



# The State of Advocacy: Fiscal Year 2012

Habitat for Humanity International  
Government Relations and Advocacy

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# Foreword

This year, Habitat for Humanity and its government relations and advocacy team have navigated unprecedented obstacles to achieve truly remarkable results despite ongoing economic and political uncertainty.

The drive to move Habitat's mission forward through advocacy has never been stronger and the potential for positive impact never greater.

Habitat's new strategic plan commits all of us, ministry-wide, to advocate for affordable housing by promoting transformational systemic change to increase access to housing, decrease obstacles such as forced evictions, and, through advocacy, provide more stability for children, women, youth, and vulnerable families.

I will never forget visiting our advocacy project in Cochabamba, Bolivia with, Maria Luisa Zanelli. For three years, Habitat has been working with a group of 300 colorfully dressed indigenous women on the outskirts of the city. Many have now graduated from Habitat's Women's Leadership School on Land Tenure, where they have been trained on land rights and how to advocate for change in their municipalities and their country. And they have succeeded.

Because they advocated on behalf of themselves and all Bolivian women, a new law mandates that the wife's name appear on every land deed and property title. This law sets up a framework of equality to benefit more than 1.8 million Bolivians and more than 620,000 households headed by women. This is a powerful example of how advocacy empowers all of us to change lives on a massive scale.

With Habitat's advocacy work in its sixth year, advocacy is becoming more broadly embraced as an important program to create a positive and lasting impact on the lives of those in need of decent shelter. The exceptional members of the Government Relations and Advocacy team have developed strong advocacy tools and campaigns. These tools and campaigns have been rolled out and many — including board members, our CEO, members of our international and North American staff, partners throughout Habitat and GRA staff — have embraced advocacy as an essential part of their work and, collectively, accomplished commendable results despite extraordinary hurdles. Affiliated organizations are encouraged to dedicate efforts to advocacy, which is defined as changing systems, policies and attitudes to achieve decent housing for all (Habitat for Humanity Advocacy Task Force report, July 2005, and adopted by Habitat for Humanity International's board of directors on October 2005).

While affiliates are not required to engage in advocacy, if an affiliate chooses to participate in advocacy activities then this policy sets forth the requirements that apply to all advocacy efforts and clarifies what types of advocacy efforts affiliated organizations are legally allowed to engage in.

- Our strategy around the Section 4 Capacity Building Program proved effective, resulting in level funding in the fiscal year 2013 House and Senate T-HUD appropriations bills. This is almost unheard of in the current fiscal and political climate.
- We have been advocating for Habitat and other nonprofits to be eligible for funding for weatherization, and were able to solidify legislative language authorizing a competitive weatherization program for nonprofits in a Weatherization Assistance Program reauthorization bill.
- Advocating with and on behalf of our U.S. affiliates, GRA obtained a ruling from HUD exempting affiliates from the Secure and Fair Enforcement for Mortgage Licensing Act of 2008, and worked with affiliates in every state to implement. Sample data taken from affiliates of different sizes shows direct savings of approximately \$3,500 to \$10,000 per affiliate in the first year, and between \$2,000 and \$5,000 each year after.
- GRA launched a new advocacy campaign, focused on ensuring Habitat's unique homeownership model is considered in new mortgage laws and regulations. GRA has already seen numerous successes at state and federal levels, including the

creation of a Habitat exemption from CFPB rules to allow appraisers to donate their services to Habitat, and successful state-level legislative initiatives in Indiana, Mississippi and Pennsylvania.

- GRA is also coordinating the implementation of these new regulations, training more than 500 Habitat affiliates.
- Just before this report was completed, GRA led a successful campaign to make sure every U.S. affiliate implemented policies and procedures to comply with the U.S. Department of the Treasury's new anti-money laundering rules.
- Habitat on the Hill 2012 was an overwhelming success, with 291 participants and 257 visits on Capitol Hill.
- I'm also pleased to report that the Global Housing Indicators website, [www.globalhousingindicators.org](http://www.globalhousingindicators.org), mentioned in last year's report, is now live.

The advocacy campaigns developed by the Latin American and the Caribbean national organizations are advancing toward changes in regulatory frameworks, policies and programs to secure land tenure for women and the most vulnerable (HFH Argentina, HFH Bolivia, HFH Brazil); rental housing (HFH Argentina); housing subsidies (HFH Brazil, HFH Mexico); housing improvement, new building systems and high rise housing (HFH Colombia, HFH El Salvador, HFH Guatemala); municipal housing policies (HFH Honduras, HFH Dominican Republic); healthy environments (HFH Paraguay); and disaster risk management and reconstruction (HFH Chile, HFH El Salvador).

And the progress being made in Haiti, though measured, remains full of promise. Through the development of the first volume of the Haiti Land Transactions Manual, government officials, Haitian businesses, global corporations, donors and other stakeholders are now able to have clarity and certainty in buying and selling land to support Haiti's reconstruction efforts.

Please enjoy this collection of advocacy highlights. As this program grows, I look forward to sharing additional examples next year of the transformative power of advocacy.

In partnership,

Liz Blake  
Senior vice president  
Government Affairs, Advocacy and Legal

# Section 1: Advancing advocacy at Habitat



# Building impact: Understanding the Strategic Plan Objectives

**Goal:** Build sector impact

**Objective:** Promote policies and systems that promote access to adequate, affordable shelter

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## What is included in this objective?

Habitat will build the capacity of its national offices, affiliated organizations and coalitions to influence policies and systems, improving access to adequate housing. This includes creating new policies and systems as well as working to influence existing policies and systems. Habitat for Humanity International will also establish committees at the regional and global levels for identification, prioritization and measurement of advocacy goals.

Increased knowledge, coordination and participation in coalitions from Habitat entities will result in one collective voice influencing policies and institutions. Habitat will also be able to share tools, planning and best practices across regions to support advocacy activities.

## How is this different from what we do today?

The existing strategic initiative for advocacy capacity building is primarily focused on the United States. Advocacy-related activities are taking place throughout the world, particularly in Latin America and the Caribbean, but they are not fully supported by HFHI. This new strategic objective will recognize the impact of these efforts and allow area and national offices to contribute to a global initiative.

## What is not included in this objective?

This initiative is not limited to education on poverty housing. Education can be one component, but success must be measured by the impact of changing policies and systems.

Additionally, this objective remains focused on policies and systems that have a direct impact on shelter for the poor. Work related to general poverty issues, such as food security, is not part of this objective.

# Build Louder trips deliver extraordinary experiences and results

Jose Quinonez  
Director, Advocacy capacity building

In fiscal year 2012, three Build Louder Global Village trips took place under Habitat for Humanity International's new Volunteer and Institutional Engagement department.

## Argentina: October 2011

"Having this opportunity to travel to Argentina with Habitat for Humanity International has been a gift to me. As a partner family who received the Habitat gift, I was very grateful to be part of such an opportunity and be able to pass that gift to another partner family. I was so blessed with the opportunity to meet wonderful people that care about the rest of the world."

Cynthia Wiggins, homeowner, Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake

*Twenty-two staff members, donors, volunteers and board members of Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake (Maryland) traveled to Buenos Aires, Argentina.*

This Build Louder trip concentrated its learning portion on secure land tenure and neighborhood revitalization.

The group focused on the La Matanza municipality, which is the largest and one of the poorest municipalities of the area surrounding Buenos Aires. Three houses were built in the 22 de Enero neighborhood, which was formed through a land seizure. This area is home to approximately 22,000 residents. HFH Argentina began to work in this neighborhood three years ago in alliance with the Concordia Foundation, a neighborhood organization, and through Community Workshops on Housing and Sustainable Development in an effort to legalize the land and secure land titles for future homeowners.

Participants also worked on a project in La Boca to recycle urban homes. This methodology being used by HFH Argentina to transform unoccupied buildings was of special interest to HFH Chesapeake because of its efforts in neighborhood revitalization in parts of Baltimore. The apartments in La Boca and will be rented to low-income families who now live in inadequate housing, and will be rented in a way to guide families toward long-term housing solutions.

## Paraguay: November and December 2011

"Participating in the Paraguay Build Louder trip far exceeded my expectations. Through the trip, we learned to essentially evaluate a community from the inside out. As an executive director of a local affiliate, I feel the experience will help us impact our own community on a deeper level while educating others about the barriers present when addressing housing issues locally and around the world."

