

ARMENIA  
BULGARIA  
ETHIOPIA  
HUNGARY  
JORDAN  
KYRGYZSTAN  
LESOTHO  
MACEDONIA

**VISA GRANTED**

MADAGASCAR  
MALAWI  
POLAND  
PORTUGAL  
ROMANIA  
SOUTH AFRICA  
TAJIKISTAN  
ZAMBIA

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY INTERNATIONAL

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**Habitat**  
for Humanity®

# PASSPORT

for Europe, Middle East and Africa





## Welcome to Europe, Middle East and Africa



Welcome to Europe, Middle East and Africa!

We are a vast and diverse region that stretches across several time zones and two hemispheres. It comprises more than half of the world.

In Eastern Europe and Central Asia three decades ago many countries were under communism. The fall of the system led to large-scale unemployment, migration to urban centers and deterioration in buildings which were previously maintained by government services. At the same time, mass privatization of the 1990s produced a class of homeowners with no real understanding of their property rights and responsibilities. Habitat for Humanity, in partnership with other agencies, is building new homes, completing renovations of existing structures, renovating entire apartment blocks and installing heating systems and sanitation.

Africa is the world's second-largest and second most-populous continent. However, many of its people live in poverty and need. Harsh conditions, years of conflict and violent changes of government, have taken its toll. People are moving to the cities at unprecedented rates. African cities will have to accommodate more than 300 million new residents over the next 25 years. Habitat for Humanity is meeting this challenge by exploring alternative financing models, working in partnership with corporates and other agencies, building new homes, and completing renovations of existing structures and providing adequate sanitation. It also runs Orphans and Vulnerable Groups (OVG) program, it works with families, orphans and vulnerable children and their caregivers, offering shelter support.

Explore our region through these short country profiles. We look forward to welcoming you in person. Together, we can make a difference.

In partnership,

*Greg Foster*

Area Vice President

Habitat Europe, Middle East and Africa

## About Habitat for Humanity

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 [habitat.org](http://habitat.org).

