



PRESENTATION OF THE WORLD
HABITAT AWARDS
WORLD HABITAT DAY 2011

AGUASCALIENTES, MEXICO



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Prepared by BSHF

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The 2011 World Habitat Awards for innovative and sustainable housing solutions were presented at the global celebration of World Habitat Day in Aguascalientes, Mexico, on Monday 3rd October 2011.

World Habitat Day is organised each year on the first Monday of October by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), providing a unique opportunity to focus attention on the importance of shelter in people's lives and the world's collective responsibility for the future of the human habitat.

This year's global celebration was hosted by the Government of Mexico in collaboration with UN-HABITAT. Further celebrations took place across the world.

The theme for 2011 was 'Cities and Climate Change', chosen by UN-HABITAT because climate change is fast becoming the preeminent development challenge of the 21st century. As UN-Habitat has emphasised, no-one today can really foresee the predicament in which a town or city will find itself in 10, 20 or 30 years time. In this new urban era with most of humanity now living in towns and cities, we must bear in mind that the greatest impacts of disasters resulting from climate change begin and end in cities. Cities too have a great influence on climate change.



This year, World Habitat Day falls during the month when demographers predict our planet's seven billionth inhabitant will be born. The future that this child and its generation will inherit depends to a great degree on how we handle the competing pressures of growing population growth, urbanization and climate change.

Experts predict that by the year 2050, the global population will have increased by 50 per cent from what it was in 1999. Also by that time, scientists say, global greenhouse gas emissions must decrease by 50 per cent compared to levels at the turn of the millennium. I call this the "50 – 50 – 50 challenge." Rising sea levels are a major impact of climate change – and an urgent concern. Sixty million people now live within one meter of sea level. By the end of the century, that number will jump to 130 million. Major coastal cities – such as Cairo, New York, Karachi, Calcutta, Belem, New Orleans, Shanghai, Tokyo, Lagos, Miami and Amsterdam – could face serious threats from storm surges. The nexus between urbanization and climate change is real and potentially deadly.

Cities are centres of industrialization and sources of emissions, but they are also home to solutions. More and more municipalities are harnessing wind, solar and geothermal energy,

contributing to green growth and improving environmental protection.

Local efforts are critical to success, but they must be supported by international initiatives. We have already seen progress, including the creation of the Climate Change Adaptation Fund and adoption of the action plan to Reduce Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation, known as "REDD plus." All countries agree on the goal of limiting global temperature rise to below 2 degrees Celsius. Developed and developing countries have committed to lower greenhouse gasses in a formal, accountable international agreement.

Now we need to build on these advances. The United Nations Climate Change Conference in Durban this December must achieve decisive progress. Urbanization will be on the agenda at next year's Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development.

▲ Aguascalientes, host of the global celebration of World Habitat Day



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

On this observance of World Habitat Day, let us reaffirm our commitment to the important journey to a more sustainable future, and let us focus greater attention on addressing climate change in the world's cities and beyond.



We live in an age where the world's population will have grown to 7 billion by the end of this month and where more than half of them live in towns and cities. Projections indicate that this will increase to two-thirds in just over a generation from now. How we manage this rapid urbanisation is one of the greatest challenges facing us. We must bear in mind that the greatest repercussions of climate disasters both begin and end in cities.

Each year on World Habitat Day, the first Monday in October, we bring to the world's attention a matter of great concern in our rapidly urbanizing world. This year we look at the impact of cities in creating climate change, and, in turn, the impact of climate disruption on cities, and what cities are doing about it.

According to UN-HABITAT's Cities and Climate Change: Global Report on Human Settlements, it is estimated that by 2050, there could be as many as 200 million environmental refugees worldwide, many of whom will be forced from their homes by rising sea levels and the increased frequency of flooding or drought.

Prevention should be addressed through better urban planning and building codes so that city residents, especially the poorest, are protected as far as possible against disaster. Such measures can also help to keep their ecological footprint to a minimum. Climate induced risks such as rising sea levels, tropical cyclones, heavy precipitation events and extreme weather conditions can disrupt the basic fabric and functioning of cities with widespread reverberations for the physical infrastructure, economy and society of cities. These include public health risks in urban areas.