Tammy Marine, executive director, Habitat for Humanity Inland Valley

*From Nov. 27 to Dec. 4, 2011, seven staff and volunteers from Sea Island Habitat for Humanity in South Carolina; three staff from Habitat for Humanity of Inland Valley, California; and eight other volunteers from across the United States traveled to Paraguay for a Build Louder trip.*

This trip started with a guided visit to a vulnerable community in Arroyos y Esteros. The national organization already had a relationship with this community so leaders were accustomed to sharing their stories, their struggles, their success and

their feelings about their housing and the development situation. During the advocacy portion of the trip, there was an opportunity to visit the minister of housing, to discuss Arroyos y Esteros and share with him the need conveyed by community leaders for funds to complete 10 Habitat homes in that community. Before the meeting ended, the ministry of housing agreed to cover the \$50,000 needed to complete 10 houses in Arroyos y Esteros.

## **Dominican Republic: June 2012**

“Being part of the Build Louder trip to the Dominican Republic with Habitat has been a truly extraordinary and profound experience. This was my first experience with Habitat, and learning about the issues and challenges that so many people around the world are facing, specifically in the issue of secure tenure, has deepened my understanding of and formed a strong commitment to Habitat.”

Kari Barkley, trip participant

*Nine staff and volunteers from Habitat for Humanity of New York City, along with 11 volunteers from across the United States went on the first Build Louder trip to the Dominican Republic. In Santo Domingo, the group worked on housing repairs and improvements. They rehabilitated floors, built walls, and installed doors and windows.*

The trip also resulted in an agreement for cooperation between the mayor of Santiago and Habitat for Humanity of the Dominican Republic.

# HFHI heads toward 100,000 online advocates

Arlene Corbin Lewis

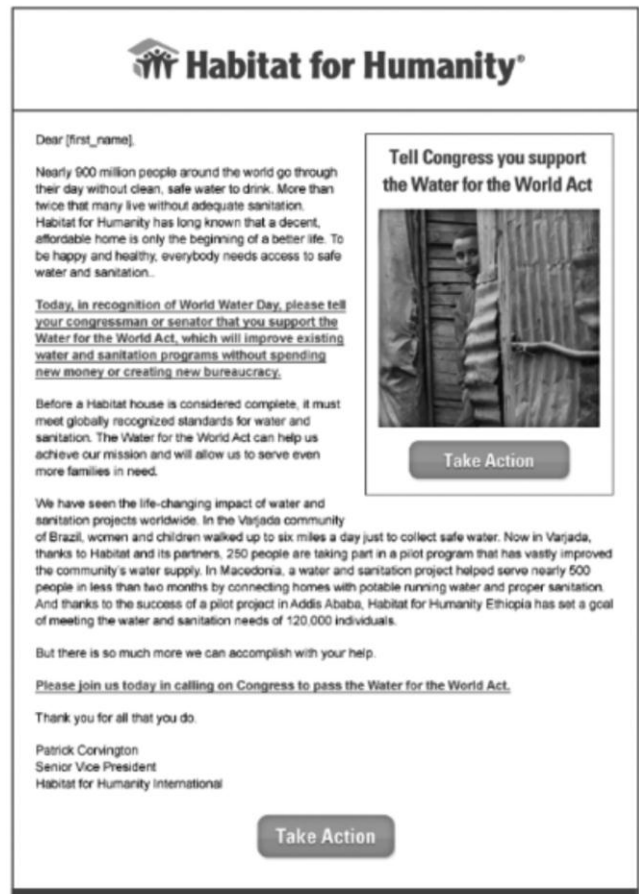
Communications associate director, Editorial Services  
Government Relations and Advocacy

Just five years ago, HFHI had fewer than 100 online advocates. With help from external consultants, a committed core group of HFHI staff and the explosion of digital engagement, HFHI is now on the verge of hitting a significant milestone — 100,000 online advocates.

HFHI's online advocacy program continues to grow and evolve. Most significantly, the creation of HFHI's new Volunteer and Institutional Engagement department has provided new leadership for the program. VIE works closely with the Government Relations and Advocacy and Communications departments to identify issues, craft messaging, deploy action alerts and develop short- and long-range strategy for online advocacy.

Expanding the program remains a key priority, and in FY12 HFHI exchanged online appeals with nonprofits such as Feeding America, with the goal of increasing list size. This list swap strategy proved effective and will be a much-needed tactic to reach the goal of 150,000 online advocates by 2014.

In fiscal year 2012, online supporters received 20 emailed messages ranging from surveys and thank-you messages to requests about action issues that affect funding for key government programs. As a result, more than 92,000 emails were sent to Congress in this fiscal year. Of those messages, the most successful were a representative cross-section of both international and U.S.-focused action alerts that helped place housing issues on the agenda in Washington and supported critical federal resources for HFHI.



| Date       | Message                        | Open Rate | Click through Rate | Action Rate | Open rate |
|------------|--------------------------------|-----------|--------------------|-------------|-----------|
| 9/14/2011  | National Service Day of Action | 17.54     | 4.94               | 3.69        | 28.13%    |
| 10/31/2011 | SHOP message                   | 16.77     | 6.66               | 5.09        | 39.74%    |
| 11/10/2011 | Veterans Day message           | 17.76     | 5.71               | 4.43        | 32.12%    |
| 11/22/2011 | Haiti message                  | 17.33     | 5.83               | 4.23        | 33.61%    |
| 2/9/2012   | Habitat on the Hill            | 17.58     | 6.49               | 4.86        | 36.93%    |
| 3/22/2012  | World Water Day                | 19.13     | 7.3                | 5.05        | 38.13%    |
| 4/11/2012  | SHOP message April 2012        | 16.56     | 5.55               | 4.23        | 33.53%    |
| 5/14/2012  | Section 4 message May 2012     | 14.68     | 4.23               | 3.14        | 28.79%    |
| 6/22/2012  | Water for the World Act        | 19.83     | 6.56               | 4.96        | 33.09%    |

# Habitat on the Hill 2012: Build louder, serve louder

Anne Myers  
Project coordinator



**Col. David Sutherland, special assistant to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, speaking during Habitat on the Hill 2012.**

From Feb. 8-10, 2012, nearly 300 advocates gathered in Washington, D.C., for Habitat for Humanity International's annual legislative and advocacy conference — Habitat on the Hill: Build Louder. Serve Louder.

HFHI's sixth annual event brought together hundreds of Habitat leaders, advocates, volunteers and supporters from across the country. Participants were equipped to identify new opportunities for raising funds and resources for their affiliates and recognize how advocacy can help achieve those goals. In addition, participants heard speeches from Sen. Rob Portman, R-Ohio; Col. David Sutherland, special assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (principle focus on warrior and family support); and Habitat CEO Jonathan Reckford.

During the conference, participants attended 259 meetings on Capitol Hill to talk about the issues that deeply matter to Habitat.

Programs critical to Habitat's work, such as SHOP, the Self-help Homeownership Opportunity Program, and Section 4 Capacity Building, were cut significantly in the months before Habitat on the Hill. Other programs, such as AmeriCorps and VISTA national service, were at serious risk of elimination. There was also a focus on Habitat's Veterans Initiative, which serves veterans and military families by helping them develop housing solutions, and by offering them volunteer and employment opportunities. This year, Habitat on the Hill was more important than ever before to the local work of Habitat affiliates. By meeting with members of Congress early in an election year, Habitat was in the best position to influence decisions that could help stabilize neighborhoods in communities across the nation.

*The primary sponsor for Habitat on the Hill 2012 was The Home Depot Foundation. Other sponsors included Owens Corning, PG&E, The Travelers Institute and the Mortgage Bankers Association.*

## Building Hope: Word Habitat Day 2011 in review

Habitat for Humanity engaged in a series of special activities over six weeks to highlight the need for safe, decent and affordable shelter, beginning on World Habitat Day and culminating with the 28th annual Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project in Haiti in November.

World Habitat Day 2011 marked a significant milestone in Habitat's mission. On Oct. 3, Habitat dedicated its 500,000th home, in Maai Mahiu, Kenya, and raised the walls on its 500,001st home, in Paterson, New Jersey, in recognition of the work still needed to eradicate poverty housing worldwide.

More than 310 local World Habitat Day events — builds, dedications, fundraisers, parades and speeches — were submitted to Habitat for Humanity International, but that's believed to be just a fraction of the actual number of events that were held. More than 320 resource kits, which included a World Habitat Day handbook, T-shirts and carpenter pencils, were distributed to support these events. The events were hosted in 46 U.S. states and 12 different countries. Sixty percent of these events were held in partnership with other organizations. The largest event reported attracted more than 2,500 people, and more than half of the events hosted reported that high-profile guests attended.

