Habitat for Humanity in Tajikistan

Habitat for Humanity has operated in Tajikistan since 1999 and seeks to generate community, sector, and societal impact toward the universality of safe, affordable, and decent housing. To date, Habitat has performed new house builds, repairs, and retrofits, as well improved access to financial products and advocacy efforts. The scope and scale of Habitat’s work spans from large-scale construction projects, to the development of market-based housing products with the private sector, to directly assisting individual families with their housing concerns such as promotion of secure tenure and housing rights of vulnerable groups.

The housing need in Tajikistan

Tajikistan remains one of the poorest and the most economically fragile countries that emerged after the fall of the Soviet Union. Almost 50 percent of the population lives below the poverty line, on less than 2 dollars a day. After the fall of socialism, public services in Tajikistan disintegrated. Wages are extremely low, with an average gross monthly wage considerably below $100 USD. This is only a fraction of the average in other post-Soviet countries. Tajikistan also underwent a prolonged period of civil war and economic decline. As a result, living standards have gone down and a shortage of financial resources in the private sector and inadequate public budgets resulted in poor house maintenance. The state no longer could provide these services, and private owners had no own funds to invest into property maintenance. Tajikistan has a housing stock of 1.23 million units (2011, Habitat’s Housing Review 2013). This is only 163 dwellings per 1,000 inhabitants, which is the lowest level of all countries in the Europe and Central Asia region.

How Habitat addresses the need in Tajikistan

In Tajikistan, Habitat is working in partnership with both local and international nongovernmental organizations, microfinance institutions and governments. Having a strong community presence, Habitat has implemented more than 30 projects in Tajikistan supporting most vulnerable and remote communities. Currently Habitat operates in 36 districts of 3 provinces of Tajikistan of where more than 90 % of country’s population lives.

HABITAT FACTS

When Habitat started in Tajikistan
1999

Individuals served in FY16
130,725*
*includes construction and market development

Volunteers hosted in FY16
13

Housing solutions
New builds; Repairs and renovations; Training (vocational, DRR, energy efficiency, financial education, construction); Advocacy and awareness raising on housing rights and property
Alieva Maksatoy lives with her two daughters in the north of Tajikistan. Her husband and son work in Russia as seasonal labor migrants. With the money that they send back home, the family has managed to build a nice three-bedroom house. However, they could not finish it off with proper windows and doors. The winter was coming but the family still could not afford to prepare the house for the coming cold. Maksatoy applied for an energy efficiency loan with Habitat Tajikistan. With the money she received, she installed windows and doors to keep the heat inside the house. “It was very relieving to find out that I can winterize my house with the help of Habitat Tajikistan. Most banks in Tajikistan have high-interest short-term loans which are very hard to pay off. Habitat Tajikistan offers affordable loans and I am confident about the quality of the products.”

Meet a Habitat family
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What you can do
You can help Tajik families improve their living conditions by taking one or more of the following actions:

DONATE
USD $: habitat.org/donate/tajikistan

VOLUNTEER
Join one of the scheduled Global Village trips to Tajikistan 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 815600, TAJIKISTAN on your checks sent to: Habitat for Humanity International, Attn: Affiliate Tithe, 121 Habitat St., Americus, GA 31709

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