We already know that the impacts of climate disruption will be particularly severe in low-elevation coastal zones where many of the

world's largest cities are located. And always it is the urban poor, especially slum dwellers, who are most at risk when disaster strikes. We need to stress the provision of adequate adaptation measures based on urban planning.

Even though we are still trying to understand some of these extreme climatic events, we have the know-how and the strategies to take preventive measures. Urbanization offers many opportunities to develop mitigation and adaptation strategies to deal with climate change. Given that most global energy consumption occurs in cities, roughly half of it from burning fossil fuels in cities for urban transport, the solution seems obvious.

This is due to the fact that the economies of scale produced by the concentration of economic activities in cities also make it cheaper and easier to take action to minimize both emissions and climate hazards. The social, economic and political actors within cities must therefore become key players in developing these strategies. Many towns and cities, especially in developing countries, are still grappling with climate change strategies, working out how to access international climate change funding and how to learn from pioneering cities.

We should reflect on this World Habitat Day on how we turn our cities – arguably the greatest achievements of human civilisation – into better cities for the future.

▲ A Slum in Borneo, Malaysia



▲ 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 and is celebrating its 25th birthday this year. BSHF also works to ensure that the approaches developed in the winning projects are widely shared, by organising study visits, as well as publishing and disseminating a range of information.

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

The Community Programme for Neighbourhood Improvement in Mexico City is a community initiated and driven neighbourhood improvement programme that uses a participatory approach to improving public spaces and communal infrastructures in informal settlements and low-income neighbourhoods. Funds are distributed directly to the local communities, who are given full responsibility for delivering the projects selected.

The Housing for Health programme has contributed to improve the health of Indigenous Australians, by ensuring they have access to safe and well functioning housing and an improved living environment. The programme is coordinated by Healthabitat and has reached 7,000 houses to date.

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

Lic. Felipe Calderon Hinojosa, President of Mexico, and Dr Joan Clos, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director of UN-HABITAT, presented an award of £10,000 and a World Habitat Award trophy to each of the two winners.

The World Habitat Awards 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 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



