Habitat for Humanity Bulgaria has been active since 2001. It runs a diverse, innovative program tailored to meet the local housing need. Habitat Bulgaria works not only with families and individuals to improve their current housing situation but provides support also to communities by partnering with community-based social support organizations, adding value to their activities.

The housing need in Bulgaria

During communism, the national government provided families with housing. Once a market economy took hold, the responsibility for housing fell on the local authorities, who have no resources to deal with the problem. As a result, more and more homes need major repairs while many homeowners cannot afford even basic maintenance of their flats. The EU accession significantly increased the cost of property in Bulgaria, especially in the big cities, pricing more and more families out of the market.

The majority of Bulgarians own a house or a flat, but they struggle to maintain them. Many live in big blocks of flats constructed 40-50 years ago. Maintenance of these buildings has become a severe challenge for the homeowners, as the structures are rapidly deteriorating. At the same time, social housing programs have been cancelled and low-income families have no options to improve their living conditions.

How Habitat addresses the need in Bulgaria

Habitat Bulgaria is influencing markets by developing new micro-finance and thermal insulation products, which improve the affordability of the home improvements and energy-saving repairs. The organization is actively taking part in the housing-related policy-making at the national and the local levels providing societal support with regard to poverty housing, social housing, residential energy efficiency, and integration of marginalized and vulnerable groups of the population.
Meet a Habitat family
Milko and Veronika Georgiev rent a small two-room apartment where they lived with their three children – Christiyan (14), Mar- rio (9) and Eva (5). The apartment was too cold and wet during the winter and this worried Veronika as the health of her children is her biggest concern. Milko and Veronika are both employed but they cannot afford to buy a new, bigger home for their family. Milko heard about Habitat Bulgaria’s project in Kostinbrod from his sister and applied to become a home owner. They were impatiently awaiting the project completion and their move to the new house where now the kids have their own room with new furniture and where they play in the yard and enjoy everything that a happy childhood has to offer.

What you can do
You can help Bulgarian families improve their living conditions by taking one or more of the following actions:

DONATE
USD $: habitat.org/donate/bulgaria

VOLUNTEER
Join one of the scheduled Global Village trips to Bulgaria or lead your own. For more information go to: habitat.org/gv

TITHE
Establish a strong and rewarding tithe partnership to help build houses globally! Quote 811200, BULGARIA on your checks sent to: Habitat for Humanity International, Attn: Affiliate Tithe, 121 Habitat St. Americus, GA 31709

To learn more about Habitat projects in Bulgaria, please contact us.