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PRESENTATION OF THE WORLD  
HABITAT AWARDS  
WORLD URBAN FORUM 2012

NAPLES, ITALY

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HABITAT AWARDS  
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Prepared by BSHF

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The 2012 World Habitat Awards for innovative and sustainable housing solutions were presented at the closing ceremony of the World Urban Forum 6 in Naples, Italy, on Thursday, 6th September 2012.

The World Urban Forum (WUF) is organised biannually by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), bringing together a wide range of urban development actors in order to share knowledge and experiences on making our cities smarter and more inclusive.

The sixth session of the World Urban Forum was hosted by the Government of Italy and the City of Naples, in collaboration with UN-HABITAT.

The theme of the World Urban Forum 6 was 'The Urban Future', recognising the fact that the future of humanity is urban and recognising that half the global population lives in towns and cities. Given that the future for humanity is urban, cities must therefore lead the quest for sustainable development.



I am pleased to send greetings to all participants at the sixth session of the World Urban Forum. I thank the Government of Italy and the City of Naples for hosting this milestone on the road to a more sustainable future.

I especially welcome your focus on the urban future of our world. In just over a generation, two-thirds of all people will live in urban areas. Megacities are becoming more common as populations grow more concentrated. Urban areas will be crucial battlegrounds to win the fights against climate change, energy inefficiency and pollution. Cities will also provide fertile ground for launching the green economy.

At the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio+20, world leaders placed the urban challenge high on the global agenda. They recognised that we must strengthen cooperation, partnerships and agreements to carry out the Habitat Agenda for sustainable urban development. We can usher in the future we want by heeding the Rio+20 call for an integrated approach to sustainable cities that better supports local authorities and involves the public, especially the poor, in decision-making.

As experts, you are well-versed in responding to the problems facing cities and optimising their potential opportunities. Your work has even more impact as you focus not only on systems but people – the children who travel to school, the elderly who navigate various challenges, the mothers and fathers struggling against poverty and others who make up the fabric of city life. They need affordable and sustainable transport and energy. They need safe and green urban spaces. They deserve decent shelter, drinking water and sanitation. When you work for healthy air quality, job creation, improved urban planning and better waste management, you are working for better living conditions for millions of people.

▲ Naples, host of the World Urban Forum 6



▲ Mr Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary-General, United Nations

While you help the individual, I encourage you to continue to encompass the international. We look forward to forging new partnerships together so that we can share knowledge to find solutions to our common challenges.



This Sixth session of the World Urban Forum in one of the oldest and grandest cities of the world is a fresh opportunity to carry forward the global urban agenda. We chose the theme, The Urban Future, because it is a fact that the future of humanity is urban. There is no reversing the rapid urbanisation taking place in a world where already half the global population lives in towns and cities. Given that the future for humanity is urban, cities must therefore lead the quest for sustainable development.

It is essential that we nurture and plan our cities carefully for they are the greatest physical achievements of human civilisation. To have a city which generates wealth, prosperity and jobs for young people, along with shelter and basic services, and which conserves energy and reduces poverty, pollution and waste output – it has to be properly and carefully planned.

An urban area must be well planned so that the city is a wealth-generating engine. And properly planned cities should be our strategic contribution for the next generation.

The key area where governments, local authorities and experts need to act is on proper attention to public spaces. To reduce urban poverty we must re-organise the spatial order in unplanned cities and we must have the institutions to implement this.

Ideally a city should have a net density of 10,000 to 15,000 inhabitants per square kilometre. This is something very complex to attain in cultures where there is no tradition yet of urbanisation. It requires change of mentality and a change of behaviour.

This is why we hope more partners will take the opportunity of this Forum to join our World Urban Campaign for better cities. Today, the biennial World Urban Forum is the preeminent global gathering on cities. It is also one of the most open and inclusive meetings on the international stage.

It is here where we listen closely to the voices of youth, women and the poor. The most important strategy for cities all over the world is to prepare themselves for the next wave of population growth and then plan for enlargement in the existing layout of the city.

We urge all to make a start by becoming city changers and signing up to our new *I'm a city changer* action drive. Let's build and keep a new urban momentum.

▲ Curitiba, Brazil



▲ Dr Joan Clos  
Executive Director,  
UN-HABITAT

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

The two winning projects this year both work with local communities to bring about long-term improvement to their living conditions.

