



May, 2012

It is not a secret that Roma face numerous challenges in modern Europe. At the same time, governments tend to brush aside their problems focusing on solving more urgent economic issues.

You can also choose to ignore it or do something about it. It is possible to offer Roma families simple and decent places to live. In Romania, Bulgaria, Macedonia and Slovakia, Habitat has developed solutions to help Roma families make essential home improvements.

It is important that these are not handout programs. Habitat projects directly involve Roma families in upgrading their own housing conditions. Families contribute their own labor and money. Then, the funds that families repay go into the Revolving Fund. This way even more families can escape poverty housing.

You can help us reach out to more Roma families by following the three simple steps!



The plight of Roma

The Roma are one of the poorest and most marginalized ethnic groups in Europe. Up to twelve million of them live in Europe and even the most optimistic politicians cannot speak about any existing dialogue with Roma communities on a national level. [Can we do something](#) to change their plight?



Volunteer at special events in post-Soviet countries

Women, Family and Peace – are the themes of [three special events](#) organized this summer with Habitat programs in Armenia and Kyrgyzstan. All three reflect traditional values of Armenian and Kyrgyz societies, for many still little known.



Consolis Group extends a helping hand across Central Europe

Consolis has become the seventh largest corporate partner of Habitat for Humanity in Europe and Central Asia and continues to be one of our most important and dedicated supporters providing much needed funding [to build and renovate homes](#).



Photo gallery: Roma realities

Pictures can tell a better story than thousands of words. [This slideshow](#) illustrates some of the greatest challenges Roma families face in modern Europe. It presents some images with traditional ways of living alongside those symbolizing the marginalization and social exclusion of Roma.

News in Brief

Irish President welcomes Habitat's housing initiative in Dublin

The President of Ireland, Michael D Higgins, attended the handover of new homes to Habitat families in Dublin, Ireland. Watch the full [news report](#).

Participate in the 2012 Habitat World photo contest

Enter the Habitat World photo contest for a chance to win a spot as a volunteer at the upcoming 29th annual Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project in Haiti! [Go behind the lens](#) with 2011 winner Chris Sebilja as he takes you on a visual tour of his build experience in Haiti last year. And [find out how to enter](#) this year's contest today.

Dave the date: Regional Forum on Adequate Housing in Latin America and the Caribbean

Habitat for Humanity, UN-HABITAT, the Red Cross, Corporación Minuto de Dios and others announce the [first Forum on Adequate Housing in Latin America and the Caribbean](#), to take place from September 25-28 in Bogotá, Colombia.

Archbishop Tutu on home and Habitat

In a recent video for Habitat for Humanity, Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu, patron of Habitat South Africa, spoke about the meaning of a home. "Building communities around houses is at the very core of what Habitat for Humanity is all about...A home is instrumental in breaking the shackles of poverty from one generation to the next." [Watch it](#).

Habitat & Social Media



Volunteer with Habitat

Trip to Armenia: [Family Build](#) from July 28 – August 5, 2012. Sign up for the trip by sending us an [e-mail](#).

Habitat for Humanity International is a global nonprofit Christian housing organization that seeks to put God's love into action by bringing people together to build homes, communities and hope. Since 1976, Habitat has served more than 500,000 families by building and improving homes; by advocating for fair and just housing policies; and by providing training and access to resources to help families improve their shelter conditions.

An estimated 17,000 of these families are in Europe and Central Asia, where Habitat has been active since the mid-1990s.

For more information, to donate or to volunteer, please visit www.habitateurope.org

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