The World Habitat Day 2011 theme, “Housing Cities after a Disaster,” drew from Habitat’s experiences in Haiti, the U.S. Gulf Coast, the Indian Ocean tsunami and other recent disasters to push policymakers to recognize the importance of focusing on shelter in disaster response efforts. Consistent with the 2011 theme, Habitat’s annual Shelter Report, “Build Hope: Housing cities after a disaster” was released at an event hosted by the Brookings Institution and Habitat for Humanity International.

The event featured a discussion on the challenges of urban disaster recovery. Panelists included Jonathan Reckford; Brookings Senior Fellow Amy Liu, co-director of the Metropolitan Policy Program; Abhas Jha, lead urban specialist and regional coordinator for disaster risk management at the World Bank; Maggie Stephenson, senior technical advisor for Haiti at UN-Habitat; and Charles Setchell, senior shelter, settlements and hazard mitigation advisor at the United States Agency for International Development. Reckford appealed for cooperation, saying, “As we focus on all the people in need of shelter during our observance of World Habitat Day, we implore businesses, government, policy, civic and relief organization leaders to cooperatively institute practices that support adequate housing in all parts of the world.”

Habitat for Humanity International hosted a signature event on Oct. 6 in Washington, D.C., at the National Building Museum. Titled “Build Hope: An Evening Honoring Humanitarian Leadership,” the event featured a reception followed by a seated dinner and formal program with entertainment and special remarks. It brought together more than 550 political, governmental, corporate, nonprofit and individual supporters to reflect on the crucial need for adequate shelter around the globe and on Habitat’s post-disaster work in Haiti.

The program began with a video message from Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and concluded with a performance by the Del McCoury Band and the Preservation Hall Jazz Band. Reckford and Habitat for Humanity International board member Henry Cisneros offered welcoming remarks, and award-winning journalist Katie Couric served as emcee. Build Hope honorees were Georgia Republican Senator Johnny Isakson and North Carolina Democratic Congressman Brad Miller, who spoke of their passion for Habitat’s work. Other honorees included Mark Shriver, senior vice president of U.S. programs for Save the Children; John Stoner and McKinsey & Co.; Major League Baseball and Allan H. (Bud) Selig; Bob and Joyce Daugherty, volunteers; and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent societies.



**Volunteers, with Jonathan Reckford and Felicia Allen, center, raise the walls of Habitat's 500,001st house, on World Habitat Day. It became home to Felicia Allen's family.**



**Katie Couric at Build Hope, a World Habitat Day event recognizing humanitarian leadership.**

## Section 2: U.S. federal, state and local public policy



# Update on U.S. appropriations and Habitat's federal priorities

Christopher Ptomey  
Director, Federal relations

During the 2012 program year, federal housing programs supporting the work of U.S. affiliates suffered significant reductions as Congress sought to reduce domestic, non-security appropriations. For the 2012 federal fiscal year that ran from October 2011 through September 2012, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Self-Help Homeownership Opportunity Program, which provides grants to organizations implementing the self-help housing model to purchase property and develop infrastructure, was cut 50 percent, to \$13.5 million, which is less than Habitat's allocation in past cycles.

Other critical cuts for fiscal year 2012 included a 30 percent reduction in the Section 4 Nonprofit Capacity Building Program, which received \$35 million, down from \$50 million, and cuts of 30 percent to the Home Investments Partnerships and 10 percent to the Community Development Block Grant programs. In total, these reductions will reduce by tens of thousands the number of households served by these programs, including thousands fewer Habitat partner families. With U.S. housing markets still suffering the effects of the foreclosure crisis and economic recession, pulling these vital resources out of local communities threatens to slow the housing recovery even further.

There is, however, reason to hope for improvement in FY2013. Both the House and Senate drafts of the FY2013 HUD spending bill maintain funding for Section 4 at \$35 million, and the House bill restores \$6 million to SHOP, funding it at \$20 million. Regarding HOME, the Senate would level-fund the program at \$1 billion, and the House would give a slight increase, to \$1.2 billion. CDBG fares better than HOME in both the House and Senate FY2013 proposals, as both bills would give it a slight increase at \$3.34 billion and \$3.1 billion, respectively, from \$2.95 billion in FY12.

The Corporation for National and Community Service — the federal agency that oversees national service programs including AmeriCorps — received a slight decrease in funding in FY2012 at \$1.05 billion, from \$1.08 billion in the fiscal year before. This outcome was seen as a legislative win, because the FY2012 House proposal would have eliminated the agency and all national service programs. The FY2013 budget requests have followed a similar path as FY2012 with the Senate proposing to level-fund the agency at \$1.06 billion and the House proposing again to eliminate the agency, minus salvaging the SeniorCorps program. The hope is that when these two bills go to the FY2013 House-Senate conference the Senate funding number will prevail, and GRA will work hard to make sure that happens.

Because of the election and impending six month continuing resolution, final FY2013 spending levels will not be finalized until sometime in early spring 2013. GRA, with the support of Habitat affiliates and nearly 100,000 online advocates, will continue to educate legislators and ask their support for maintaining and increasing funding for these important programs.

# Saving affiliates time and money through state and local relations

John Snook, Director of state and local relations

Frankie Berger, Associate director of state and local relations

One major role of the Government Relations and Advocacy office is to identify regulatory issues and trends that might affect affiliates. One such issue is the implementation of the federal Dodd–Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act after the housing crisis. Affiliates now face a highly controlled federal regulatory regime, and in fiscal year 2012, GRA provided key leadership and support, saving affiliates thousands of dollars in compliance costs.

GRA worked closely with the Dodd-Frank-created Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. CFPB regulations will have a tremendous impact on the work of Habitat affiliates. Early on, GRA achieved a Habitat exemption from CFPB rules to allow appraisers to donate their services to Habitat. GRA is now focusing on the qualified mortgage rule, which has the potential to destroy the Habitat mortgage model and greatly impede all U.S. affiliates' work.

GRA, along with Habitat for Humanity International's Legal and Finance departments, began leading HFHI's Mortgage Procedures and Regulations initiative, aimed at reshaping the mortgage practices of Habitat affiliates. This included leading training sessions at state-support organization conferences, Habitat on the Hill, and at all affiliate summits; hosting affiliate training calls; creating materials to prepare affiliates to deal with the Dodd-Frank Act and the requirements of the CFPB; and providing direct technical assistance. GRA also coordinated with Diane Casey-Landry, former senior executive vice president and COO of the

American Bankers Association, as a high-level volunteer to provide assistance in navigating banking issues. GRA also forged relationships with law firms Dykema and Ballard Spahr to provide legal and regulatory guidance.

In the most recent legislative session, with assistance from Government Relations and Advocacy staff, Indiana and Mississippi passed bills that benefit Habitat affiliates, while Pennsylvania affiliates successfully opposed legislation that would have hurt Habitat partner families.

## Snapshot: The cost-saving benefits of passing HB 1180 in Indiana

Without its passage, 61 Habitat affiliates would no longer be able to write mortgages in Indiana. (Only 5 of our affiliates could meet the requirements for mortgage licensing of having a bond of \$100,000 and \$50,000 in liquid assets)

Additionally, each affiliate would have to pay licensing and educational fees to be a licensed lender in the state (these fees are \$1,000 for the license, another \$575 in courses for staff, background checks on all officers at \$50 each to meet the requirements)

For 66 affiliates total savings in license, courses and background checks for Indiana affiliates = \$117,150.

Total savings annually in passing our exemption for this law is \$447,150 for affiliates.

The fees are renewed annually and this would have cost Indiana affiliates nearly \$1 million over the last two years if we had not passed this bill. We would have had to pay these fees in July 2011 in July 2012.

*Gina Leckron, state director, Habitat for Humanity of Indiana*

## SAFE Act

GRA created documentation that will allow all U.S. affiliates to implement the SAFE Act exemption GRA was able to secure from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban development and Congress.

Passed as part of the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008, the SAFE Act requires state officials to monitor loan originators and servicers in each state. Although ostensibly targeting for-profit groups, Habitat affiliates were nonetheless caught up in its costly and time-consuming licensing and monitoring requirements.

GRA also established a relationship with the Conference of State Banking Supervisors, the organization responsible for state-level regulation. CSBS recommended GRA-developed templates for use by all state banking regulators in determining when a nonprofit meets exemption requirements. This standardization will ease the burden of compliance on affiliates, reduce uncertainty and save substantial affiliate resources. GRA also coordinated and organized lobbying efforts throughout the nation to ensure effective implementation of SAFE Act exemption in each state.

