



What is Global Village?

Global Village offers international volunteers the opportunity to take part in the "hands on" construction or renovation of homes in more than 40 countries around the world. Participating in a Global Village team offers a unique travel experience and an unforgettable opportunity to be fully immersed in the local community. Team members experience great personal growth through cultural and linguistic challenges, and return to their home countries transformed.

Join a Global Village team and you can make a difference in the lives of Armenian families in need of a simple, decent place to live. You might just find your own life changed as well.

ARMENIA

Building together for a brighter future

Armenia is a mountainous, landlocked country located in the Southern Caucasus region with a population of 3.2 million people. During the Soviet time, providing decent housing was one of the main obligations of the state towards its citizens. Production of public housing ceased drastically after the fall of the USSR and stopped fully in 1995. The housing situation in Armenia was influenced largely by the conflict with Azerbaijan over Nagorno Karabagh in the late 1980s and early 1990s, forcing the influx of an estimated 350,000 refugees. In 1988, a devastating earthquake in Spitak rendered about 17 percent of the nation's housing stock uninhabitable, leaving 25,000 people dead, 100,000 wounded and more than 500,000 homeless. Many people continue to live in temporary communities in shelters adapted from rail cars, large fuel tanks and container-like steel boxes intended for temporary workers. The serious threat of earthquakes only compounds the need for urgent action to address the housing situation.

Habitat facts

Families served
more than 5,000

Construction types
Home Renovation and Completion
Residential Buildings' Renovation
Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency

Hosting season
April - October

Hosting locations
Lori, Tavush, Yerevan and Vayots Dzor

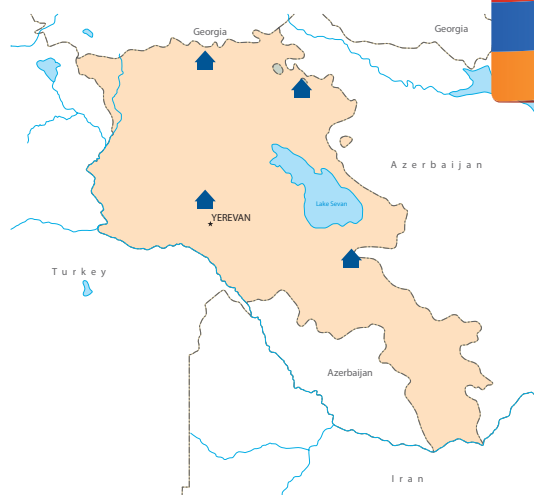
Team size
8-15 volunteers

Number of volunteers hosted
more than 950

Did you know

Armenia was the first country that adopted Christianity as a state religion.

According to Bible, Armenians are the descendants of Hayk, great-great-grandson of Noah, whose ark grounded on Mt. Ararat after the flood.



BLUEPRINT FOR VOLUNTEERING

Habitat for Humanity's Global Village program



Logistics

How to get there

International flight to Yerevan airport. It will take 20 minutes to get from the airport to the hotel/hostel.

Lodging

The teams will be accommodated in a 3-star hotel or a hostel. The accommodation is simple and located near the build site. All facilities are screened by Habitat Armenia staff to ensure that they are safe, clean and well maintained.

Transportation

Both long-distance and daily transport to and from the hotel is typically in the form of a 15-person private minibus with a hired driver.

Food and water

Breakfast: provided in the hotel.
Lunch: provided on the buildsite.
Dinner: in local restaurants.
Tap water is not sanitary to drink in Armenia. Purified bottled water will be provided throughout the day.



What do the volunteers say?

"The team had a fascinating experience. As a team leader, I would be honored to return and continue my work with Habitat Armenia in the future, to help eliminate poverty housing in this great land of truly remarkable people."

- Maria Petrenko, team leader

Meet a Habitat family

Nora Aghamalyan and her husband Volodya live together with their three sons - Hakob, Garik and Gor. For a long time, the family had to share home with Volodya's parents and siblings. When the families expanded it was impossible to live under the same roof. The family had nowhere to go and found a temporary shelter in the community center of the village. When the mass privatization started they bought the center at a very low price, so it became their home.

The building was in a critical condition and lacked basic amenities. Nora and Volodya have health problems and they spend a lot of money on treatments and medicine. With the income the family had, they couldn't afford to renovate their home on their own or take a high-interest loan that the banks offered. An affordable loan from Habitat eventually enabled the family to improve their living conditions. The major part of the renovation was done by a Canadian Global Village team of volunteers who worked hand-in-hand with the family for about two weeks.

Nora shared: *"We lived in these conditions for many years and it is hard to believe that our dream of having a decent home is now a reality. I believe God heard our prayers and sent Habitat to help us out of this difficult situation. We feel lucky to have been selected as a host family for a team of international volunteers who came from far away to help us. They became part of my family in a very short time and we had an unforgettable experience with them. They will always be on our hearts and minds."*

**Join us on a journey of adventure,
life enrichment and joy, choose
a place and start making a
difference now!**



Contact

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