

# Decent Housing for Strong Communities



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## FACT SHEET

- Number of active affiliates: 1 (Khujand)
- Years started: 1999
- Number of families served: 670 \*
- Population: 6 863 752 (July 2003 est.)
- Capital: Dushanbe
- Area: 143 100 km<sup>2</sup>
- Languages: Tajik, Russian

\* as end of November 2007



The dreams come true. The year of 2007 became special for 522 families in Tajikistan as they built their homes together with Habitat. Thousands of children enjoy new, safe and warm dwellings.



## Disaster response and preparedness

The grave consequences of natural disaster and its risk are increasingly of global concern. The poorest country in Central Asia Tajikistan is a mountainous landlocked country vulnerable to various natural disasters. Usually the victims of this disaster are people living in the poorest rural areas – 70% of total population in Tajikistan.

A year has passed since the devastating earthquake hit Kumsangir district of Tajikistan taking 3 lives away and making more than 16 000 people homeless. In response to the need of the most affected village of Kumsangir - Amine Nav, HFH-Tajikistan in partnership with

with mostly affected families. HFH financial contribution towards each house made \$400 USD. The rest of the materials were provided by partnering INGOs and some materials were reused from old houses. Families contributed labor and part of construction materials (mud bricks) to complete their homes.

Deeper survey revealed the causes of such large-scale destruction of houses in



number of international NGOs implemented 2 phase project where 81 new earthquake resistant houses were built



this vulnerable area: cheap construction, no earthquake-resistant infrastructure, lack of knowledge and financial resources to reinforce or even maintain the homes. To address this HFHT and UN Disaster Risk Management Project launched a partnership initiative to

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strengthen the capacity of 3 earthquake affected communities in Kumsangir district to be prepared



for and protected from the further impact of earthquakes through developing reinforcement

### Rebuilt houses, restored lives

Zamini Nav village of Kumsangir district was among the most earthquake affected communities. More than 1000 people lost their shelter in this village. Halimov Mirzo, 72, head of the family, retired teacher and father of 12 children, had hardly saved his youngest daughter when their house, shaken by powerful earthquake, started to collapse. He and his daughter got wounded but thankfully survived. Few seconds of terrible quakes and what they used to call a home became pile of ruins. They lost every-



thing and non the less disaster family had to face afterwards was the urgent need of building a new house. Teacher's salary and pension of Halimov Mirzo made monthly \$35 USD and 0,05 hec. of agricultural land was hardly supporting substan-

methods of existing buildings and training program in safer construction practices. By providing alternative and affordable solution to strengthen the structure of houses with locally available and affordable materials such as wood, clay, straw and mulberry twigs HFHT strengthened/reinforced the structure of 120 houses of most disadvantaged families. Families as well as organized community groups learnt vital skills of safer house construction that will save many lives and households in case of future tremors. Partner families provided all required labor and locally available materials such as twigs and clay. HFH Tajikistan plans to deploy this project to another affected district of Tajikistan, Rasht.

tial need of the family of 14 people. Without external support this family would not be able to move from emergency tents to new home of



their own in foreseen future.

When HFH Tajikistan launched a partnership intervention in response to the need of earthquake affected Zamini Nav village, this family was one of the first benefited from the project. With construction materials provided and basic knowledge of earthquake resistant house construction techniques gained, the family together with neighbors and relatives has built in short time new house. "Our new house is decent and very safe" said Halimov Mirzo, "now we can sleep at night in peace without a fear of the next tremor"

Two 80+ year old men inspire a team and a village

Wanda L. Smith  
Global Village Team Leader

Percy Walley, a retired minister, and his wife were looking forward to her retirement in 1990 and fulfilling their plans to travel the world together. When she died very suddenly, shortly after her retirement, Percy was left to contem-



plate how to assuage his grief with meaningful life experiences which would honor her memory and their years of marriage.

In 1996, Percy made the first of 11 Global Village trips, to which he plans to add one trip each year. He has traveled to South Africa, India, Nepal, England, Bolivia, Armenia, Mongolia, Bangladesh, Cambodia and most recently to Tajikistan.

I was privileged to be Percy's team leader as I led my 3<sup>rd</sup> team to Tajikistan. Our team was based in



a small town in southern Tajikistan where we helped build a new village for resettlement of families whose current village was being de-

stroyed by earthquakes and mudslides. House site #6 was to be the new home for 83 year old Nuromurrod and his extended family. This site soon became the favorite site for all team members who requested work site rotation for the opportunity to work there, just to enjoy the delightful personality and energy of this stooped, sun bronzed man with a withered hand. His sons and grandsons, who were also working there, obviously loved and respected him and their good natured banter was translated for team members to enjoy. Among Nuromurrod's more



notable comments was that he was "83 years old and looking for a new wife!"

When Percy and Nuromurrod worked together there were no water breaks, tea breaks, sweat wiping breaks or rest breaks. These two men, with unstoppable energy, kept at the job and inspired a whole team with their work ethic, cheerful spirit and willingness to build new relationships. Percy gained the admiration and respect of the local workers and his reputation preceded him to the home village where he received gifts of food and much thanks.

Percy Walley demonstrates his faith by building houses, building hope, and building relationships. I'm so blessed to have been a part of this man's experience in terrific Tajikistan!

Wanda L. Smith

While publishing this article we received the news that Wanda is going to lead new team on March 2008. Well, there is a chance that the team and Nuromurrod will meet again.

## HFHI/ECA Standard of Excellence Awards FY 07

For the outstanding performance in FY 07 HFH Tajikistan has been appreciated by HFHI/ECA Standards of Excellence Awards:

- Clarence Jordan Award for Innovation & Community Impact
- Millard Fuller Award for exceptional improvement in the number of families served
- The Solomon Awards for Resource Development

## Get Involved

If you want to find out more about our work in Tajikistan:

Contact – Behruz Dadoboev  
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fax (+992 37) 227-74-25  
Website: [www.habitat.tj](http://www.habitat.tj)

If you want to support Habitat program to help needy families of Tajikistan out of poverty housing you may do it in following ways:

### Mail donations from USA

Send check to Habitat for Humanity International:  
121 Habitat Street, Americus, GA  
31709-3498. Please do not forget to put HFH-Tajikistan fund code: 815600 to memo line.



### Online

Donate online on HFH International website:  
[www.habitat.org](http://www.habitat.org) – [Donate online](#).

Please enter the box which says “Optional Designation” 815600 Tajikistan



### Global Village

Participate in Global Village Program and build homes alongside with families.

To learn more about GV please visit  
[www.habitat.org/gv](http://www.habitat.org/gv)

To lead or come on GV trip contact GV coordinator of HFH-Tajikistan - Nargiza Bobokhonova.  
E-mail: [nargis@habitat.tj](mailto:nargis@habitat.tj)

### House sponsorship

If you would like to sponsor the house or apartment, you may want to review following projects and costs:

**New house construction/duplexes**  
cost - \$9140 per unit, 54 sqm, 3 rooms

**Apartment renovation/rehabilitation**  
cost - \$6000, 70sqm, 3 rooms

**Completion of half-built homes**  
cost - \$2000, size varies between 40-60 sqm

**Disaster response model house construction**  
cost - \$3735, 36 sqm, 2 room house with possible extension

**House reinforcement in disaster prone area**  
cost - \$1147 , reinforcement of 3 room house

# Thank You!

