

September 2010

Did you know that homes do more than just offer a roof over the head? In safe and stable homes children have a place to study, and they do not get sick. Research has shown that decent housing improves health, increases children's educational achievement and strengthens community ties. As a result, many families can start breaking the poverty cycle.

Yet, on the global development agenda housing is not given a prominent stand. Out of 890 million people living in Europe and Central Asia, more than 200 million live in poor and vulnerable conditions. At the same time, almost 40 million survive on less than \$2.50 per day. The Roma communities are living in the region in almost ghetto like settlements that look no better than slums in India or the Philippines.

Habitat for Humanity has been working on eradicating poverty housing and homelessness so that it becomes socially, politically and religiously unacceptable.

Help us fight poverty housing by making a donation TODAY. Brick by brick we can solve the problem!

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Europe and Central Asia: Faces of poverty

Poverty is the lack of basic human needs, such as clean water, health care, education and shelter, and caused by the inability to afford them. Families in Europe and Central Asia are not immune to it. Watch [this slideshow](#) to meet people who suffer from lack of adequate shelter and learn about the most burning problems of this region.



In Turkey: Researching the housing need

Habitat for Humanity has commissioned a fact finding report on the [housing situation in Turkey](#). The study aims to provide Habitat with an overview of major housing problems in the country and possible project designs to address them. From this article you will get basic facts and figures about the housing need in Turkey.

International Social Housing Summit 2010

In October, 2010, more than 300 delegates and speakers will meet in The Hague for a new [international social housing summit](#). Habitat for Humanity is planning a round table discussion in the framework of the summit. The discussion will focus on the main housing issues in Europe and Central Asia.



ISHOSUM
The International Social Housing Summit
13 & 14 October 2010, World Forum, The Hague, The Netherlands



Join the World Habitat Day Photo Wall

Would you build a home? Better schools? Safe neighborhoods? Show your support by posting a photo of yourself that answers the question, "What will you build?" [Join the World Habitat Day Photo Wall](#).

News in Brief

71st session of the UNECE Committee on Housing and Land Management

Area vice president of Habitat for Humanity Europe and Central Asia Don Haszczyń is attending the 71st session of the UNECE Committee on Housing and Land management to present the First Europe and Central Asia Housing Forum initiative. The session on September 20-21, 2010, in Geneva, Switzerland, will also discuss the need for a comprehensive policy framework for affordable, healthy and ecological housing, and the adoption of the draft "Action Plan for Energy-efficient Housing in the UNECE Region".

The Forum online

The Forum—a quarterly publication from Habitat for Humanity International can now be [read online](#). The Forum explores issues related to housing and poverty, describes the work that Habitat for Humanity is doing around the world and offers in-depth analysis of innovative programs that address the need for decent housing.

New Habitat photo section on Flickr!

Check out our new series of photo galleries on Flickr: [Faces & Places](#). It explores local culture and Habitat projects in the countries throughout Europe and Central Asia. This month's featured photo gallery: [Faces and Places of Armenia](#). This gallery is also available on the habitat website. [Please find the Armenia photo gallery among other galleries here](#).

Social media news

Download Habitat [web banners](#) to support its mission to fight poverty housing! Habitat is approaching 50,000 fan hits on its [Facebook](#) page.

Get Involved with Habitat

The Global Village Program 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: Building homes for families in Armenia from May 28 - June 12, 2011. If you want to sign up for the trip, write us an [e-mail](#).

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 10,000 families together with volunteers and homeowners.

Find out more at www.habitateurope.org