The **South-South Cooperation** project supports the international transfer of the mutual aid housing cooperative approach of the Uruguayan Federation of Mutual Aid Housing Cooperatives (FUCVAM) – which follows the key principles of solidarity, democratic participation, self-management, mutual aid and collective ownership of property – to other countries in the region and around the world.

**Green Mortgage** is a housing finance scheme that aims to encourage the use of energy efficient systems and eco-technologies in low-income households. The programme is aimed at improving the environment, promoting the incorporation of sustainability criteria in house building, mitigating climate change and ensuring energy and water savings that make homes more affordable.

These two programmes have made a very real difference to the housing conditions of millions of people and their work is being increasingly transferred, as shown in the following pages.

Dr Joan Clos, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director of UN-HABITAT, presented a World Habitat Award trophy to each of the two winners.

The World Habitat Awards trophies are crafted in solid silver and contain the symbol of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. The trophies have been designed by Zoe Youngman and Kate Thorley and crafted by Andrew Macgowan.

Trophy designed by Zoe Youngman and Kate Thorley and crafted by Andrew Macgowan. Photo by Dave Remes.



▲ Mrs Diane Diacon, Director, Building and Social Housing Foundation





Photo by Dave Remes



▲ Mr. Fernando Zerboni and Mr. Benjamin Nahoum receive the World Habitat Award trophy from Dr Joan Clos, Under-Secretary General of the United Nations and Executive Director of UN-HABITAT, and Mrs Diane Diacon, Director of BSHF, on behalf of the FUCVAM South-South Cooperation project.



▲ Mr Alfredo Rabell receives the World Habitat Award trophy from Dr Joan Clos, Under-Secretary General of the United Nations and Executive Director of UN-HABITAT on behalf of the Green Mortgage programme.

◀ Trophy designed by Zoe Youngman and Kate Thorley and crafted by Andrew Macgowan.





## South-South Cooperation

Uruguay

FUCVAM is a federation of mutual aid housing cooperatives, and is the largest, oldest and most active social movement working on issues of housing and urban development in Uruguay. In 2001 a South-South Cooperation project was initiated to support the international transfer of the FUCVAM approach to other countries in the region and around the world. With the support of the Swedish Cooperative Centre, government agencies and grassroots organisations, FUCVAM has transferred the approach to 15 countries across Latin America, adapting the model to local conditions in different contexts, setting up national federations and networks and supporting local efforts to influence government policy.

### FUCVAM mutual aid housing cooperatives

The establishment of FUCVAM in 1970 was a key factor in the consolidation of mutual aid housing cooperatives pioneered in Uruguay in the late 1960's, and from its inception has made important achievements which have contributed

to the expansion of the cooperative movement both within Uruguay and in Latin America. The federation works to organise, support and train mutual aid housing cooperatives, as well as developing international partnerships.

The model developed and promoted by FUCVAM follows five key principles: 1) Solidarity – creating unity based on common responsibilities and community support to families; 2) Democratic participation – active involvement of families and democratic decision-making throughout the planning, design and implementation process; 3) Self-management – the cooperative allocates resources and directs all aspects of the project, without intermediaries; 4) Mutual aid – joint effort of every beneficiary family in the construction of all homes, each contributing ~21 hours of work per week; and 5) Collective ownership of property, providing security for families and avoiding speculation.

### South-South Cooperation

The South-South Cooperation project was initiated in 2001 to support the transfer of the cooperative housing movement in Uruguay to other countries, adapting it to local conditions in different contexts, helping to overcome any difficulties that arise, and developing a sustainable process with a long-term vision.

The transfer of the approach is typically carried out through a combination of visits by FUCVAM members to the receiving countries at various stages of the transfer process; visits by residents and technical advisors to Uruguay to spend time with the cooperatives and gain an in-depth understanding of the approach; implementation of pilot projects and the provision of support in the formulation of proposals and efforts to create the necessary financial and legal frameworks for the scaling up of the experience, taking as a reference the FUCVAM experience. The receiving groups are responsible for all decision-making,

with support provided by FUCVAM throughout the process and a number of networks and federations have been set up in different countries as work has progressed.

