



PRESENTATION OF THE
WORLD HABITAT AWARDS



WORLD HABITAT DAY 2007
THE HAGUE, THE NETHERLANDS AND MONTERREY, MEXICO

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Contents

WORLD HABITAT DAY MESSAGE	1
Mr Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary-General, United Nations	
A SAFE CITY IS A JUST CITY	3
Mrs Anna Tibaijuka, Executive Director, UN-HABITAT	
THE WORLD HABITAT AWARDS	5
Mrs Diane Diacon, Director, Building and Social Housing Foundation	
WORLD HABITAT AWARD WINNING PROJECTS	8
Ecomaterials in Social Housing Projects, Cuba	
ZukunftsWerkStadt Leinefelde, Germany	
2007 HABITAT SCROLL OF HONOUR AWARDS	20
KEY FACTS ON URBAN SAFETY AND SECURITY	22
WORLD HABITAT AWARD FINALISTS	25
SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION	31
WORLD HABITAT AWARDS 2008/2009 – AN INVITATION TO ENTER	33

A World Habitat Day Message

We are at the dawn of a new urban era. Half of humanity now lives in towns and cities. It is estimated that by 2030, two-thirds of the world's people will be urban dwellers.

At this turning point in human history, surveys show that crime in urban areas is on the rise everywhere. In addition, fear of crime is one of the most influential factors shaping our daily lives. In too many cities around the world, it dictates where we choose to live, shop, work and play. This is bad for human progress and for economic development – especially in a world where for the first time the number of urban slum dwellers is set to top the one billion mark. In many countries, crime has divided cities into areas of decline on the one hand, where guns, rape, robbery, and violence prevail, and wealthier districts on the other hand, where residents can afford better protection.

In slums and poor urban districts, people lack security of tenure, utilities and health services, and are most at risk to disasters wrought by climate change. World Habitat Day 2007 is an occasion to encourage city leaders to plan better for crime reduction, security of tenure, and climate change mitigation. As the theme of this Day aptly tells us, “a safe city is a just city”.

As we pass the halfway point for achieving the Millennium Development Goals, let us also use this occasion to examine how we can improve urban governance. Many forms of urban crime cut across local and national boundaries, calling for better cooperation between all spheres of government and civil society. We must invest more in our children and young people, especially those at risk of becoming marginalised and turning to crime as an escape from the harsh realities of poverty and deprivation.



Mr Ban Ki-Moon
Secretary-General, United Nations

Let us also step up efforts to be more energy-conscious. Our cities are our biggest polluters, and require big, innovative thinking commensurate with their size.

On this World Habitat Day, let us resolve to make cities around the world safer, greener, and more inclusive and more secure places for everyone.

A Safe City is a Just City

Urban crime and violence are today at the top of the agenda for those committed to sustainable urban development. Ask any woman: crime is the number one worry, the biggest concern of all people in cities, particularly in the poorest neighbourhoods.

In the decade since UN-HABITAT started its Safer Cities Programme, we have noticed that cities around the world are demonstrating better leadership in the ways to address this scourge and bane of our daily lives. As a result, local governments are now taking up the challenge of urban safety and security.

We live in an unacceptably violent world. And this why we have chosen the theme, 'A Safe City is a Just City', to mark the occasion of World Habitat Day this year.

Indeed, as we reflect on these words, in every slum in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean, and in most cities around the world, someone is being stalked,

a woman is being harassed, a gun is being pointed in someone's face, someone else assaulted, and many, many others murdered. Countless women are being raped, homes are being burgled, vehicles hijacked. Not even children are spared. Why?

To an extent, we do know why: UN-HABITAT research tells us that today cities are now home to half of humankind. As we move irreversibly into the new urban era of our planet, it is projected that in another generation two thirds of humanity will be living in cities.

At the same time, an estimated one billion people are living in slums. Daily, their numbers are growing. More than half are under the age of 25, and 40 per cent of them are under 19. These are the primary victims of poverty. Despite this potentially explosive situation, the problems of urban youth living in poverty are largely absent in urban policies and strategies.



Mrs Anna Tibaijuka
Executive Director, UN-HABITAT

These shocking facts and figures explain in part why young people are so vulnerable to unwanted pregnancies, early marriages, prostitution, drug abuse, crime, and AIDS. Deprivation leads to desperation, even terrorism.

Again, ask any woman: In countries around the world, social capital is lost because public areas in cities get taken over by gangs or are abandoned because of fear. Private guards and vigilante groups take over the protection of our lives and assets, while the State is often in a tactical retreat, unable to tackle the root causes of crime and disorder.