## Short-term volunteering opportunities with the Global Village program in Europe, Middle East and Africa



Armenia



Lesotho



Portugal



Bulgaria



Macedonia



Romania



Ethiopia



Madagascar



South Africa



Hungary



Malawi



Tajikistan



Jordan



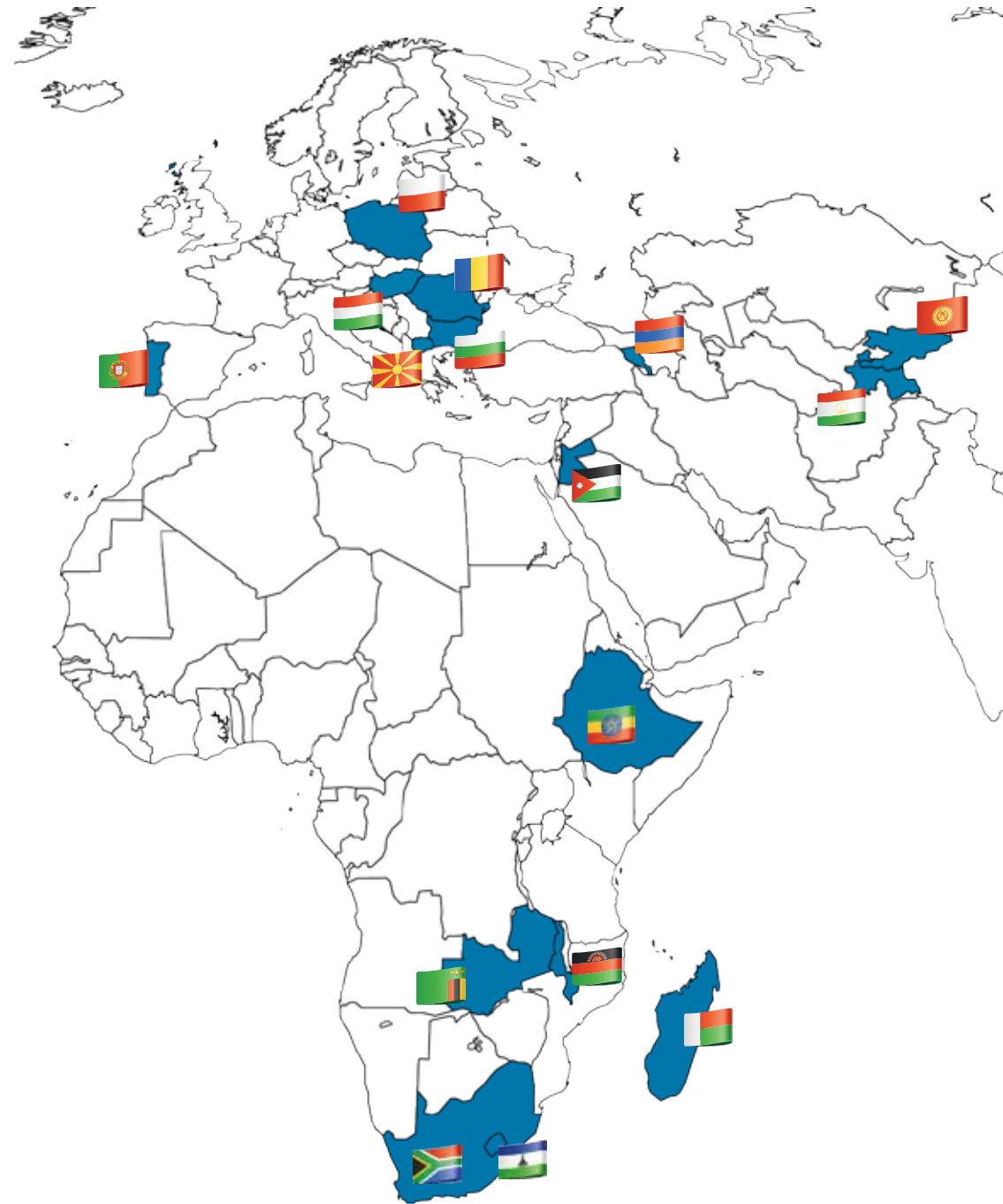
Poland



Zambia



Kyrgyzstan





## ARMENIA

The 1988 earthquake destroyed much of the housing stock in the north of Armenia. The country has also suffered a violent conflict with Azerbaijan over the Nagorno Karabakh region. Today, 5 percent of the population still lives in temporary shelter. Significant numbers of houses in large cities are in deplorable condition and continue to deteriorate because of lack of maintenance.

Habitat Armenia is committed to providing housing solutions for families in need of a simple, decent place to live and thrive. Typically, Habitat works with low-income families to build or renovate homes that are paid for over time by affordable loans.

### Country facts

- Capital city: Yerevan
- Population: nearly 3 million
- Population living below poverty line: 26.5 percent
- Unemployment rate: 7 percent
- Life expectancy: 72 years

### Did you know?

- Armenia was the first country in the world to adopt Christianity.
- According to Bible lore, Armenians are the descendants of Hayk, great-great-grandson of Noah, whose ark grounded on Mt. Ararat after the flood.

## ETHIOPIA

The vast majority of Ethiopians live in poorly built, dilapidated and cramped houses which lack even the basic facilities, such as toilets. Around 90 percent of the urban houses and almost all rural houses are in poor condition (Ethiopian Central Statistical Authority) and 60 percent of the population lacks access to adequate sanitation facilities (WHO/UNICEF).

Since 1993, Habitat Ethiopia has built homes in 13 communities and is also addressing the need for adequate sanitation by improving water infrastructure and providing pipelines from the water source to public water points, installing public latrines and offering hygiene education.

### Country facts

- Capital city: Addis Ababa
- Population: 93.8 million
- Population living below poverty line: 29.2 percent
- Unemployment rate: 17.5 percent
- Life expectancy: 60 years

### Did you know?

- The Afar region is called the “cradle of mankind” due to the hominid fossils found there, aged to millions of years.
- The river Nile, starts from Lake Tana, few kilometers from one of Habitat’s affiliates.





## JORDAN

Jordan is a Kingdom rich in history. Home to the Dead Sea, it is the lowest place on earth. Turmoil in the Middle East has weakened the economy and unemployment is high. Water supplies are inadequate. In the villages, it is not uncommon for 12 to 15 family members to share a small two-room house.

Habitat Jordan is currently working with 11 partner communities, called Jama'iat in Arabic. Habitat also works in urban communities in the Greater Amman area. Houses are made of cement blocks. The average home is 55 square meters.

### Country facts

- Capital city: Amman
- Population: 6.4 million
- Population living below poverty line: 14.2 percent
- Unemployment rate: 12.5 percent
- Life expectancy: 80 years

### Did you know?

- The Dead Sea or the Salt Lake in Jordan is the earth's lowest point and lies 402 meters below mean sea level.
- One of the Seven Wonders of the World, the city of Petra, was literally carved into rock 2000 years ago.

## KYRGYZSTAN



After the collapse of the Soviet system, Kyrgyzstan cut a variety of social benefits, leaving families with fewer resources for housing. Nearly 70 percent of the population lives 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.

Habitat's activities in Kyrgyzstan range from new house builds, completion of half-built homes, renovation of condominium buildings, and providing rural communities with access to clean water. In cooperation with the Open Society Institute, Habitat supports families where one or more members have mental illnesses.

