

We build homes, communities & hope

Annual report 2023-2024



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We Are Habitat for Humanity Romania

part of a non-profit worldwide organization, which provides housing solutions and community assistance to vulnerable families.



In the last 29 years we helped over 100,000 Romanians through housing and community development programs.

5.100

**HOMES BUILT
OR REHABILITATED**

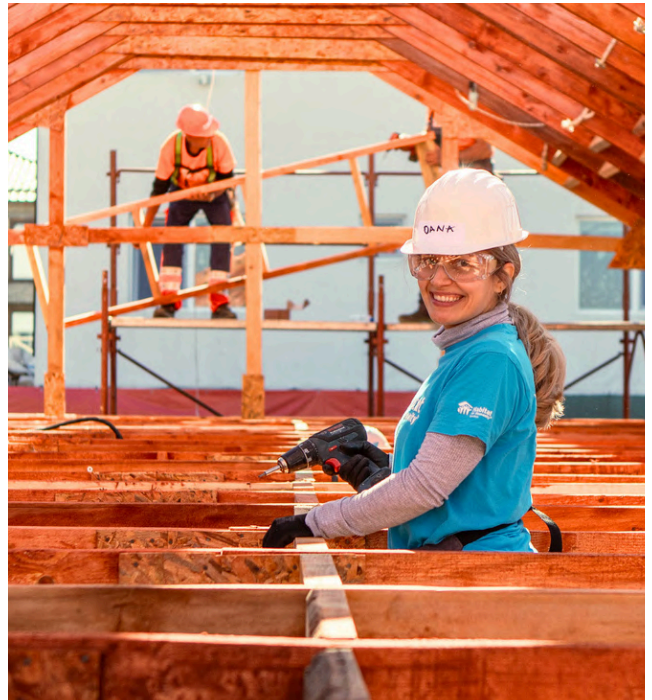
Our Mission

Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope.

Our Vision

is a world where everyone has a decent place to live.

We are therefore constantly looking for new solutions that would make adequate housing accessible and affordable for all.



Our Values



Humility

Being called to such a massive cause as a decent place to live for everyone is humbling.



Courage

With humility, courage drives us to take risks for our mission.



Accountability

Holding ourselves accountable with humility helps us learn from mistakes and improve our programs.



In 2023-2024, we remained steadfast in our mission to build homes, strengthen communities, and create hope.

We expanded our impact through construction and community-building efforts. We organized six Hope Build events, bringing together over 2,000 volunteers to help families in need gain access to safe, decent housing.

We also responded swiftly to the severe floods that affected several Romanian communities. Habitat for Humanity Romania provided emergency assistance to families whose homes were damaged or destroyed. We supported clean-up operations and began planning housing interventions for the most vulnerable, ensuring they would not be left behind in the aftermath of the disaster.

Beyond this, we also managed to respond quick to the humanitarian crisis caused by the escalation of violence in Gaza and we provided vital support to families forced to flee. At the same time, we continued to stand by Ukrainian refugees, offering both immediate aid and long-term housing solutions.

These achievements would not have been possible without the dedication of our volunteers and partners, whose commitment has been the foundation of our success.



Roberto Pătrășcoiu
National Director
Habitat for Humanity Romania

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to all the donors, partners, and friends who equipped us with everything we needed to remain resilient.

We said yes to the victims of the devastating floods that affected the eastern part of the country in 2024.

We turned our attention to the refugees arriving in Romania from Gaza and Ukraine, helping them start a new life through the power of decent shelter.

We invited top leaders from the business and civil society sectors to raise their hands and voices for the cause of affordable housing at a remarkable charity event: the CEO Build.

We challenged volunteers to build homes in just five days during our flagship event, the Hope Build.

“

The perma-crisis seems to be the new paradigm.

In a world where volatility, uncertainty, complexity, and ambiguity constantly reshape how we operate and challenge all our assumptions, organizations need to be more resilient than ever – and stand side by side with those who need our help the most.

”

But we also challenged Romanian society to look beyond our borders, toward the Global South.

And the bet paid off: Romanian volunteers raised funds, traveled, and helped build homes in a vulnerable community in Kenya.

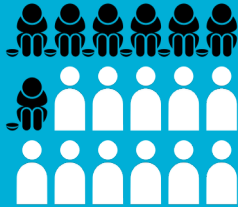
We built community centers for vulnerable children. And we also looked inward at how we can reduce our carbon footprint and build greener, more sustainably.

None of this would have been possible without YOU.

On behalf of the thousands of people whose lives were impacted by your generosity,

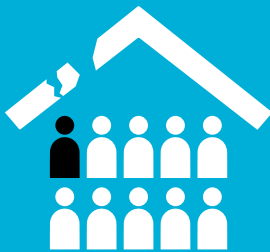
Thank you!

We continue to build because:



34%

of the Romanian population is at risk of poverty and social exclusion



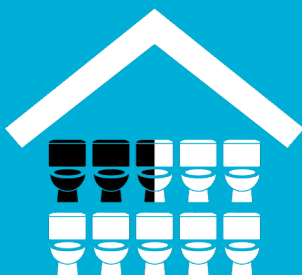
1 out of 10

Romanians are affected by housing problems



41%

of Romanians are struggling in overcrowded households



21%

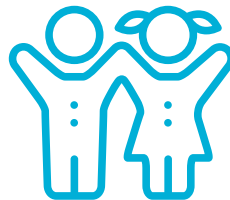
of Romanians don't have access to indoor flushing toilet in their household

Celebrating our local impact in 2023 & 2024



108

homes
built or
renovated



160

children benefit now
from our community
programs



2333

volunteers



234

people helped
after the floods in
Galati



379

refugees received
short & long-term
accommodation



126

people assisted
with Housing
support services



110

people supported with
household renovations

At the heart of Habitat for Humanity Romania's mission, the **Home Building Program** stands as our flagship initiative under the **Affordable Housing pillar.**

For years, this program has shaped our identity, strengthened our partnerships, and brought life-changing impact to families in need. It represents not only the core of our housing efforts but also the foundation of our successful volunteer engagement, where thousands of individuals and corporate teams contribute to building homes, hope, and stronger communities.

Home Building Program

Hope Build is an accelerated building and volunteering project where we build multiple homes in just 5 days, with the help of local and Hilti volunteers.

At Habitat for Humanity Romania, we believe that safe, decent, and affordable housing lays the foundation for brighter futures. Through the Hope Build Program, we unite volunteers, corporate partners, and communities to construct homes for families in need. Together, we empower families to escape housing poverty and foster resilience and dignity.



Immediate and Long-Term Impact

In 2023 and 2024, Hope Build brought tangible results to three communities: Tutora, Cumpăna, and Berceni, with a new expansion into Zemeș.

This initiative highlights our commitment to empowering communities by providing cost-effective, disaster-resilient homes and engaging volunteers and families in the building process.

“

Hope Build is a testament to what can be achieved when people unite for a common cause. In just five days, we don't just build houses, we build hope, resilience, and new beginnings. Every wall raised and every nail hammered carries the collective effort, compassion, and determination of people who believe in a better future for others.

The energy, teamwork, and sense of purpose that drive this initiative prove that meaningful change is possible when hearts and hands come together.

”



Hope Build 2023-2024 at a glance



4 communities



18 homes



18 families



99 International
volunteers



960 volunteers



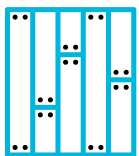
63 people
helped



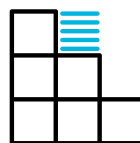
30 accelerated
build days



6 builds



288 m3
of wood



13.745
pieces of tiles



360 m3
of concrete



2.730 m2
of plasterboard

A strong collaboration: Habitat for Humanity Romania & Hilti

Together, Habitat for Humanity Romania and Hilti Group have worked not only to construct homes but also to advocate for better housing conditions across the country.

