

## February 2013

You think you are cold? You do not know cold until you happen to be in the midst of Eastern Europe or Central Asia in January. This start of the year brought heavy snowfalls and freezing temperatures.

Now, imagine that many families throughout the region live in old concrete buildings that have not been renovated and suffer from leaks and bad insulation. Do you feel the cold as they do?

Improved energy efficiency can be one of the solutions. This concept is getting increased attention in the region. Habitat is working with local and international partners in Europe and Central Asia to help low-income families renovate their homes and stay warm when winter strikes. Your help is definitely wanted. Join our mission of ending poverty housing and homelessness worldwide!

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### Energy efficiency: a solution for low-income families?

[Energy reform and energy savings](#) have been the buzzwords over the past few years. One hears them on TV and reads about them in newspapers. Why are these important all of a sudden?



### Macedonia: taking energy seriously

In 2010, Habitat for Humanity Macedonia and USAID joined forces for a pilot to develop a model for [tackling energy efficiency](#) in the residential sector. Can energy efficiency bring benefits or is it simply too expensive?



### Become a part of our volunteer family

Do you want to find out about new opportunities for volunteers? Or maybe see the pictures from the last Global Village trip you had? Habitat for Humanity Europe and Central Asia has a new page where you can interact with volunteers, read about new Global Village trips and see great photos! [Check it out!](#)

### Haiti: new home, new start

Jeannie McCann, Communications Manager at Habitat for Humanity Ireland, joined 600 volunteers from around the world on the 29th annual Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project in Haiti. [What](#) did she take out from this trip?



## News in Brief

### Second Housing Forum Europe & Central Asia

Four partnering organizations – Habitat, IRFC, UNECE and UNDP – hold the second Housing Forum Europe and Central Asia on April 22-24, 2013 at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland. Visit [www.ecahousingforum.eu](http://www.ecahousingforum.eu) to find out about the key speakers and to register.

### 50,000 families supported in Haiti

Three years after the devastating earthquake that struck Haiti, Habitat for Humanity's disaster recovery program has helped more than 50,000 families, accomplishing its five-year target in only three. [Read](#) to find out more.

### First European ReStore

In December, Habitat for Humanity Northern Ireland opened its first [ReStore](#) at the Riverside Centre. It will be selling donated and gently-used home improvement goods, furniture, home accessories, building materials and appliances to the public at a fraction of the retail price.

### Floods in Jakarta

More than 15,000 people have been forced to leave their homes and over 100,000 have been affected by the floods that hit Indonesia's capital city. The authorities declared a state of emergency. Find out how you can help [here!](#)

### Will you accept the challenge?

50 teams, 1 weekend, 100 homes and 100 families free from poverty. Habitat for Humanity's Hope Challenge will be held from 5–7 July, 2013 in the Peak District, UK. [Join](#) with your team.

### Build with Habitat in Macedonia

**22-31 March, 2013:** Go as far as you can. Get out of your comfort zone. Help others. Work for peace. Be the change. [Join the Beaufort Builders](#) in their mission to Veles, Macedonia!

### Photo galleries

This month Habitat features a photo gallery of the housing situation in Eastern Europe. View the ["Slums in the sky" slideshow here](#).

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*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](http://www.habitateurope.org)*