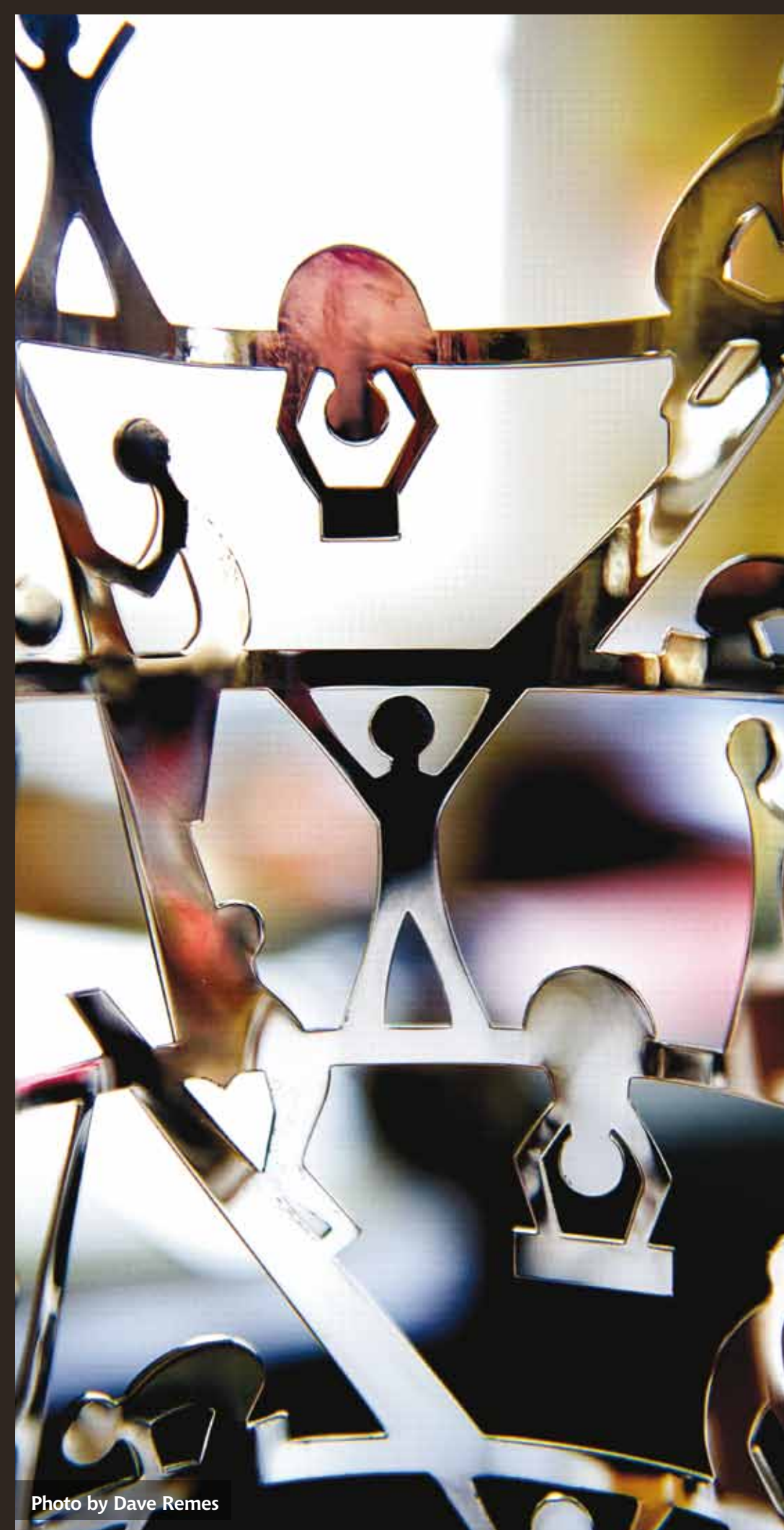


Photo by Dave Remes



▲ Mr Paul Pholeros, Director of Healthabitat, receives the World Habitat trophy from Dr. Joan Clos, Under-Secretary General of the United Nations and Executive Director of UN-HABITAT at the global celebration of World Habitat Day in Aguascalientes, Mexico on behalf of Healthabitat.



▲ Mr Alberto Martinez and representatives of the Community Programme for Neighbourhood Improvement with Mrs Diane Diacon, Director of BSHF at the global celebration of World Habitat Day in Aguascalientes, Mexico

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



Housing for Health Programme

Australia

Initiated in 1985 by Healthabitat, the Housing for Health (HfH) programme aims to improve the health of Indigenous people in Australia by ensuring they have access to safe and well functioning housing and an improved living environment. It uses a survey and fix methodology for testing whether the houses are safe to live in and have functioning electrical and water supply systems.

There is a long history of abuse, mistreatment and misunderstanding of the Indigenous people of Australia, not least when it comes to the provision of appropriate housing. Indigenous people live in very poor housing conditions and where the state provides housing, it is not designed with any understanding of the way of life or cultural needs of these communities. The common view is that they 'trash' the good homes provided for them and do not deserve decent housing provision. The houses are often in disrepair and there are high levels of rent arrears.

Many Indigenous Australians have low literacy rates as well as patterns of poor health. Life is typically lived in harsh, remote and often chaotic conditions. Housing is usually provided by local or state governments or Indigenous community organisations and is of poor quality with little, if any, maintenance or good management.

Health and housing

Healthabitat uses housing as a strategic entry point in order to improve local Indigenous communities' health, working with the latter to repair existing homes and providing them with basic repair and maintenance skills.

