



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

# ROMANIA

## Building together for a brighter future

Romania has long faced an acute lack of housing, a legacy of the socialist industrialization that forced many people from the countryside into new towns and infamous Soviet-style apartment blocks.

It is not uncommon for three generations of a family to live cramped in one or two rooms, as young families cannot afford a place of their own. Rents are high and for families with two average salaries, loans to buy a home remain out of reach. Many live in substandard housing with broken windows, leaking pipes and often no access to proper drinking water. Thousands of children in Romania are left orphaned because policies of the communist regime add to those in dire need of decent shelter.

## Habitat facts

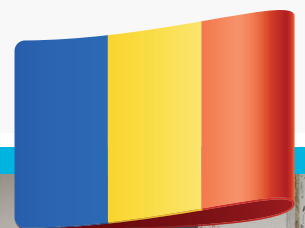
**Families served**  
more than 4,000

**Construction types**  
Renovations  
New homes  
Eco-friendly energy-saving homes

**Hosting season**  
January - November

**Team size**  
10-50 volunteers; up to 250 volunteers for special events

**Number of volunteers hosted**  
more than 15,000



## Did you know

Irish author Bram Stoker based his horror novel 'Dracula' on the fifteenth century Romanian prince and military leader, Vlad Dracula.

The Palace of the Parliament in Bucharest is the largest administrative building in the world after the Pentagon.

Bucharest was once called 'Paris of the East'.



# BLUEPRINT FOR VOLUNTEERING

Habitat for Humanity's Global Village program

## Logistics

### How to get there

**Bucharest:** Bucharest International Airport.

**Ploiesti:** Bucharest airport plus 50 min by bus.

**Beius/Oradea:** Budapest airport (Hungary) plus 4h30min by bus or Oradea airport plus 1 hour by bus to Beius.

**Cluj:** Cluj airport or Bucharest airport plus 9 hours by bus or Budapest airport plus 7 hours by bus.

**Comanesti:** Bacau airport plus 1 hour by bus or Bucharest airport plus 5 hours by bus.

**Radauti:** Suceava airport plus 1 hour by bus or Iasi airport plus 3 hours by bus, or Bucharest airport plus 7 hours by bus or train.

**ZeFir projects:** Bucharest airport plus 1h by bus.

### Transportation

Both long-distance and daily transport to

and from the hotel consist in a private bus with a hired driver according to the number of passengers. In Radauti, the teams can walk from the hotel to the build site.

### Lodging

Hotels are simple and basic, and typically located near the project site. Volunteers will be accommodated in single, double or triple rooms with private bathroom included. All facilities are screened by HFH staff to ensure that they are safe, clean and well-maintained.

### Food and water

Breakfast and dinner: Served in the hotel or a local restaurant. Lunch is served on the worksite. Tap water is sanitary to drink in Romania, but it is not recommended. Purified bottled water and bottled juices are provided throughout the day.



## Meet a Habitat family

Grabriela Moise, a drawing teacher at a local secondary school, and her son Robert lived in a parochial house in Ploiești, however, they were evicted in July, because a new priest was coming. The family had a single room and they shared their kitchen and bathroom with the priest's children. The house was damp, moldy, the kitchen was in the cellar, walls were breaking, and the bathroom got frozen solid during winter. They've lived in these conditions for three years.

*"It has been an extraordinary experience to work with Habitat. I have been impressed by the construction managers, they all had patience working with us and guiding us. I have met special people and youngsters putting their heart out on the site. Their help meant a lot. When there were volunteers on site the construction accelerated so fast. Working together we've talked about traditions and with some of them I am still in touch. I've noticed that friendships made on site, building together, are stronger and more honest."*

## What do the volunteers say?

*"I have so much to say that even a whole book wouldn't be enough to express all of my feelings and opinions about this experience. What I can say is that everything; the sore muscles, the hard work and sleepless nights were all worth it at the end of the day because I made wonderful friends and helped people in need."*

**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  
The Global Village Program**

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