It is now accepted by most governments, at national and local level, that urban safety needs to be built locally, from street level up, incorporated into local and national planning. It cannot be left to the police alone. Urban governance processes, and urban policies that target exclusion, social inequalities, as well as appropriate planning measures, are key to success. Indeed

community security requires a holistic and coordinated approach.

We have a new strategy based on efforts by UN-HABITAT to work closely with our partners. It is anchored in three pillars:

- To develop capacity for local crime prevention strategies that are gender and age sensitive and which address root causes of crime in a holistic, inclusive way.
- To build safer urban spaces, particularly in the public realm, as hubs of social development and safety.
- There is a need for more safety sensitive urban development initiatives in all sectors.

This agenda is compelling and urgent, and calls upon specific partners within the UN to embrace the urban challenge. How urgent, might you wonder?
Ask any woman.

The World Habitat Awards

The annual World Habitat Award competition was established in 1985 by the Building and Social Housing Foundation (BSHF) to identify innovative and sustainable housing solutions worldwide. BSHF works to ensure that the approaches developed in the winning projects are widely shared, by organising study visits, as well as publishing and disseminating information.

The winning projects receiving awards in 2007 are Ecomaterials in Social Housing Projects of the CIDEM Centre for Research and Development of Structures and Materials, Cuba, and the ZukunftsWerkStadt Leinefelde project in Germany.

Both of these well-established projects use an integrated and sustainable approach to improving living conditions. The Ecomaterials in Social Housing Projects programme has developed a range of affordable and environmentally sustainable building materials, which are manufactured locally in small workshops throughout Cuba.

The ZukunftsWerkStadt Leinefelde programme in Germany addresses the problems faced by shrinking cities, improving housing conditions and urban infrastructure, as well as revitalising the local economy. The lessons from both of these projects have been transferred, both nationally and internationally, and details are set out on the following pages.

Mrs Anna Tibaijuka, Executive Director of UN-HABITAT presented a cheque for £10,000 and a World Habitat Award trophy to each of the two winners.

The World Habitat Award trophies are predominantly crafted in solid silver and contain the symbol, in some form, of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. This year's sterling silver trophies have been designed by Ms Zoe Youngman and Mrs Kate Thorley, designers at the Jewellery Industry Innovation Centre of Birmingham City University, United Kingdom and crafted by Mr Andrew Macgowan.



Mrs Diane Diacon
Director, Building and Social Housing Foundation

Dr Fernando Martirena receives the World Habitat Award trophy from Mrs Anna Tibaijuka, Executive Director of UN-HABITAT at the global celebration of World Habitat Day in The Hague, The Netherlands on behalf of the **CIDEM** Centre for Research and Development of Structures and Materials of the University of Santa Clara, Cuba.

*Trophy designed by Zoe Youngman and
Kate Thorley and crafted by Andrew Macgowan.
Photo by Ark Studios Birmingham.*

Mayor Gerd Reinhardt and Mr Hermann Sträb receive the World Habitat Award trophy from Mrs Anna Tibaijuka, Executive Director of UN-HABITAT at the global celebration of World Habitat Day in Monterrey, Mexico on behalf of the **Municipality of Leinefelde-Worbis**, Germany.

*Trophy designed by Zoe Youngman and
Kate Thorley and crafted by Andrew Macgowan.
Photo by Ark Studios Birmingham.*



Photo courtesy of MINVROM, Netherlands.



The Centre for Research and Development of Structures and Materials (CIDEM) has developed and transferred a range of innovative and environmentally sustainable building materials which can be manufactured locally in small workshops. Suitable for both rural and suburban areas, the technologies developed through the project are geared towards small-scale production, with a focus on stimulating the local economy through the creation of new job opportunities.

An associated programme of access to credit for low-income households means that the materials are widely affordable and to date, an estimated 2,300 houses in the Villa Clara province have been built or renovated with ecomaterials – and over 5,000 nationwide. The programme is ongoing, with both national government and local municipalities supportive of the approach, which delivers environmentally sustainable, affordable and disaster-resistant housing.

Ecomaterials in Social Housing Projects

Cuba



Between 1959 and 1988 the system for housing provision in Cuba relied on the centralised production of building materials supplied by rail or road to areas far from the industrial centres, driven by the supply of cheap oil from the USSR.

The collapse of the Soviet Union and East European socialist states had a dramatic effect on this system: energy became scarce, roads deteriorated because of the lack of resources for repair and the fleet of trucks became obsolete. The construction industry was no longer able to maintain a reliable supply of building materials, particularly to areas distant from the production centres. This led to a decrease in new housing production and a rapid deterioration of existing housing stock due to lack of maintenance.