In order to describe the functioning hardware needed in a house to allow access to healthy living, Healthabitat developed the Nine Healthy Living Practices in the mid 1980s. These practices include: life threatening safety issues, washing people, washing clothes and bedding, removing

waste water safely, improving nutrition with the ability to store, preparing and cooking food and reducing the health impacts of dust. Such practices have moreover been monitored and refined over the 25 past years, reinforcing the link between health, housing function and the broader living environment.

Healthabitat furthermore developed the HfH methodology with standard repeatable tests to assess the safety and health function of housing.

It eventually initiated a broad range of applied, practical research projects to improve housing, covering issues such as the development of tap wares, hot water systems, waste disposal systems, lighting, kitchen design, prefabricated transportable shower laundry and toilet modules, local Indigenous staff training aids and customised database and information systems.

Community involvement

Nominations for inclusion in the Housing for Health Programme come from communities themselves, as well as Indigenous housing boards and Indigenous Affairs departments. After a feasibility study and if the communities wish to participate, a Survey-Fix week is set aside and a number of local community members are trained to work alongside technical staff to inspect, test and record about 240 items in the houses, and where possible make repairs. The information on each house is entered onto a database and work lists are given to qualified trades people who carry out urgent repairs a day later. Other repairs are completed over the following months and a second Survey-Fix session is carried out to review the work.

Local Indigenous communities are involved in all aspects of HfH projects such as in the planning of projects, repair work, data work, management



of the project, community liaison and training. This has meant significantly better project results, better targeting of resources and the possibility of locally controlled ongoing housing maintenance and management. This has further allowed local community members to gain a variety of skills as well as working experience, which can be used to find employment in the mainstream employment sectors. This has eventually fostered the creation of small businesses within the communities as well as a greater sense of community cooperation.

Local people therefore are neither just seen as 'cheap local labour' nor involved only to achieve political participation targets, but rather they are fully involved in all the tasks implied by an HfH project – the thinking as well as the physical work.

Covering costs

By Australian standards, HfH is a low-cost programme. From 1999 to 2009, projects had an average cost of US\$7,500 per house for all works

including repair work, management, staff wages, building materials and transport. This is helped by the Healthabitat organisation itself having very low overheads. Since 2006, approximately 15 per cent of the national HfH budget has been allocated to research and development projects.

Impact

Over 180 HfH projects have improved more than 7,000 houses with poor functioning since 1999 and improved the living conditions of over 40,000 Indigenous people. This represents one third of the nation's Indigenous housing stock.

A recent state government health department review of ten years of HfH work showed a 40 per cent reduction in hospital admissions for environmental health-related illnesses.

The current National Partnership Agreement for Remote Indigenous Housing being delivered nationally across Australia has incorporated the

nine Healthy Living Practices. Ongoing work is being carried out to ensure that implementation of the policy is delivered. Moreover, the knowledge gained through the Housing for Health projects has been used to develop a national Indigenous housing design code that respects cultural traditions and norms.

Healthabitat's work therefore contributes to influence national Indigenous housing and health policy as well as to encourage more holistic thinking between government departments so that housing and health are linked.

Transfer and scaling up

Between 1999 and 2010, HfH projects have been launched in 184 locations around Australia. These projects have improved over 7,000 houses and improved the living conditions of over 40,000 Indigenous Australians.



University courses have been offered in three states to architecture, planning, nursing and health sciences students and their number is expected to increase.

The National Partnership Agreement for Remote Indigenous Housing has incorporated the safety and nine Healthy Living Practices in all the national guideline documents. Healthabitat recognises that it will need to continue to work to ensure these guidelines are respected and implemented.

A large NGO addressing homelessness in the USA is currently trialling an HfH project in an urban public housing district of New York City and the HfH principles have been applied by Healthabitat to a remote village sanitation project for 450 people in Nepal.

For further details about the Housing for Health Programme, please see the contact details on page 28 or visit the World Habitat Awards website at www.worldhabitatawards.org.



Community Programme for Neighbourhood Improvement

Mexico

The Community Programme for Neighbourhood Improvement (PCMB) is a community-driven neighbourhood improvement programme that was established in 2007 by the Social Development Secretariat (SDS) of the Federal District government of Mexico City. It uses a participatory approach to improving and recovering public spaces in informal settlements and low-income neighbourhoods, particularly those with high levels of social conflict, urban decay and/or marginalisation, and further aims at reversing socio-spatial segregation in Mexico City.