This partnership addresses both the immediate and long-term challenges of housing insecurity, offering tangible solutions while shining a spotlight on the need for sustainable housing policies.



The collaboration is guided by a shared set of values and criteria, ensuring that the families selected for the program are those who need it most. Beneficiaries are chosen based on their:

- Critical need for safe and decent housing;
- Limited financial resources;
- Willingness to actively participate in the construction process, working side by side with volunteers to build their future home.



By engaging directly with families and involving them in the building process, we foster more than just physical shelter. We create a sense of ownership, pride, and resilience. When families contribute their own time and effort, they become active participants in shaping their futures, not just recipients of aid.

This participatory approach builds confidence, strengthens family bonds, and nurtures community spirit. It also helps families develop practical skills, encourages independence, and breaks the cycle of poverty by providing both a home and the knowledge to maintain it.

In doing so, we not only offer stability but also restore dignity and hope.

A Blueprint for Impactful Collaboration

The partnership between Hilti Group and Habitat for Humanity Romania exemplifies the powerful potential of cross-sector collaboration. It shows how companies committed to social responsibility can create deep, lasting impact by working alongside nonprofit organizations toward a shared mission.

Hilti's involvement goes beyond funding. Employees actively volunteer on build sites, bringing energy, expertise, and solidarity to each project.

Through the Hope Build program, this partnership has directly contributed to improving the lives of vulnerable families, offering not only shelter but a new start.

It's a testament to how compassion and teamwork can drive real change and inspire others to act.



The Families We Built For

In 2023 and 2024, through the Hope Build Program, 18 families worked hand in hand with volunteers to turn dreams into reality. These families, selected based on their urgent housing needs and willingness to participate in the construction process, are now one step closer to a brighter future. Together with our corporate partners and community support, they have been given not only a house but a home where they can thrive.

“

This house will change everything. My children will finally have their own rooms and a place to dream!

”



Rebuilding Life from the Ground Up

The Albișteanu Family

Mihaela Albișteanu, 31, has spent years dreaming of a home where her four children could finally feel safe and secure.

“

I've never had my own home.
We've always lived in rented spaces,
moving constantly.

”

Mihaela's current rental house is damp, poorly insulated, and far from ideal. But despite the challenges, she has worked hard to provide for her children, focusing on their education and well-being.

When Habitat for Humanity Romania selected Mihaela for the Hope Build 2024 project in Tutora, she felt like a weight had been lifted off her shoulders. Alongside volunteers, she actively participated in the construction of her new home.



Rebuilding Life from the Ground Up

The Cozma Family

Mariana and Răzvan Cozma come from underprivileged backgrounds and had to work from a very young age to support themselves. Renting a small, deteriorating apartment in Cumpăna, Constanța County, they faced daily challenges, from faulty heating to persistent mold, which made the space unhealthy for their children.

Selected for [Hope Build 2023](#), the family worked with volunteers to build their new home.



“

Now, we finally feel safe. It's a fresh start for all of us!

”





A Place of Peace and Stability

Today, the Cozma family is thriving in their new home: a safe, spacious place where they can grow together and plan for the future. For the first time in years, they feel secure.

The difference is visible not only in their living conditions but also in their well-being. The children are healthier and happier, and the stress that once dominated their daily lives has eased.

“

The kids are healthier now, and we finally feel safe,” the parents shared. “There’s no better feeling than knowing your children are comfortable, secure, and have a place to call home.”

This home represents far more than walls and a roof – it’s a foundation for a better life.

”

New Homes

Through the Home Building Program, Habitat for Humanity Romania mobilizes volunteers from all walks of life—individuals, corporate teams, and community groups—to help construct or rehabilitate homes for families in need.

Partner families also participate, putting in sweat equity to help build their own future homes. This collaborative process fosters pride, empowerment, and a deeper connection to the home and community.

Our mission is to provide low-income families with safe, decent, and affordable housing. We believe that a stable home is the first step toward breaking the cycle of poverty and building a brighter future—for individuals, families, and entire communities.



New Homes Berceni

Through the Home Building Program, we provided new homes to four families in Berceni, including Tatiana Drăghici and her four children. The works started in 2023 and were finalised a year later, when the families were able to move in and start a new life.

The Drăghici Family

When Tatiana learned she and her children would move into a new Habitat home, she was overwhelmed with emotion.

“

You have given us the greatest joy! We've always dreamed of having a place to call our own.

”



Living in unsafe and overcrowded conditions, Tatiana had faced constant challenges to provide for her children.

Now, with their new home, her family finally has the chance to live in safety, warmth, and dignity.

New Homes Moinești

In 2024, Habitat for Humanity began building new homes in Moinești for four families, including Vasilica and Ionuț Ghinea, whose determination and resilience reflect the spirit of Habitat's mission.

The Ghinea Family

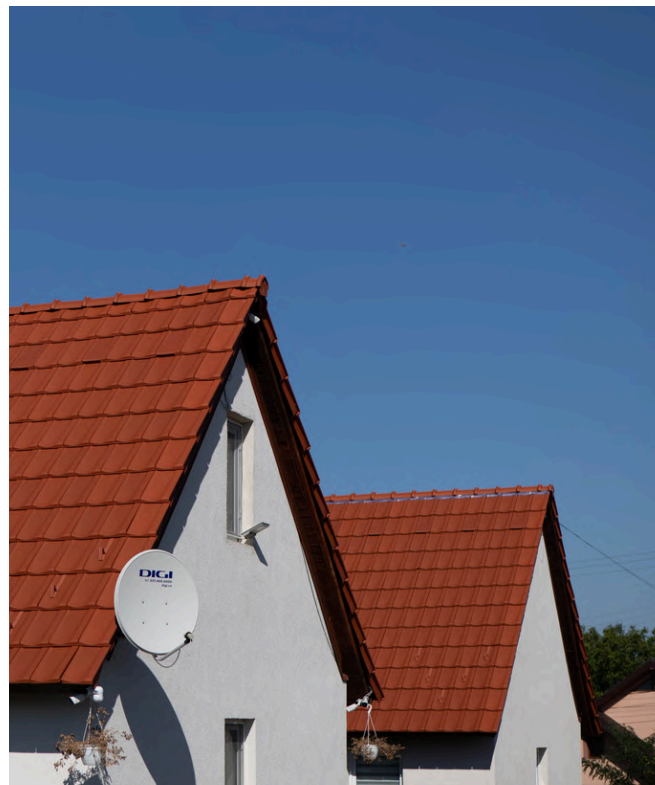
Vasilica and Ionuț Ghinea, together with their two young sons, have struggled for years to find a stable living situation. Sharing an old house with extended family, they faced numerous challenges, from unresolved property issues to insufficient space for their children.

“

This new home will change everything for us. It's a safe and secure place where our boys can grow up without the constant worry of moving or repairs we can't afford.

”

By partnering with Habitat for Humanity Romania, the Ghinea family is taking a big step toward a brighter future.



Disaster Recovery and Resilience

**At Habitat for Humanity Romania,
we believe that a safe home is the
foundation for stability, dignity,
and a better future.**

Through our Disaster Recovery and Resilience Program, we provide rapid and effective humanitarian aid, shelter solutions, and long-term rebuilding efforts for those affected by natural disasters, armed conflicts, and social crises.

Whether responding to the devastation in Ukraine, the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, or the floods in Galați, our mission remains the same: to rebuild hope, restore homes, and strengthen communities for a more resilient future.

2023 - Gaza Refugees Emergency Response

“

A NEW BEGINNING IN A SAFE HOME

We feel safe here. It's good that we are alive. Now we can do anything for the future.