## Neighborhood revitalization

GRA has seen many opportunities to support the HFHI's Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative.

- GRA established a partnership with U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance to support NRI, and is now leveraging law enforcement partnership examples from affiliates around the country. GRA expects DOJ funding opportunities to begin in early 2013.
- GRA is providing analysis, materials and technical assistance to SSOs seeking federal mortgage settlement funds. Use of the funds is still being decided in many states, but it is expected that this work will result in the funding of new or existing housing trust funds in a number of states.
- GRA worked closely with affiliates and SSOs to track, influence and change state foreclosure and other mortgage laws. For example, GRA created and published a summary for all affiliates on the impact of vacant property registration ordinances, which will create significant opportunities for new property donations for NRI affiliates.
- GRA provided direct technical assistance to NRI affiliates on various government relations components of NRI. For example, GRA helped a rural affiliate in Washington state to allow its local NRI initiative to partner with USDA to fund repair of septic systems. GRA applied that experience to other affiliates, resulting in even more families served. GRA also created and delivered training on funding NRI with government programs at all affiliate summits, Habitat on the Hill and various SSO conferences — reaching more than 500 affiliates.

## CDBG training

Through a Citi Foundation grant, GRA partnered with the consulting firm ICF to explore how affiliates can access federal Community Development Block Grant funds to be a catalyst for NRI work, including economic development, rehabs and repairs. CDBG is a multi-billion-dollar, 38-year-old federal funding stream for community development disseminated every year through state and local governments. ICF is the leading expert on CDBG and HOME government funding programs; it has authored the implementation manuals for these programs for HUD and has experience assisting affiliates across the United States in various technical assistance and training capacities. ICF and GRA gave affiliates a broad spectrum of CDBG training, including workshops, conference calls, webinars and online materials. ICF presented well-attended sessions on CDBG government funding partnerships with GRA at the Sacramento, Philadelphia, and Detroit affiliate summits. GRA and ICF trained more than 400 U.S. affiliates and SSOs in FY2012.

## State legislative initiatives

Budget crises have been the overarching state issue, creating new urgency to protect affiliate funding streams. GRA saw major successes in a historically challenging legislative environment. In California, GRA assisted state affiliates in hiring a professional lobbying team, in monitoring and influencing legislation, and in coordinating the first California Habitat state lobby day. In one day, California affiliates met 73 percent of legislators, many of whom had never been approached by Habitat on a legislative issue before. In Florida, GRA provided technical assistance and support to the state SSO to gain directed funding to help offset the loss of state housing funds as a result of the state's budget crisis.

GRA connected HFH Omaha with land bank experts from the Center for Community Progress, who reviewed legislation, made amendments to benefit Habitat and ultimately traveled to Nebraska at their own expense to testify in favor of a bill that would greatly benefit HFH Omaha's repair and rehab work. As a result, land bank legislation directly benefitting the affiliate made far more headway than would be expected in the first year of the Nebraska legislature. GRA will pursue this bill again in 2013 with the expectation of passage. This partnership continues to produce dividends for affiliates. CCP is providing expert assistance on implementation of new laws and guidance on proposed legislation in Indiana, Georgia, Pennsylvania, New York and Louisiana. In addition, Alabama saw the passage of housing trust fund legislation with GRA support. This has been a long-fought issue there, and will be of great benefit to the state and to our affiliates as the economy improves. Colorado also saw housing trust fund stood up with use of mortgage settlement funds.

## **State and Local Information Center**

GRA continued to build its online resource — the SLIC — to guide affiliates on state and local issues that affect their ability to serve families. SLIC will serve as a clearinghouse to allow affiliates to independently gain knowledge, develop advocacy initiatives and implement legislative plans. GRA has created issue materials on sales tax exemptions, property tax exemptions, code enforcement and housing trust funds.

# Veterans Build initiative gains momentum

Christopher Ptomey  
Director, Federal relations

During the 2012 program year, GRA staff continued to lead Habitat's Veteran Initiative, through which HFHI is supporting affiliate engagement with veterans and military families. As hundreds of thousands of troops return home from post- 9/11 conflicts and prepare to leave the military, there will be a growing need for housing solutions, employment and volunteer opportunities for veterans, service members and their families. With affiliates in virtually every area of the country that has significant numbers of veterans or service members, Habitat for Humanity is uniquely positioned to meet these needs through the five pillars of its Veteran Initiative.

**Build:** Habitat provides simple, decent affordable opportunities for veterans to improve their current housing or to become Habitat homeowners. In program year 2012, more than 400 veteran partner families received home repairs or homeownership opportunities through Habitat affiliates. Eighty of these families were served through Habitat for Humanity's Repair Corps program, which provides critical home repairs to veteran households with the generous support of The Home Depot Foundation. HFH Repair Corps grants averaged \$8,558.44 per household.

**Educate:** Habitat is promoting better understanding of military culture and today's veterans among Habitat affiliate staff and volunteers. In program year 2012, HFHI partnered with I Support Vets, a veteran-focused nonprofit, to develop online military training modules and to deliver in-person training to construction staff from affiliates participating in the HFH Repair Corps and to HFHI's new Vet Corps national service program.

**Mobilize:** Habitat is engaging active duty service members, veterans and their families as volunteers, delivering housing solutions to veteran and non-veteran partner families in the United States and around the world. One of the most exciting veteran volunteer events in program year 2012 was a veteran-focused Global Village trip to Vietnam, in which 15 Vietnam-era veterans traveled to the Mekong Delta and built three homes alongside Vietnamese partner families (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xIjobZvx6Gk>).

Veteran and military volunteerism has also proved to have an impact that exceeds the shelter benefits provided. There is a growing body of evidence suggesting that volunteerism can also be an important strategy for alleviating the effects of post-traumatic stress and easing the transition from military to civilian life. In July 2011, the surgeon general of the Army visited a Habitat for Humanity Tacoma-Pierce County (Washington) build with wounded warriors from Joint Base Lewis-McChord to highlight the healing potential of volunteering.

**Employ:** Habitat is seeking to capitalize on skills and life experience gained from military service by recruiting veterans as Habitat leaders through full-time employment, internships, fellowships, apprenticeship programs and national service opportunities. HFHI's first national veteran employment initiative was launched in program year 2012. The HFHI Vet Corps is a team of 12 AmeriCorps VISTAs located in host sites throughout the country that are focused on delivering housing interventions and employment and volunteer opportunities to veterans and military families. In June 2012, HFHI's Vet Corps was awarded the Corporation for National and Community Service's 2012 Service Impact Award.

**Honor:** Habitat is leveraging Veterans Day, Memorial Day, the September 11 Day of Service and Remembrance, and the MLK Day of Service to honor active duty service members and veterans, to meet veteran housing and volunteer needs, to advocate on behalf of improved veteran programs and services and to highlight veterans as community assets.

In the coming year, Habitat will build on the strong foundation that has been laid for the Veteran Initiative over the last two years. The Veteran Initiative will be rolled out publicly with a new brand and lockup strategy around Veterans Day on Nov. 11 with a goal of enrolling at least 200 affiliates in the program by Veterans Day 2013. Other goals for the year include building out and formalizing national relationships with veterans' organizations to enhance veteran partner family pipelines, delivering in-person and online military culture training to a significant number of affiliates serving veteran and military populations, providing housing solutions to a minimum of 500 military and veteran partner families, and leading a Build

Louder Global Village Veteran Build in Southeast Asia. With these activities, Habitat will not only continue to meet critical and growing veteran needs but will also improve the strength and impact of its network, benefiting from veterans' leadership and the enhanced community visibility and support that veteran-focused projects inspire.

# Weatherization innovation strategies move forward on Capitol Hill

Elisabeth Gehl

Associate director, Federal relations


Over the past year, GRA staff continued to engage with key decision-makers on Capitol Hill to advocate for ways to build on and sustain the success of the Department of Energy's Weatherization Innovation Pilot Program by advocating for the creation and passage of a new weatherization program for nonprofits. This would entail Congress dedicating a percentage of future weatherization funding from the Weatherization Assistance Program to a competitive grant program so national nonprofit groups with proven track records in energy efficiency can retrofit low-income homes.

HFHI's involvement with weatherization began in a 2010 partnership with Exelon Energy in Chicago, Dallas and Philadelphia that weatherized 56 homes. This successful pilot was followed by HFHI securing a \$3 million DOE WIPP grant in January 2011, which will enable Habitat affiliates to weatherize 1,100 homes by September 2013. The WIPP grant is the first HFHI has received from the Department of Energy, and aligns well with our overall Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative goals. HFHI has identified 28 affiliates in 18 states to serve as WIPP sub-grantees to carry out the weatherization work outlined in the grant.

