



Winners 2019



About

The World Habitat Awards – organised in partnership with UN-Habitat – celebrate some of the world's most outstanding and innovative housing initiatives, projects and programmes. This brochure illustrates the inspirational ideas and work of our 2019 World Habitat Award winners – who are providing housing solutions to some of the world's most marginalised people.

Maimunah Mohd Sharif, UN-Habitat Executive Director, said: “I am delighted that UN-Habitat supports the work of communities and people that are creative and intersectional in their action, and work towards more sustainable, affordable and inclusive housing. The 2019 World Habitat Award winners promote human-rights based approaches that place the well-being of people first and address housing challenges faced by the most vulnerable of us.”

Leilani Farha, the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing, said: “I am delighted to offer my congratulations to the 2019 winners of the World Habitat Awards. These projects exemplify innovation in the way they approach their work and contribute to the realisation of the right to housing. I am always amazed at the creativity and efficacy of on-the-ground advocacy I see every day in my work as Special Rapporteur, but particularly moved when those efforts are specifically designed to support the most vulnerable members of a community.”

David Ireland, Chief Executive of World Habitat, funders and co-ordinators of the World Habitat Awards, said: “All of these outstanding projects and programmes are fully-deserved winners of the World Habitat Awards. We are delighted to give them the recognition they deserve for their dedication, perseverance and ingenuity – which has transformed the lives of entire communities. They have also laid the foundations for other housing projects to be inspired by their work and make safe and secure housing a reality for people across the world.”

www.worldhabitatawards.org



The 2019 World Habitat Award Winners

Restoration of Dignity and Human Rights of Indigenous Tribal Community in Karnataka, India – Gold Award	6-7
Viviendas para las Entidades Sociales, Spain – Gold Award	8-9
Discus Housing First, Netherlands – Silver Award	10-11
Building with EARTH, China – Bronze Award	12-13
Healthy Homes for Humanity, Guatemala – Bronze Award	14-15
Odisha Liveable Habitat Mission, India – Bronze Award	16-17
La Borda housing co-operative, Spain – Bronze Award	18-19
#GreenNFit Neighbourhood Rebuild, USA – Bronze Award	20-21
Dzivarasekwa Slum Upgrading Project, Zimbabwe – Bronze Award	22-23



Restoration of Dignity and Human Rights of Indigenous Tribal Community in Karnataka India

Supporting the Koraga tribe to access land, housing, nutrition, education and dignity.

Working in partnership with the NGOs the Koraga Federation and Samagra Grameena Ashram, this ActionAid India project has secured thousands of acres of land for tribal communities and 19,000 people have accessed grants to build homes. This has acted as a foundation for them to rebuild their lives. A state-sponsored nutrition programme has improved food security and health among the Koraga community, and now more children attend school and have access to scholarships. Koraga women increasingly hold leadership positions within the community and more than 1,000 have become self-sufficient.

www.actionaidindia.org



Gowri:

"Before land was allotted to us, I used to work as a labourer in the houses of upper caste people. We were treated as untouchables. We were doing long hours of work; it was a painful struggle. Now, we have... land and have constructed a decent house which depicts our dignified living. Now our efforts are to support and ensure every Koraga claims their right to land for a decent survival and dignity. With pride, I... say that land is a breakthrough in my life to come out of the oppression. Now I am self-reliant!"



Viviendas para las Entidades Sociales Spain

Renovating empty homes and offering them to charities working with vulnerable people in Catalonia.

Run by social housing provider and manager Habitat3, the project renovates homes in collaboration with local social enterprises, who train socially excluded people to help them find work in the future. Habitat3 manages the homes and the charities select the tenants, providing ongoing support for issues such as mental health, drug addiction, disability, gender violence and migration. Currently, 99 renovated homes are managed through the project, providing a home for 187 vulnerable tenants.

www.habitat3.cat



Juan Carlos:

"I...always lived in pensions and rented rooms...for 10 years I lived in the Pension Lily, until the owner died and it closed. Then I had to live elsewhere for five months...there was a lot of dirt and the windows were broken. I lived among cockroaches. When my father passed away, I was left with nothing. I was sleeping on the street and I had nowhere to go to eat either. I met my social worker who, with other professionals, helped me access a home. I find it hard to believe that I have my own flat. This, for me, has represented the end of the process of rebuilding my life."



Discus Housing First Netherlands

Giving homeless people control over their route to secure housing in Amsterdam.

This influential project has developed and enhanced the Housing First approach to put clients in complete control. They are provided with a safe and secure home first, and make fundamental decisions, including the home's location, who their caseworker is and the type of support they receive. Since April 2006, Discus has successfully housed more than 600 people. Their method has been implemented in dozens of other Dutch and European cities, helping to transform the way homelessness is tackled across the Netherlands and beyond.

www.hvoquerido.nl



Tineke:

"I became homeless and felt extremely lonely. When I received the key to my home with Discus Housing First...it was a great feeling...but for sure, one of the best things is the support. What helps against loneliness is very simple: contact with people. At Discus...they organise solitude meetings where you meet people...what also helps are outings, just fun things with other people. Your own home gives you the necessary peace and the strength to work on what matters in life."



Building with EARTH China

Promoting advanced earth construction in rural communities through training local craftspeople.

This radical project challenges China's modern construction methods with a new model that advances traditional rammed-earth building techniques in rural communities. Local craftspeople are trained and work alongside academics and government officials. The result is a cheaper, more environmentally sustainable and more earthquake-resistant alternative to current building methods. The project began in 2011 and has since transferred to 23 different regions across 17 provinces, with 655 villagers now living in new earthen homes. The project aims to have housed 1,636 people by the end of 2020.

www.english.bucea.edu.cn



Yue Zengwu:

"I am the only one who works and takes care of the family. I felt so thankful that I was chosen by the village subject to my difficult conditions. I have now lived in our new home for seven years. It's comfortable. We stayed cool in summer and warm in winter. We could simply just warm the house with our bed stove and stay warm in chilling winter! It saved us so much money. This is a total transformation for me and my family."