An important factor in the success of the transfer approach is that it does not advocate replication, i.e. copying a model created in other realities and conditions. Rather, it involves a transfer of the basic principles, which should then be adapted to different contexts and appropriated by the receiving groups. The implementation of the approach therefore takes different forms; for example, the adaptation in Honduras to rural areas, when the original model is essentially urban; the creation of cooperatives in Paraguay that act on multiple fronts (housing, livelihoods, environment); the construction of large-scale multi-family buildings in Brazil; the reuse of empty properties in Argentina and Chile, to name some examples.





With financial and logistical support from the Swedish Cooperative Centre (SCC), government agencies and local groups, as well as support from local NGOs across Latin America in constructive, economic and legal aspects, FUCVAM has successfully transferred the approach to Brazil (where the process began much sooner, in the 1970s), Paraguay, Bolivia, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras and Guatemala, as well as supporting groups carrying out similar processes in Venezuela, Argentina, Chile, Ecuador, Peru, Costa Rica, Haiti and Cuba.

#### Covering costs

The costs of the project vary from case to case and include airfares, accommodation and internal transport, as well as the development of the necessary training materials and documentation. Knowledge is shared in a spirit of cooperation and solidarity and the representatives of FUCVAM contribute their time, expertise and experience free of charge, with the exception of cases in

which a member of FUCVAM is seconded to an organisation for longer periods of up to six months.

Funding for the project costs has been received from the SCC, as well as from a range of other sources including local, regional and national government agencies, other organisations interested in learning from the experience and local contributions. The funding also covers the costs of the local counterpart professionals who provide technical assistance at the initial knowledge transfer and demonstration phases, after which these fees become part of the implementation costs (for which funding is obtained separately by the receiving organisations). Other administrative costs for the project are covered as part of FUCVAM's administrative structure and management, which is funded by member contributions.



#### Impact

The impact of the project has been significant, directly and indirectly enabling hundreds of thousands of people across Latin America to have access to decent housing as well as other opportunities for income generation and social development.

The project has led not only to the formation of individual cooperatives but also federations and cooperative movements. The project has also influenced government policy, with legal and/or financial frameworks established in Nicaragua, Paraguay, Honduras and Guatemala and further proposals pending approval in El Salvador and Bolivia. The experience of transfer and exchange with other groups has led to improvements in FUCVAM's own practices.

#### Transfer and scaling up

FUCVAM's South-South Cooperation project began with the transfer of the approach to government representatives and the creation of two cooperatives in Brazil in 2001, and has since expanded to cover 15 countries in Latin America. In Brazil, the transfer of the experience is highly consolidated and is being taken forward at a national scale by the União Nacional de Moradia Popular movement. In the six countries where the transfer process is being supported by the SCC (Paraguay, Bolivia, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras and Guatemala), FUCVAM is currently working with nearly 7,000 families in 167 cooperatives. It is also in permanent contact with groups carrying out similar processes in eight additional countries across the region, with ongoing support and exchange.

Contacts have also been established with a number of groups in Sub-Saharan Africa wishing to learn from FUCVAM's experience and there are plans to extend the South-South Cooperation project to the region.

In addition to transferring the FUCVAM model of mutual aid housing cooperatives to a range of grassroots groups, NGOs and government agencies across Latin America, the model of South-South transfer itself is now being transferred. Cooperatives and federations have now begun to spread the cooperative housing model and their own experiences to other groups across the region using similar transfer mechanisms. The key principles are then transmitted not only from one source but from various sources, with an impact that is multiplied.

For further details about the South-South Cooperation project, please see the contact details on page 29 or visit the World Habitat Awards website at [www.worldhabitatawards.org](http://www.worldhabitatawards.org).



## Green Mortgage

Mexico

Green Mortgage is a housing finance scheme developed by the Institute for the National Workers' Housing Fund (INFONAVIT) to encourage the use of energy efficient systems and technologies for low-income households. Families purchasing homes with INFONAVIT are given an additional 'green' mortgage (a credit on top of the actual mortgage credit) of up to US\$1,250, to cover the cost of additional eco-technologies. The initiative aims to encourage developers to build homes with energy-saving materials and technologies, and the low-rate mortgage given enables families to save more on their utility bills than the increase in their monthly mortgage payment. To date, over 900,000 Green Mortgage credits have been granted, benefiting over three million people.

### Energy consumption in Mexico

There is a high level of demand for housing in Mexico that is unmet due to insufficient supply. The expanding mortgage market has helped foster this rapid growth in demand. This has led

to a major growth in the construction industry, but the design and materials typically used are not appropriate for the local climate, leading to high levels of energy consumption.