The new context prompted a fundamental shift from centralised production based on

long-distance transportation, to the local production of building materials in order to reduce energy and transportation costs. The work of the CIDEM research and development institute over the last 14 years has consisted of developing and implementing technologies to support this change at the grassroots level.

Ecomaterials in Social Housing Projects

Through an innovative process of technology development and transfer, the project has produced a set of appropriate technologies for the manufacture of affordable building materials made with low embodied energy. These ecomaterials often use recycled waste products and include micro-concrete roofing tiles (MCR); lime-pozzolana cement (CP-40); pre-cast hollow concrete blocks, where Portland cement has been partially replaced



by CP-40; low-energy fired clay bricks using bio-wastes as fuel and the use of bamboo in construction.

These technologies are suitable for use in both rural and urban areas and there are currently 19 new building materials workshops in commercial operation within Cuba. Approximately 200 jobs have been created, as well as a large number of jobs created indirectly as a consequence of the boost in the local construction market.

The project has delivered a large-scale, decentralised programme for the production of building materials at municipal level, which has significantly contributed to the provision of affordable and easily accessible building materials in a sustainable manner.

This has had a particular impact in areas where hurricanes have caused serious damage and a quick post-disaster response

is required. Special priority has been given to families whose houses have been damaged by natural disasters, allowing them to respond quickly rather than wait for state assistance in repairing their homes.

The provision of credit favours families with very low income, who otherwise have no means of purchasing building materials. More than 30 per cent of the project's beneficiaries are single-parent households.

Community empowerment

Residents have organised themselves into formal mutual-help teams to build, repair or renovate their homes. This process has strengthened social networks and resulted in innovative ways of cooperation between neighbours and helped to create additional job opportunities in the informal sector.



Small communities have acquired their own means of locally producing affordable building materials and supplying them to the local market. During the first year of a new workshop's operation, CIDEM makes regular visits to provide training and support and to ensure that the production complies with existing quality standards. As the workshop becomes increasingly proficient and local partners develop the required skills, CIDEM reduces the frequency of its visits, enabling increased self-sufficiency and independence.

Funding

The funding for the project is sourced from international donors and local governments. External funding of US\$387,000, raised from donors including the European Commission, GTZ and the Swiss Development Cooperation, has been used to obtain goods

that must be purchased in foreign currency such as machinery, certain building materials and fuel. The local governments have matched these funds with local currency, which has been used to acquire raw materials, invest in infrastructure and for the payment of salaries in each of the workshops.

Further funds for south-south technology transfer, through workshops carried out by CIDEM and the EcoSur network, have been provided by the European Union, the Cuban government and German NGO 'Werkhof Verein'.

Institutional and project funding has been secured from different donors until 2012 and the project enjoys full support from the national government. Even if political circumstances were to change in Cuba before 2012, it is unlikely that government support for the local production of construction



materials would decrease. The production system developed by CIDEM is designed to be self-sustaining, and the workshops established to date have demonstrated financial sustainability.

Transfer

Funding has been secured for the second phase of the project, which will involve a further scaling up and dissemination of the technologies in a wider context over the next five years, particularly in areas affected by natural disasters.

The combination of locally produced materials and access to credit has enabled the population to undertake housing renovation or construction, which would otherwise have been hindered by the lack of funds and access to building materials.

Different government institutions at various levels have shown interest in replicating the initiative with their own funds and the approach has been disseminated and transferred outside Cuba through the EcoSur network.

In 2005, the governor of Morelia, Mexico, placed an order for 15 workshops to be set into operation throughout the state. Additional workshops are currently in operation in Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras Colombia, Nicaragua Nigeria, Mozambique and Mexico.

Ecomaterials have gained recognition and prestige in the national and international arena, and new markets for local products have emerged both within Cuba and further afield.



The municipality of Leinefelde-Worbis in former East Germany has effectively engaged with the challenges of depopulation, a failing economy and large numbers of empty and deteriorating housing stock through an innovative and integrated, participatory approach.

The project has taken active steps towards improving the living environment, including the demolition of surplus apartments, the refurbishment of the existing prefabricated buildings to high environmental standards and the creation of open spaces for private, semi-private and public use.

New job opportunities have been created, over 2,500 apartments have been refurbished and the project has successfully addressed the population decline and helped to stabilise the financial base of the municipality.

ZukunftsWerkStadt Leinefelde

Germany



The reunification of Germany in the 1990s fundamentally affected the small industrial town of Leinefelde, leading to the collapse of the textile industry and destroying its economic base. With growing rates of unemployment, many inhabitants left for more prosperous regions of Germany, leaving their flats empty. The low-quality, standardised prefabricated units, which made up the bulk of the housing stock, were unappealing in the developing competitive housing market and those tenants with a higher income began to move out.