### Country facts

- Capital city: Bishkek
- Population: nearly 5.5 million
- Population living below poverty line: 40 percent
- Unemployment rate: 18 percent
- Life expectancy: 69 years

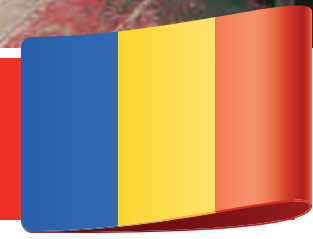
### Did you know?

- Arslanbob, located in the Jalal-Abad province of Kyrgyzstan, is the world's biggest natural growth walnut forest.
- Lake Issyk Kul, meaning "warm sea", never freezes, in spite of being located in the mountains.



# MALAWI

# ROMANIA



Ask anyone why they love Malawi and they will say it is for its warm and friendly people, its untouched beauty and stunning scenery. And yet, poverty in Malawi is undeniable. An estimated four out of five families live in substandard structures, with little hope of ever being able to afford a decent house.

Habitat Malawi houses are made of red clay bricks, glass windows and iron sheet roofs. Each house has a foundation made from large stones, brick or cement. By providing decent shelter, Habitat has reduced the occurrence of malaria, respiratory illnesses and intestinal parasites.

## Country facts

- Capital city: Lilongwe
- Population: 2 million
- Population living below poverty line: 30 percent
- Life expectancy: 74 years
- HIV/AIDS prevalence: 10.8 percent

## Did you know?

- Lake Malawi is sometimes called the Calendar Lake as it is about 365 miles long and 52 miles wide.
- When you are handing things, it should be done with the right hand, preferably held with the left hand.

According to the national statistics, 35 percent of the housing stock in Romania is in a state of complete neglect and needs urgent repairs. Recently, Romania has faced its worst floods in the past 100 years. The summer floods of 2008 and 2010 left thousands of people in temporary shelters, and heavy snowfalls in winter 2012 blocked access into and out of homes for many.

Habitat for Humanity Romania acts as a catalyst for improving housing conditions and offering support, expertise and experience to various groups and parties. The organization has taken leadership in tackling repairs, renovations and rehabilitation of old communist-era apartment blocks and disaster response projects.

## Country facts

- Capital city: Bucharest
- Population: more than 19 million
- Population living below poverty line: 25 percent
- Unemployment rate: 8.2 percent
- Life expectancy: 72 years

## Did you know?

- The Palace of Parliament in Bucharest, ranks as the second-largest office building in the world, after the U.S. Pentagon.
- Bran Castle in Transylvania is said to be the residence of Bram Stoker's fictional character Dracula.



## TAJIKISTAN

Tajikistan remains the poorest and most economically fragile of the former Soviet countries. More than half of its population lives on less than US\$2 a day. The 1992-97 civil war severely damaged the already weak infrastructure. House building in Tajikistan has almost halted and is complicated by frequent disasters such as earthquakes and mudslides.

Habitat Tajikistan offers loans to improve insulation in apartments and houses as well as training on solid and safe building practices. Bio-sand water filters are built to provide safe drinking water. Vocational trainings are offered in two Building and Training Centers to respond to the need for skilled workers, higher income and reduced emigration.

### Country facts

- Capital city: Dushanbe
- Population: nearly 8 million
- Population living below poverty line: 50 percent
- Unemployment rate: 20 percent
- Life expectancy: 65 years

### Did you know?

- The 'Silk Road', forming a major trade route between China and Europe, passed through Tajikistan.
- More than 50 percent of Tajikistan's land lies more than 3,000 meters (approx. 10,000 ft) above sea level.

## ZAMBIA

Despite its spectacular scenery about 60 percent of the Zambian population, who still live in remote rural areas, are extremely poor. Villagers rely heavily on subsistence agriculture. Families are crowded into a single room, which usually also serve as a kitchen, and children are exposed daily to life-threatening environments.

Habitat Zambia has expanded into six of the country's nine provinces, and has also facilitated multiple development initiatives. Habitat builds in both rural and peri-urban areas. The Orphans and Vulnerable Groups housing program provides appropriate, subsidized housing solutions to families in need.

### Country facts

- Capital city: Lusaka
- Population: more than 14 million
- Population living below poverty line: 64 percent
- Unemployment rate: 14 percent
- Life expectancy: 51 years

### Did you know?

- Zambia comprises amazing 72 ethnic groups.
- Victoria Falls present a spectacular sight of awe-inspiring beauty and grandeur on the Zambezi River, forming the border between Zambia and Zimbabwe





## What will *you* build in...

## ...Europe, Middle East and Africa

- **ARMENIA**  
Renovations and completion of half-built homes all across the country.
- **BULGARIA**  
Building of new homes, condominium buildings renovations and home repairs.
- **ETHIOPIA**  
Construction of traditional Chika (fermented mud and stick) houses, construction of toilets and kitchens and renovations of old homes.
- **HUNGARY**  
Assisting homeowners with basic repairs, mostly insulation.
- **JORDAN**  
Community based organization partnerships focusing on new constructions, repairs and renovations.

