

Country profile: TAJIKISTAN



Country facts

Capital:
Dushanbe

Main country facts:
Independent since September 1991

Population:
More than 7 million

Urbanization:
26 percent live in cities

Life expectancy:
65 years

Unemployment rate:
Official 2.3 percent, actual rate is higher

Population living below poverty line:
60 percent

Habitat facts

When the program started:
1999

Highlights:
Habitat Tajikistan's "mulberry branch" building method withstood two earthquakes.

Families served:
More than 7,800

Global Village volunteers hosted:
More than 200

Housing solutions:
New builds
Finishing half-built houses
House reinforcement, earthquake mitigation
Winterization of homes
Bio-sand water filters
Condominium renovation
Housing microfinance loans

Habitat for Humanity in Tajikistan

Habitat for Humanity was established in Tajikistan in 1999, and to date has performed new house builds, completion of half-built homes, renovation of Soviet-era apartment blocks and installation of water filters in remote rural communities. It is working in the field of disaster mitigation by helping build safe and decent homes for families in earthquake-risk areas.

The housing need in 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. As an independent country, it has experienced high levels of emigration. Because of a lack of employment, nearly half of the labor force works abroad, primarily in Russia and Kazakhstan, supporting families back home through remittances. The exact number of labor migrants is unknown, but estimated at 1 million.

The 1992-97 civil war severely damaged the already weak infrastructure. House building in Tajikistan has almost halted. Unfinished homes are scattered across the country while existing stock deteriorates because of neglect. Families live in houses made of raw brick or clay with dirt floors. In cities, several generations live together in tiny apartments where heating and sanitation are often absent and water must be drawn from communal wells. Housing problems are complicated by frequent disasters such as earthquakes and mudslides.

How Habitat addresses the need

Habitat Tajikistan is working in partnership with both local and international nongovernmental organizations, local and national governments. Many innovative programs in Tajikistan are now ready to expand and serve substantially more families.

Here are some examples of Habitat projects in Tajikistan:

Energy-efficient renovation and winterization and disaster mitigation

Every year, Tajikistan experiences tremors and earthquakes. Those who suffer the most live in substandard homes that cannot withstand quakes. Many houses that were devastated by the earthquake in July 2006 are still not completed and lack windows and/or doors. Habitat Tajikistan offers loans to improve insulation in apartments and houses as well as the trainings on more solid and safer buildings practices in the vulnerable area of Kumsangir district. Proper windows and doors will protect families from harsh winters.

Water and sanitation

Only 58 percent of the 7 million people in the country have access to clean and safe water. Habitat Tajikistan, with a local partner, has developed a low-cost solution to the problem: the bio-sand filter. One filter costs approximately \$150 and provides clean drinking water for years, if maintained properly.

Condominiums renovations

This is an ongoing project with the aim to renovate and improve the state of condominium blocks buildings from Soviet era, that due to lack of government funding and /or technical assistance have been neglected for decades. Habitat Tajikistan will help 112 families living in aged condominiums in urban areas of Dushanbe by providing both an affordable housing-improvement loan and high quality technical assistance during the needed renovations.

Habitat resource centers

In response to the need for skilled workers, higher income and reduced emigration, Habitat Tajikistan opened two Building and Training Centres. It offers vocational education on construction skills and acts as a social enterprise that produces construction materials for Habitat homes.

Meet a Habitat family

Bahriddinov Gufron (43), and his wife Nigina (38), with their two children: boy Shohrukh (5) and daughter Rano (15) live in a 4-room house that is made of mud bricks and lacks proper insulation. The family uses plastic covers on their windows to protect themselves from cold This has been going on for some 5 years.

Gufron and Nigina completed training with Habitat about home repair and maintenance, which will enable them to install new doors and windows themselves. The loan Habitat offers meets their personal need and is affordable for them. The family believes that Habitat's intervention will have a positive impact on their health and on their lives in general.



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Habitat for Humanity International is a global charity dedicated to eliminating poverty housing. Since its foundation in 1976, Habitat has built and renovated more than 400,000 houses worldwide, providing simple, decent, affordable shelter for 2 million people.

In Europe and Central Asia Habitat for Humanity International works with families in need in 23 countries, building and repairing houses, offering housing microfinance services, improving water and sanitation, working on disaster response and advocating for affordable housing. In this region, Habitat has served more than 11,000 families together with volunteers and homeowners. Find out more at www.habitat-europe.org.