In addition, Mexico is suffering from the consequences of climate change and is one of the 12 most polluted countries in the world. Drought periods have increased, leading to a serious crisis in water supply. There is also an absence of appropriate water-related policies, as well as a lack of awareness of the need to manage water usage appropriately. Liquid petroleum gas is used for both cooking and water heating, and is one of the most polluting products that can be used for this purpose. Electricity consumption is high in the warm areas of the country where the workers look for to have air conditioning systems. For those people on low-incomes, this means either using energy-inefficient equipment or sacrificing their comfort or quality of life. They have no access to the appropriate equipment or materials, or to homes designed for the local climate.

### Eco-technologies for low-income housing

INFONAVIT is an autonomous organisation, with a corporate government that includes equal representation of the labour, employer and Federal Government sectors. It is the largest mortgage lender to low-income families in Mexico and Latin America. Sixty per cent of its customers are low-income workers, to whom it provides loans at low interest rates.

Green Mortgage is a housing finance scheme developed by INFONAVIT to encourage the use of energy efficient systems and eco-technologies for low-income households. The programme is aimed at improving the environment, promoting the incorporation of sustainability criteria in house building, mitigating climate change and ensuring energy and water savings that make homes more affordable.

Families purchasing homes with INFONAVIT are given an additional 'green' mortgage (a credit on top of the actual mortgage credit) of up to

US\$1,250, to cover the cost of additional eco-technologies. The initiative aims to encourage developers to build homes with energy-saving materials and eco-technologies, and the low-rate mortgage given enables families to save more on their utility bills than the increase in their monthly mortgage payment. It creates a virtuous circle by providing an additional amount of credit that helps reduce energy and water consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Monthly mortgage payments are only US\$6 or so more expensive than a conventional mortgage, yet low-income families are able to save an average of US\$17 per month on bills, with an average CO<sub>2</sub> reduction of 0.78 tonnes per household per year.

The programme finances approximately 22 eco-technologies that include:

**Electricity:** energy-saving lamps, roof and wall thermal insulation, reflective coatings and voltage optimisation.



**Gas:** gas and solar water heaters: with or without vacuum pipes, backup, etc.

**Water:** ecological level toilets, ecological level sprinkler, water saving devices, isolating valves, flow control valves for water supply pipe.

**Health:** purified water filters, purified water supply and waste separation containers.

INFONAVIT works in partnership with CONAVI, Mexico's National Housing Commission and federal housing subsidy body. Other regulatory bodies participate through the certification of the technologies and the designation of specific energy/water saving levels associated with them. These include regulatory bodies in housing, building, water and energy sector, as well as research and academic bodies. Standardising and certifying agencies ensure quality, efficiency and safety of the equipment as well as the incorporation of new eco-technologies. Home builders implement eco-technology in the homes they offer, and international partners, such as the German Federal Ministry of the Environment, GIZ

and USAID, support the initiative with resource sharing and advisory services.

#### Covering costs

INFONAVIT is responsible for the collection and administration of the Fund. Its main sources of funding are payroll contributions that employers make for their employees (36 per cent of cash flow) and loan repayments (52 per cent of cash flow). Between 2009 and 2011, a total of US\$12.085.897 has been disbursed in mortgages, with an average amount per mortgage of US\$ 26.456, including the secondary Green Mortgage of up to US\$1,250.

#### Impact

The initiative began as a pilot project in 2007 and has now achieved national scale. Between 2007 and August 2012, over 900,000 Green Mortgage credits were formalised. Considering the number of mortgage holders plus their family members, the programme has benefited over three million people. The main impact is related



to consumption savings for the users, who have been able to save on their water and energy bills and reduce household costs, and improve their quality of life.

The Federal District government provides tax incentives for those who incorporate eco-technologies in their homes. Some states are currently considering changing their building regulations to incorporate eco-technologies.

#### Scaling up and transfer

As of 2012, the project has been expanded to include not only new housing construction but also retrofitting of existing housing stock. In this case, the same technologies are used, with the exception of thermal insulation which has high costs when installed in existing housing stock. The project applies to all cities in which INFONAVIT formalises credits within the 32 states of Mexico.

In 2009, a partnership was established with CONAVI, whereby all housing funded by INFONAVIT with CONAVI subsidies

must incorporate eco-technologies, further mainstreaming the approach. The Housing Fund of the Institute of Security and Social Services for State Workers is currently analysing whether to adopt this system.