GRA staff continued to educate House and Senate staff about the financial benefits of weatherization innovation, and why creating a permanent funding opportunity for HFHI and other nonprofits has significant benefits for low-income families and the environment. In addition, GRA staff worked closely with the Senate champion in support of innovation, and was able to successfully include innovation language in a draft Weatherization Assistance Program reauthorization bill.

The bill is expected to be introduced this fall and would authorize a new weatherization innovation program that creates a competitive grant process for eligible nonprofit organizations, and propose that innovative projects are funded at \$45 million over five years. The bill would allow HFHI to apply for future weatherization grants and significantly expand the number of Habitat homes that receive energy-efficient upgrades. HFHI will prioritize passage of the WAP reauthorization bill in advocacy work in the coming year.

## Section 3: International priorities and global affairs



# Global Housing Indicators provides evidence for action

Jane Katz

Director, International affairs and programs

After many years of work on the Global Housing Indicators, it finally went live with the launch of [www.globalhousingindicator.org](http://www.globalhousingindicator.org).

The Global Housing Indicators is a policy assessment tool developed to measure what national and local governments are doing to provide a supportive housing environment. The GHI makes possible access to better housing and services for more people in their cities and countries.

Filling a void for accessible and reliable data on housing policies in cities, Habitat for Humanity has led an effort with a number of organizations, including the Inter-American Development Bank, UN-Habitat, the International Housing Coalition, Cities Alliance, Global Urban Development, the World Bank and others that came together to support the Global Housing Indicators. Based on the work of Shlomo Angel, coauthor of "Housing Policy Matters," and an esteemed advisory group, the GHI frames the housing policy environment in the areas of housing subsidies, housing finance, regulatory, infrastructure and property rights.

In June 2012, [www.globalhousingindicators.org](http://www.globalhousingindicators.org), a one-stop portal for data, discussion, research, debate and advocacy, was unveiled with partners from UN-Habitat and the Inter-American Development Bank at a World Urban Forum Dialogue series at the National Building Museum in Washington, D.C. In the announcement of the launch, Jonathan Reckford noted, "We see the development of the Global Housing Indicators project as a powerful tool to help advocate for better housing policies. Our vision at Habitat is to have a world where everyone has a decent place to live. However, without the freedom to live free from the fear of eviction, without access to finance and other resources, without adequate infrastructure and without incentives to build appropriately and affordably, millions of families worldwide will remain poorly housed."

The GHI website features a template for visitors to create custom reports so data can be compared across areas around the globe. For example, the GHI indicates that in select metropolitan areas, it is common to have having land titles properly registered, such as in Yerevan, Armenia (98 percent) and Budapest, Hungary (100 percent). But in other cities, only a minority holds registered titles, e.g. Maputo, Mozambique (25 percent) and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania (20 percent).

The GHI will also be an important tool in helping contribute to data sources in the development of the new Millennium Development Goals. Currently, under Target 11 of the MDGs, achieving improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020, the Global Housing Indicators align with certain data collected on secure tenure, access to safe water and sanitation, and housing durability regarding building codes. The GHI will enable advocates to provide evidence that can be used to improve and change government housing policies and practices for the poor and underserved.

It is expected that the scope of the GHI will be expanded to at least 25 countries by the end of 2012. In September 2012, the GHI was featured at the World Urban Forum in Naples and at the Latin America/Caribbean Housing Forum in Bogota, Colombia. A new working group on indicators led by HFHI and the IDB has been established to develop a common platform for the GHI and other indicators on urban and housing issues with the World Bank, the Millennium Challenge Corporation, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and others.

# International affairs congressional update

Chris Vincent, Congressional relations and international affairs

Dan Petrie, Associate director, congressional relations

Fiscal year 2012 proved to be a tough congressional year for those interested in international development. Fewer hearings were held, fewer bills were passed and more time was spent discussing concerns at home than abroad. Habitat still found bipartisan support on several issues, including water, sanitation and foreign aid reform. The Water for the World Act gained traction in the House and Senate, and Habitat remained engaged in discussions around foreign aid reform.

International affairs funding, though, remains in flux. The Budget Control Act of 2011 and looming cuts across the board created uncertainty about how severe the cuts to the international affairs budget will be. The Senate FY2013 allocation for the State, Foreign Operations totaled \$53.01 billion, a similar level to FY 12, while the House Appropriations Committee allocated \$48.3 billion in FY2013. Details of a six-month continuing resolution were being hammered out by staff during August recess, which pushed final FY2013 budget conversations to after the November elections.

Habitat signed a letter urging members of Congress to support strong funding for the humanitarian and poverty-focused accounts in the budget. The letter was signed by 111 organizations and sent to every Congressional office.

## Water, sanitation and hygiene

Habitat understands that housing is more than four walls and a roof. In the developing world, it is a process, not a product. Adequate housing encompasses security of tenure, safety, habitability and affordability, as well as access to basic services of water and sanitation.

Nearly 800 million people lack access to safe drinking water, and 2.5 billion people live without improved sanitation.

In response, Habitat has stepped up its advocacy in WASH to broaden its impact.

- Supported the Paul Simon Water for the World Act. This bipartisan bill in the Senate and House increases sustainability of WASH projects, integration of WASH with other programs, country ownership, transparency of aid, and codifies the position of the global water coordinator in USAID. The bill passed the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in June 2012.
- Jonathan Reckford joined more than 30 CEOs in urging the House to pass its version of the Water for the World Act.
- Supported annual congressional appropriations for water-related activities. Funding in FY2012 was \$315 million. House appropriators voted to keep WASH funding level for FY2013 while the Senate voted to increase funding to \$400 million.
- Contacted more than 90,000 online advocates on World Water Day regarding the Water for the World Act. As a result, more than 12,000 emails were sent to Congress in support of the bill. A follow up message was sent to online advocates in June, asking them to thank their senators for unanimously passing the bill out of committee and to urge similar action in the House.
- Mobilized campus chapters in support of Water for the World Act during Habitat's Act! Speak! Build! Week.
- Participated in World Water Day lobbying visits and other contacts with Hill staff.

## Foreign aid reform

In summer 2011, Rep. Howard Berman, D-California, released a draft Global Partnerships Act that aimed to reform and modernize U.S. foreign assistance. Replacing the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, the plan would improve the efficiency and effectiveness of foreign assistance, while also protecting U.S. interests. Title I of the proposal includes improving access to safe water, sanitation and shelter as one of the eight goals for development assistance. Habitat long advocated for shelter's inclusion in foreign assistance reform and this bill, even as a draft, represents significant progress. HFHI was reassured when senior staff for the House Foreign Affairs Committee said shelter deserved distinct recognition and had historically been underrepresented.

In addition to advocating for the inclusion of shelter in the draft legislation, Habitat provided substantial comments on the draft in coalition with NGOs from the water sector, InterAction and the International Housing Coalition.

# Elevating housing in the next Millennium Development Goals

Chris Vincent

Director, Congressional relations and international affairs

In 2000, more than 150 heads of state signed the United Nations Millennium Declaration. This unprecedented document provided a common vision for reducing poverty and set the stage for the creation of the Millennium Development Goals. For the first time, a framework existed with specific and measurable indicators to guide development globally. The MDGs were given a 15-year timeline, creating a sense of urgency and meaning. With less than three years until the MDGs expire, the global community is now asking what's next? While it is unclear exactly what form it will take, there is movement toward creating a post-2015 development agenda.

Deciding a framework for the next MDGs will not be easy. Humans however, have only a few basic needs, one of which is shelter. The need for adequate housing is growing exponentially and the post-2015 development agenda should address this directly.

## Beyond 2015

The MDGs expire in less than three years. Some of these targets will be met, but most will not. There has been progress, but many efforts have not kept pace with the increasing demand and changing demographics. While the MDGs have raised awareness and provided a common framework for the alleviation of poverty worldwide, the World Bank estimates that in 2008 (the most recent year for which global data is available), 2.47 billion people still lived on less than \$2 per day. A global financial crisis, polarized international powers, increased urbanization and the shifting composition of those living in poverty make the world a very different place than when the Millennium Declaration was signed in 2000.

The MDGs included eight overall goals as well as targets under each goal. The goal of environmental sustainability included a target on slums. This target sought to improve the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers. This target however, has proved insufficient and a stronger, more focused target on slums and housing will be necessary when the MDGs expire in 2015.