- Asel, November 13, 2023

”

In 2023, the tragic escalation of violence in Gaza triggered a major humanitarian crisis, forcing countless families to flee their homes in search of safety. Among those affected, over 300 Romanian citizens were evacuated from Gaza to Romania, many of whom arrived with little more than the clothes on their backs, without any shelter or financial resources to start anew.



The Need & Our Response

Habitat for Humanity Romania provided both immediate and long-term support to help these families regain stability and hope. In just 42 days, we delivered:

- **Emergency housing** and hot meals to 146 individuals upon arrival in Romania;
- **Financial assistance for rent** and relocation for 93 people, covering housing costs for three months and helping families settle in cities like Bucharest, Craiova, Braşov, Alba Iulia, Deva, Timișoara, and Iași;
- **Social rental apartments** for 14 people, ensuring safe, long-term accommodation.

The Zorob Family

On November 8, 2023, the Zorob family arrived in Romania on the first evacuation flight from Gaza. That night, Habitat for Humanity Romania provided them with emergency accommodation in Bucharest and continued to cover their housing costs for the next three months.

Isam Zorob, a gynecologist who studied medicine in Romania over 30 years ago, had built a life with his family in Khan Younis, Gaza. But due to escalating violence, they were forced to flee and were evacuated through the Rafah border crossing with support from the Romanian government.

Those 10 minutes in the car to Rafah felt like 10 years,

Isam said, recalling the journey, during which fuel shortages drove transportation costs to unimaginable levels. Looking back at Gaza, he added with resignation:

“ Gaza is completely destroyed. Even in 100 years, it won't recover. There's no water, no electricity, no food. Schools and universities are rubble. There's no work. What is there to go back to? What is there left to do? ”



Despite the pain of leaving, Isam remains hopeful for the future, especially for his children. His eldest daughter, Asel, a 23-year-old anesthesiologist, was nine months pregnant when she and her husband, Ali, were evacuated alongside the family.

“We thought the baby would come on the road from Gaza to Cairo,” she shared. “Then we thought he might be born on the plane to Bucharest. My father, a gynecologist, was ready at every step. But the baby kept waiting.”

A New Life in Romania

After arriving in Romania, the Zorob family relocated to Craiova, where Isam once studied medicine, with Habitat for Humanity covering their housing costs for the first three months. Just days later, Asel gave birth to a healthy baby boy, safe and in peace.



“

It feels like destiny that he was born here, in Craiova, where our family's story began.

”

For the Zorob family, their son's birth symbolizes a fresh start, one made possible by the shelter, care, and support they found in Romania.

Through stories like theirs, we are reminded that even in the face of unimaginable hardship, the human spirit is resilient. With every act of kindness and support, we can help families not just survive but thrive, building a better future for generations to come.

A SHELTER FOR GAZA CHILDREN: GIVING HOPE AND SECURITY

“ It is very hard to take care of four children alone. I hope their mother can come from Gaza soon. Then, they will feel that life is good again. ”

(- Hosny Al-Taweel, January 2025)

The war in Gaza has brought unimaginable devastation, uprooting countless families and leaving them in desperate need of safety, stability, and care. Habitat for Humanity Romania, in partnership with international and local organizations, launched the [Shelter for Gaza Children](#) project to address this urgent crisis. Over nine months, the initiative aims to support refugee families, particularly children, in their journey to recover, rebuild, and thrive in Romania.



The Need & Our Response

MEDEVAC Operations

The first step in addressing this humanitarian crisis was the MEDEVAC (Medical Evacuation) operation, which successfully evacuated 106 individuals – 80 children and 26 adults – from Gaza to Romania. This operation, completed in collaboration with government agencies, NGOs, and international organizations, marked a critical turning point for families escaping war and seeking safety.



Our role extended beyond logistics; Habitat for Humanity Romania helped ensure that the children and their families were received with care and dignity, establishing vital partnerships that now strengthen our long-term housing and integration efforts.



Pre-Accommodation Support

Between October 2024 and January 2025, Habitat for Humanity Romania supported 95 people, 69 of them children, in their transition to independent living. Families, many led by single parents, received guidance on daily life in Romania, including transportation, budgeting, and community resources.

Housing Solutions

Housing lies at the heart of our mission. By November 2024, Habitat for Humanity Romania began securing apartments for refugee families. Thus far, we have rented 11 of the 13 apartments allocated for this project, providing a home for 49 refugees (37 children and 12 adults).

We focus on placing families in safe, welcoming spaces, often near each other to foster a sense of community. As a guarantor in rental agreements, Habitat removes barriers for refugees navigating unfamiliar housing systems, ensuring these families can focus on healing and rebuilding their lives.



The Al-Taweel Family

The Al-Taweel family's story is one of resilience, longing, and hope. A year ago, their home in Gaza was destroyed in a bombing. Hosny, the father, and his four children fled to Romania, leaving their mother behind in a tent in Gaza due to severe logistical challenges.

One of the daughters, Sham, suffered serious injuries in the attack. After arriving in Romania, she underwent complex surgeries and is now recovering. Yet, the trauma of war remains. The children live in constant fear, struggling to feel safe without their mother.

Despite these challenges, the Al-Taweels have expressed their desire to settle in Romania and start anew. With support from Habitat's Social Rental program, they are working toward a future filled with stability and hope.



Fostering Community

Looking ahead, our project will focus on community and social integration, starting in February 2025. This phase will include individual development plans for each family, access to medical and psychological support, financial education, and legal assistance. Our goal is to create a holistic support system to help families adapt and thrive in their new environment.



Impact by the Numbers

- 106 individuals evacuated through MEDEVAC operations (80 children and 26 adults);
- 49 refugees (37 children, 12 adults) moved into safe, long-term homes;
- 11 apartments rented, with Habitat as a guarantor;
- 95 individuals provided with pre-accommodation support to prepare for independent living.

Building a Future Together

Through the Shelter for Gaza Children project,

Habitat for Humanity Romania
demonstrated the power of
collaboration and compassion.



Together with partners and supporters,

we continued to provide more than
shelter; we offered families a
chance to heal, to hope, and to
build a future where they can
thrive in safety and dignity.



Ukraine Response Program

In 2023 and 2024, our Ukraine Response Program provided vital support to families displaced by war, offering housing solutions, essential supplies, and pathways toward independence.

2023: Advancing Long-Term Housing for Refugees

In 2023, Habitat for Humanity Romania strengthened its role as a leader in disaster response, providing both immediate and long-term support for Ukrainian refugees.



35 apartments in Bucharest and Iași secured for medium- and long-term accommodation.

48 refugees supported with short-term accommodation.

99 refugees received medium- and long-term housing solutions.

654 accommodation, winterization, and travel kits distributed.

915 refugees benefited from space improvements in Edmond, Carusel, and UTCB centers.

Habitat for Humanity Romania

was honored with the Medal of Honor by the Romanian Government and recognized as one of Romania's top disaster response organizations.



Our partnership with [the Department for Emergency Situations \(DSU\)](#) highlighted our ongoing commitment to creating sustainable housing solutions.

2024: Empowering Families Towards Independence

In 2024, we launched **the Exit Phase** of the Social Rental Program, empowering families to transition toward financial independence while maintaining housing support for those still in need.

Social Rental Program: Continued support for transitioning families.
Cash Assistance for Rent: Helped refugees secure their own housing.
Guarantor and Intermediary Services: Assisted families in renting homes and navigating the housing process.

Key Impact in 2024:

54 refugees received medium-term accommodation through SRP.

131 refugees assisted in finding new homes.

245 refugees benefited from improved living spaces in centers.

25% of families became financially independent.