Demand for rental flats in the Südstadt district of Leinefelde fell to 50 per cent of the supply, with little or no economic possibilities for the remaining flats. In 2003, in order to harmonise development and to optimise communal infrastructures and administrative performance, the municipality of Leinefelde and that of the adjoining town, Worbis, joined forces to form the municipality of Leinefelde-Worbis.

Integrated urban development

Initiated by the municipality of Leinefelde-Worbis in response to these challenges, the 'ZukunftsWerkStadt' project aims to achieve sustainable urban development in the transition from a planned to market economy.

From the outset, the project was conceived as an integrated urban development and regeneration strategy considering environmental, economic and social issues in combination. In accordance with the project's Master Plan, 1,700 apartments have been demolished and the remaining 2,500 have been refurbished, over 1,630 with their own private green spaces.

During the demolition process innovative techniques for dismantling were developed to ensure that as much of the prefabricated concrete slab as possible could be reused in both construction and landscaping. Lower transportation costs, the reduced need for



raw materials and the improvement in building insulation and efficient technologies have considerably reduced energy consumption. Density has been reduced and the urban space improved, opened up and revitalised. This has created space for private, semi-private and public use. Attention and investment has been given to strategically important public spaces, and this has proved a pre-condition for more intensive public life. Different housing types and sizes have been developed to encourage diversity and avoid the exclusion of low- or higher-income groups.

Funding

The US\$177 million that has been invested in Leinefelde-Worbis since 1993 has come from a range of sources including local housing societies, local government and a national subsidy. The project strategy has given residents, landlords, businesses and

the municipality a positive economic outlook. The investment has been largely absorbed by the local building trade and the job market, further benefiting the community.

Residents' rental payments provide current and future revenue funding for the housing projects and an annual budget raised from taxes and subsidies ensures that the public space and facilities are maintained.

The refurbished housing units are currently owned and rented out by communal housing societies. The double strategy of demolishing unwanted flats while simultaneously improving the quality and diversity of the housing stock has ensured the economic survival and growth of these housing societies. Their early participation has allowed the societies to focus on refurbishment in core areas, avoiding unproductive investment in zones with no future potential.



The relationship between the communal housing societies and their residents has been a key factor in the success of the project. Intensive contact was initiated between the landlords and their tenants with specific schedules, plans and relocations decided jointly between them.

Economic regeneration

The promotion of new enterprises with a diverse range of activities has been a catalyst for the economic regeneration of the town. The empty textile factory building has been subdivided and renovated to accommodate new businesses and newly designated industrial areas offer further possibilities.

The combination of supportive regulatory processes and attractive locales has created a positive climate for new investment.

The project has provided access to finance, training and assistance to unemployed residents. Specialist support and accessible jobs have been provided for recovering alcoholics and new jobs have been created through the building and development process. Leinefelde-Worbis currently hosts 1,200 businesses, and its unemployment figures of 15.1 per cent are significantly lower than the regional (Thuringia) average of 18.1 per cent. 1,300 people commute regularly into the town, and the six per cent increase in Südstadt's population in 2006 indicates that people are returning to the area.

Community empowerment

The project has helped to stabilise the financial base of the municipality. The principal economic feature of the integrated approach is that it combines public and



private investment. The mainly rural surrounding area is benefiting from the high quality of infrastructure, public facilities and urban environment provided by Leinefelde-Worbis, with a positive knock-on effect on the local economy. The current regeneration of the area has begun restoring the pride of the inhabitants and has provided a stable social base following the dramatic changes and disruption that took place as a result of reunification.

Participation in the process has been crucial and the municipality has looked for opportunities to engage and work with residents, including exhibitions and public discussions, a regular free district newspaper, installation of an information and service point in Südstadt, focussed workshops, activities to improve public spaces and community facilities, an annual Südstadt fair (since 2003) and the establishment of subject-specific working groups to engage tenants in the ongoing process.

Transfer

The Ministry of Urban Development and Housing in the State of Thuringia has often used Leinefelde as a case study in its work to improve the regulations and strategies for its urban development programmes.

The project contributed towards the launch of the Urban Reconstruction East 2002-2009 federal programme and the Bauhaus University in Weimar offers a programme based on transferring the experiences of Leinefelde.

The approach has also been adapted and transferred internationally to Algeria where political reforms and new urban rehabilitation policies have been initiated to provide the necessary conditions for an integrated, participatory and sustainable regeneration programme.



