

Kyrgyzstan

Habitat for Humanity in Kyrgyzstan

Habitat for Humanity Kyrgyzstan was established in 1999. A few years later, it started an innovative building method incorporating locally grown cane reed as a construction material. This project won the World Bank award in Washington D.C. in 2006. Currently, Habitat for Humanity Kyrgyzstan focuses on home renovations, finishing of half-built homes and winterization or providing affordable loans to families with mentally disabled family members.

The housing need in Kyrgyzstan

After the collapse of the Soviet system, Kyrgyzstan cut a variety of social benefits, leaving families with fewer resources for housing. Access to basic amenities such as water and sewage is limited, especially for impoverished people and those living in rural areas. Seeking relief from poverty, many families moved to informal settlements on the fringes of Bishkek and other large cities, where they lack secure tenure and decent housing.

Nearly 70 percent of the population live in substandard homes or is homeless. It is not unusual for three generations to be crowded into a single room with no heating or water. People with mental disabilities, such as autism, are among the poorest and most marginalized in Kyrgyzstan. They have trouble obtaining and keeping paid work because of stigma associated with mental health issues and additional responsibilities on family members to offer care. As a result, most of them cannot improve poor housing situations.

How Habitat addresses the need in Kyrgyzstan

Habitat activities in Kyrgyzstan range from new house builds, completion of half-built homes, home renovations, and provision of access to tap water for households in rural communities. In cooperation with the Open Society Institute, Habitat provides decent homes for families where one or more members have mental illnesses.

COUNTRY FACTS*

Capital	Bishkek
Population	5.66 million
Urbanization	35.7 percent
Life expectancy	70.36 years
Unemployment rate	8 percent
Population living below poverty line	37 percent

*Sources: CIA World Factbook, World Bank, UN

HABITAT FACTS

When Habitat started in Kyrgyzstan
1999

Families served
More than 6,100

Volunteers hosted
More than 600

Housing solutions
New houses
Completion of half-built houses
Home renovations
Access to sanitation in rural communities
Disaster response and preparedness
Home improvements for families with mental illness



Completion of half-built houses, home renovations

Many people in Kyrgyzstan use solid fuel, burning coal and wood to inefficiently keep their houses warm. Habitat Kyrgyzstan aims to provide energy-efficient insulation of the houses for low-income families by using low cost, local and natural materials. Home renovations also include the installation of new doors and windows, new heating systems, thermo insulation of walls, floors and ceilings.

Disaster response and preparedness

Habitat Kyrgyzstan holds trainings on strengthening capacity of local communities to disaster response and preparedness. To date, 4,000 training participants have learnt how to build safe and affordable houses using local available construction materials. Habitat Kyrgyzstan also introduces affordable construction technique on reinforcing the existing houses against earthquakes.

Meet a Habitat family

Imankulov Jolboldu and his wife Tursunkiul live with their three children in Barskoon village in an old house built in the 1940s.

In 2014, Jolboldu started building a new house and Habitat Kyrgyzstan is helping him to build it. It is going to be an affordable and earthquake resistant house. Four GV teams from Europe and US helped Jolboldu's family to complete the major construction job. *"We feel very fortunate and truly blessed being a Habitat partner family and hosting international volunteers is helping us to complete our house,"* says Jolboldu.

What you can do

You can help Kyrgyz families improve their living conditions by taking one or more of the following actions:

DONATE

USD \$: [habitat.org/donate/kyrgyzstan](https://www.habitat.org/donate/kyrgyzstan)

VOLUNTEER

Join one of the scheduled Global Village trips to Kyrgyzstan or lead your own. For more information visit: [habitat.org/gv](https://www.habitat.org/gv)

TITHE

Establish a strong and rewarding tithe partnership to help build houses globally! Quote **815500, KYRGYZSTAN** on your checks sent to: Habitat for Humanity International, Attn: Affiliate Tithe, 121 Habitat St., Americus, GA 31709

To learn more about Habitat projects in Kyrgyzstan please contact us.

Water and sanitation

Habitat Kyrgyzstan provides access to tap water for rural communities. The households from rural mountainous villages also benefit from cooperation with Habitat. More than 2,000 families enjoy cold and hot tap water facilities from their homes. Necessary water piping works connecting the households to the village water main, together with installed water boilers and wash basins in the kitchens will ensure healthier and



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