LOCAL 2030
LOCALIZING THE SDGS

ROAD TO BAKU: THE LOCAL WAY

Local Housing Solutions for Transformative Impact

May 2026

Table of Contents

1. Introduction 3

2. Presentation of Locally Led Housing Solutions 6
- 2.1. Main Approaches 6
- 2.2. Portfolio Overview and Key Trends 6

3. Empowering Local Actors and Strengthening Capacities 9
- 3.1. Enabling Regulatory Frameworks and Institutional Capacity 9
- 3.2. Community-Driven Upgrading and Local Capacity Development 11
- 3.3. Housing as a Platform for Resilience and Recovery 16
- 3.4. Advancing Inclusive Housing through Local Empowerment 17
- 3.5. Linking Housing with Livelihoods and Local Economic Empowerment 20

4. Driving Innovation through Multilevel Coordination and Local Action 23
- 4.1. Integrated Service Delivery and Social Housing Models 23
- 4.2. Strategic Urban Planning and Multilevel Policy Alignment 25
- 4.3. Long-Term Infrastructure Planning and Territorial Coordination 28
- 4.4. Community-Led Upgrading Linked to Multilevel Systems 30
- 4.5. Climate–Housing Nexus through Multilevel Coordination 34
- 4.6. Vacant Housing, Urban Revitalization, and Circularity 36
- 4.7. Strengthening Housing Finance Systems through Multilevel Action 40

5. Advancing Inclusive Participation, Accountability, and Local Data 43
- 5.1. Participatory Housing Models and Policy Feedback Loops 43
- 5.2. Data-Driven Governance and Digital Systems for Transparent and Inclusive Housing 45
- 5.3. Community-Led Upgrading with Data and Accountability 49
- 5.4. Culturally Grounded Participation and Data for Climate Resilience 52
- 5.5. Institutional Innovation for Participation and Accountability at Scale 54

6. Unlocking the Potential: Lessons and Pathways for Scaling Local Action 58
- 6.1. From Local Capacity to Systemic Transformation 58
- 6.2. From Coordination through Systemic Scale 58
- 6.3. Participation, Data and Accountability as System Enablers 59
- 6.4. Cross-cutting Barriers to Scaling 59

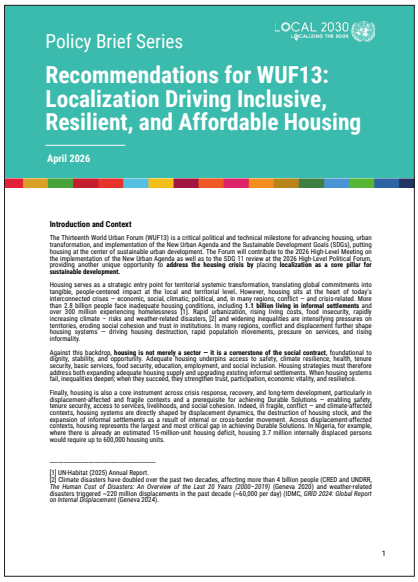
7. Conclusion and Way Forward 61

8. Annexes 63
- A. Table of Case Studies and Local Housing Solutions and Sources 63
- B. Road to Baku Policy Brief: Main Recommendations 72
- C. List of Regional Consultations and Local Workshops 73
- D. Alignment of Case Studies with Policy Recommendations 74
- E. Template for Collecting Locally Led Housing Solutions 76

About the UN Local2030 Coalition 79

1. Introduction

The **World Urban Forum 13 (WUF13)**, to be held in Baku, Azerbaijan, in May 2026, represents a critical moment for advancing global commitments to inclusive, resilient, and sustainable urban development, with housing at the center of the agenda. As part of the **Road to Baku: The Local Way** process, the Local2030 Coalition has compiled a portfolio of concrete, results-oriented locally led housing solutions from around the world. These initiatives demonstrate how local, regional and national governments, communities, civil society, academia, youth networks, the private sector, UN entities, and development partners translate global commitments into practical, territorially grounded action. By highlighting innovative practices, governance models, and financing approaches, this report contributes evidence and insights to the WUF13 dialogue and the **Baku Call to Action**, underscoring the role of localization in addressing the global housing crisis and accelerating progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals. This report demonstrates that locally led, territorial solutions are not only mechanisms for implementation, but critical drivers of systemic transformation. By bringing decision-making, investment, and accountability closer to people's lived realities, localization acts as a powerful accelerator of sustainable development.