The incorporation of efficient eco-technologies into housing for low-income workers has led to widespread interest and the visits of leaders from other countries such as Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Kenya and Canada, amongst others. Government officials have visited with a view to transferring the project, requesting support and information, and formal talks have been arranged.

For further details about Green Mortgage, please see the contact details on page 29 or visit the World Habitat Awards website at [www.worldhabitatawards.org](http://www.worldhabitatawards.org)

## 2012 Habitat Scroll of Honour Awards

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 human settlements and the quality of urban life.

Presented by Dr Joan Clos, Executive Director of UN-HABITAT, Mr Stefano Caldoro, President of the Region of Campania, Mr Luigi de Magistris, Mayor of Naples and Mr Staffan Domingo de Mistura, Undersecretary of State for Foreign Affairs of Italy, the 2012 Habitat Scrolls of Honour were awarded to:

### São Paulo Slum Upgrading Programme of the Municipal Housing Secretariat (Brazil)

For implementing one of the largest slum upgrading drives in Brazil.

### The Special Council Support Fund for Mutual Assistance, known as FEICOM (Cameroon)

For playing a key role at the local level in helping municipalities throughout Cameroon achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

### The County of Anji (China)

For turning Anji city and its environs into one of the world's greenest cities.

### Dr Olusegun Mimiko, Governor of Ondo State (Nigeria)

For his drive to reduce urban poverty and make Ondo the best-run State in the country.

### Mr Muchadeyi Ashton Masunda, Mayor of Harare (Zimbabwe)

For his many years of charismatic leadership and courageous promotion of ethical governance in a city stressed by socio-economic, political and service delivery problems.

### Mr Jesse Robredo (Philippines) – *Special Citation*

A special posthumous award for exceptional and exemplary public service helping to transform Naga City into one of the best in the country.



Photo courtesy of UN-HABITAT

▲ Presentation of the 2012 Habitat Scroll of Honour Awards



Photo courtesy of UN-HABITAT

▲ Presentation of the 2012 Habitat Scroll of Honour Awards

## World Habitat Award 2012 Finalists



Odyssey House Family Units  
Australia

Odyssey House Family Units offer a residential rehabilitation programme based in Melbourne, Australia that enables parents, including single fathers, to seek therapy for drug and alcohol addiction, whilst remaining with their children.

Carried out through a partnership between Allen Kong Architect and the Odyssey House community and residential services provider, the units have been designed, constructed and managed in accordance with the ideals of a therapeutic community, and to a high environmental standard. Residents are involved in the construction and maintenance of the units as well as playing a key part in the day-to-day decision making and overall functioning of the community.



IGLOO France  
France

The IGLOO France Association works to support local organisations involved in the field of housing and socioeconomic integration to implement participatory housing processes involving marginalised households. The approach enables vulnerable individuals, families and groups of families to obtain adequate and affordable housing, to acquire the necessary skills and self-esteem to seek employment, and to be reintegrated into the broader society.

Over 400 homes have been built or renovated to date, significantly improving the housing conditions of 850 vulnerable persons, and 65 per cent of households have at least one member in permanent or temporary employment.



Simon de Cyrène  
France

The Association Simon de Cyrène promotes, develops and manages well-located, affordable and shared housing solutions for adults who became severely disabled in the course of their lives, as an alternative to living alone or in specialised institutions. Shared homes allow disabled adults to share their daily lives with non-disabled residents, striking a balance between independent living, social inclusion and supportive housing, reducing disabled individuals' sense of isolation whilst enhancing their right to self-determination.

The first community was opened in 2009 in Vanves, with two others completed in 2010 and 2011. Local projects are currently underway in Angers, with the completion of the first house expected in 2013.



Build Change: Post-Earthquake Housing Reconstruction in West Sumatra  
Indonesia

The Post-Earthquake Housing Reconstruction project was developed by Build Change following the 2007 earthquakes in West Sumatra and Bengkulu, and expanded following the 2009 earthquake in Padang. The main purpose of the programme is to reduce the number of deaths, injuries and economic losses from future building collapses in Sumatra's seismic areas by enabling people to build safe houses now and in the future, through skills training, greater awareness, and access to capital.

In addition to its work in Indonesia, Build Change expanded its activities to China after the May 2008 earthquake in Sichuan, and to Haiti after the January 2010 earthquake struck Port-au-Prince.