Over 50% of families found employment.

245 kits distributed to improve accommodation conditions.



Olena and Her Family

Olena, a mother of two, fled the Ukrainian city of Vasylkiv on March 2 with her children, Nazar and Milena. After days on the road, they arrived in Romania, seeking safety and stability.

“

Ukraine and supporting countries are now like a big family!

”

The family now lives in an apartment in Bucharest rented by Habitat for Humanity Romania. Milena, aged 13, expresses her feelings about the conflict through drawing, while the family leans on each other to cope with being separated from their father for the first time.

“

This home gives us peace and a chance to rebuild, Olena said.

”



Rebuilding Hope after floods

In 2024, the devastating floods caused by the [Boris Cyclone](#) impacted thousands of families across Galați and Vaslui counties, displacing more than 7,000 people and leaving over 6,000 affected. In response, Habitat for Humanity Romania launched the [Rebuilding Hope 2024](#) program to provide urgent relief and support recovery efforts for flood-affected communities.



A Three-Phase Approach to Recovery

Through the Rebuilding Hope 2024 program, we implemented a comprehensive three-phase strategy to address both immediate and long-term needs:

1. Early Recovery

Distributed clean-up kits, provided emergency repairs and assisted with temporary housing to offer immediate shelter

2. Reconstruction

Repaired and rebuilt homes using Build Back Better principles to improve structural resilience and reduce future disaster risks.

3. Disaster Risk Reduction & Resilience

Provided training for local communities on disaster preparedness.

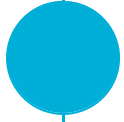
Reinforced local infrastructure to increase resilience to future flooding events.

Key Impact of Rebuilding Hope



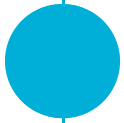
Cash Assistance for Rent:

Supported 2 families (9 people) with rental costs for six months.



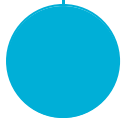
Construction Works:

Repaired homes for 9 families (27 people) whose houses were severely damaged.



Construction Materials:

Delivered supplies to benefit 213 people for home repairs and rebuilding efforts.



Technical Assistance:

Provided professional guidance and support to 60 families, helping them plan and implement necessary repairs.

Restoring Stability and Building Resilience

We worked hand in hand with local authorities, volunteers, and affected families to restore stability and improve housing conditions in flood-stricken areas. Beyond reconstruction, we are empowering communities with the knowledge and tools to better prepare for future disasters, ensuring a safer and more resilient future for those at risk.



Home and Community Assistance Program

Through this initiative, we

improved living conditions for the most vulnerable by creating safe,

and providing targeted assistance to homeowners in extreme hardship, helping them renovate or adapt their homes for greater safety and comfort.

At the same time, we support the development of essential community infrastructure – such as emergency and collective shelters, community centers, and other vital spaces – ensuring shelter solutions for those in need while fostering resilience within communities.

Everything starts at home

Children's Club – partnership with SOS Children's Villages Romania

In 2023, the energy rehabilitation of the Children's Club building within SOS Children's Villages Romania in Bucharest was successfully finalized. This modernized facility hosts daily educational, recreational, and creative activities for over 60 children, providing a safe and inspiring environment where they can learn, play, and grow. The project aims to transform this space into a Resource, Support, and Training Center, ensuring long-term impact by offering tailored services, including skill-building workshops, parental support, and staff training.



House № 5 – partnership with SOS Children's Villages Romania

Work began in 2023 on the thermal rehabilitation and expansion of SOS House 5 in Bucharest, a key space that serves over 50 children and young people. This project focuses on improving energy efficiency, expanding functional areas, and ensuring the building meets modern standards of comfort and sustainability.



In 2024, more than 180 corporate volunteer teams collaborated on various phases of the construction and refurbishment, exemplifying the strong partnership between Habitat for Humanity Romania and the private sector. Once complete, SOS House 5 will better support the needs of its beneficiaries, offering more inclusive spaces for education, mentoring, and community-building.

HERO

(Housing and Empowerment for Roma)

In March 2023, the HERO project was officially launched as a two-year initiative aimed at supporting vulnerable Roma communities in Romania, Bulgaria, and the Republic of Slovakia. Habitat for Humanity Romania joined the implementation team to spearhead efforts that improve living conditions and foster socio-economic inclusion for marginalized groups.

The primary objectives of the HERO project include:

- Providing financial education and employment training
- Offering access to microloans for home renovation, empowering over 20 families to upgrade their living conditions
- Supporting municipalities in designing and implementing social inclusion and infrastructure programs
- Driving innovation by helping individuals be active contributors to their communities.

Impact numbers:

- **120 beneficiaries** participated in financial education courses
- **60 individuals** from 45 households began saving monthly
- **6 beneficiaries** successfully completed employment courses



BufKids Canteen – Supporting Nutrition and Education

In May 2024, in partnership with Asociația Hercules and corporate sponsors, we finalized the BufKids Canteen in Buftea. Part of a broader initiative, this canteen complements the community center built previously by Habitat for Humanity, providing essential spaces to serve nutritious lunches to children.



Social Impact

Adelina, 9 years old, a beneficiary of the program:

Many people came to help build the canteen! I can't wait to eat together in the new building. We're already talking about cooking and helping set up the tables. I love this center because it's colorful and makes me happy. When I grow up, I want to help others, just like the volunteers and the staff do. Helping others feels like the best job in the world.

Key Achievements

- **Impact:** The BufKids Canteen serves over 50 children daily, supporting their physical health and educational performance through access to a warm, nutrient-rich meal.
- **Facilities:** The new canteen includes a fully equipped kitchen, ensuring meals are freshly prepared on-site.
- **Community Engagement:** Named by the children, BufKids fosters a sense of belonging and joy among beneficiaries.



Energy efficiency

The Energy Efficiency Program focuses on supporting vulnerable families and energy-poor households who struggle to keep their homes warm during the colder months.

Through a combination of direct assistance, energy retrofitting, repairs, and green-energy investments, this program addresses the urgent need for sustainable housing solutions. In addition to home renovations, we also engage in technical assistance and advocacy for policy changes aimed at creating long-term, impactful solutions.

By integrating energy-efficient and climate-resilient practices into affordable housing programs, we are working towards reducing energy poverty and improving the quality of life for those most in need.

Life Bio Balance

Balancing Solid Biomass for Climate Neutrality in CEE Countries

Overview

Implementation Period:

36 months (01/07/2021 – 30/06/2024)

Budget:

€1.52 million (Habitat for Humanity Romania: €62,650)

Funding:

LIFE Programme – EU's funding instrument for environment and climate action.

Partners:

WWF Hungary (Lead), WWF Romania, WWF Bulgaria, Energy Agency of Plovdiv, Habitat for Humanity (Romania, Hungary, Bulgaria)

Location:

Comănești, Romania



Key Activities

Energy Efficiency Solutions:

Installed mineral wool insulation in attics for 30 families, improving thermal comfort and reducing biomass use during the 2023–2024 winter.

Community Engagement:

Organized two workshops and a community forum on sustainable biomass use and climate neutrality.

Air Quality Monitoring:

Installed two monitoring devices at Habitat for Humanity's office in Comănești.

Impact

- **Beneficiaries:** 138 individuals (73 adults, including 21 seniors, and 65 children) benefited from improved living conditions.
- **Energy Efficiency:** All 30 families reported better thermal comfort and reduced firewood consumption.



Broader Significance

The project demonstrated effective energy solutions that reduce biomass usage and improve lives. Its success in Comănești highlights potential for national or European expansion to help achieve EU climate goals.