Policy Brief Series

LOCAL 2030

Recommendations for WUF13: Localization Driving Inclusive, Resilient, and Affordable Housing

April 2026

Introduction and Context

The Thirteenth World Urban Forum (WUF13) is a critical political and technical milestone for advancing housing, urban transformation, and implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), putting housing at the center of sustainable urban development. The Forum will contribute to the 2026 High-Level Meeting on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda as well as to the SDG 11 review at the 2026 High-Level Political Forum, providing another unique opportunity to **address the housing crisis by** placing **localization as a core pillar for sustainable development.**

Housing serves as a strategic entry point for territorial systemic transformation, translating global commitments into tangible, people-centered impact at the local and territorial level. However, housing sits at the heart of today's interconnected crises – economic, social, climatic, political, and, in many regions, conflict – and crisis-related. More than 2.8 billion people face inadequate housing conditions, including **1.1 billion living in informal settlements** and over 300 million experiencing homelessness [1]. Rapid urbanization, rising living costs, food insecurity, rapidly increasing climate – risks and weather-related disasters, [2] and widening inequalities are intensifying pressures on territories, eroding social cohesion and trust in institutions. In many regions, conflict and displacement further shape housing systems – driving housing destruction, rapid population movements, pressure on services, and rising informality.

Against this backdrop, **housing is not merely a sector – it is a cornerstone of the social contract**, foundational to dignity, stability, and opportunity. Adequate housing underpins access to safety, climate resilience, health, tenure security, basic services, food security, education, employment, and social inclusion. Housing strategies must therefore address both expanding adequate housing supply and upgrading existing informal settlements. When housing systems fail, inequalities deepen; when they succeed, they strengthen trust, participation, economic vitality, and resilience.

Finally, housing is also a core instrument across crisis response, recovery, and long-term development, particularly in displacement-affected and fragile contexts and a prerequisite for achieving Durable Solutions – enabling safety, tenure security, access to services, livelihoods, and social cohesion. Indeed, in fragile, conflict – and climate-affected contexts, housing systems are directly shaped by displacement dynamics, the destruction of housing stock, and the expansion of informal settlements as a result of internal or cross-border movement. Across displacement-affected contexts, housing represents the largest and most critical gap in achieving Durable Solutions. In Nigeria, for example, where there is already an estimated 15-million-unit housing deficit, housing 3.7 million internally displaced persons would require up to 650,000 housing units.

[1] UN-Habitat (2025) Annual Report.
[2] Climate disasters have doubled over the past two decades, affecting more than 4 billion people (CRED and UNDRR, *The Human Cost of Disasters: An Overview of the Last 20 Years (2000–2019)* (Geneva 2020)) and weather-related disasters triggered ~220 million displacements in the past decade (~60,000 per day) (IDMC, *GRID 2024: Global Report on Internal Displacement* (Geneva 2024).

1

Localizing the Global Agenda

Sustainable development ultimately takes place in cities, communities, and territories where policies, institutions, and investments intersect with people's daily lives. While global frameworks such as the **2030 Agenda** and the **New Urban Agenda** set shared ambitions, their success depends on coordinated action across all levels of governance and stakeholders to translate these commitments into tangible results, with local and regional governments playing a vital and catalytic role. It is at the territorial level where the social contract is most directly experienced, negotiated, and realized. This makes localization essential not only for implementation, but for rebuilding trust, legitimacy, and inclusion in development processes.

The Local2030 Coalition is the United Nations system's platform to accelerate the localization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, enhancing coherence, efficiency, and the impact of UN action. 14 UN entities[1] drive the Coalition, co-chaired by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), ensuring that the UN system is equipped to align global goals and national policies with local contexts, needs, and priorities, while securing a single and powerful UN approach to localization. Through its five constituencies–national government, local and regional governments, civil society and academia, the private sector, and youth–the Local2030 Coalition is also a bridge between the United Nations and local development stakeholders, for the co-creation of solutions for systemic transformation, with a focus on those furthest behind.

In the context of housing and urban development, localization requires a systems-based approach to the territory. Housing must be addressed not as a stand-alone sector but as a driver of broader transformation linking land, infrastructure, services, livelihoods, climate resilience, and social inclusion.



"The Local2030 Coalition exemplifies the United Nations' commitment to uniting diverse stakeholders in addressing global challenges, beginning with the local communities and cities where transformative change occurs."

Anacláudia Rossbach
UN Under-Secretary-General;
UN-Habitat Executive Director

From Seville to Baku: Strengthening the Local Way

The Road to Baku: The Local Way builds on a continuum of global engagement processes that have elevated localization as a key driver of sustainable development implementation. In 2025 alone, the Local2030 Coalition mobilized more than 1,500 stakeholders across major global processes—including the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FFD4), the 2nd World Social Summit, and COP30—contributing policy recommendations and showcasing locally led solutions with transformative potential.