Mexico City is an acute example of uncontrolled urban expansion and environmental deterioration. Approximately one in every six Mexicans lives in Mexico City. There are 8.7 million people living in the Federal District and the wider metropolitan area has a population of over 21 million. More than one third of the population lives in slums (barrios) without water, electricity or sewers. Air pollution from vehicles, factories and stoves is intensified because Mexico City lies in a basin and thermal inversions trap

pollutants at ground level. Population density is extremely high in some areas of the city.

Half of the population lives on very low incomes, in conditions of poverty and marginalisation, manifested in unemployment, loss of purchasing power and declining income, and resulting in a range of social problems including family violence, child abandonment, school desertion, teenage pregnancy, high crime rates, homelessness, growing addictions and the breakdown of social and community bonds.

Neighbourhood upgrading

The PCMB is a large-scale urban neighbourhood improvement programme focusing on the improvement of public spaces, which encompasses: public lighting and sanitation projects; the recovery and creation of parks, plazas and community centres, multiple use community halls, cultural and sporting forums, game halls, libraries, cycle tracks, walking paths and pavement; garden construction and the

reforestation of green areas; the building of community diners and milk stores, and, in the case of steep areas, of safety walls, stairs and handrails.

The programme focuses on neighbourhood improvements rather than on individual house improvements. However, by improving the neighbourhood, its reputation and the quality of life increase, leading to an increase in local property values, giving residents a greater incentive to invest in their own houses.

Such improvements furthermore do not only result in healthier and safer living spaces for the residents of the neighbourhoods involved, but also they impact on the residents of the wider city and on the city as a whole.

The central role of communities

The Social Development Secretariat of the Mexico City Government (SDS) is responsible for the operation of the PCMB, which was established in 2007 by the chief of the Mexico City Government in response to urban social movements' increasing demands for decent and safe neighbourhoods. The programme design was established by urban social movements and other civil society organisations working together with government officials, all of which continue to participate through the PCMB Advisory Council. The SDS does not design or propose any kind of initiative, but, rather, proposals are sought from communities. Communities put forward their proposals in a neighbourhood assembly and the latter, once approved, are then sent to the judging panel of the SDS. For the selected projects, the funds are distributed directly to the communities, who elect their own administration, supervision and community development committees and make all decisions as to how the funds should be allocated.



These committees oversee the construction process and are responsible for receiving and accounting for the public funds as well as for the follow-up post implementation. Social and technical assistance for the projects is provided to the communities by the government, as well as by a range of academic institutions, NGOs and other organisations. A capacity-building workshop is held in every community where a project has been approved for improving management and administrative skills.

The programme therefore puts communities at the centre of the planning and implementation processes while relying strongly on their self management of resources. It is community-initiated as well as community-driven.

Covering costs

The funding for the programme comes entirely from the Mexico City Government. The programme budget depends on the Federal District Legislative Assembly. However, the PCMB is also open to donations from private enterprises, international organisations and other local

government funds within the Federal government. For example, two of the 16 city districts have signed a cooperation agreement with PCMB to contribute additional resources and assist with the building process and five of the 16 boroughs have given additional resources to specific projects.

The PCMB budget has increased from US\$6 million in 2007 to US\$7.9 million in 2011, peaking in 2009 at US\$16.3 million. The budget was reduced from 2009 to 2010 due to both economical and political constraints. Each project approved by the judging panel can be assigned resources from US\$40,000 up to US\$400,000, according to the community's needs and the type of project being implemented.

Impact

The PCMB has an important impact on the communities involved, empowering residents to have an active role in society and in the development and improvement of their own city. The collective management of the neighbourhood is valued as an opportunity to develop local initiatives and strengthen social networks.



