

A large, polished silver trophy is the central focus of the image. It has a complex, abstract design with multiple human figures in various poses, some appearing to be climbing or reaching. The trophy is highly reflective, showing distorted reflections of the surrounding environment. In the background, other similar trophies are visible but out of focus, along with blurred figures of people in a large hall.

INNOVATION • SUSTAINABILITY • TRANSFER

25 Years of the World Habitat Awards



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Housing for Health Healthabitat | Australia



Improving the health of indigenous people by ensuring access to safe and well functioning homes and an improved living environment.

[health, indigenous people, training and capacity building]

<http://bit.ly/psmNfb>

2 6 4

Federal Housing and Habitat Improvement Programme for Indigenous and Rural People

Subsecretaría de Desarrollo Urbano y Vivienda | Argentina



Working with indigenous groups and low-income rural households to provide improved housing and infrastructure and promote sustainable livelihoods.

[indigenous people, rural housing and development, infrastructure and services, sustainable livelihoods]

<http://bit.ly/ovA2dh>

6 1 2 6

La Cité de la Pierre

Le Logis Tournaisien | Belgium



Preservation and renovation of ex quarry workers' dwellings for social housing provision, following a campaign led by the local community.

[reuse of empty properties, conservation and heritage]

<http://bit.ly/o0Hn26>

5 2

GLOBE Community Champions Program

Green Light on a Better Environment | Canada



Community champions work with fellow residents to reduce energy consumption and utility costs through simple behavioural and attitudinal changes.

[energy efficient housing, training and capacity building, sustainable lifestyles]

<http://bit.ly/n2tkMB>

2 4 5

Sustainable Village: Post-earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation in Da Ping Village

Green Building Research Centre | China



Post-earthquake reconstruction of a village using a socially and environmentally sustainable approach to improving housing, infrastructure, sanitation and livelihoods.

[post-disaster reconstruction, sustainable building materials, sustainable livelihoods, construction techniques]

<http://bit.ly/qGfG26>

5 4 6 3

Community Programme for Neighbourhood Improvement Secretaría de Desarrollo Social, Ciudad de México | Mexico



Community initiated neighbourhood improvement programme using a participatory approach to improving public spaces in informal settlements and low-income neighbourhoods.

[grassroots initiatives, slum upgrading, self-management of resources, governance and citizenship]

<http://bit.ly/pXEaUh>

2 3 5 2

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

GERES | India



Establishing the conditions for sustainable scaling-up of passive solar housing technologies and improving winter livelihoods in the Indian Himalayas.

[energy efficient housing, passive thermal control, training and capacity building, rural housing and development]

<http://bit.ly/mUexTb>

2 3 4 1

Home Improvement in Depressed Neighbourhoods of Antananarivo and its Suburbs

Enda Océan Indien | Madagascar



Establishing a savings and micro-credit scheme enabling low-income families in Antananarivo to access adequate housing and sanitation.

[slum upgrading, savings schemes, micro-finance, infrastructure and services]

<http://bit.ly/ohGUlA>

3 2 3 2

Rental Mediation Programme

Asociación Provivienda | Spain



Providing rental guarantees and mediation between property owners and vulnerable individuals previously excluded from the private rental market.

[rental housing, refugees and IDPs, social integration, reuse of empty properties]

<http://bit.ly/pdGZP4>

4 4 5 5

990 Polk Street

Tenderloin Neighbourhood Development Corporation | USA



Providing safe, affordable housing with support services for a diverse group of formerly homeless and low-income older persons.

[homelessness, housing for older persons, care and support services, public private partnerships]