These efforts were carried forward through a series of coordinated

1 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Labour Organization (ILO), International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Development Coordination Office (DCO), and the Regional Commissions.

initiatives—including the **Road to Seville, Road to Doha,** and **Road to Belém**—which highlighted how territorial innovation, multilevel governance, inclusive finance, social development and local climate solutions can translate global commitments into concrete action.

The Road to Baku builds on these experiences in preparation for **World Urban Forum 13 (WUF13), focusing on housing as a strategic entry point** for SDG Localization. Taking place alongside the **ten-year review of the New Urban Agenda** and the **SDG 11 review at the High-Level Political Forum**, and building up towards the 2027 SDG Summit, WUF13 represents a key opportunity to further strengthen localization as a pillar of the global sustainable development architecture.

Housing stands at the center of this agenda. With billions of people living in inadequate housing conditions worldwide, the housing crisis reflects broader social, economic, and environmental pressures shaping cities and territories. Addressing this challenge requires integrated solutions that combine multilevel governance, inclusive finance, and locally driven innovation—areas where localization provides a powerful pathway for action. In this context, housing is not simply a sectoral issue, but a cornerstone of the social contract—shaping dignity, stability, and opportunity, and underpinning access to services, livelihoods, resilience, and social inclusion. Traditional top-down approaches have often struggled to deliver inclusive and sustainable housing at scale. The evidence presented in this report shows that solutions rooted in local contexts are better equipped to respond to complexity, diversity, and rapidly evolving needs.

The Road to Baku therefore serves as a structured platform to elevate territorial experiences and innovations into the debates and outcomes of WUF13, ensuring that locally led solutions inform the Forum's discussions and the **Baku Call to Action**.

1 **The Global Housing Crisis: What Is the Plan?** Advancing co-created housing solutions that align national frameworks with local delivery to accelerate SDG localization, affordability, and inclusive development.	2 **Transforming Informal Settlements and Slums** Promoting locally driven upgrading that improves living conditions, strengthens tenure security, and expands access to services while advancing equitable SDG outcomes.	3 **Housing at the Centre of Crisis Recovery and Reconstruction** Embedding housing, land rights, and community participation at the core of crisis response to strengthen resilience, social cohesion, and localized SDG implementation.
4 **The Climate–Housing Nexus** Scaling locally co-designed, climate -resilient housing that reduces emissions, protects vulnerable communities, and links climate action with SDG delivery.	5 **The Social and Economic Power of Housing** Leveraging housing as an engine of inclusive prosperity by generating jobs, strengthening local economies, and advancing multiple SDGs simultaneously.	6 **A New Deal for Housing Finance** Expanding innovative, locally grounded housing finance systems that increase access, curb exclusion, and enable scalable SDG localization.

Note: Each case study indicates its primary WUF13 dialogue alignment through the corresponding colored circle.

WUF13 Themes and Policy Recommendations

In this context, the six thematic areas outlined below align with the **official WUF13 dialogues** and provide a structured framework for participants to contribute evidence, perspectives, and solutions rooted in their sectoral expertise and territorial realities. Across these areas, the Road to Baku emphasizes **co-created solutions led by local actors**, positioning housing as a catalytic entry point for advancing SDG localization by integrating social, economic, environmental, and governance dimensions.

Following these thematic priorities, the Road to Baku process also produced a set of **policy recommendations** from 14 UN entities that are members of the Local2030 Coalition, aimed at strengthening the enabling environment for locally led housing solutions.

Together, these recommendations outline practical pathways for advancing housing solutions that are locally grounded, scalable, and aligned with global commitments.

Road to Baku Policy Recommendations

1. Strengthen Local and Regional Governments as Lead Actors in Housing
2. Anchor Housing in a Renewed Social Contract
3. Foster Local Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships and Inclusive Governance for Housing Solutions
4. Strengthen Accountability and Transparency in Housing Delivery to Renew Trust
5. Mobilize and Align Financing with Local Housing Priorities
6. Strengthen Localized Housing Data and Evidence for Policy and Implementation

Evidence, Participation, and Impact

The Road to Baku process mobilized a broad coalition of actors—including national, local and regional governments, civil society organizations, academia, the private-sector, youth networks, UN entities and development partners—through consultations, workshops, and dialogue platforms across regions. These engagements generated a diverse portfolio of locally led solutions addressing housing challenges while advancing sustainable urban development.The solutions presented in this report provide concrete evidence of how locally driven initiatives can improve housing conditions, strengthen governance systems, and advance climate-resilient and inclusive urban development. Collectively, they illustrate the transformative potential of localization when local actors are empowered, connected through multilevel partnerships, and supported by enabling policy and financing frameworks.



Photo: Community Design Agency

2. Presentation of Locally Led Housing Solutions

This section presents the portfolio of locally led housing solutions gathered through the Road to Baku: The Local Way process. It highlights the diversity of initiatives across regions and stakeholder groups, and outlines the methodology used to select, classify, and analyze the case studies.