The Habitat Scroll of Honour Award was launched by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) in 1989. The aim of this prestigious human settlements award is to acknowledge individuals and institutions which have made outstanding contributions in various fields such as shelter provision, highlighting the plight of the homeless, leadership in post conflict reconstruction, and developing and improving the human settlements and the quality of urban life.

The Mwanza Rural Housing Programme of Tanzania

For helping bring shelter, employment and healthier living and environmental conditions to hundreds of thousands of Tanzanian households.



The Nanjing Municipal People's Government

For developing the Republic of China's first integrated City Emergency Response System, bringing together all the city's emergency response services into one integrated system.



2007 Habitat Scroll of Honour Awards

Presented by UN-HABITAT Executive Director Mrs Anna Tibaijuka, the 2007 Habitat Scrolls of Honour were awarded to:

- **The Nanjing Municipal People's Government**
For developing the Republic of China's first integrated City Emergency Response System, bringing together all the city's emergency response services into one integrated system.
- **Dr Eusebio Leal Spengler, Historian of the City of Havana**
For his many years of charismatic leadership and painstaking dedication to the restoration and conservation of the historical centre of Havana, Cuba.
- **Institute for Housing and Development Studies, Erasmus University of Rotterdam**
For leading the way as a global centre of excellence and knowledge through its high quality teaching programmes in housing, urban management and urban environmental management and planning.
- **Lieutenant General Nadeem Ahmed, Deputy Chairman, Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority**
For demonstrating great leadership and compassion in the face of calamity to help millions of people rebuild their homes and lives after the 2005 earthquake in Pakistan.
- **The Palestinian Housing Council**
For exceptional endeavours in helping provide homes, apartments, employment prospects and bringing new hope to countless Palestinian families.
- **Stavropol City Administration**
For major gains in building an inclusive city – reducing crime and ethnic tensions while improving employment, health and economic prospects for all.
- **The Mwanza Rural Housing Programme of Tanzania**
For helping bring shelter, employment and healthier living and environmental conditions to hundreds of thousands of Tanzanian households.

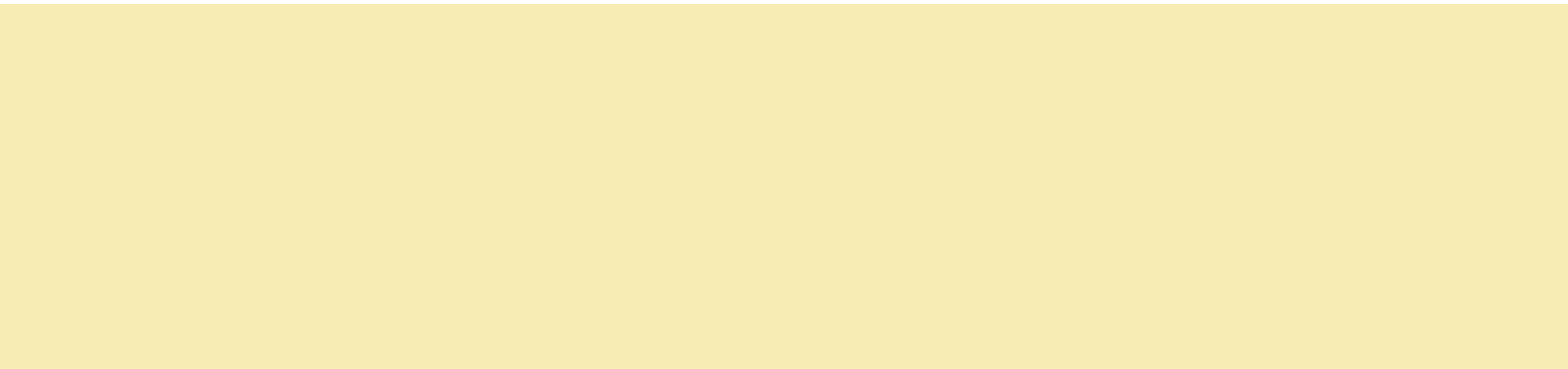
The theme chosen for World Habitat Day 2007 is 'A Safe City is a Just City'. Safe cities are cities where people can live together in relative peace, respect and prosperity without the threat of crime and violence. This is not the case in so many of the rapidly growing and overcrowded urban areas in the world today.

UN-HABITAT's Global Report on Human Settlements 2007 entitled 'Enhancing Urban Safety and Security' focuses on three major threats to safety and security in cities: crime and violence, insecurity of tenure and forced evictions, and disasters, both natural and those caused by human activity. The report focuses on the security of people as individuals and recognises that living conditions are a crucial element of human security, since an inadequate dwelling, insecurity of tenure and insufficient access to basic services all have a strong negative impact on the lives of the urban population, particularly the urban poor.