Dajopen Waste Management Project  
Kenya

The Dajopen Waste Management group is a community-based organisation based in the town of Kitale. It aims at tackling the economic, social and environmental conditions of vulnerable communities through a community-based waste management strategy, including the collection of waste, the production of recycled items, and the training of other self-help groups and actors regarding alternative livelihood opportunities, waste management and organic farming.

Since the project was initiated, 95 per cent of the group members have changed their waste disposal method, more than 21,000 people have been trained in waste management and organic farming and eight community groups have been trained in producing recycled products.



Calakmul Rural Housing Programme  
Mexico

The Calakmul Rural Housing Programme was initiated in 2004 by Échale a tu Casa, a social franchise programme developed by Ecoblock International. It aims to facilitate self-build processes in the Calakmul area of Campeche, by providing technical training and assistance as well as financial support to low-income rural families, and by facilitating collective organisation processes.

The programme began with a pilot project of 250 homes in 2010 and is now being completed. Using Échale's Adoblock building technology, the programme has supported the assisted self-build construction of 1,000 new homes as well as 1,610 home improvements, generating employment for 500 people.



Municipal Project for Intergenerational Housing and Community Services in Alicante  
Spain

The Municipal Project for Intergenerational Housing and Community Services works to address the specific housing needs of low-income older persons and young people through the provision of 244 affordable, intergenerational housing units in central urban areas. The project not only provides decent, accessible housing but also works to create a supportive, family-like environment and sense of belonging among residents, enabling older residents to maintain their independence and stay in their own homes as they age.

The project first began with a small 18-unit complex for older persons and has been scaled up, with a 72-unit project built and a further 172 units to be built by 2013.



Solutions to Global Aging  
United States of America

Mia Senior Living Solutions has developed an affordable assisted living model that allows low-income and disabled older persons living in public housing facilities to remain in their own homes with support, enabling them to age with dignity and live in society as respected and contributing members. The results of the programme have shown a significant reduction of healthcare cost, as the cost of provision is lower for the state funders.

Over 5,000 people have been served to date through the programme, with an additional 12,000 clients moved from institutions back to the community and an estimated 50,000 more to be served in the next five years.



One Planet Communities  
Worldwide

One Planet Communities is a growing network of exemplary sustainable communities around the world, established by the BioRegional Development Group (BDG). The project aims to demonstrate that sustainable living is possible, by creating a network of green neighbourhoods where it is easy, attractive and affordable for people to live a healthy and sustainable lifestyle.

The One Planet Living framework allows different communities to adopt the principles in their specific context and is designed to encourage others to learn from the examples. With six developments either completed or in progress and over ten communities in the pipeline, BDG is creating sustainable neighbourhoods in 13 countries around the world.



MEDINA Project: Economic Development of Historic Cities in Yemen  
Yemen

The MEDINA Project involves the participatory urban renewal of historic cities in Yemen, using heritage preservation as a starting point to address the needs of a living community and develop wider urban renewal processes, improvements in housing conditions and local economic development. Residents are involved throughout the process and engage with the local authorities in defining recommendations and strategies for the rehabilitation of their cities.

Initiated in 2007 under a bilateral agreement between the Yemeni and German governments, the project began with the historic cities of Shibam and Zabid and is now being adapted and transferred to other cities across the country.

## Sources of Further Information

### Building and Social Housing Foundation

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### South-South Cooperation project

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# WORLD HABITAT AWARDS

## 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.

This annual international competition recognises innovative and sustainable solutions to key housing challenges in 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.

### HOUSING SOLUTIONS

The guiding principles of the World Habitat Awards are Innovation, Sustainability and Transfer, and practices are sought that approach housing from a broad perspective, acknowledging the many factors that have an impact on the way that people live.

The competition is open to any individual, organisation or government agency that has an innovative and sustainable housing solution in any country of the world. More than one entry can be made by the same individual or organisation.

### ENTRY PROCEDURE

Initial submissions to the Awards need only comprise a concise description of the key aspects of the initiative, accompanied by images, and may be submitted in English, Spanish or French.

Please note that entries should relate to housing projects and processes that either completed or in progress. Those that are at design stage or in the very early stages of development cannot be considered.

For further information and an online application form please visit [www.worldhabitatawards.org](http://www.worldhabitatawards.org)

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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