The portfolio reflects the diversity and creativity of territorial responses to the global housing crisis. Across contexts, local governments, civil society organizations, community groups, and development partners are translating global commitments into tangible results that improve living conditions, strengthen governance systems, and advance sustainable urban development.

The solutions were collected through regional consultations and local workshops guided by a standardized template designed to capture both qualitative and quantitative evidence of impact. Submissions were assessed against a set of selection criteria emphasizing demonstrated results, alignment with the six dialogues of WUF13, potential for scalability or replication, and the presence of multilevel and multi-stakeholder collaboration.

2.1. Main Approaches

To structure the analysis, solutions are organized around three complementary approaches that reflect how locally led housing solutions are delivered and scaled in practice.

These approaches translate the Road to Baku policy recommendations into actionable pathways—linking local leadership, multilevel coordination, and participatory governance to concrete housing outcomes. While the recommendations define key system enablers, the approaches illustrate how these are operationalized across different contexts and actors.

Main Approaches

1. Empowering Local Actors and Strengthening Capacities – Strengthening the authority, resources, skills, and leadership of local and regional actors to design, finance, and deliver inclusive, climate-responsive housing and urban development *(advancing Recommendations 1, 2, and 5)*.
2. Driving Innovation through Multilevel Coordination and Local Action – Turning local innovation into systemic change by aligning community action, local implementation, national policy, and financing through multilevel governance *(advancing Recommendations 2, 3, and 5)*.
3. Advancing Inclusive Participation, Accountability, and Data – Strengthening participation, transparency, and evidence-based policymaking through community engagement, accountability mechanisms, and improved data systems *(advancing Recommendations 3, 4, and 6)*.

These approaches capture key dimensions of SDG localization and housing transformation— highlighting how local leadership, collaborative governance, and inclusive, data-driven systems enable effective and scalable housing solutions.

Across the portfolio, solutions also align with the six dialogues of WUF13 guiding the Road to Baku consultations, demonstrating how housing can serve as a strategic entry point for addressing broader development priorities such as climate resilience, social inclusion, economic opportunity, and crisis recovery.

2.2. Portfolio Overview and Key Trends

The portfolio of 52 locally led housing solutions reveals important trends across regions, stakeholders, thematic priorities, and implementation characteristics, offering a grounded picture of how localization is being operationalized in practice.

The geographic distribution is broadly balanced. Africa and Asia each account for 23.1% of solutions, followed by the Americas (21.2%) and Europe (19.2% combined), with more limited representation from MENA (9.6%), and global and Oceania contributions (1.9% each). The solutions from Oceania strengthen the portfolio's global scope, while also pointing to opportunities to deepen engagement in underrepresented regions.

The stakeholder composition reflects a diversified but locally anchored ecosystem. The portfolio shows a balanced distribution between civil society organizations (38.5%) and local and regional governments (34.6%), highlighting the joint leadership of community-driven and public sector actors in planning, coordination, and delivery. National governments account for 7.7% of solutions, while private sector actors (5.8%) remain relatively limited compared to their potential role in financing and scaling. Other stakeholders, including youth-led organizations (5.8%), academia and research institutions (3.8%), and Local2030 Hubs (3.8%), play complementary roles in supporting implementation and innovation. Overall, this reflects growing multi-actor engagement, while underscoring the need to further strengthen private sector and national-level participation.

Thematic distribution across the WUF13 dialogue areas shows a concentration of solutions addressing systemic housing challenges (Dialogue 1, 26.9%) and informal settlements (Dialogue 2, 25.0%), followed by the social and economic dimensions of housing (Dialogue 5, 21.2%) and the climate–housing nexus (Dialogue 4, 17.3%). Fewer initiatives focus on crisis recovery (Dialogue 3, 9.6%), while housing finance (Dialogue 6) remains significantly underrepresented (3.8%). This pattern reflects a portfolio grounded in delivery-oriented and

people-centered interventions, while highlighting a critical gap in financing as a key enabler of scale.

A cross-analysis across the three approaches reveals complementary patterns. Solutions under **Empowering Local Actors and Strengthening Capacities** are most aligned with systemic housing challenges (31.2%) and informal settlements (25.0%), with a notable contribution to crisis recovery (18.8%), underscoring the role of capacity strengthening in contexts of vulnerability. **Driving Innovation through Multilevel Coordination and Local Action** shows a more balanced distribution, with equal representation across informal settlements, climate–housing, and social and economic dimensions (each 23.8%), and a stronger presence of housing finance (9.5%), pointing to its role in enabling integrated, system-level solutions. **Advancing Inclusive Participation, Accountability, and Local Data** aligns strongly with systemic housing challenges (33.3%), as well as informal settlements and social and economic dimensions (each 26.7%), highlighting the importance of participation and data in addressing structural inequalities and strengthening accountability.