Influence

This is a key pillar of Habitat for Humanity Romania's strategy, aiming to drive systemic change in housing policies and advocate for sustainable, inclusive solutions. Through research, strategic partnerships, and direct engagement with policymakers, this program works to address the root causes of housing poverty and to influence legislation that ensures access to safe and affordable homes.

The program focuses on promoting energy efficiency in social housing, expanding social rental programs, and improving disaster resilience policies. Additionally, it seeks to mobilize communities and empower individuals to participate in decision-making processes that affect their living conditions.

National Housing Strategy (2022-2050)

In 2023, Habitat for Humanity Romania (HFHRO) achieved a significant policy advocacy milestone by contributing to the development and formal adoption of Romania's first-ever [National Housing Strategy \(2022-2050\)](#). This landmark document includes one of HFHRO's core policy proposals: the [Social Rental Agency \(SRA\) model](#), a systemic solution to Romania's social housing crisis.

Context and Background

HFH Romania was invited by the Ministry of Public Works to join a ministerial working group tasked with developing the new National Housing Strategy. Initially formed to address the urgent housing needs of refugees fleeing the war in Ukraine, the group's focus soon shifted toward long-term housing reform.

Habitat for Humanity Romania participated in a series of technical workshops and meetings, providing expert input on housing for vulnerable populations. HFHRO's key recommendation was the introduction of a [Social Rental Agency \(SRA\) model](#) – an innovative mechanism never before implemented in Romania.



The SRA model encourages partnerships between local governments and private property owners to expand affordable housing options by offering incentives for leasing underused housing stock to vulnerable populations.

Policy Success

HFH Romania's recommendation was adopted and formalized through:

- **Law no. 842/29.06.2022** approving the National Housing Strategy 2022–2050.
- Inclusion of the **Social Rental Agency model** as a **key reform** under: **Pillar 1: Inclusive Housing**, Reform 2: “Assessment and implementation of a decentralized institution at regional/local level in the social rental sector” (p. 79).
- **Objective 1, Action 1.4**, to be implemented by the Ministry of Public Works and Administration (p. 92).

HFH Romania was **publicly acknowledged** by Ministry officials during the Strategy's launch on May 10, 2022, for its contribution and thought leadership in proposing the SRA model.

Potential Impact

While exact figures cannot be estimated until the SRA system is implemented, the potential **reach includes all Romanians eligible for social housing** – a transformative shift in a country with **the lowest share of social housing in the EU (<1%)**.

This model opens new pathways to scale housing access beyond traditional construction, especially in **urban areas with significant unused housing stock**. By leveraging the private rental market, the system promises more flexibility, speed, and cost-effectiveness in addressing the housing crisis.

Additional Advocacy Recognition: UN Voluntary National Review (2023)

In 2023, Habitat for Humanity Romania was also recognized by the United Nations as a [best practice model](#) in Romania's [Voluntary National Review](#) of progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Government of Romania cited HFHRO's "[All Starts at Home](#)" project, which:

- Installed photovoltaic systems for [15 homes](#) in SOS Children's Villages, Bucharest.
- Enabled those homes to be registered as [energy prosumers](#).
- Combined housing, sustainability, and energy access in an innovative, replicable model.

This international acknowledgment highlights HFHRO's systemic impact not just on housing, but also on energy equity, inclusion, and sustainable development.



Europe Housing Forum

The [Europe Housing Forum \(EHF\)](#) is a key platform for discussing housing challenges and innovative solutions across the continent. Organized by Habitat for Humanity, the event brings together policymakers, industry leaders, and NGOs to explore ways to ensure [decent, affordable, and sustainable housing](#) for all. The 2024 forum, held in [Warsaw, Poland](#), focused on urgent housing issues, such as [global displacement, post-conflict recovery, energy efficiency, and social rental models](#).



This year, [Habitat for Humanity Romania](#) was actively involved in the forum, engaging in discussions on housing policies, financing tools, and innovative housing solutions. Their participation was part of our commitment to empowering young voices in shaping the future of housing.

Alongside our representatives, we proudly selected two youth delegates – [Anca Elena Dragomir](#) and [Alexandru Rareș Jula](#) – who brought a fresh perspective to the discussions.

Empowering the Next Generation: Youth Delegate Program

Through the [Youth Delegate Program](#), young participants had the opportunity to contribute to high-level discussions, advocating for more inclusive housing policies and better community engagement. Their presence at the forum ensured that the voices of young people from Romania were heard on an international stage.

Anca Elena Dragomir

one of our youth delegates, shared her experience:

"My time at the Europe Housing Forum was incredibly insightful! Over a few inspiring days in Warsaw, I explored targeted housing solutions, financing strategies, energy efficiency improvements, and post-conflict recovery efforts. As a youth delegate, I aimed to bridge the gap between these complex topics and the role young people can play in making a difference.."



Rares Julia

"Being a Youth Delegate at the Europe Housing Forum in Warsaw was an incredible experience.

During debates, I addressed pressing issues still faced today, such as discrimination, hindering migrants and refugees from accessing deserved housing, as well as the lack of youth engagement in volunteer activities or NGO-led initiatives. I also sought solutions to overcome these barriers. In essence, we must believe in ourselves, strive to make our voices heard, and share best practice examples."



Our hearts, hands and voices

“

Even without speaking the same language, we connected through our shared humanity. It's a reminder of what truly matters: empathy, love and support! ”



The power of volunteers

Hearts in Action: The Power of Volunteers

At Habitat for Humanity Romania, volunteers are the lifeblood of everything we do. From individuals to corporate teams, volunteers from all walks of life join hands to help transform not just homes, but lives. Their unwavering belief that a better world is possible drives every action, every hour spent on our sites, and every connection made with families in need.

Volunteering with Habitat is more than building walls or laying tiles – it's about creating homes filled with hope and opportunity. It's about giving families a chance to write a new chapter of safety and stability.





What does it mean to be a corporate volunteer?

For corporate volunteers, stepping onto a Habitat site means stepping out of their comfort zones and into a new world of teamwork, impact, and shared purpose. Companies partner with Habitat to strengthen their employees' civic engagement, enhance morale, and foster collaboration. These partnerships don't just build homes; they build stronger, more connected teams.



What does it mean to be an individual volunteer?

Habitat for Humanity Romania welcomes individuals of all ages and backgrounds to be part of our mission. Each year, passionate supporters come together, united by a shared desire to make a tangible difference with their own hands. Their efforts remind us that every individual has the power to create change.





Volunteer Contributions in 2023 & 2024

Over the past two years, Habitat for Humanity Romania has seen tremendous volunteer involvement:



1,800 corporate volunteers



133 individual volunteers



24,651 hours of dedication, energy, and love!

Volunteer Voices: Moments That Inspire

“

What struck me most was how much growth and purpose I found through this experience.

I didn't expect the impact to be so profound—not just on the families, but on me. Habitat for Humanity changed how I see the world, and I'll carry that with me forever.

”

“

The experience taught me to truly appreciate what I have in my daily life: things I used to take for granted, like a warm room, a roof that doesn't leak, or a safe place to come home to. Being on the construction site, working side by side with families who have faced unimaginable hardship, gave me a new perspective on what home really means.

It's not just about bricks and walls—it's about safety, dignity, and the chance to dream again. It reminded me that, together, we really can make a meaningful difference in people's lives. And in the process, it changed something in me, too.

”



Hope in Action for Kenya

Hope in Action for Kenya: Building Homes, Rebuilding Hope

In 2024, Habitat for Humanity Romania took a bold step beyond borders, bringing hope to one of the world's most vulnerable communities – [Laikipia, Kenya](#). With more than half of the region's population living in extreme poverty, access to safe and decent housing remains a critical challenge.





