



## 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 Bulgarian families in need of a simple, decent place to live. You might just find your own life changed as well.

# BULGARIA

## Building together for a brighter future

During the communist times, the government provided loans for families to buy low-income housing in poor-quality prefabs. 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. Despite the new initiatives for making public space more accessible, most of the homes of people with disabilities do not meet their special needs. At the same time, over the past 20 years, rural areas experienced a major loss of employment, income and services. Habitat Bulgaria provides a wide range of services and products designed to meet particular housing needs. The organization employs construction products and services, including new builds; micro-finance products for home improvements, incremental repairs and energy saving improvements, advocacy efforts and participation in the policy-making in regard to housing.

## Habitat facts

**Families served:**  
more than 3,500

**Construction types:**  
New homes  
Condominium building  
renovations  
Home improvements

**Hosting season:**  
June - September

**Team size:**  
9-15 volunteers

**Number of volunteers hosted:**  
more than 300



## Did you know

Bulgaria is the country with the oldest name in Europe.

Bulgarians invented the first electronic computer, digital watch and car air bag.

The famous Bulgarian rose-oil, produced in the region of Kazanlak, is a component of French and of other world-famous perfumes.





# BLUEPRINT FOR VOLUNTEERING

Habitat for Humanity's Global Village program



## Logistics

### How to get there

Sofia airport to hotel in Sofia: 20-30 minutes. Hotel in Sofia to the worksite in Kostinbrod: 30 - 40 minutes.

### Transportation

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

### Lodging

Hotels are simple and basic, and typically located near the project site. Each room sleeps 2-3 people and includes a private bathroom, although occasionally bathrooms are shared. All facilities are screened by HFH staff to ensure that everything is safe, clean and well-maintained.

### Food and water

Breakfast and dinner: Served in the hotel or a local restaurant.

Lunch: Served at the worksite or in a local restaurant.

Water: Purified, bottled water is provided throughout the day.



## Meet a Habitat family

Stefan Ketev (42), his wife Bistra (40) and their three children Galina (18), Dimitar (Mitko) (7) and Maria (4) are thrilled to be chosen as the family to live in the Habitat for Humanity Bulgaria house being built this year in Kostinbrod.

Stephen and his family have lived in rented house for over 10 years. The family does not own any property and cannot afford to repay a bank housing loan. Stefan is a technician in the local TV operator; his wife is a local middle school English teacher. Thanks to Habitat Bulgaria, little Mitko and Maria can have a child room of their own.



## What do the volunteers say?

*"Overall, this is a very well organized GV project. Perfect size of the group and good balance between work and leisure. Wonderful experience for a wonderful target group."*

**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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Europe, Middle East and Africa**  
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