The scale of implementation further emphasizes the localized nature of the portfolio. Most solutions operate at the city or municipal level (40.4%), followed by neighborhood or community-level interventions (25.0%), with fewer at regional (17.3%), national (15.4%), and multi-country levels (1.9%). This reinforces the role of local actors as primary drivers of innovation, while highlighting the need to better connect local action with national systems and global processes.

In terms of maturity, the portfolio reflects a strong base of implementation. More than half of the solutions are operational or ongoing (51.9%), with a significant share already scaled or institutionalized (23.1%). Pilot-stage (13.5%) and completed initiatives (11.5%) indicate a portfolio grounded in demonstrated results while continuing to generate innovation.

Taken together, these trends point to four cross-cutting insights. First, localization is clearly reflected in practice, with solutions largely driven by civil society and local and regional governments. Second, scaling beyond the local level remains limited, underscoring the need for enabling governance systems and financing frameworks. Third, persistent thematic gaps—particularly in housing finance—highlight critical areas for policy attention. Finally, the maturity and diversity of the portfolio demonstrate that locally led solutions are already delivering tangible results.

The following sections present the selected case studies organized under the three approaches, illustrating how locally led initiatives operationalize the Road to Baku policy recommendations. Each case also highlights its primary alignment with the WUF13 dialogue themes, showing how locally grounded solutions, both contribute to—and help shape—global discussions on housing and sustainable urban development, while often generating co-benefits across multiple dialogue areas.



Photo: UN-Habitat/Kirsten Milhah



Photo: Department for International Development/Russell Watkins

3. Empowering Local Actors and Strengthening Capacities

The following cases demonstrate that local actors are not merely implementers of policy, but active shapers of markets, institutions, and development pathways. Their proximity to communities enables more responsive, efficient, and legitimate solutions. Empowering local actors is central to advancing inclusive, resilient, and scalable housing solutions. Across the portfolio, these initiatives demonstrate that local and regional governments, communities, and civil society are not only implementers, but key drivers of transformation—capable of shaping markets, co-creating solutions, and aligning investments with territorial priorities. The solutions in this section align with **Policy Recommendations 1, 2, and 5**, showing how strengthened institutional capacity, enabling regulatory frameworks, and access to finance allow locally led strategies to move from isolated interventions to systemic impact. Three complementary pathways emerge: enabling governance and regulatory systems, strengthening community-led delivery, and linking housing to broader processes of resilience, inclusion, and economic empowerment.

3.1. Enabling Regulatory Frameworks and Institutional Capacity

These solutions show how local and regional actors shape housing systems through regulatory reform, institutional capacity, and innovation in delivery. In Guatemala, planning and land-use reforms unlock supply and mobilize investment, while in Chile, large-scale delivery models highlight both the potential and trade-offs of rapid expansion. In Brazil, construction innovation introduces more efficient, scalable, and climate-responsive housing production. Together, these cases illustrate that enabling frameworks extend beyond regulation to include the institutional, financial, and technical systems that underpin housing delivery at scale.

1 Metropolitan Housing and Urban Development Agency (EMVDU), Guatemala | The Role of Good Governance and Strategic Urban Planning advancing Adequate Housing

Solutions and Interventions

To address a severe housing market gap—where formal supply reaches only 4,000 units annually and excludes households earning below 4 minimum wages—the Metropolitan Housing and Urban Development Agency (EMVDU) shifted from a construction role to a regulatory and facilitative model anchored in Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) and social equity. Key interventions include:

- **Regulatory Reform**: The 2019 Special Regulation for the Development of Priority Housing Projects established "Priority Housing" as a dedicated land-use category, enabling financially viable social and affordable housing projects within formal urban planning systems.
- **Incentives and Development Rights**: EMVDU introduced a system of incentives and obligations to direct private investment toward low-income segments. This includes higher-density allowances, use of urbanized land, and integration with public transport corridors, ensuring households earning below four minimum wages are not displaced to peripheral areas.
- **Institutional Capacity Building**: Targeted training and technical support strengthened local stakeholders' ability to design financing models and manage housing delivery, positioning the municipality as a market shaper rather than a direct developer.
- **Strategic Scaling**: The program operates under a structured growth model, targeting a 25% annual increase in performance adding at least 1,250 housing units per year, using housing as a tool for urban integration.