A Mission of Impact

A dedicated team of [Romanian volunteers](#) traveled to Laikipia, ready to make a difference. Their mission: to build a home for [Hellen](#), a [27-year-old widowed mother](#) raising her two daughters in dire conditions. More than just bricks and mortar, they aimed to lay the foundation for a brighter future—one where Hellen and her children could live with dignity, security, and hope.

A Record-Breaking Effort

Fueled by passion and determination, the volunteers worked tirelessly and achieved an incredible milestone—completing [the fastest foundation slab ever built by a similar team](#). Their energy, teamwork, and commitment turned a dream into reality, proving that when people come together for a cause, extraordinary things happen.





More Than a House, a Home

Through their work, our volunteers did more than construct walls; **they built a future.** The house they left behind is now a home—a safe place where Hellen's daughters can grow up with **stability and opportunity.**

Hope in Action for Kenya was not just a project; it was a powerful **statement of solidarity and humanity.** With every brick laid, we reaffirmed our belief that **everyone deserves a decent place to live**—no matter where they are in the world.

CEO Build

May 15th 2024, Berceni, Prahova

CEO Build is a unique event that brings together business leaders, authorities and members of civil society, with the aim of improving access to decent housing solutions and drawing attention to social housing policies in Romania.

The first edition in 2024 brought together 50 CEOs, who contributed to building four homes and advancing efforts to expand affordable workforce homeownership. We were honored to receive the participation of Jonathan Reckford, CEO, Habitat for Humanity International



CEO Build pillars



Mission support:

In line with our broader mission, Habitat for Humanity Romania aimed to support over 2,000 individuals across the country who are currently enrolled in our programs.

This support is delivered through a variety of tailored housing solutions designed to meet diverse needs.

Construction:

The participants were actively involved in the construction of 4 houses in the Berceni community, Prahova County.

What made this effort truly impactful was the active involvement of the families themselves.

Each family contributed with their own hands: laying bricks, painting walls, and supporting the building process from foundation to finish.



Leadership influence and Networking

The event provided an excellent platform for leaders from various fields to share ideas and develop sustainable partnerships for a better future and promote social and affordable housing policies in the country.



**Jonathan Reckford, CEO,
Habitat for Humanity International**

"What a beautiful day to be out here with Habitat Romania and CEOs from almost 50 organizations coming out to build today and learn more about our work."



**Roberto Pătrașcoiu, CEO,
Habitat for Humanity Romania**

"A true leader is someone who does what they say, who proves their words through actions. And the fact that people came here to volunteer speaks exactly to this."



Gregoire Vigroux, CEO, Telus International

"We are all here together in order to have a positive impact in the community"



Corina Tiu, VP Telus International Romania

"It doesn't matter how many people are on the construction site or what tasks they're doing. What truly stands out is the spirit of giving back, helping others, and working together."

Runners for Humanity

Runners for Humanity: Every Step Builds a Home

For years, Habitat for Humanity Romania has proudly partnered with the [Bucharest International Half Marathon & 10K by Constantina Diță](#), rallying runners around a powerful cause. More than just a race, this event is a journey of solidarity, proving that every step counts in the mission to provide safe and decent housing for vulnerable families.

Why Do We Run?

We run for the families who dream of a secure home but struggle to achieve it. Through this initiative, we worked towards building [decent homes](#), [offering families a fresh start and a better future](#).

“

Running for Habitat for Humanity Romania was an unforgettable experience. It was amazing to be part of a team that came together not just to run, but to support families who need a safe home.

Every step felt meaningful, knowing that our efforts were helping make a real difference in someone's life. It was inspiring, and I'm proud to have been part of it.

”



Our Growing Community of Runners

Since 2017, over **800 runners** – both individual participants and corporate teams – have joined our cause, fundraising to support Habitat for Humanity Romania's housing programs. In **2023 and 2024 alone, nearly 300 runners** took part in this movement, proving that sport can drive meaningful change.



Running for a Cause: More Than Just a Race

The [Runners for Humanity](#) initiative is not just about competition – it's a unique team-building and fundraising opportunity. Companies and individuals come together, combining their passion for running with a greater purpose: supporting some of the most vulnerable families in Romania.

By running, we don't just cross the finish line – we help families cross the threshold into a safe, stable home.

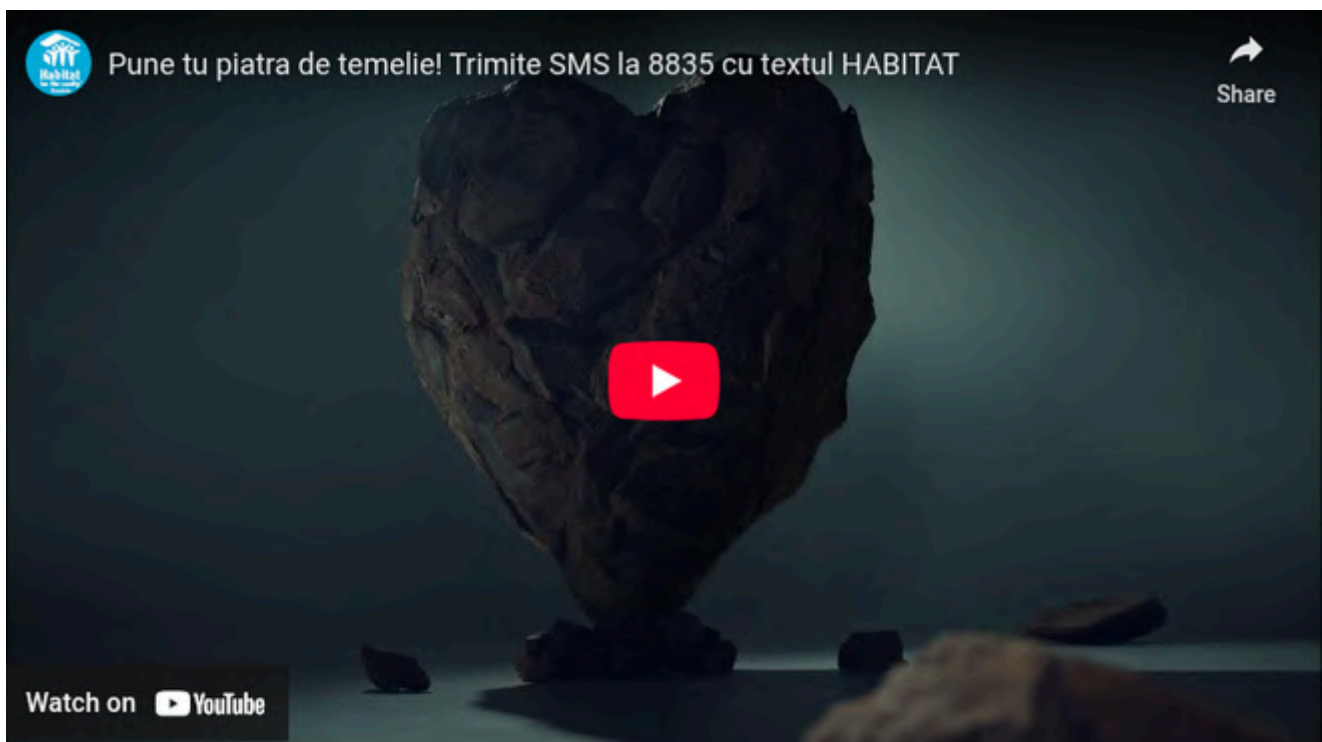


Communication & Fundraising Campaign

Be their rock!

Through this campaign, we aimed to:

- Raise awareness of the poor living conditions affecting thousands of children in Romania.
- Mobilize donations and sponsorships to fund safe and decent homes for vulnerable families.