## Next steps

What role then does adequate housing, the growth of slums and rapid urbanization have beyond 2015? Ensuring that housing and slums are represented in the next Millennium Development Goals is essential.

The U.N. Millennium Declaration should serve as a starting point for future discussions. More than 150 heads of state agreed that addressing slums is important. Conversations around economic growth, environmental sustainability, climate change, health, housing, education, water and sanitation simply cannot be effective without considering the trend of urbanization, the growth of slums and the ever growing need for an adequate place to live.

Indeed, the United Nations Task Team on the post-2015 development agenda agreed the trend of urbanization and growth of slums should not be overlooked. In its recent report, "Realizing the Future We Want for All," the team acknowledged certain targets "undervalued demographic change and consequently also the magnitude of certain social problems, such as the size of urban slum populations." The report noted, "Rapid urban growth is mainly occurring in countries least able to cope with the demand for decent jobs, adequate housing, and urban basic services ... 33 percent of the urban population in developing countries live in slums." Shockingly though, the report produced an "integrated framework" for "realizing the future we want for all" but failed to include any mention of housing, slums or urbanization. If this incomplete framework becomes the basis of the next MDGs, it is unclear how these trends will be represented.

The United Nations has committed to a broad consultation process for the next Millennium Development Goals, including reviews, meetings, task teams, conferences and papers, and any agenda should leave room for country and city

level design and implementation. However, because of unprecedented urbanization, the growth of slums and the need for housing are too great to be ignored. The next Millennium Development Goals must include increased access to adequate housing in a meaningful and measurable way.

Habitat for Humanity believes that housing needs to be prominently featured in the MDG framework, and that the positive effects of adequate housing be considered during the development of strategies to address education, health and financial stability.

HFHI's board of directors can play a key role in helping Habitat influence the post-2015 development agenda. Board members can engage in national level consultations, push for increased focus on housing and coordinate with HFHI's global efforts as Habitat works to affect the outcome of the agenda.

# The Shelter Report

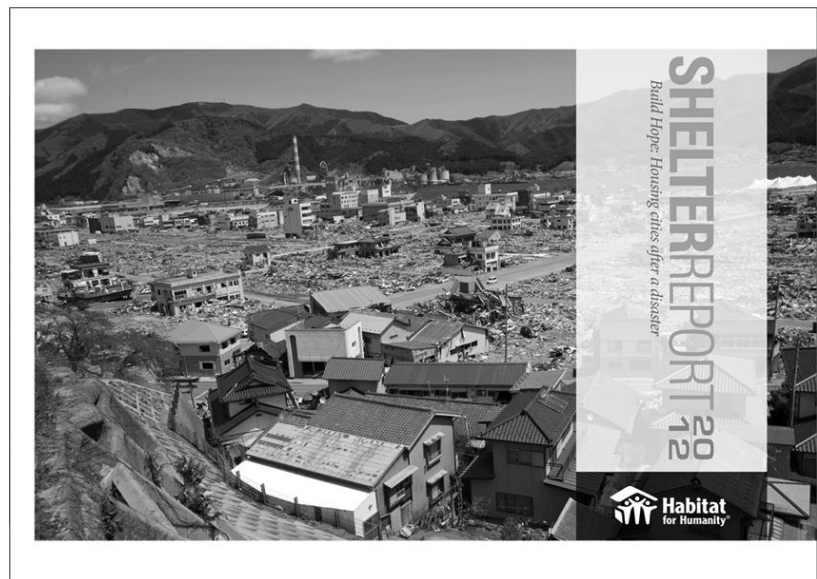
Dan Petrie

Associate director, Congressional relations

Each year, HFHI's Government Relations and Advocacy Office produces a policy report to support its advocacy efforts. In addition to educating and providing recommendations to decision-makers in Washington, D.C., the Shelter Report is geared toward Habitat affiliates and supporters to inform them of policy issues that are crucial to Habitat's work in the United States and around the world.

The 2012 Shelter Report, "Build Hope: Housing Cities After a Disaster," highlighted the urgent need for safer urban housing conditions to improve resilience and recovery after a disaster. Jonathan Reckford joined a panel of experts on World Habitat Day at the Brookings Institution to launch the report and discuss the importance of planning for long-term recovery as part of disaster response. The report won gold at the Excel Awards from the Board of Association Media and Publishing.

This year's Shelter Report will focus on housing's role in community development. It will provide evidence-based research to support the long tradition of homeownership in this country and dispute claims that low-income homeowners were responsible for the economic meltdown. Investments in housing, in fact, should be part of our recovery in the next five years. It will also show that homeownership has a broader effect than the individual homeowner and that it affects communities' ability to develop into strong, vibrant neighborhoods.



# Advocacy initiatives around the globe

Jane Katz

Director, International Affairs and Programs

Maria Luisa Zanelli, Advocacy/partnership outreach manager

## Habitat for Humanity Bulgaria

The Habitat for Humanity Bulgaria national organization was selected to join the Bulgarian National Council for Cooperation on Ethnic and Integration Issues. The council operates within the Bulgarian Council of Ministers and is headed by the minister of interior. All Bulgarian ministries and governmental agencies are represented at the deputy minister and head of agency level. HFH Bulgaria is represented by its national director, Mincho Benov.

Benov attended the first meeting of the council in April 2012 and was approved as a member of the Roma Integration Committee, which is a permanent body within the council. He will also be nominated to the decision making body for the European Union's funding of the Bulgarian national strategy for integrating the Roma.

The significance about his appointment is that Habitat isn't merely attempting to create policy change but has a voice in creating policy.

## Habitat for Humanity Hungary

Habitat for Humanity Hungary had a very successful advocacy year, culminating in its Annual Report on Poverty Housing, 2011. HFH Hungary's work addressed policies affecting more than 1 million households and focused on the lack of rental stock (an estimated shortage of 180,000 units), empty homes (an estimated 500,000 vacant second homes), energy efficiency (350,000 homes affected by fuel poverty), urban slums (approximately 100,000 families living in segregated communities), affordability (33 percent of households spending more than 40 percent of household income on housing) and social inclusion. A development plan for Budapest that included tackling homelessness had the potential to reach of hundreds of thousands of households, and its public awareness campaign made some 7 million media impressions.

## Habitat for Humanity Argentina

- Habitat for Humanity Argentina implemented Legal Literacy on Secure Land Tenure workshops as a component of the neighborhood development project in La Matanza, province of Buenos Aires. In partnership with the law firm Marval O'Farrell and Mairal meetings were held in the settlement known as January 2 in La Matanza to seek solutions to the insecurity of tenure faced by neighborhoods that occupied the land between 1986 and 2005. HFHA promoted dialogues among neighbors that are now organized and active in a strategy to advocate on this issue. Secure tenure will benefit about 15,000 families now living in neighborhoods January 22, Puerta de Hierro, St. Petersburg and Un Techo para Todos.
- The protected rental project that HFHA implemented, targeting families who informally rent in "conventillos" and "hotels" in the south area of Buenos Aires was recognized by the Legislative Assembly of the city of Buenos Aires as a project of social interest.
- HFHA signed an agreement with CitiBank for eight pro bono lawyers to spend 160 hours per year to enable a new pilot methodology on volunteer support to secure land tenure and ownership regularization.
- HFHA, in partnership with the Confederation of Civil Society and other NGOs, led an advocacy process targeting the director of immigration to allow immigration documents for long-term international volunteers in Argentina.

### Habitat for Humanity Bolivia

- Habitat for Humanity Bolivia implemented the project called Improving Access to Urban Land And Property Rights For Women And Excluded Urban Groups In Bolivia and promoted:
  - Women's Leadership School for Security of Urban Land and Housing
  - Women's Leadership Network for Secure Land, Housing and City
  - Land participatory mapping
  - Women-led advocacy in legislative contexts
  - Studies to inform advocacy initiatives and public policy
- The Women's Leadership Network developed a supplementary proposal to the Urban Property Owner Regularization Law from a gender-focused perspective, which was presented to the Plurinational Assembly and incorporated into the final version passed by President Evo Morales Ayma on June 5, 2012. Among the additional provisions: "In the case of marriages and free or proven unions, the legal title to the urban property destined for housing will be emitted and registered in favor of both spouses or partners, mandatorily consigning with complete names."
- In this way, the law not only guarantees property rights, but also the possibility of women to exercise land rights within the framework of equality — an historic achievement that, without doubt, will establish precedence and jurisprudence for future struggles for the rights of women to urban land and housing. This will benefit 60 percent of the roughly 10 million people living in inadequate housing conditions without secure land tenure in Bolivia, mostly below the poverty line, and specifically the 31 percent of Bolivian households that are headed by women.