Results

Investment and Delivery:
- Over USD 100 million mobilized in private investment
- Approximately USD 520 million in economic activity generated
- 4,500+ housing units across 30 projects; 1,400 inhabited and 1,100 under construction

Targeting and Inclusion:
- 82% of beneficiaries earn between 1.5–3 minimum wages

• 65% of households are women-headed

Urban and Systemic Impact:
• 80% of projects located within 560 meters of Transmetro (BRT) stations
• 7 projects with sustainability certifications
• Shift from peripheral expansion to centralized, transit-linked urban integration

Scalability

A clearly defined regulatory and governance framework—combining land-use reform and development rights—provides a **replicable model** for scaling inclusive housing. With a target of **1,250 units annually** and **25% yearly growth**, the initiative is transitioning from a municipal proof of concept to a scalable approach for addressing urban housing

1 Ministry of Housing and Urbanism, Chile | Expanding Social Housing Condominiums Units in Metropolitan Santiago

Solutions and Interventions

Chile's social housing model has historically relied on large-scale condominium developments in urban and peri-urban areas, driven by a neoliberal approach that prioritizes efficiency, rapid delivery, and access to housing for low-income populations. This approach has been implemented through national housing policies promoting vertical housing solutions as a primary mechanism to address urban housing deficits. Key interventions include:

• **Large-Scale Condominium Housing Delivery**: Social Housing Condominiums were developed as multi-family housing solutions to maximize land use and accelerate housing provision in high-demand urban areas. These developments are typically standardized in design and implemented at scale.
• **Policy-Driven Housing Production**: National housing programs enabled the rapid expansion of housing units through a model that prioritizes quantity and cost-efficiency, facilitating access to homeownership for low-income households.
• **Urban and Peri-Urban Expansion**: Housing developments were concentrated in both urban and peri-urban areas, aiming to respond to growing demand while managing land constraints in metropolitan regions.
• **Technical Assistance and Participatory Design Support**: Habitat for Humanity Chile contributed technical and social expertise to pilot expansion models, supporting participatory design processes with residents, strengthening community engagement, and informing regulatory adjustments to enable unit expansion and improved living conditions.

Results

Scale of Delivery:
• 1,555 high-rise social housing complexes constructed
• 344,402 housing units delivered

Housing Conditions and Limitations:
• 43.3% of units are under 50 m², indicating significant constraints in living space
• While the model expanded access to housing, it has resulted in reduced living standards and limited space for families

Urban and Social Impact:
• The model successfully increased housing supply at scale but also revealed structural trade-offs between quantity and quality. Concentration of standardized units in dense developments has raised challenges related to habitability, space adequacy, and long-term urban integration.

Scalability

The approach demonstrates strong scalability in terms of **rapid, large-scale housing delivery**, particularly in contexts with acute housing shortages. However, its replication highlights the need to balance efficiency with **quality, space standards, and livability**, especially as cities seek more integrated and inclusive housing solutions.

4 Águia Florestal Indústria de Madeira LTDA, Brazil | Engineered Wood Housing: Turning Construction Waste into Climate-Responsive Homes

Solutions and Interventions

To address housing deficits and the carbon intensity of conventional construction, this initiative introduces an industrialized housing system using engineered wood, transforming production waste into a scalable, climate-responsive solution.

- **Engineered Wood Housing System**: Residual pine wood is repurposed into Cross-Laminated Timber (CLT/MLCC) panels forming the structural core of housing units.
- **Climate-Responsive Construction**: Wood from planted forests acts as a carbon sink, reducing reliance on high-emission materials such as concrete and steel.
- **Efficient Modular Delivery**: Prefabrication enables a dry-build process, shifting production off-site to reduce waste and accelerate construction.
- **Standards-Based Design**: Housing units comply with ABNT NBR 7190:2022, ensuring structural safety and regulatory alignment.
- **Multi-Stakeholder Engagement**: Collaboration with construction firms, public banks, governments, academia, and communities supports implementation and scaling.

Results

Housing Delivery and Efficiency:
- Affordable housing units can be delivered in as little as 15 days
- Industrialized production enables faster, more scalable housing delivery

Systemic Impact:
- Advances a shift toward industrialized, precision-based housing systems
- Positions housing as both a climate and social solution

Environmental Impact:
- Reduced construction waste through material reuse
- Improved energy efficiency, lowering heating and cooling needs
- Housing functions as a biogenic carbon sink, contributing to decarbonization

Scalability

A transferable model for scaling affordable, climate-responsive housing through modular, factory-based production. Its "kit-of-parts" approach allows adaptation to local contexts while maintaining efficiency, making it applicable across regions facing housing and climate challenges.