Ways to Donate

- **SMS:** Send **HABITAT** to **8835** and donate 5 euros monthly.
- **Online:** Donate via [habitato.ro](https://www.habitat.ro).
- **Corporate Support:** Companies can redirect **20% of their profit tax** to help build homes.



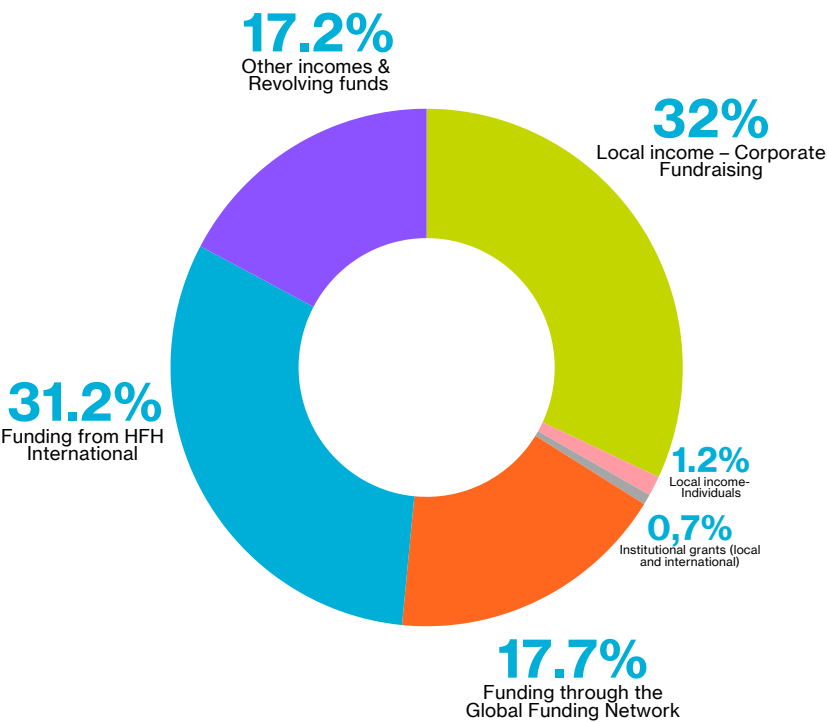
Financial statements

2023

Currency in LEU (RON)

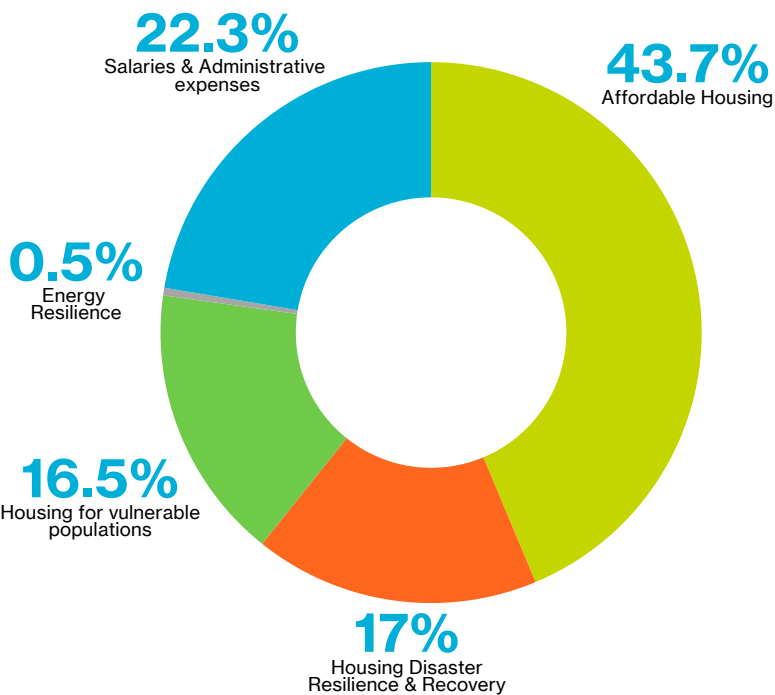
Sources of income

Local income -	
Corporate Fundraising	4.757.133
Funding through the	
Global Funding Network	2.631.768
Other incomes &	
Revolving fund	2.566.306
Local income-	
Individuals	184.648
Funding from	
HFH International	4.648.465
Institutional grants (local	
and international)	97.379
Total	14.885.699



Project expenses

Affordable Housing	6.760.746
Housing Disaster	
Resilience & Recovery	2.637.670
Housing for vulnerable	
populations	2.547.770
Energy efficiency interventions for	
housing	70.029
Salaries & Administrative expenses	3.457.917
Total	15.474.132

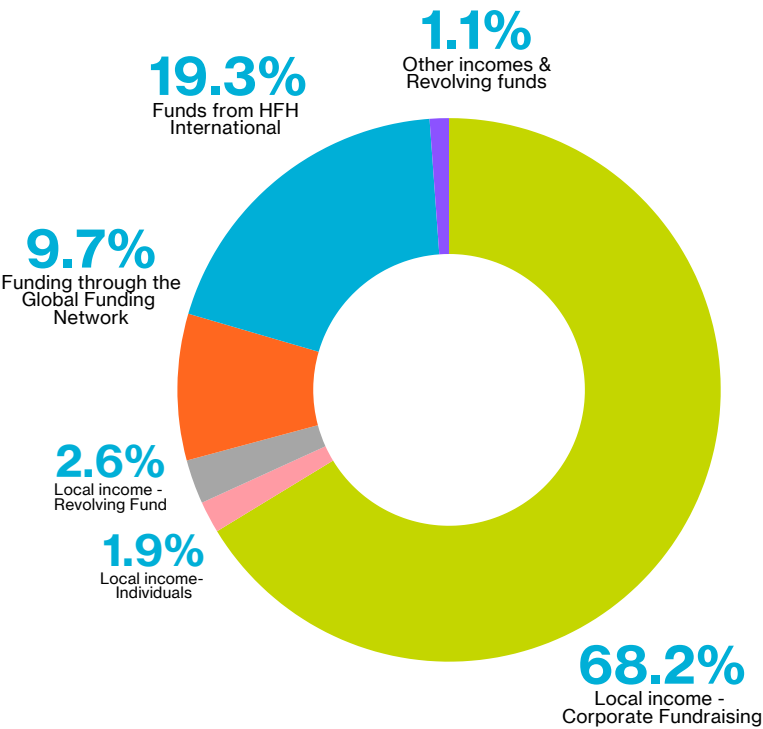


2024

Currency in LEU (RON)

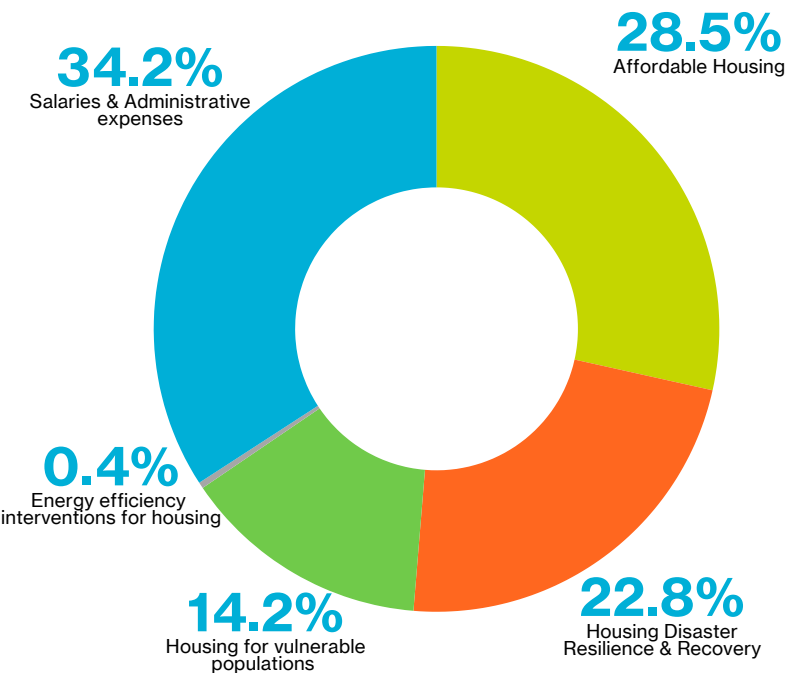
Sources of income

Local income - Corporate Fundraising	9.666.577
Local income- Individuals	276.234
Institutional grants (local and international)	383.113
Funding through the Global Funding Network	1.269.709
Funding from HFH International	2.818.873
Other incomes & Revolving funds	166.894
Total	14.581.400



