

Winners and Finalists 2017



About

The World Habitat Awards, organised in partnership with UN-Habitat, recognise and highlight innovative, outstanding and sometimes revolutionary housing ideas, projects and programmes from across the world. Each year, two winners receive £10,000 each and a trophy presented at a global UN-Habitat event.

This brochure showcases the ten projects selected as winners and finalists in the 2017 competition.

David Ireland, Director of World Habitat, said: “Billions of people across the world still lack a safe home. These remarkable projects show that it doesn’t have to be like that. Brilliant people and brilliant ideas have come together to show that people on low-incomes can live safely, free from the fear of disease, natural disasters and insecurity.”

Judge of the awards, Leilani Farha, the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing, explains: “All of this year’s World Habitat Awards finalists are interesting and important. They are helping so many people in difficult and vulnerable circumstances. Worldwide, the right to adequate housing is under threat. So it’s incredibly heartening to know that there are groups of people working together to ensure a dignified and improved life through adequate housing.”

Full details can be found at www.worldhabitatawards.org

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Winner

Post-Haiyan Self-Recovery Housing Programme Philippines

Post-Haiyan Self-Recovery Housing Programme helped families to self-recover after the widespread devastation of Typhoon Haiyan. Instead of relocating families, the project helped people rebuild their homes using locally available materials and debris from destroyed houses. This means fewer families were relocated and they have gained useful skills, as well as enabling people to be reached and helped more quickly.

www.careinternational.org.uk



Minet, the Executive Director of Leyte Center for Development, one of the organisations who assisted CARE Philippines, said:

"CARE Philippines approached us and asked if we would help them to reach the survivors who were in a worse condition than us. We agreed and actually being able to do something positive in such a negative situation was so empowering. We already knew the communities and we had the contacts so we could reach them. This made it quicker and easier to help people in remote places. This enabled people to rebuild their lives quickly and as safely as possible."



Winner

Mutual Housing at Spring Lake United States of America

Mutual Housing at Spring Lake in Woodland, California was designed to support agricultural workers to enjoy the benefits of 'green living', often only available to high-income homeowners. As the homes use around the same amount of energy as they produce, utility bills for residents are extremely low. Through a range of opportunities including leadership development schemes, peer lending circles and digital literacy classes, residents gain skills and confidence. For many this has opened up new opportunities in education and community life.

www.mutualhousing.com



Saul Meneses, who moved into Mutual Housing at Spring Lake with his wife Orfalinda in July 2015, said:

"It has been a complete one-hundred eighty degree turn since we've been living here. Housing stability has enabled me to reflect on my past. Our quality of life is better now. It is peaceful living in the Mutual Housing at Spring Lake community. We are proud to be a part of a community that cares for the environment. We love our neighbours and enjoy the harmony we've developed. It is an empowering feeling to have our community play such a big part in stabilising our lives."



Finalist (Special Mention)

Residential Energy Efficiency for Low Income Households (REELIH)

Armenia, Bosnia & Herzegovina and Macedonia



Lile Kik, who lives in the Aerodrom apartment complex in Skopje, Macedonia, said:

The Residential Energy Efficiency in Low Income Households (REELIH) project supports residents living in formerly state-owned buildings in Armenia, Bosnia & Herzegovina and Macedonia to form homeowner associations. This allows residents to borrow collectively to carry out energy efficiency improvements to their homes. This makes heating homes more affordable, improving the health and well-being of residents.

"I heard about a new energy efficiency programme from a friend, which would help insulate the building and cut our energy bills. I went to see someone, who lives a few blocks away and has already gone through the process. Now their home is warm because of good insulation, and both the humidity in the walls and the smell have gone. This has made me even more convinced and determined to persuade my fellow tenants to do this."

www.habitat.org



Finalist (Special Mention)

Bringing light and air to homes in informal settlements

India

Bringing light and air to homes in informal settlements has vastly improved conditions in over 18,000 households across seven states. A specially designed dormer window that fits onto corrugated roofs used on most informally built homes lets light and ventilation into previously dark and hot rooms. They are made available through affordable loans.

www.footprintsearth.com



Paliben Jayantibhai Pattni, who lives with her family of six and works at home stitching clothing, said:

"It used to be very difficult to work at home. To do stitching jobs I had to use tube lighting even during the daytime. The electricity bill was very expensive. Now with improved natural light and ventilation, I can do most of my work without having to use tube lighting. I can work in a more comfortable environment. My income has increased and I have been able to save money in my pension and savings account."