<http://bit.ly/om9jHx>

3 2 3 6



PRESENTATION OF THE WORLD
HABITAT AWARDS
WORLD HABITAT DAY 2011

AGUASCALIENTES, MEXICO



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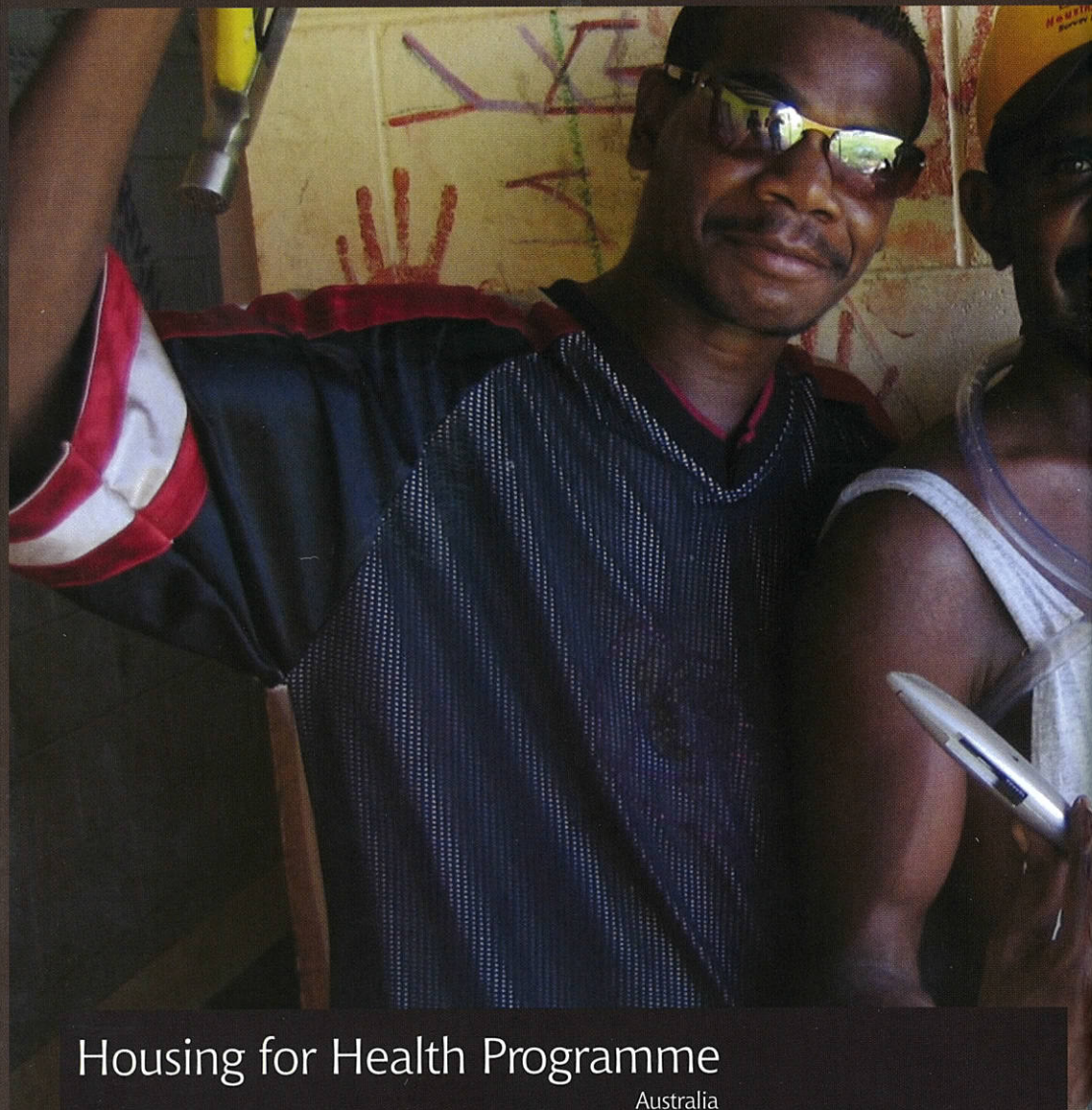
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The 2011 World Habitat Awards for innovative and sustainable housing solutions were presented at the global celebration of World Habitat Day in Aguascalientes, Mexico on Monday 3rd October 2011.

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 housing in people's lives and the world's collective responsibility for the future of the urban 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. As climate change is fast becoming the greatest development challenge of the 21st century, UN-Habitat has emphasised, no-one can really foresee the predicament in which our planet or city will find itself in 10, 20 or 30 years. In this new urban era with most of the world's population now living in towns and cities, we must keep in mind that the greatest impacts of climate change will be felt in cities. Cities too have a great influence on climate change.



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



ste 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.

Healthabitat eventually initiated a broad range of applied, practical research projects to improve housing, covering issues such as the development of ovens, 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 Healthhabitat 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.