Key Facts on Urban Safety and Security

- Over the period 1980 to 2000, total recorded crime rates in the world increased by approximately 30 per cent, from 2,300 to 3,000 per 100,000 people.
- Violent crime increased worldwide from 1990 to 2000, from 6 to 8.8 incidents per 100,000 people.
- Over the past five years, 60 per cent of all urban residents have been victims of crime, rising to 70 per cent in Latin America and Africa.
- Ninety per cent of violence related deaths in the year 2000 occurred in low- and middle-income countries, with violent deaths at 32.1 per 100,000 people compared to 14.4 per 100,000 in high-income countries.
- The fear of crime consistently ranks among the top quality of life concerns identified by citizens on surveys in developing and transitional nations.
- Crime is concentrated in certain places, affecting vulnerable citizens who are often repeat victims. Much crime, like natural disasters, is largely predictable given the constellation of underlying risk factors, which is now recognised to include poor urban planning and management of public spaces.
- At least two million people are forcibly evicted every year.
- The most insecure urban residents are the one billion urban poor living in slums.
- Natural disasters are increasing globally. Between 1974 and 2003, 6,367 natural disasters occurred globally, causing the death of 2 million people and affecting 5.1 billion people. A total of 182 million people were made homeless and economic damage was estimated at \$1.38 trillion.

*Source: Enhancing Urban Safety and Security, Global Report on Human Settlements 2007:
United Nations Human Settlements Programme, Earthscan, 2007*



World Habitat Award Finalists

Azerbaijan Integrated Community Shelters

Azerbaijan

Working with communities to create over 2,100 permanent, expandable homes across 13 districts of Azerbaijan, Relief International has provided security and stability for some of the one million refugees and internally displaced persons created by the conflict with Armenia.

Fifty-five small and medium-sized villages have been built with community assistance to replace the existing tent camps. The settlements range in size from 30 to 200 family houses and the project has provided associated infrastructure including electricity, water supply, family latrines and bathhouses.

The project has also helped to develop over 350 small enterprises, as well as providing micro-credit, revolving community funds and skills training for local people.



Integrated Community Shelters, Azerbaijan

Self-managed Vertical Housing for Densely Populated Urban Conditions

Brazil

Working to support community-led, high-density urban housing initiatives, this project, initiated by USINA, has provided technical support to 5,000 families from more than 15 urban popular movements across São Paulo.

Appropriate technologies have been developed to enable communities to build good quality, complex multi-storey apartment blocks through mutual help. Residents are responsible for allocating funds, sourcing and purchasing materials, and organising themselves into committees and construction teams.

Affordable credit mechanisms have been made available to low-income families and a range of community facilities and income-generating activities have been developed.



Self-managed Vertical Housing, Brazil

PASO A PASO: Strategic Alliances for Better Housing

Ecuador

Working with vulnerable families throughout Ecuador, the PASO A PASO programme has provided over 1,250 loans to low-income, predominantly women-headed households enabling them to access government funding for good quality, affordable housing. The project has supported 17 housing programmes nationwide, including the construction of 725 homes.

This innovative housing finance system combines residents' savings with micro-credit through a revolving fund to make up the deposit required to access the federal housing subsidy. Very high loan repayment rates have ensured that the approach is transferable and financially sustainable and families have been able to access other loans from formal financial institutions.



Strategic Alliances for Better Housing, Ecuador

Straw-bale Housing in the Sieben Linden Ecovillage

Germany

Established in 1997 in the rural Altmark area of former East Germany, Sieben Linden is a community-initiated ecovillage based on principles of self-sufficiency and self-determination. The buildings have been constructed using straw bale, timber and clay and include a three-storey apartment block for 20 people, which is the largest straw-bale building in Europe. Carbon dioxide emissions have been reduced by 72 per cent and the construction methods have been approved by the German building regulation system.

The buildings are owned cooperatively and have enabled low-income households to construct good quality, comfortable homes. Strong social cohesion and integration have provided an effective support network for residents.



Sieben Linden Ecovillage, Germany

Appropriate Housing Technologies in Orissa

India

Initiated in the wake of the 1999 super-cyclone that affected 51,000 villages in the Indian east coast state of Orissa, this project provides technical support, training and expertise in the use of disaster-resistant building technologies and local materials, reducing housing costs by 25 per cent. To date over 3,500 safe and affordable homes have been built.

Through the Promotion of Appropriate Housing Technologies and Opportunities for Sustainable Livelihoods programme in Orissa, the Orissa Development Technocrats' Forum has trained over 3,600 masons, including over 500 women, in alternative construction technologies. Artisans work in small groups to provide one-stop shops in local villages for building services, increasing their monthly income by over 45 per cent.



