November 2010

A vision for housing in Europe and Central Asia

The past few years have demonstrated just how central housing is to our economic, environmental and human development. Living in bad homes makes one ill. Children living in poverty housing are missing out on education and chances to break out of poverty once they grow up. Families suffer chronic insecurity, shuffled from place to place in temporary accommodation or lack of it.

And yet the issue of adequate and affordable housing remains fragmented and generally low on the regional development agenda. The first housing forum in Europe and Central Asia aims to tackle the most pressing housing issues and bring them to the forefront.

Join housing decision makers, professionals and policy makers who are aiming to "build" a more sustainable and resilient housing future for the Europe and Central Asia region!

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Europe and Central Asia Housing Forum 2011
Three-day forum will take place in Budapest, Hungary, from April 4-6, 2011. To find out more about the issues to be discussed during this gathering, please read here or visit the Europe and Central Asia Housing Forum site.

What did you build, Europe?
On World Habitat Day in October, Habitat national offices throughout the region were busy raising real and virtual walls to show how an action-driven approach helps to solve the world's housing problem. Read how Dutch bus stops were turned into shacks and how Hungarian journalists contributed to the fight against poverty housing.

In Armenia: Coming out of the shacks
The Armenian Housing Study–conducted around a methodology developed for Habitat for Humanity's global housing policy index, is an attempt to analyze the context and housing environment in Armenia. Read more about the housing issues left over from the country's Soviet past.

Haiti's Hurricane Tomas
High winds and torrential rain added to the misery of Haitian families struggling to recover from the January earthquake. Support Habitat's work in Haiti. Donate today!

News in Brief

Special UN Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing
The UN Human Rights Council, during its 15th session in late September, decided to extend for a period of three years the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing Raquel Rolnik. To find out more, go here.

More than a roof over my head!
A conference on setting a European housing agenda will take place in the European parliament in Brussels on November 17, 2011. To find out more about it, go here.

Indonesia disasters
Habitat is working with other organizations to identify shelter and housing needs of the areas affected by the earthquake and tsunami and eruption of Mount Merapi. To find out more, go here.

Social media news
Download Habitat web banners for the Europe and Central Asia Housing Forum 2011. Become a supporting partner of the event, get exposure for your organization and discounts on registration.

Photo galleries
Learn more about Habitat's innovative projects across the region. View the water filter project in Tajikistan and building with cane reed in Kyrgyzstan.

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 Romania: Easter Build in Romania from 16-23 April, 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 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 11,000 families together with volunteers and homeowners.

Find out more at www.habitateurope.org