- **KYRGYZSTAN**  
Completion of half-built homes and traditional construction method using cane reed and clay with a technological innovation of an under-floor heating system.
- **LESOTHO**  
Construction and renovation of homes for Orphans and Vulnerable Groups.
- **MACEDONIA**  
Energy efficient upgrades, including insulation of walls and roofs to improve current living conditions of the homeowners.
- **MADAGASCAR**  
Slum upgrading activities including repair and renovation of houses, provision of water and sanitation, drainage and building of flood-proof pathways.

- **MALAWI**  
Construction of new homes for Orphans and Vulnerable Groups.
- **POLAND**  
Renovations and adaptations of buildings which serve the homeless, mothers with children and other vulnerable groups.
- **PORTUGAL**  
Traditional brick-house building for families currently living in sub-standard conditions.
- **ROMANIA**  
Building of wood framed homes, covered in drywall, insulated with plastered polystyrene and fiberglass insulation; home renovations and repairs.

- **SOUTH AFRICA**  
Construction of brick and mortar houses with two bedrooms, kitchen and indoor bathroom and toilet.
- **TAJIKISTAN**  
Building of new homes or bio-sand water filters to provide families with access to clean drinking water.
- **ZAMBIA**  
Construction of new homes for Orphans and Vulnerable Groups.







## One family at a time

Sharofidin Shamsov lives with his six children and their families in a house in Rasht, Tajikistan. Just like many others, Sharofidin's house was damaged by an earthquake in 2006, because the structure was not able to withstand the tremors. Through its disaster response project in Rasht, Habitat provided the family with technical assistance and locally available construction materials, like mulberry branches, for house reinforcement. With Habitat's support and the help of Global Village volunteers, Sharofidin was able to reinforce two rooms of his house.

*"Now that my house is reinforced, I am no longer worried about my family's safety. I am sure the house can protect them from earthquakes in the future. I am very grateful for Habitat's help and the volunteers who came and worked with us shoulder by shoulder to rebuild my house.*

*We still keep in touch with them and recently one of the GV team members called and congratulated my daughter on her 21st birthday. Thank you very much for your help and generosity, Habitat for Humanity!"*



## Volunteer story

For seven months, the students from Hewens and Rosedale College in Middlesex, Great Britain fundraised within their community for their volunteer trip. They travelled to Durban, South Africa to create a new home for the Mbeje family. George Cowell, a teacher from the college, said:

*"If the students did not understand the power of working effectively with others before the trip, they certainly did by the end. They were able to learn about the family and the Zulu culture, eating delicious local food, taking part in local tradi-*

*tions and sharing stories with the family whose home we were building.*

*The atmosphere on the site was fantastic. There was an incredible feeling of shared ambition and hard work, a sense that everyone was giving all they could to the project. The moment when the final tile was laid on the roof by the two sons of the family was extremely poignant. Having never had a secure roof capable of keeping out the rain before, the significance was not lost on anyone. Together, we were creating a better future for this incredibly deserving family."*



## Global Village program

## You can help

Hundreds of thousands of volunteers have contributed to Habitat for Humanity by raising funds, building homes and advocating to eliminate poverty housing. More than 500,000 simple, decent, affordable Habitat houses sheltering 2.5 million people have been built, in large part, by volunteer labor.

To date, Habitat for Humanity has sent out thousands of volunteer teams through the Global Village program. The teams—schools and universities, corporations, church groups, or groups of family members, friends and strangers—help fund and build homes, working alongside families in need.

### Take a vacation with a purpose in Europe, Middle East and Africa.

*“Whatever the task; digging dirt, moving boulders, laying cement or placing tile....I felt honored to be a part of something that touches the lives of others. I am forever humbled by the many ways Habitat for Humanity fulfills dreams for families and reminds me how much satisfaction you can feel by giving away something so simple... your time.”*

- Christina Kaye, Global Village volunteer from San Diego, California

### PASSPORT for Europe, Middle East and Africa



Type  
HFH

Code  
EMEA

Number  
24022014

Name  
Habitat Volunteer

Citizenship  
Global

#### Volunteer

gv.emea@habitat.org  
[www.habitat.org/cd/gv/schedule.aspx](http://www.habitat.org/cd/gv/schedule.aspx)

#### Donate

[www.habitat-europe.org/donate](http://www.habitat-europe.org/donate)

#### Signature

*Habitat Volunteer*