

High school

Objective

The group will learn about the scale, causes and effects of substandard housing around the world, and how they can help solve the problem.

PREPARATION

- Visit the link http://www.habitat.org/how/why/intl_stats_research.aspx. Make a copy of the page for each group member, or display the page using a projector.
- Read the first paragraph aloud. Ask a group member to summarize the main idea. (There is a global housing crisis, and world leaders are not adequately addressing the problem.)
- Ask volunteers to take turns reading the “Statistics” section aloud. Have the group sum up the scale of the poverty housing crisis. (Lack of affordable housing is a huge and growing problem worldwide.)
- Take turns reading the “Research findings” section aloud. Ask: Could a campaign to eliminate poverty and homelessness have an impact? Have group members write a short reflection on the importance of a dedicated effort to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness around the world. Discuss group members’ responses.

LEARN IT

- Explain to the group that Habitat for Humanity International is an organization whose goal is to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness from the world.
- Divide the group into five teams. Assign each team one of the following regions: Asia/Pacific, Africa/Middle East, Europe/Central Asia, Latin America/Caribbean, and United States/Canada. Direct all teams besides the United States/Canada team to download the informative regional pdfs from http://www.habitat.org/how/why/intl_stats_research.aspx. Direct the US/Canada team to http://www.habitat.org/how/why/us_stats_research.aspx. This team can also find information at the “Where we build” page and associated links at <http://www.habitat.org/intl/maps/na.aspx>. All teams may also find the following sites

helpful:

- www.unhabitat.org (click on “Countries”)
- www.adb.org (click on “Countries”)
- www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html (click on “Countries”)
- Give teams time to read about the causes and effects of poverty housing in their region and the needs of their region.
- Explain that each team is going to create a two-page newsletter that provides information to the public about the needs of the region and Habitat for Humanity’s efforts to meet those needs.
- Ask the group what kinds of information they think they should include in their newsletter to make it both informative and persuasive, and write examples on a whiteboard or large sheet of paper. Some examples include a summary of causes and effects of poverty housing in the region, a description of Habitat for Humanity’s efforts in the region, a call to action for support of these efforts in terms of volunteers and funds, and photos and supporting quotes from the Habitat for Humanity Web site.
- Have teams complete the “Newsletter planning” worksheet.
- Allow teams to find one of the many free templates on the Internet to use to generate their newsletters electronically. Encourage them to add visual appeal to the newsletters with appropriate text style choices and other design elements.
- Have teams share their newsletters with the group.

LIVE IT

- Take time to reflect on the activity. Ask the group: What is the most important thing you have learned from this activity, and why? What two actions can you take to help improve the housing conditions in the country you researched? Discuss their responses.
- Discuss how group members can “live” what they’ve learned. Suggest that group members raise

awareness about world housing issues by sharing the information they've researched. Encourage them to post their images on Habitat's Flickr page (<http://www.flickr.com/photos/habitatforhumanity/>) or start a discussion about their findings on Habitat's Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/habitat>). Group members may also wish to share what they have learned with the public through a Twitter account similar to Habitat for Humanity International's (http://twitter.com/Habitat_Org).

Newsletter planning

Region: _____

Causes of substandard housing there:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Description of Habitat for Humanity International's work there:

How to help (Include phone numbers, Web sites, postal addresses and other information that people might need in order to donate time, money or services.):

List of images you might include in your newsletter:

1. _____
2. _____

How will you arrange the information in your newsletter? On the back of this sheet, create a sketch of how your newsletter will look. Keep the following guidelines in mind:

- Give your newsletter a title.
- In your main article, focus on the causes and effects of substandard housing in the region you chose.
- In a secondary article, focus on the impact Habitat for Humanity is having in the region.
- Tell readers how they can help.
- Proofread your newsletter for correct spelling and grammar.