

May 2010

In a month, people in many countries will be marking the World Environment Day, set aside by the United Nations to raise awareness about the state of the planet we all live on. Habitat for Humanity is marching in the avant-garde of the green movement. It supports stable, innovative, environmentally friendly building practices not only for the earth's sake, but also to ensure safety and happiness for the new homeowners.

The most 'green' thing any builder can do is preserve - making the use of new construction resources unnecessary. Habitat is trying its best to use locally available, sustainable resources for building, be that cane reed in Kyrgyzstan or sun-baked bricks in Tajikistan.

Join us in the fight against poverty housing and efforts to save the planet!

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Habitat is going green

Climate change, no matter how disputed the scientific data and the deal in Copenhagen are, affects us all already and is a risk and burden borne mostly by the world's poor. What is Habitat for Humanity doing to make its housing solutions affordable, yet friendly to the planet's environment? [Read some green thoughts](#) from Habitat's area vice-president for Europe and Central Asia.



More than a brick in the wall

Habitat for Humanity is using a wide range of environmentally-friendly construction materials to provide affordable housing for people in need of decent shelter. From [these slideshows](#) you can learn about some of the technologies employed by Habitat in Europe and Central Asia to save the planet and lower the human carbon footprint.



More emergency kits for Haiti

Thousands of additional emergency shelter kits are being assembled for Haiti in time for the rainy season. They will help make immediate basic repairs and construct temporary shelter. [Watch a video](#) about the kits to learn more.



Tajikistan's water project wins a prestigious environmental award

Habitat Tajikistan's project "Water for life - bio-sand filters" is recognized for the national 2010 Energy Globe Award in the category water. The world's prominent environmental award will be presented ahead of a ceremony in Rwanda's capital Kigali to mark World Environment Day. [Read more](#) about the project and the award.

[News in Brief](#)

Situation in Kyrgyzstan normalizing

As the result of political unrest in Kyrgyzstan on April 7-8, 2010, the president of the country was toppled from power and government had resigned. The violent took many victims. While the entire society still feels the tension and instability, the life of people living in Bishkek went back to normal. The office of office of Habitat Kyrgyzstan also re-opened. [Read an update](#) on the current situation in Kyrgyzstan.

Voces unidas por Chile

Beto Cuevas, Juanes, Alejandro Sanz, Juan Luis Guerra, Laura Pausini, Mana, Shakira, Michael Buble, Miguel Bose and others have recorded a cover of the traditional Chilean song "Gracias a la Vida" (Thanks to Life). The song will be digitally released on May 4th. Proceeds will go directly to Habitat's reconstruction efforts in Chile after the 8.8-magnitude earthquake. [Unite with the artists today!](#)

Response to cyclone Tomas in Fiji

Habitat for Humanity is seeking donations and specialist volunteers to assist with rebuilding in Fiji following devastation caused by Category Four Cyclone Tomas. Bank South Pacific, the largest retail bank in Papua New Guinea, gave the first boost to fundraising by donating 15,500 USD. Find out more at the [Habitat for Humanity Asia-Pacific site](#).

Social media news

Watch how [new emergency shelter kits arrive to Haiti](#). Download Habitat [web banners](#) to support its mission to fight poverty housing! Habitat is approaching 50,000 fans mark on it [Facebook page](#).

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.

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 10,000 families together with volunteers and homeowners.

Find out more at www.habitateurope.org