The PCMB furthermore has a significant impact on local governance processes. It allows for an increased knowledge of the communities' problems by public servants and thus more efficient conflict resolution, as well as for a new understanding of the organisational processes of communities and the methodology used by civil society organisations.

The PCMB eventually impacts on the overarching regulatory frameworks. It voices the demands of the social movements and civil organisations sitting on the PCMB Advisory Council, which has allowed the latter to effectively influence public policies for land use development, resulting in the government creating a policy that recognises the significance of the participation of the community for neighbourhood improvements.

Scaling up and transfer

The programme was initiated in 2007 and is ongoing, with a call for proposals made in January each year. The number of proposals presented by the communities has increased each year, from 139 community proposals in 2007 to

752 in 2010, and the SDS expects to receive over 1,000 project proposals by 2012. The number of participants in the neighbourhood assemblies for project approval is also increasing: 7,980 in 2007; 18,743 in 2008; 38,917 in 2009 (total of 65,640) and for administrative committee selection: 5,960 in 2007; 6,130 in 2008; 15,098 in 2009 (total of 27,188).

A communication network has been established nationally with many social organisations in order to pressure local governments to create this mechanism in their districts. For example, in Michoacán, forums were organised for a possible replication of the PCMB.

For further details about the Community Programme for Neighbourhood Improvement, please see the contact details on page 28 or visit the World Habitat Awards website at www.worldhabitatawards.org

2011 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. For the first time UN-Habitat recognised a set of good practices as well.

Presented by Lic. Felipe Calderon Hinojosa, President of Mexico, and Dr Joan Clos, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director of UN-HABITAT, the 2011 Habitat Scrolls of Honour were awarded to:

Wintringham (Australia)

For helping provide accommodation for about 1,000 elderly people in need every night.

Centro de Investigación y Desarrollo de Estructuras y Materiales (CIDEM, Cuba)

For blazing a new trail in low-cost, low-energy, eco-friendly building materials.

The Stormwater Management and Road Tunnel (SMART, Malaysia)

For improving the management of storm water and peak-hour traffic.

Ms Edith Mbanga of the Shack Dwellers Federation for Namibia (Namibia)

For her outstanding efforts to improve land access and housing for the poor as well as for the special benefit of her work to women living in poverty.

Yakutsk City Administration (Russia)

For implementing a new cold climate urban development plan, allowing for maximized energy savings.

Austin Energy Green Building (United States)

For being the first in the United States to lead the way in sustainable building practices and commercial construction.

The good practices recognised were

Centre Africain pour l'Eau Potable et l'Assainissement (Burkina Faso)

Estrategia de Movilidad en Bicicleta, Ciudad de México (Mexico)

Urban Biodiversity in Chiang Rai Municipality towards Sustainable City and Climate Resilience (Thailand)



▲ Ms Edith Mbanga receives the 2011 Habitat Scroll of Honour Award from Lic. Felipe Calderon Hinojosa, President of Mexico.



▲ Prof. José Fernando Martierena Hernández receives the 2011 Habitat Scroll of Honour from Lic. Felipe Calderon Hinojosa, President of Mexico.

World Habitat Award 2011 Finalists



Federal Housing and Habitat Improvement Programme for Indigenous and Rural People
Argentina

The Federal Housing and Habitat Improvement Programme for Indigenous and Rural People is run under the Under-Secretariat for Urban Development and Housing and aims to support and improve the living conditions of Indigenous groups and low-income households in rural areas of Argentina. The construction of new homes, improvement of existing homes, development of rural infrastructures and stable livelihoods are its four main areas of activity.

National government funding is transferred to local partners or executive bodies, which work directly with beneficiaries and communities. The autonomous programme's work began in 2010 and is currently operating in 9 of the 23 provinces of Argentina.



La Cité de la Pierre
Belgium

In response to a public campaign launched in 2002, Le Logis Toumaisien, a regionally-based public sector housing company operating in the Walloon region of Belgium, embarked upon the refurbishment of a group of severely dilapidated ex quarry workers' houses in the hamlet of Allain. The exercise served both to increase the social housing stock and to restore local pride in the area. Eleven housing units were restored, where previously only five had been inhabitable.