Healthy Homes for Humanity Guatemala

Providing basic services in the home to improve the health of indigenous families living in poverty.

Habitat for Humanity Guatemala provides families living in poverty with a smokeless stove, water filter and sanitary latrine. Families learn how to assemble, use and maintain each product. Around 300,000 marginalised and vulnerable people across Guatemala have been helped through improved health, dignity and self-empowerment. In one community, families experienced an 83% reduction in cases of respiratory illness within the first six months of having a smokeless stove, and an 81% reduction in cases of diarrhoea within the first year of receiving the water filter and sanitary latrine.

www.habitatguate.org/eng



Alian Sicay:

"Until several months ago I was cooking over an open flame that created an abundance of smoke...[which] not only filled my small kitchen, but it filled my children's lungs and made them cough. We had a makeshift latrine that consisted of a toilet bowl made out of wooden slabs...I...often wondered if the reason my family was getting sick...was due to the poor conditions of our old bathroom. One day...my sister-in-law put me in contact with [Habitat for Humanity Guatemala]. I was happy to participate in different trainings so that I could learn how to use and better care for my products – a stove, a latrine, and a water filter."



Odisha Liveable Habitat Mission

India

Granting land rights and upgrading slums through state-wide government legislation.

This government initiative maps and surveys slums using pioneering technology and community participation. The information is used to assign land rights to eligible residents – and to upgrade roads, drains, street-lights, sanitation and clean-water supplies. More than 50,000 families have been granted land rights under The Land Rights to Slum Dwellers Act – which was passed by the Odisha government in 2017 as the first step in its pioneering programme to raise living standards in the state's 2,919 slums. Once implemented land rights will have been issued to 206,000 families, benefitting 1 million people.

www.urbanodisha.gov.in



Mrs Anili Gahir:

"I don't remember ever being this happy in my life. I relive the moment countless times each day. I have started constructing my house with the first instalment of Rs. 40,000 that I received. Finally, my kids have a home to call their own. I cannot be more grateful."

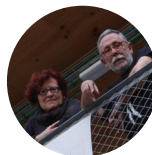


La Borda housing co-operative Spain

Providing eco-friendly, intergenerational co-operative housing and shared spaces for people in Barcelona.

La Borda is the first housing co-operative of its kind in Spain. It incorporates 'passive' energy-efficient systems that lower living costs and improve climatic comfort and health. A group of residents set up the co-operative to create an equal, intergenerational community and provide an alternative to homeownership, the rental market and public housing. The building comprises 28 apartments, which house 60 people in the Sants neighbourhood of Barcelona. In a city with soaring rents and unstable tenancies, La Borda has provided its members with a secure and more affordable home.

www.laborda.coop



Rosa:

"I had always dreamed of growing old surrounded by people who brought me vitality, with their ideas, their music, their longings, and their youth. In...La Borda this dream is coming true. I feel accompanied by the whole community. When the little ones arrive from school the house is filled with their voices and laughter. I...contribute a part of my time to deal with emergencies...organise collective meals, attend to the plumber or collect clothes from the clothesline. Feeling useful to the community makes me grow and I think that's how we enrich each other."



#GreenNFit Neighbourhood Rebuild USA

**Renovating homes and revitalising public spaces
in Massachusetts through mass volunteer action
days.**

This community-wide project improves the health and quality of life of local low-income households, in the city of Springfield, by repairing homes and revitalising community spaces. Run by the Revitalize Community Development Corporation, thousands of local volunteers have renovated one city block on a single day each year, over 10 years. Over 4,000 people have benefitted, including repairs to 191 homes, development of a playground and two new community gardens, clearing of 33 vacant lots, and upgrades to five non-profit facilities and a school for at-risk students.

www.revitalizecdc.com



Delores Culp:

"Trees fell on my house [in a tornado]. I had holes in the roof...and water coming through all of the light fixtures. My kitchen cabinets were knocked off the wall. It was a mess. Revitalize CDC came out to my house a day after the tornado. Insurance did not cover all of my expenses to rebuild my house. That's where Revitalize CDC helped me. They changed my life. All these people came to my house to help me. It was bigger than I could ever imagine. It was overwhelming to me. I started off being helped, then I became a volunteer!"



Dzivarasekwa Slum Upgrading Project Zimbabwe

**Recognising the rights and improving housing,
water supply, lighting and roads of residents in
informal settlements.**

A radical partnership between city authorities and slum communities has had far more positive outcomes than the state's default demolition and resettlement policy. Residents are involved in the entire upgrade process – ensuring improvements reflect their priorities – whilst also receiving training in a variety of roles, including construction. Since work began in 2011, around 2,050 residents have secured land tenure, 336 homes have been built and 1,344 people have been housed. Sanitation has been improved, solar-powered water and lighting systems installed, and roads tarred.

www.dialogueonshelter.co.zw



Sladen Makona:

"In 1986, my parents bought a plot but in...October 1991 we were evicted. The bulldozers arrived at midnight, the houses were razed down and we were taken to Porta Farm [and then] relocated to Dzivarasekwa Extension. In 2005...we were again evicted. After a month we moved back and reconstructed our shacks. In 2007, the land we had lived on informally for 16 years was officially allocated to the Zimbabwe Homeless People's Federation. In June 2011 we were formally allocated plots. We no longer fear evictions and with the current upgrading work, our settlement has changed."



**We're looking for outstanding housing projects
for the 2020 World Habitat Awards.**

Enter online: www.worldhabitatawards.org