**The Women's Leadership Network in the National Assembly in La Paz, Bolivia, successfully advocated from a gender-focused perspective for a supplementary proposal to the Urban Property Rights Regularization Law.**

### Habitat for Humanity Brazil

- Habitat for Humanity Brazil is a member of the National Council of the Cities, a group in which government and civil society organizations formulate policy proposals and monitor them to improve the urban policies. During FY2012, the following proposals were approved:
  - A resolution of proceedings, actions and measures to guarantee the rights to the city and to adequate housing for people affected by urban interventions related to large sporting events.
  - Proposals to improve the "My House, My Family" program, Brazil's main public housing program with new requirements for the contracting process that make the program more accessible for poor people.
- HFHB is also member of the Pernambuco State Council of the Cities, which initiated the review of the Pernambuco Social Housing Plan. As a result, four social housing plans are in the final stage of formulation in Salgueiro, Itamaracá, São Lourenço and Pesqueira.
- HFHBI participated in the Forums of Urban Reform at National and Pernambuco state-level coalitions where the key advocacy strategies and actions of civil society to improve the urban policies of Brazil were implemented.



**CONAPO presenting the proposal of law to the National Assembly**

- At least 1,700 families benefitted from legal defense support on secure land tenure and property rights, through a project called “Empowering Women and Vulnerable Groups to Exercise Their Rights for Inclusion and Secure Land Tenure and Property,” a partnership between HFHB, Habitat for Humanity United Kingdom, HFHI and the U.K’s Department for International Development.

### **Habitat for Humanity Colombia**

- Habitat for Humanity Colombia participated in the Social Housing Table, or MESAVIS, which meets once a month and is sponsored by the Andes University. Key issues on the MESAVIS agenda included public policies, regulations and projects on social housing issues.
- HFHC also participated in Habitat Table of the Colombian Society of Architects with universities, NGOs and other institutions in Bogota working on housing and neighborhood improvement. Currently, the group is working on changes and proposals to the legal framework for home improvement.
- HFHC participated in a weekly forum hosted by the Popular Housing Fund of Bogota where policy topics such as new management schemes for housing improvement programs and new building systems were discussed.
- HFHC participated in the preparation session for the World Urban Forum with UN-Habitat in a local meeting in Bogota and a national meeting in Medellin.

### **Habitat for Humanity Chile**

- Habitat for Humanity Chile, as a member of the Housing and the City Observatory, organized the 2011 World Habitat Day’s activities, including a seminar with the National Association of Architects, the First National Encountering on Reconstruction with organizations affected by the 2010 earthquake. The Alternative Report on Reconstruction was presented to the press and sent to the United Nations. In 2012, the observatory organized a visit to Chile by Raquel Rolnik, the U.N. Rapporteur of Housing Rights, which included four forums and seminars; a visit to three regions affected by the earthquake; meetings with communities, local and national authorities; and interviews with local and national media.
- HFH Chile, together with several universities and NGOs formed a reconstruction consortium that formulated its work plan for 2013-2014 on post-earthquake reconstruction, including training, technical assistance, research, dissemination and a project to develop resources with local agencies in Chile.

### **Habitat for Humanity Dominican Republic**

- Through a cooperative agreement in 2011 with the mayor and local authorities in Santiago, the second most important city in the country, Habitat for Humanity Dominican Republic supported and advised the creation of the Municipal Policy on Social Housing approved by the City Council in April 2012 and launched in June 2012. This was the first municipal housing policy in the country.
- HFHDR organized a Social Housing Forum in 2011 with grassroots organizations to discuss the right to adequate housing and secure land tenure and create a platform for further action and dialogue as preparation for the first International Forum on Housing Public Policy held in July 2011.
- The event was conceived to raise awareness and advocate for the right to adequate housing and secure land tenure included in the Dominican Constitution. The barriers to access to adequate housing for more than 1 million Dominican families who are homeless or living in vulnerable homes were also analyzed. A Manifesto on the Right to Adequate Housing was endorsed by a hundred of people, consisting of representatives of civil society organizations, public institutions, community-based organizations, municipal governments and individual professionals who attended the Forum. Both events were the result of a joint effort between Habitat for Humanity, Ciudad Alternativa, Copadeba, COOPHABITAT, Bono Centre, Social Urban Network and Catholic University Madre Maestra. Deputy Guadalupe Valdez and Senator Cristina Lizardo were part of the coordination team.

- In November 2011, HFHDR held an event to raise awareness for the business community and the general public about the importance of the right to adequate housing in the country and encourage the creation of joint solutions. Members of the board of HFHI and private entrepreneurs, representatives of nonprofit organizations and volunteers participated. President Jimmy Carter spoke about his experience of more than 25 years as a volunteer for Habitat for Humanity. A press conference was held with Jonathan Reckford and World Vision in the Dominican Republic.

### Habitat for Humanity El Salvador

- On December 2011, Habitat for Humanity El Salvador advised the Commission of Public Works, Transportation and Housing of the Legislative Assembly of El Salvador and reviewed the proposal to change the Social Housing Law, presented to the assembly by the Salvadorian National Commission of Inhabitants-CONAPO to the Assembly.
- HFHES participated in the revision of the High Rise Housing Buildings Law promoted by the vice minister of housing. The vice minister also incorporated the Salvadorian Construction Institute-ISC as an advisor and HFHES as member of the ISC advocating for a social housing focus in the law. The law is expected to be approved in fiscal year 2013.
- HFHES represented the housing construction and finance sector participating in a consultation process led by UN-Habitat to establish the El Salvador country profile. This profile will be finished in fiscal year 2012 and will inform the new housing policy.
- HFHES and UN-Volunteers organized a forum on housing and risk management with youth groups from the most vulnerable municipalities in San Vicente department. Youth advocated for a voice in housing and risk management issues in their local governments.



Forum where youth advocated for a voice on housing.

### Habitat for Humanity Guatemala

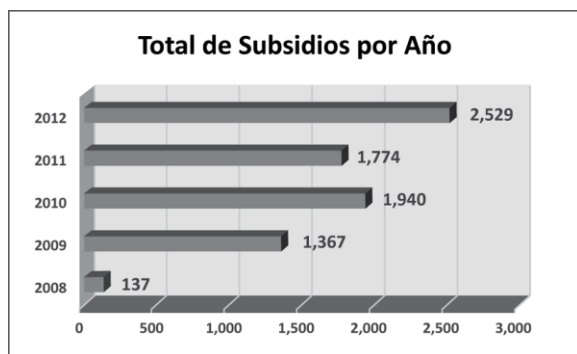
- Habitat for Humanity Guatemala organized a housing forum called "More than a House, a Home" with participation from 700 people of various sectors of the western regions of the country.
- HFHG participated in five meetings with the vice minister of housing advisers to recommend housing improvements primarily for people in extreme poverty as well as housing subsidies for low-income families.
- HFHG was recognized by the president of Guatemala for its contribution to the national housing plan.

### Habitat for Humanity Honduras

- Habitat for Humanity Honduras launched an advocacy campaign in small cities to call for local governments to institute adequate policies and allocate more funds for adequate housing, targeting communities with high housing deficits and high poverty.
- HFHH partnered with the Honduran Neighbourhood Councils of Cooperative Housing to prepare and present a policy proposal to the municipal corporations' key decision-makers.
- HFHH and COHVISOLES' advocacy campaign reached 18 local governments. The allocation for municipal investment in 2012 was US\$1.85 million for land development, infrastructure assessments and housing improvements. The approval of 13 local policies will mobilize nearly US\$4 million in four years, improving the housing conditions of 20,000 families.

### Habitat for Humanity Mexico

- Habitat for Humanity Mexico was part of the Citizens Summit consisting of 300 civil society organizations that proposed a national citizens agenda to the main four presidential candidates. They signed 78 percent of the issues on the agenda. Additionally, the candidates committed to include members of the summit on government transition tables.
- HFHM coordinated the signature of an institutional agreement with the National Council of Regional Housing — CONOREVI, which will enable HFHM to partner with state housing agencies to establish joint projects with state or federal grants. This will increase the amount of money that HFHM can mobilize for adequate housing (see chart).



| Year | # Subsidies | US\$      |
|------|-------------|-----------|
| 2008 | 137         | 381,930   |
| 2009 | 1,367       | 3,805,000 |
| 2010 | 1,940       | 5,240,000 |
| 2011 | 1,774       | 4,620,000 |
| 2012 | 2,529       | 6,830,000 |

### Habitat for Humanity Paraguay

- Habitat for Humanity Paraguay, as a member of the Intersectoral Habitat and Housing Group, composed of government agencies, education organizations and NGOs, is contributing to the formulation of the Habitat and Housing Policy, which is expected to be submitted to the government early next year.
- HFHP is advocating for the creation of a working group to promote healthy environments (enhanced by the Ministry of Health of Paraguay and the Pan American Health Organization) as a component of the housing strategy, foster collaboration with universities and sign agreements with local governments.
- HFHP's goal in advocacy is to contribute to enforce and guarantee the right to a healthy housing environment for the most vulnerable communities; promote and strengthen a dynamic and creative relationship between stakeholders for healthy environments and homes; raise awareness among stakeholders about the impact of policy decisions and organizations' and communities' practices on healthy environments to mainstream it in development and territorial municipal plans.

