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Preparing for the inevitable

Almost every day, natural disasters claim lives and destroy homes around the world. War, conflict and civil unrest also create millions of refugees and internally displaced people. And, it's usually low-income families in substandard housing that are affected the most.

Habitat's Disaster Response program makes a difference. It provides shelter assistance, education and training to the vulnerable families in disaster-prone areas and helps prepare them for the worst.

Helping today will make a difference to lives and livelihoods tomorrow.



Rebuilding lives after typhoon



Money upfront, not after



Washing away the past

News in brief

Tackling the world's affordable housing challenge

The McKinsey Global Institute has released a report highlighting the growing gap between supply and demand of affordable housing worldwide. The report identifies four approaches that could help close the affordable housing gap. Find an executive summary and full report, as well as a podcast discussion the research [here](#).

Urban design in Cape Town in pictures

In Cape Town, at least 1.9 million people live in shacks or other makeshift dwellings. The Guardian put together a [gallery](#) showing how Blue Downs and Khayelitsha townships changed after the introduction of two new design projects that provide safe and affordable alternative to townhouse homes.

Housing supply/demand mismatch in China

Experts question whether urbanization drives the demand for new houses in China. Even though about 70 million families moved to the cities between 2000 and 2010, [housing supply](#) is still 1.6 times larger than the demand. At the same time, a recent [survey](#) finds that one in five houses is empty, which means 49 million vacant homes.

Team Habitat in Royal Parks Half Marathon

On Sunday, October 12, Team Habitat's eight people completed [Royal Parks Half Marathon](#), a

13.1 mile run through central London, raising £4,500 for Habitat for Humanity.

A well of hope that cannot be ignored

Read a [blog post](#) from Jonathan Reckford and Sarina Prabasi, the CEO's of Habitat for Humanity International and Water Aid, highlighting the importance and connections between housing, clean water and sanitation.

Sydney urban slum

On October 1, Habitat Australia set up [an urban slum](#) at Martin Place in downtown Sydney. This interactive experience gave locals a chance to see, hear and feel what living in a slum is really like, as well as raise awareness about 1 million people living in inadequate housing.

3D printed house – a revolution in construction industry

Can you imagine your house made of bio-plastic instead of bricks? With the boom of the [3D printer technology](#), it soon may become a reality. Earlier this year, China reported ten 3D houses built in one day at a cost of just \$5,000 for each.

Sign up for Ethiopia

Join a team of volunteers to build shelter for vulnerable families in Ethiopia. Led by [Dale Smith](#), the build takes place on **February 13 – 22, 2015**. [Sign up now!](#)

Habitat and Social Media

Find us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Pinterest](#). Tell the world about your volunteer trips and experience.

Habitat for Humanity International's vision is a world where everyone has a decent place to live. Anchored by the conviction that housing provides a critical foundation for breaking the cycle of poverty. Habitat has helped more than 4 million people construct, rehabilitate or preserve homes since 1976. Habitat also advocates to improve access to decent and affordable shelter and supports a variety of funding models that enable families with limited resources to make needed improvements on their

homes as their time and resources allow. As a nonprofit Christian housing organization, Habitat works in more than 70 countries and welcomes people of all races, religions and nationalities to partner in its mission. To learn more, donate or volunteer visit www.habitateurope.org.
