



*Building
houses,
building
hope*

October 29, 2009

Mr. William Cobbett
Manager
Cities Alliance Secretariat
World Bank
Washington D.C.

Dear Mr. Cobbett:

We are pleased to submit a formal letter of application for membership in the Cities Alliance. Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI) believes deeply in the goals of the Cities Alliance in scaling up successful approaches to poverty reduction and slum upgrading, promoting the positive impacts of urbanization, advocacy for issues to provide affordable housing finance for the urban poor, helping provide sustainable solutions and collaboration with local governments and other partners.

Habitat for Humanity's mission is to eliminate substandard housing and homelessness from the world and through education, make decent shelter a matter of conscience and action. HFHI is a federated organization that has operated in over 100 countries. Habitat's global network of nearly 2000 local CBOs are separate, independently-run, grassroots organizations, with local boards of directors and staff. Established in 1976, this year alone Habitat affiliates will build, repair or renovate through direct service provision, approximately 60,000 homes positively affecting the lives of 300,000 people. Through our advocacy work and volunteer efforts, we mobilize more than one million volunteers globally each year and have recruited over 55,000 on line advocates in two years. This spring, we arranged over 475 congressional visits in the U.S. through our "Habitat on the Hill" Advocacy Day. In addition, we have a circulation of 1.1 million people through our signature bi-monthly publication Habitat World and our spring 2009 PSA campaign earned more than 260 million viewer impressions.

HFH is aligned closely with the goals of the Cities Alliance and supports Target 11 of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). HFH provides innovative affordable housing solutions through housing microfinance and incremental building solutions; slum upgrading; water, sanitation, and construction technical assistance; financial literacy; building resource centers; and other affordable programs. In collaboration with other housing providers and interest groups, HFH engages entire communities to take a stand against poverty and substandard housing. Some examples of collaboration and what we could bring to Cities Alliance follows.

We hope to make a positive contribution to the Cities Alliance and thank you again for your consideration of this membership application.

Sincerely,

Jane Katz
Director of International Affairs & Programs

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