Project expenses

Affordable Housing	3.610.016
Housing Disaster Resilience & Recovery	2.891.455
Housing for vulnerable populations	1.798.812
Energy efficiency interventions for housing	44.428
Salaries & Administrative expenses	4.328.357
Total	12.673.068





**We are incredibly
grateful to you,
our donors and
supporters, for
your continued
generosity.**

Because you share our mission,
our mission moves forward.
Thank you for your help through
the years, through changing
times and challenges.

**YOU make our
mission possible**

Partners 2023 - 2024



Strategic Partner

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ENGIE

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Somfy
Unicredit Consumer Financing
UNSAR

Builder

COMPANY 94 – PIRNAU SRL

ADELA INDCONS SRL

ADELA SRL

AGM Construct Specialists

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Agromark

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ALUTI AGRO SRL

ALMA Consulting

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AUTO NOVEX SA

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Bebetei Investments Group

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CEDRAGO PLANT SRL

CIKA Romania

Clean Room Consulting SRL

COMIGA PROD IMPEX SRL

CORNELIUS ENERGY SRL

CUSTOM TANKS SRL

DAVANI EXPERT SRL

Detop Online

Editronic INTERNATIONAL

Encora

Eurosilo

Fabrica de Scule Rasnov

FocusMG

Green Global Future

Imperial Media Gold

Impulse Romania

Industrial Cruman

INEJ COM SRL

INL Food 2008

IVAGRI SRL

Klingeis Consulting SRL

Maf Operativ Impex SRL

Metropolitan Expeditii SRL

MHS IMMO Timisoara SRL

MHS Truck & Bus SRL

MIG VAS Distributie SRL

Montafil CONS SRL

Monterra School

Neotronix

Nisempra Electro SRL

Orion Innovation

OSMET SRL

Paflora Impex SRL

PFA Ionita Radu

Primplan Cont SRL

Printco SRL

RADROM INSTAL MONTAJ SRL

RDD SECURITY SOLUTIONS SRL

Robital Industrial Supplier SRL

ROLL-BAGS PLAST AG SRL

Royal Trans SRL

S.I.TE. Instalatii SRL

Autohton Service SRL

DAPHNE COM SRL

Prest EcoTrend SRL

Trade Mare SRL

Schneider Electric Romania

SISMAD AGRO SRL

SMART DISTRIB SLB SRL

Smith & Smith

Softia Web

Somesul Cald Productie SRL

SSAB AG SA

Straulesti Lac Alfa SA

Total Business Land SRL

Total Trading Romania

Transilvania Impact Import Export SRL

Transpeco Royal International Romania SRL

TRI EM SERV SRL

VALERIANA SRL

VAN-GAO SRL

Vasco Forest SRL

Vest Sped SRL

VITALMOTOR SRL

Voinea Construct SRL

Volta X Solar Systems SRL

Watermota SRL

WEST BEVERAGES SRL

WIN Impex SRL

Our awards and recognition - 2023-2024



Medal of Honor

by the Romanian Government and
recognized as one of Romania's top disaster
response organizations by Department of
Emergency Situations (DSU)



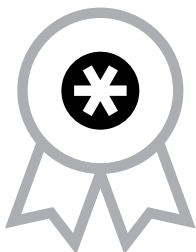
NGO of the year in Romania

La French Tech &
Romanian Embassy in Paris



CEO BUILD Recognition

Belgian Luxembourg Romanian
Moldovan Chamber of Commerce.



Special Prize Dezvoltăm România Sustenabil

Sustainable Romania Gala
*for the Bufkids center & canteen,
with the support of Penny Rewe*



2nd Prize

CSR Awards
in the category
*"Energy Efficiency and carbon
emissions reduction", for the
campaign "Dă verde binelui"*
(with Engie Romania)

Our team



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Besim Nebiu
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Communication

Ioana Batin
Assistant Manager, DRR

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Executive Director

Natalia Buzescu
Finance Director

Vasile Lepădatu
Warehouse Manager

Victor Teriș
Volunteer Coordinator

Mihaela Alexa
Accountant

Laura Lupașcu
Assistant Manager

Maria Însurățelu
Accountant

Let's join forces!

Companies

Donate or Become a Corporate Partner!

Habitat for Humanity Romania invites philanthropic companies, corporations, and foundations to join our mission of eliminating poverty housing.

Be their rock!

Partnering with Habitat for Humanity Romania gives corporations and foundations a laudable and visible social responsibility project.

With every helping hand, the foundation grows stronger, turning hope into a home for vulnerable families.

Financial contribution

Your donation will enable Habitat for Humanity Romania to continue providing affordable and decent shelter to thousands of families in Romania.

Your donation lays the foundation for people in need of a safe and decent home.

Product donations

A great way to support Habitat for Humanity Romania in line with your business and an amazing opportunity to use your products for a practical and socially responsible activity. It is also a good way to introduce your products to a new potential market group in an area of planned business expansion.

Product donations can range from insulation material to innovative design consultancy, pro bono media coverage to corporate advocacy. We accept all products that will benefit the families in their new home such as building materials, tools, and safety equipment.

Volunteer and watch your team bond!

[Contact us](#)

Nothing builds the team better than building a home for a family in need. Your colleagues can join forces during a teambuilding on the Habitat for Humanity Romania worksite.

CRM Campaign

[Contact us](#)

Implement a cause-related marketing campaign and redirect part of revenues of your products to the mission of Habitat for Humanity Romania.

Redirect 20% of the company's Profit Tax

[Redirect 20%](#)

By redirecting 20% of income tax to Habitat for Humanity Romania, you support us in continuing our mission to eliminate poor sheltering and lack of shelter.

Micro-enterprises can redirect 20% of the quarterly income tax to Habitat for Humanity Romania free of charge.

Individual

SMS

Send an SMS with the text „**HABITAT**”
at **8835** and donate 5 euro monthly.

Together we build a place called “home” for low-income families.

SMS cost: 5€ /mo. The number is available on any Romanian mobile service.

Online

Make a donation or become a regular donor on Habitat.ro and you will help vulnerable families have access to a decent, affordable house.

[Donate](#)

3.5% of income tax

By redirecting 3,5% of income tax to Habitat for Humanity Romania, you support us in continuing our mission to eliminate poor sheltering and lack of shelter.

[Redirect 3,5%](#)

Debit Direct

Sign a direct debit contract and your monthly donation will help a family break the poverty cycle. The donation amount chosen will be automatically transferred each month and you can cancel the donation at any time.

[Contact Us](#)

Start your campaign

Create your own fundraising campaign to support one of Habitat for Humanity Romania's projects. Invite your friends and family to join your campaign with a donation.

[Start Now](#)

Bank transfer

Dontate directly to our bank account.

IBAN RON: **R025 BRDE 050S V150 1751 0500**

or USD: **R060 BRDE 050S V150 1778 0500**



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