3.2. Community-Driven Upgrading and Local Capacity Development

This cluster of solutions highlights how community-driven approaches can transform informal settlements while strengthening local capacity, governance, and resilience. Across contexts, communities act as co-producers of housing solutions, engaging in planning, implementation, and long-term management. In Egypt, this includes large-scale redevelopment and environmentally sensitive upgrading, combining housing delivery with tenure innovation, ecosystem protection, and livelihoods. In India and Uganda, participatory models further show how community leadership, local data, and inclusive planning improve living conditions and resilience. Complementing these, experiences such as Al Bireh demonstrate how local governments can identify, secure, and activate underutilized land, laying the groundwork for future housing and upgrading. Together, these cases show that combining participatory approaches with technical solutions, institutional support, and local capacity-building enables more inclusive, climate-responsive, and scalable urban transformation.

2 Egyptian Engineers Syndicate, Egypt | Redeveloping Al-Galaa Informal Settlement, Mansoura: Inclusive, Data-Driven Upgrading at Scale

Solutions and Interventions

To transform unsafe informal housing while strengthening human development and environmental sustainability, Egypt implemented an integrated, participatory redevelopment model in Al-Galaa that combines housing delivery, public space upgrading, and data-driven governance.

- **Participatory Planning and Co-Governance**: Community-led committees—comprising residents, NGOs, and municipal authorities—co-designed housing layouts and public spaces, ensuring solutions preserve social networks and respond to local needs.
- **Large-Scale Housing Redevelopment**: Through the Slum Development Fund, all informal housing was rebuilt into modern units designed and approved by the Engineers Syndicate. The model doubles housing capacity while maintaining in-situ development, with surplus units allocated for future resettlement and city residents.
- **Safe and Inclusive Public Spaces**: Streets were redesigned with pedestrian-friendly layouts, lighting, green buffers, and multi-use spaces to improve safety, accessibility, and local economic activity.
- **Integrated Education and Cultural Development**: Community learning centers, vocational training, and cultural programs were embedded within the redevelopment to strengthen skills, civic engagement, and long-term social mobility.
- **Green and Climate-Resilient Infrastructure**: The project integrates renewable energy systems, rainwater harvesting, waste separation, and urban green spaces to reduce costs and environmental risks.
- **Local Capacity Building and Partnerships**: Residents were trained in construction, maintenance, governance, and entrepreneurship through partnerships with Mansoura University and technical institutes, supporting long-term sustainability.
- **Data-Driven Governance and Accountability**: A multi-level governance platform links community committees with local authorities, supported by GIS systems and community scorecards to monitor housing quality, service access, education outcomes, and environmental performance.

Results

Housing and Urban Transformation:
- 100% increase in housing capacity, adding approximately 500 new housing units
- Full replacement of unsafe informal structures with modern, regulated housing

Public Space and Livability:
- 90% of residents report satisfaction with redesigned streets and public spaces
- Improved safety, particularly for women and youth, and enhanced neighborhood accessibility

Human Development and Inclusion:
- 300+ residents annually benefit from vocational and cultural programs
- Increased civic participation through community-led committees and governance structures

Environmental and Economic Impact:
- Green infrastructure expected to reduce household energy costs by up to 40%
- Improved waste management and environmental conditions

Governance and Accountability:
- Institutionalized participatory monitoring using GIS and community scorecards
- Strengthened coordination between local communities, academia, and government

Scalability

A replicable, modular model combining state-led housing delivery with participatory governance, capacity building, and data systems. Already designed for expansion to nearby informal areas (e.g., Al-Magzar) and adaptable across Egypt and similar contexts seeking to scale inclusive, climate-resilient urban upgrading.

2 Ministry of Environment – Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA), Egypt | From Informal Coastal Settlement to Eco-Integrated Housing in Gharqana, South Sinai

Solutions and Interventions

To address unsafe informal housing and environmental degradation within a protected coastal area, the initiative implemented an integrated model combining climate-responsive housing, regulatory innovation, and community-based governance to support inclusive and sustainable local development.

- **Climate-Responsive Housing Relocation**: Environmentally compatible housing units were constructed at a safe distance from the shoreline, replacing informal structures while reducing ecological pressure and improving living conditions.
- **Innovative Tenure Framework (Usufruct System)**: A licensing-by-usufruct model provides secure, legally recognized occupancy within the protected area, balancing land-use regulation with tenure security.
- **Community Governance and Local Institutional Strengthening**: A community association was established to represent residents and coordinate with government authorities, enabling participation in settlement management and livelihood activities.
- **Integrated Environmental Protection and Livelihoods**: Relocation and settlement redesign protect sensitive ecosystems while supporting eco-tourism as a sustainable income source.
- **Multilevel Institutional Coordination**: Coordination across environmental authorities, local government, and national entities ensures alignment between conservation, housing, and development priorities.