Appropriate Housing Technologies in Orissa, India

Integrated People-Driven Post-tsunami Reconstruction

Indonesia

Using a pro-poor approach, Urban Poor Linkage (Uplink) is working with 23 of the villages in Indonesia worst affected by the December 2004 Tsunami. The programme has provided 3,500 homes and associated infrastructure, as well as increasing community cohesion and reconciliation with former GAM rebels. In defiance of an initial government relocation policy, Uplink has supported the people's return to the coast by establishing an inter-village network offering support and solidarity.

Community members are involved at every level of the reconstruction process, and are employed wherever possible. A combination of training and small, village-based revolving loan funds have helped surviving village members to start a wide range of small businesses.



Post-tsunami Reconstruction, Indonesia

Ballybane Neighbourhood

Ireland

This project works to bring about social and economic regeneration in an area of high-density, low-demand social housing. 216 mixed-tenure dwellings have been built, including bespoke accommodation developed in partnership with the local Traveller community to support its traditional lifestyle. The dwellings offer ground-floor accommodation, space at the rear for storing caravans and a hard surface area to facilitate economic activity such as scrap collection and recycling.

The newly-built Neighbourhood Centre contains enterprise units, library and retail units and a medical centre. Developed using an innovative funding partnership between Galway City Council and the local credit union, the approach is now being used elsewhere in Ireland.



Ballybane Neighbourhood, Ireland

Prince Salman Charity Housing Project

Saudi Arabia

Recognising the need to proactively address poverty and social issues in Riyadh, this project has provided over 330 houses and support for vulnerable, low-income Saudi nationals who live in poor quality homes or on the streets. Residents have been involved in the design of the housing, which respects the cultural need for privacy, as well as participating in the practical, ongoing management of the project.

Communal facilities including mosques, community centres, children's play areas and health centres have ensured greater opportunities for community integration and have reduced anti-social behaviour. Long-term employment opportunities are increased through training programmes and affordable loans are provided for business start-ups.



Prince Salman Charity Housing Project, Saudi Arabia

Plaza Apartments

USA

Located in the heart of San Francisco, this innovative and environmentally responsible, mixed-use development provides homes and support to 106 low-income individuals, many of whom were chronically homeless.

This project works towards long-term solutions for this group and each of the new 30m² studio apartments is fully equipped to encourage independent living. Ongoing support and capacity building programmes have improved the physical, mental and financial well-being of Plaza residents.

The annual cost for individual residents of approximately US\$10,000 has resulted in significant cost savings and the project has resulted in dramatic improvements in the quality of life of the residents: for many, this was their first home in years.



Plaza Apartments, USA

Sandbag Shelters

Worldwide

Requiring no machinery and minimal training, Cal-Earth's Sandbag Shelters are an affordable and environmentally sustainable building system, ideally suited to providing earthquake-resistant emergency shelter but equally effective for constructing family homes.

Sandbags are filled with earth, compacted and laid in circular courses, which are then corbelled near the top to form a dome. Barbed wire between the layers prevents the sandbags from shifting. The resulting structure is quick to build, extremely safe and capable of withstanding flood, fire, hurricane and earthquake. Being easily adaptable to local needs and circumstances, the timber-free arches, domes and vaults have been successfully transferred to over twenty countries across the world.



Sandbag Shelters, Worldwide



Sources of Further Information

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Web www.unhabitat.org

Global Report on Human Settlements 2007: Enhancing Urban Safety and Security

This comprehensive report produced by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme addresses some of the most challenging threats to the safety and security of urban dwellers today. The key elements of the report are:

- Part 1 Understanding Urban Safety and Security
- Part 2 Urban Crime and Violence
- Part 3 Security of Tenure
- Part 4 Natural and Human-made Disasters
- Part 5 Towards Safer and more Secure Cities
- Part 6 Summary of Case Studies
- Part 7 Statistical Annex

Copies of the report can be obtained from UN-HABITAT (www.unhabitat.org) or the publishers Earthscan (www.earthscan.co.uk). Cost: \$50.00 (448 pages). ISBN: 978-1-84407-475-4.

World Habitat Awards 2008/2009

An invitation to enter

The World Habitat Awards were established in 1985 by the Building and Social Housing Foundation as part of its contribution to the United Nations International Year of Shelter for the Homeless.

Two awards are given annually to projects that provide practical and innovative solutions to current housing needs and problems in countries of the global South as well as the North.

Every year an award of £10,000 is presented to each of the two winners at the annual United Nations global celebration of World Habitat Day.