Finalist

Building Malaria Prevention Cameroon

ARCHIVE Global's Building Malaria Prevention project helps residents of an informal settlement in Yaoundé to plaster cracks in walls, improve sewerage and drainage, build and fit window and door screens, and grow mosquito repellent plants. Alongside this, malaria awareness campaigns have been introduced in nursery school classes and through radio advertising. It is estimated that the number of mosquitoes has halved in homes helping over 1,300 people.

www.archiveglobal.org



Ambroisels and Catherine Ngock Zanga, who live with five of their children and three grandchildren in Minkoameyos, said:

"The project helped us get a new roof, new walls, and screens for the windows, doors and eaves. We now have a home that contributes to our good health, instead of threatening it. Our grandchildren are no longer missing school because they are sick. It means that we can go to work every day, and we no longer have to spend money on expensive drugs or visits to the clinic."



Finalist

How the community rescued the historic centre of San Salvador El Salvador

This project has provided hope and inspiration, with people working together and supporting each other to improve their own homes and neighbourhoods. Through their activism, collaboration and support, poor quality shacks have been replaced with safe, colourful, and permanently affordable homes, owned by the community themselves.

www.fundasal.org.sv



Laura Margarita Molina,
who is a member of the
ACOV-UVD cooperative,
said:

“Being part of the cooperative has given me strength, a new family and a sense of belonging. It helps keep me busy and I spend my time doing something productive. It has helped me learn to save and think about the future. I have made good friends who help me a lot. Each meeting is a learning process and can be a challenge, but we have good relationships.”



Finalist

From Disaster to Dignity El Salvador

From Disaster to Dignity repairs, rebuilds and improves communities in rural areas. Through the cooperative, families access much needed credit and funds for improving homes and one-to-one training to help them manage their finances. By actively empowering women this project helps to create more gender equality in a traditionally male dominated society. As well as housing, women have set up a business making environmentally sustainable building materials and they also run a water treatment plant.

www.ecosur.org



**María Angela Peña
Guerrero, who lives in
rural El Salvador, said:**

"Before I lived in a house built with black plastic walls, a tin and plastic sheet roof and a dirt floor. The living conditions were precarious and inhumane. When the project started the team visited me at home to assess my living conditions. With the support of the community, I now have a small, decent living space which allows me to feel fulfilled as a human being."



Finalist

Empowering marginalised women through home ownership India

Empowering marginalised women through home ownership supports women in rural Andhra Pradesh to gain the deeds to land and housing in their names, so they can escape poverty and raise their social status. Once they formally own the land, people take part in building their own homes. They are also encouraged to take more of an active role in their community, improving gender equality and social inclusion.

www.rdtfvf.org



Chittakka, who has a disability caused by a neurological disorder and lives with her husband who is also physically disabled, said:

“My life took a different turn when I joined a self-help group for disabled people organised by the Rural Development Trust. I was recommended to their housing programme since our hut was collapsing. My brother and some members of our group helped with clearing the site, digging foundations and watering the plastered walls. Our house provides us with security all year round and we now have a permanent asset for the future.”



Finalist

Düzce Hope Homes Turkey

Düzce Hope Homes is the result of a 15 year rights-based struggle in Northern Turkey. A cooperative was set-up to fight for the right to housing to be extended to tenants - victims of earthquakes in 1999 - who did not receive post-disaster support from the government. After many years of mobilisation and activism, including mass demonstrations and government lobbying, they eventually secured subsidised land on which to rebuild their homes and community. Groundwork on the houses has begun with people expecting to move into their new homes in 2018.

www.duzceumutevleri.org



Dursun Teper, who is a member of the Düzce Solidarity Housing Cooperative for Homeless and Tenant Earthquake Victims, said:

"Following the earthquake the state built houses and provided property owners with apartments. We were living in prefabricated houses when we discovered that we, tenant victims, also have rights. Our hope started to grow. The cooperative was set up and the legal process began. We started to fight for our rights. We have achieved things that we never believed we would."



Finalist

Hemsworth Court United Kingdom

Hemsworth Court provides 24-hour care with dementia-friendly facilities which help people avoid potential confusion and distress. Residents are supported to live independently within their community in Lower Shankhill in Belfast - a deprived area affected for many years by civil unrest - which has become the first dementia-friendly community in the city. Awareness of dementia in the local community has increased through their wider work with charities, faith groups, schools and local businesses. This means that local people understand and interact more with residents and many take part in social events.

www.radiushousing.org



Claire Lemon, who has lived at Hemsworth Court for the past three years following a diagnosis of vascular dementia and early Alzheimer's, said:

"The accommodation is brilliant, I can come and go as I please and there is room for my family to visit and stay over if they want. I feel safe, secure and can relax here. I close the door and I know - and my family know - I'm safe. Living at Hemsworth has changed my life - even the tests at the memory clinic show that my memory has improved."



Do you know somebody doing something amazing to provide housing?

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