The restoration was carried out preserving much of the original design and the newly refurbished units are now the starting point of a local tourist excursion. A Conservation Committee has been set up to work towards the preservation of local heritage.



GLOBE Community Champions Programme
Canada

The GLOBE Community Champions Program works with social housing providers to educate, engage and support staff and residents in water and energy conservation efforts. GLOBE (Green Light on a Better Environment) is a subsidiary of the Social Housing Services Corporation (SHSC), a not-for-profit social enterprise created by the Province of Ontario to deliver programs and services to Ontario's social housing sector.

The programme uses an integrated approach, linking efficient technologies with preventative maintenance and resident behaviour. Over 150 residents and housing staff in 56 communities have been trained as Community Champions, leading to resource and cost savings and improved engagement with sustainability issues.



Post-Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation in Da Ping Village
China

Following the 2008 Wenchuan Earthquake, the Da Ping Village in the Sichuan Province of China was rebuilt with the support of the Green Building Research Centre. The project aimed to create a harmonious village through socially and environmentally sustainable approaches to improve housing and infrastructure, economic conditions, sanitation and livelihoods.

The entire village was reconstructed using traditional construction methods and through community decision-making processes. A community centre was built and used to provide training classes and the village now has its own agriculture skilled teams, construction teams and medical treatment teams.



Dissemination of Passive Solar Housing in the Cold Desert of the Indian Himalayas
India

This programme, carried out by Groupe Energies Renouvelables Environnement et Solidarités India, involves the implementation, dissemination and scaling up of passive solar housing technologies in cold desert areas of the Western Himalayas. Key technologies include solar gain, thermal mass and insulation.

A three-phase scaling up methodology has been developed. The first phase creates awareness and seeks to generate demand. During the extension phase the project spreads to target social groups. During the exit phase, a favourable environment for replication is created, financial support is phased out and local involvement increases. To date 550 buildings have been completed, and 215 local masons and carpenters have been trained.



Home Improvement in Depressed Neighbourhoods of Antananarivo and its suburbs
Madagascar

In 2003, Enda Océan Indien joined up with micro-credit institutions in Madagascar to establish a savings and credit scheme for families living in the Lower City of Antananarivo. This enabled these families to save and borrow money for a new house and/or pit latrine and improve their living conditions.

Enda OI supports the families throughout the process, from saving and adjusting to a new credit culture through to building and maintaining their new property.

More than 300 houses have been renovated or built since 2001 and eighty family latrines have been built since 2006.



Rental Mediation Programme
Spain

Through its Rental Mediation Programme, Asociación Provienda mediates between property owners and individuals experiencing difficulties accessing housing, to open up opportunities in the rental market that would not otherwise be available.

Landlords are typically wary of renting to, or impose abusive contractual terms on those they perceive as having insecure or irregular employment. Provienda addresses this by arranging multi-risk insurance guarantees for rental payment, either through an insurance company or through providing these guarantees themselves. In the last 20 years, the programme has housed 87,000 people. In 2010, Provienda was involved in 32 different projects in five regions of Spain.



990 Polk Street
United States of America

The Tenderloin Neighbourhood Development Corporation (TNDC) serves San Francisco's hardest-to-house populations, creating and promoting affordable housing, fostering stabilisation and revitalisation of the neighbourhood, and offering support services for its residents.

The 990 Polk Street project was designed to provide affordable housing for a diverse group of formerly homeless and low-income older persons. Services, design features and amenities targeted specifically to this population enable residents to live affordably and independently. In order to best meet the older persons' diverse range of needs, the project provides a supportive service model, which includes individual and group counselling, referrals to other social service agencies in the community, cooking and nutrition classes, new home orientation, basic life-skills classes, and computer training.

Sources of Further Information

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WORLD HABITAT AWARD 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, health 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, ten 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, which include the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT and Rector of the United Nations University, Japan. Evaluation visits will be carried out to some of the projects prior to the final judging.

For further information and an online application form please visit 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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