CRITERIA FOR SUBMISSION

Projects are sought that:

- Demonstrate practical, innovative and sustainable solutions to current housing issues faced by countries of the global South as well as the North.
- Can be transferred or adapted for use as appropriate.
- View the term habitat from a broad perspective and bring other benefits as well, such as energy or water saving, income generation, social inclusion, community and individual empowerment, capacity building or education.

ENTRY PROCEDURE

The World Habitat Awards competition has a two-stage entry process:

Stage I submissions need only comprise a concise summary of all aspects of the project. From these preliminary submissions, twelve projects are selected by an assessment committee to go forward to Stage II of the competition.

Stage II submissions are evaluated by an independent advisory group before being put to a panel of international judges. Evaluation visits will be carried out to some of the projects prior to the final judging.

Stage I submissions can be made using the entry form in the back of this booklet or online at www.bshf.org.

SUGGESTED AREAS FOR SUBMISSION

- Provision of low-cost, affordable housing for low-income households
- Environmentally sustainable housing
 - Promotion of sustainable lifestyles in urban and/or rural areas
 - Provision of resource- and energy-efficient housing
 - Development/use of sustainable building materials and technologies
- Restoration of existing housing
 - Restoration of areas of decayed housing and environmental degradation
 - Upgrading/improvement of slum dwellings and informal settlements
- Provision of housing designed to withstand natural disasters
- Housing provision for those with special needs
 - Provision of housing for homeless people
 - Housing specifically designed to meet the needs of older persons and those with other special needs
- Technical innovation
 - The use of information and communication technologies in housing
 - Innovative design and/or construction materials
- Housing developed and managed on a cooperative or other socially-sustainable basis

Please note that the project subjects listed above are suggestions only. Projects relating to other housing issues may be submitted if desired.

TIMETABLE

1st June 2008	Deadline for receipt of Stage I submissions
June - August 2008	Evaluation of Stage I submissions
1st September 2008	Notification of results for Stage I submissions
1st December 2008	Deadline for the receipt of entries selected for Stage II submissions
January - June 2009	Evaluation of Stage II submissions
August 2009	Announcement of winners of the World Habitat Award
5th October 2009	Presentation of the awards on World Habitat Day

World Habitat Awards 2008 Entry Form

Name of project _____

Current stage of project In progress ☐ Completed ☐

Location of project _____

THE ABOVE PROJECT HAS BEEN ENTERED BY

Name _____

Position _____

Organisation _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ Country _____

Tel _____ Fax _____

Email _____

Web _____

Contact point (if different to above) _____

If you are entering a submission relating to the work of another organisation, please attach a letter of permission for entry from that organisation. Thank you.

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE AWARDS?

Direct Mailing: ☐ Brochure ☐ Email

Website: ☐ BSHF website ☐ Other website *

Journal: ☐ *

Conference: ☐ *

Recommendation: ☐ *

Other: ☐ *

* please specify _____

All entries must be received by 1st June 2008 and should be sent to:

World Habitat Awards 2008/2009
Building and Social Housing Foundation
Memorial Square
Coalville
Leicestershire LE67 3TU
UNITED KINGDOM

Fax + 44 (0)1530 510332
Email wha@bshf.org
Web www.worldhabitatawards.org

World Habitat Awards 2008 Entry Form

Please provide the following information relating to the entry that you are submitting. At the preliminary submission stage this need only be in the form of a concise summary of the scheme, which contains the following information.

Please note that entries can also be made directly on the BSHF website at www.worldhabitatawards.org

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- When did the project commence?
- Who initiated the project?
- What is the main purpose of the project?

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- What are the key features of the project?
- Which groups of people benefit from the project?
- Describe briefly the costs, sources of funding and/or planned future funding of the project.
- What has been the involvement of the local community (if applicable)?
- What future plans (if any) are there for the project?

INNOVATION AND TRANSFER

- What are the key innovative aspects of the project?
- To what extent has the project been transferred or adapted for use locally, nationally or internationally (if applicable)?

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Where possible, you are asked to submit photographs showing the key elements of the project.

Please note: Full plans, costings and feasibility studies are NOT required at this stage, although they may be supplied if you so wish.

I CONFIRM

that the information contained in this entry is accurate to the best of my knowledge and there are no restrictions or fees payable on the publication of any material submitted.

Signed _____

_____ Date



The Building and Social Housing Foundation (BSHF) is an independent research organisation that promotes sustainable development and innovation in housing through collaborative research and knowledge transfer.

Established in 1976, BSHF works both in the UK and internationally to identify innovative housing solutions and to foster the exchange of information and good practice.

BSHF is committed to promoting housing policy and practice that is people-centred and environmentally responsible. All research carried out has practical relevance and addresses a range of current housing issues worldwide.

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