

# NORTH MACEDONIA



**Project description:** The New Builds Veles program began in 2009, the initiative aims to construct 11 residential buildings, collectively offering 98 apartments. Each building is three to four stories high, with apartments ranging in size from 49 to 79 square meters. Volunteer activities vary depending on the construction phase of the building, working with skilled foremen and local families. Currently the 7th building is under construction with plans for the 8th building to start construction in early 2026.

**Why we build:** Once a thriving industrial center in Macedonia, Veles was known for its factories in the Yugoslav era. The city's economy heavily depended on state-run industry, which provided stable employment for thousands of workers. However, following the breakup of Yugoslavia the sudden industrial collapse triggered a severe economic decline, leading to high unemployment and poverty. Habitat Macedonia's New Builds Veles program is committed to supporting low-income families by offering affordable housing solutions, strengthening local capacities and supporting communities.

**Itinerary:** Volunteers will arrive on Sunday in Veles and will be welcomed with dinner at the hotel with Habitat staff and participate in a general orientation. From Monday to Friday, the team will engage in hands-on construction work alongside skilled masons and foremen. During the volunteer week, a social learning exchange activity with local youth will be organized in the frame of the Home Equals global campaign. On Friday, volunteers will join for a farewell dinner. Departure will take place on Saturday.

