drinking unclean water or due to poor sanitation. Habitat understands this holistic approach to housing and provides many communities with access to safe water.

Help us improve homes, bring water and improve life!

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Macedonia: A glass of health for the children

In many places, attributes of a simple and decent home can mean simply access to clean drinking water. Habitat runs water projects in several countries in Europe and Central Asia. [Read a story](#) of the Mustafof family from Macedonia who installed water in their house.



Bulgaria: The perils of rural life

The village of Lilyak is just a few kilometers from Turgovishte, a town in the middle of Bulgaria's heartland. Yet, both are worlds apart. Many Roma families have found their refuge here from the town. Stephan Nikolov [shares about his life](#) in Lilyak and its problems.



Habitat and Whirlpool: Together improving standards of living

Through its [long-term partnership](#) with Whirlpool Corporation, Habitat has been able to equip the homes of partner families with refrigerators, washing machines, ovens and other home appliances generously donated by Whirlpool to support this work.



The Housing Forum in Europe and Central announces speakers
All key speakers for the [Housing Forum Europe and Central Asia](#) being held in Budapest on 4-6 April, 2011 have been confirmed. The [key speakers](#) will lead the Housing Forum on day one in three separate sessions.

News in Brief

Habitat New Zealand responds to Christchurch quake

Habitat for Humanity New Zealand is responding immediately to the deadly earthquake in Christchurch with an initiative to provide temporary accommodation for people without shelter. Habitat has launched a website – [shelter.org.nz](#) – to bring together volunteer hosts and families in need.

Going forward in Egypt

As the recent events in Egypt begin to calm down, Habitat for Humanity is monitoring the situation daily though it reports. There are difficulties in travelling to Upper Egypt due to unpredictable conditions. Housing construction has been hampered partly because of the loss of work for daily laborers who are among Habitat home owners or applicants for Habitat's homes. Habitat Egypt sees an increased need for partnership with local communities.

Perception of homelessness in the European Union

A new Special Eurobarometer [survey](#) was carried out on poverty and social exclusion. It contains information on perceptions of homelessness in different EU countries, including perceived risks of becoming homelessness, availability of decent housing at reasonable prices, estimates of homelessness in local areas, and developments over the last three years.

Empowering Women

To mark the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day, Habitat World explores why Habitat works for women — and why so many women choose to work with Habitat. learn about Habitat's [work with women](#) around the world.



Housing Forum Europe and Central Asia

The Housing Forum team announced that there are 20 extra spaces available for the event. [Register today!](#) If you wish to stay up to date before or during the event, [become a fan of the Forum on Facebook](#).

Photo galleries

This month Habitat features photo galleries from Armenia. [View our Armenia photo gallery section](#).

Get Involved with Habitat

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

- Trip to Armenia: [Women Build in Armenia](#) from June 25 – July 2, 2011. Sign up for the trip by sending us an [email](#).

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
