



GENERAL INFORMATION ON GLOBAL VILLAGE

Habitat builds houses.

However, it does much more.

If someone were to ask you:

"What is the most important result of Habitat for Humanity?"

You would probably think of

"a life changed, a family strengthened, or a community revitalized".

That is much more important than budgets, bricks or house numbers.

What is a Global Village trip about?

Briefly a Global Village team is a team of volunteers traveling abroad and volunteering/building with a Habitat affiliate in another country. The Global Village program is designed by Habitat for Humanity (HFH) to provide an educational experience within a cross-cultural environment. By living and working with the host community, participants have an opportunity to personally witness and contribute to Habitat for Humanity's effort to eliminate substandard housing throughout the world.

Global Village offers international volunteers the opportunity to take part in the "hands on" construction or renovation of houses in more than 40 countries around the world. Volunteer teams travel to their chosen host country to build in partnership with the local people, learn about the housing need and to become a part of the community. No prior construction experience is necessary and teams assist with unskilled work such as lifting, carrying and mixing, as well as hammering, sawing and laying blocks. All teams work with the future homeowners, local volunteers and skilled construction workers, and receive construction supervision.

Volunteers pay for their transportation, accommodation and food. In addition to contributing volunteer labor, Global Village teams also contribute financially through raising funds and awareness in their home countries. This money is used to build Habitat houses in the host country.

A global village trip consists of mostly building activities but it also gives a chance to participants to get to know the culture, the local people, HFH's work at the grassroots level and to have unique hands-on experience...

Why should young people join an international volunteer team?

Global Village projects last for between one to two weeks and offer a challenging yet deeply rewarding cultural experience for volunteers aged 15 and above. Individually tailored itineraries ensure that the team's needs and interests are met, and that both the local community and the team have many chances to interact, share their stories with one another and build lasting relationships.

Global Village teams are an integral part of the work of Habitat for Humanity International and make a significant contribution to the mission of Habitat. The presence of a Global Village team in the host country helps to raise local awareness and understanding of the work of Habitat. Team members, however, are equally blessed through their involvement in Global Village. Participation in a Global Village team offers a unique travel experience and an unforgettable opportunity to be fully immersed in the local community. Team members experience great self-development through cultural and linguistic challenges, and return to their home countries transformed. Lasting relationships with fellow team members and local people are created, and greater understanding of the effects of poverty housing and of developmental issues is gained. Youth are particularly impacted by their involvement, and experience a change in their worldviews. In the words of one recent youth volunteer, "As the week progressed we realized that our reason for being there was not simply to 'build a house.' It was to live with the people, to talk with them and learn from them, to share a common vision and to work together to see this vision materialize. This experience has changed me."

How do we organize a Global Village trip?

We require our youth Global Village teams to have adult team leader(s) who would be responsible of the administration of the team, organizing the logistics, paperwork and finances in the name of the team as well as being the contact person between the team and Habitat for Humanity.

1. Where and When

Our first step is to choose a host HFH affiliate for your team. Your Area Global Village coordinator will help to choose according to your preference of location and time. There are more than **40 countries around the world** where you can organize a Global Village trip. The time of the hosting changes according to the location of the country. It is typical in Europe/Central Asia that Global Village teams are hosted from March to November whereas HFH affiliates in Africa/Middle East might be hosting throughout the year.

Where can you volunteer in Europe/Central Asia?

- Armenia
- Hungary
- Kyrgyzstan
- Macedonia
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Tajikistan

2. Team administration & Paperwork:

There is some paperwork to be done to administer Global Village teams. We ask participants to fill applications, some health information, contact information and such. One document of importance is Waiver. Waivers are to acknowledge the volunteers of the risk involved with the international travel and the activities related to being a volunteer for a work team.

There are two kinds of waivers:

- Global Village Waiver: needs to be filled in by all participants 18 years and older.
- Global Village Minor Waiver: includes parental authorization to treat, required from all participants younger than 18 years old.

To collect the minor waivers might take some time especially if the parents of students reside in other countries. It is something to keep in mind and work on collecting in advance.

3. Finances:

Here are the things you need to budget for your Global Village trip:

- **Travel Cost:** Booking your tickets in advance would both save you money and help your host volunteer coordinator prepare better for your visit.
Don't forget to find out about the visa requirements, costs and departure tax
- +
- **In-country Costs:** Estimate €30 - €60 per day per person for in-country costs which cover accommodation, 3 meals per day, transportation, and sightseeing. Your host affiliate will provide more specific information to allow you to adjust your budget.
- +
- **Insurance:** €2 per day per person (including the international travel dates). This HFHI issued insurance covers the participants for work on a construction site and emergency medical evacuation at a minimum level of €100,000. Under this coverage, medical assistance for GV team members is available 24/7.
- +
- **Donation:** Habitat for Humanity Global Village teams provide a donation to the Habitat program to be used in building houses. The minimum donation is €450 per volunteer. Out of this €350 will go to the affiliate you will be working with and €100 is a donation to the Habitat for Humanity International Global Village program to cover for program costs.

**Global Village integrates young and old, rich and poor, women and men.
Whether in Belfast...Braga...or Brisbane...
Habitat for Humanity volunteers build houses and friendships!**

If you are interested in getting involved in a Global Village experience, contact your Area Global Village Coordinator at gv.europe@habitat.org or at +421 2 3366 9000 ext. 5426 or 5410.