### Honduras Case Study

#### Objective: Promote policies and systems that advance access to adequate housing

Habitat for Humanity Honduras recognized that its rate of housing construction was insufficient to alleviate the housing problem in the country, as is the case in many countries Habitat serves. So HFH Honduras initiated in 2008 an advocacy campaign in small cities to get local governments to allocate more funds for adequate housing and institute adequate policies for the most vulnerable groups.

The campaign was targeted at communities with high housing deficits and high poverty. HFH Honduras partnered with the Honduran Neighborhood Councils of Cooperative Housing, or COHVISOLES, to prepare and present a policy proposal to the municipal corporations' key decision makers.

Working together, HFH Honduras and the COHVISOLES organized meetings with the municipal corporations to discuss the need for housing policies and more allocations toward affordable housing. The meetings and the mission were successful, as municipal corporations approved their housing policies and housing budgets.

HFHH and COHVISOLES' advocacy campaign grew to 18 local governments up to 2012. In 2010, the implementation of new policies benefited more than 1,800 families with interventions such as land development, infrastructure assessments

and housing improvements, with a municipal investment of US\$400,000. In 2011, 13 local governments invested approximately US\$1.68 million; the forecast for municipal investment in 2012 is US\$1.85 million. In sum, the approval of 13 of 18 local policies mobilized nearly US\$4 million in four years, improving the housing condition of approximately 20,000 families (estimation based on 2010 results).

HFH Honduras invests in advocacy around 0.4 percent of its of the national office budget yearly.

Finally, adequate policies approved include:

- Recognition of housing as a human right, focusing on the most vulnerable sectors of the population.
- Explicitly addressing and upholding the rights of low-income women and men to land, housing and infrastructure services, including their participation in developing housing solutions.
- Enhancing secure tenure of land to women and men, and different options for housing finance.
- Providing opportunities for greater citizens participation in decision making (creation of the Municipal Housing Council).
- Establishing incentives for NGOs and others to advocate for housing for the most vulnerable promotes participation of the private sector.

### Habitat for Humanity Uganda

Habitat for Humanity Uganda is actively involved in the Uganda Human Settlements Network, a network of civil society organizations, communities, individuals, and organizations in the private sector. This network advocates and shares information to improve the policies and programs that focus on human settlements in Uganda. This fiscal year, the network worked on a building control bill, and final recommendations were sent to the Parliamentary Committee on Infrastructure. HFHU recommended that this year's World Habitat Day celebrations in Uganda be held in the district where HFHU is building houses for victims of the 2010 landslides in Bududa. HFHU continued to focus on microfinance and has urged the Association of Microfinance Institutions of Uganda to offer housing products. This awareness raising was done through presentations at meetings and the use of media. This generated considerable interest, and many MFIs have asked HFHU for details about how such products work.

### Habitat for Humanity Tanzania

Habitat for Humanity Tanzania is actively involved in housing microfinance in Tanzania. HFHT is the secretariat to the Housing Microfinance Working Group, which is an advocacy group that ensures there is an enabling environment for the practice of housing microfinance in Tanzania. HFHT participated by contributing to the draft Tanzania Housing Policy that is expected to be examined in parliament in late 2012.

### Habitat for Humanity Malawi

Habitat for Humanity Malawi, through its Orphans and Vulnerable Children program, continued to promote inheritance rights and the writing of wills at the local level in a country in which property grabbing is common when a breadwinner dies.

### AME's participation in the Global Housing Indicators Project

The Africa and the Middle East region participated in the Global Housing Indicators Project, and six countries (Tanzania, Lebanon, Jordan, Uganda, Mozambique and Cote d'Ivoire) completed the housing indicators survey. This survey aims to assist with the collection of reliable and comparable information on the global housing policy environment, to better position the organization to influence housing policy and practice worldwide. In AME the countries that participated found it to be a beneficial exercise where they gained knowledge about their national housing policy environment while making valuable connections for future work. The survey in each country was conducted by a consultant, and the country and regional teams will incorporate the key findings into a national and regional advocacy strategy as the region works toward increased sector and societal influence.

The training has been offered to local leaders and local community-based organizations with the goal of influencing policy at the district level. The district planning committee is expected to exert influence at the national level.

**Habitat for Humanity Zambia**

Habitat for Humanity Zambia contributed to UN-Habitat's Urban Housing Profile by highlighting low-cost housing solutions for communities. Under the umbrella of the Civic Forum on Housing and Habitat, HFHZ contributed to advocacy work on slum upgrading and resolving of land matters in Zambia. Recently, HFHZ was elected leader of the Civic Forum on Housing, Habitat and will provide further guidance on policies and the goals and direction of the forum. Additionally, HFHZ submitted its position paper on land housing for the draft national constitution.

**Habitat for Humanity Kenya**

Habitat for Humanity Kenya participated in forums organized by the Ministry of Housing to sensitize Kenyans to becoming more aware of their rights and to exercise those rights regarding to decent and affordable shelter. HFHK also participated in exhibitions to showcase its work and to inform the public of the need for decent shelter while offering options in affordable shelter. In addition, HFHK worked with internally displaced families at a camp in Maai Mahiu. The project helped raise awareness of the benefits of decent shelter regarding forgiveness and reconciliation. This project helped resettled families to move on with their lives and put the past behind them.

# HFHI and IHC continue valuable partnership on international advocacy

Susan Corts Hill  
CEO, International Housing Coalition

The International Housing Coalition's relationship with Habitat for Humanity International has been integral to the organization's success since its beginning. This year, the relationship grew even stronger as HFHI's GRA office graciously offered its small staff office space as an in-kind donation. As of August 2011, the IHC has been co-located with the GRA office, allowing for even greater collaboration between our closely aligned organizations.

HFHI has provided substantial financial support to the IHC since its founding in 2005, and continues to be one of its most active members. The IHC advocates on behalf of more than 30 members including private companies, research institutions, universities and NGOs on issues related to poverty housing around the world. The IHC also continues to produce high quality research and education materials.

Throughout the year, the IHC collaborated with HFHI on many issues, from federal budget appropriations to water and sanitation funding. Representatives from the IHC participated in meetings on Capitol Hill with HFHI advocates during Habitat on the Hill.

## Highlights from IHC's work this year

- The IHC recently co-hosted a consultation for USAID and civil society organizations regarding the design and content of a new strategy on sustainable urban service delivery. It remained involved in advocating for the Global Partnerships Act, a foreign assistance reform bill and the Water for the World Act, which provides funding for water and sanitation projects around the world.
- The IHC worked on several publications this year. A paper was published on the challenges in creating housing associations in the former Soviet Union, and a paper on housing associations in Eastern Europe is in progress. A set of success stories to demonstrate best practices and lessons learned in the IHC's education and advocacy work is nearing publication. A final paper is in development, looking at the future of the Millennium Development Goals, and what new targets might look like when the current goals expire in 2015.
- The IHC continued to educate decision-makers in Washington. To complement a paper written last year, the IHC co-sponsored a seminar at the Millennium Challenge Corporation, discussing the connection between gender, property rights and economic development. Panelists from the Urban Institute, USAID, the International Center for Research on Women and the MCC contributed to a lively discussion. In celebration of World Habitat Day, the IHC sponsored a discussion on informal settlements in the United States and lessons that could be learned from international experience.

Looking forward, the IHC anticipates a close partnership with HFHI it seeks to elevate housing and shelter issues in the next Millennium Development Goals.

The IHC is thankful for HFHI's continued support and looks forward to continuing to work together in the next year.





INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS: 121 Habitat St., Americus, GA 31709-3498 USA  
phone 229-924-6935, toll free 800-HABITAT, fax 229-928-8811, [publicinfo@habitat.org](mailto:publicinfo@habitat.org), [habitat.org](http://habitat.org)