Results

Housing and Inclusion:
- 51 housing units delivered, replacing informal structures
- 100% coverage of target households (≈51 families)
- Improved living conditions, tenure security, and inclusion

Governance and Institutional Impact:
- Engagement of 10+ national and international entities
- Establishment of a community association, strengthening local representation
- Improved alignment between environmental regulation and housing delivery

Environmental and Economic Outcomes:
- Reduced pressure on coastal ecosystems
- Integration into eco-tourism activities supporting livelihoods
- Increased community awareness of environmental protection

Sustainability and System Innovation:
- Institutionalized under EEAA through a **30-year renewable usufruct system** with nominal fees
- Ensures affordability while maintaining environmental compliance

Scalability

A transferable model for informal settlements in environmentally sensitive areas, combining regulatory innovation, community participation, and climate-responsive design. It can be adapted to similar contexts where housing intersects conservation and sustainable tourism, requiring stakeholder engagement, regulatory alignment, and capacity-building.

2 Community Design Agency, India | Sanjaynagar Slum Redevelopment: Building Equitable Communities, Not Just Houses

Solutions and Interventions

To address persistent gaps in formal housing delivery—where in-situ redevelopment remains limited, and millions

continue to live in informal settlements—the Sanjaynagar project implemented a community-led, in-situ redevelopment model to transform informal settlements into climate-resilient and inclusive neighborhoods.

- **Community-Led Planning**: Initiated in 2017, the process combined participatory design workshops and exposure visits, achieving **95% resident consensus** and forming **two housing cooperatives** to strengthen local governance.
- **In-Situ Housing Redevelopment**: Substandard housing was replaced with **G+3 formal units** incorporating cross-ventilation, natural lighting, and essential services (sanitation, kitchens, water, and electricity), alongside shared courtyards and terraces.
- **Climate-Responsive Design**: Housing integrates energy-efficient materials and passive cooling strategies to improve thermal comfort and reduce energy use.
- **Blended Financing and Partnerships**: Implementation was enabled through a mix of **PMAY-Urban subsidies (2.5 lakh per household)**, municipal support (land, approvals, services), and resident contributions, complemented by peer lending and philanthropy, with cooperatives and local NGOs supporting delivery.

Results

Housing and Services:
- 298 families rehoused in formal units
- Universal access to sanitation, kitchens, electricity, and water

Participation and Inclusion:
- 95% resident participation; 900+ residents engaged in co-design
- Women own around 50% of homes

Community and Spatial Outcomes:
- 25+ shared spaces (courtyards, terraces) improving social cohesion

Scalability

A **replicable in-situ redevelopment model** combining community leadership, blended finance, and institutional partnerships—well suited to cities where land constraints and limited private investment restrict conventional housing delivery.

1 Al Bireh Municipality, Palestine | Activating Vacant Land as a Foundation for Future Housing and Urban Development

Solutions and Interventions

Al Bireh faces acute land constraints due to geopolitical pressures, fragmented ownership, and a high share of underutilized plots left vacant by absentee landowners. In response, the municipality launched the *Hakouret Al Bireh* initiative to identify, secure, and activate vacant land through temporary urban agriculture, while laying the groundwork for future urban and housing development. The initiative operates through a locally led, multi-stakeholder approach involving the municipality, civil society organizations, universities, the Ministry of Agriculture, and neighborhood committees. Key actions include:

- **Land mapping and identification** of unused plots across the city
- **Landowner engagement** to secure consent and unlock fragmented land
- **Coordinated governance**, including a steering committee to oversee implementation
- **Land activation**, with provision of tools, inputs, and technical support for cultivation
- **Community mobilization**, engaging students and residents in land preparation and maintenance
- **Local market creation** to distribute produce and support local economic activity

While focused on urban agriculture, the initiative strengthens land management systems, organizes fragmented ownership, and protects plots from loss — contributing to the conditions needed for future housing development.

Results

Land Activation and Local Systems:
- 20 dunums cultivated within the first six months
- Expansion to 35+ dunums per season
- Engagement of around 100 landowners granting access to their land

Urban and Environmental Impact:
- Increased green areas and improved urban landscape
- Strengthened local food systems and reduced external dependency
- Protection of land through active use

Institutional and Community Impact:
- Strengthened coordination across local government, civil society, and national actors
- High levels of community participation, including university-led volunteer engagement
- Replication of the model in neighboring cities

Scalability

A low-cost, replicable approach to activating underutilized land through local coordination and community engagement. Particularly relevant in contexts of land scarcity and fragmentation, it demonstrates how early-stage land management can support planned urban expansion and create enabling conditions for future housing development.

2 Keep Your Faith Alive, Uganda | Revitalizing Substandard Housing into Livable Homes

Solutions and Interventions

To address overcrowded informal settlements and the exclusion of youth voices in housing decisions, this initiative empowers young people to co-design and implement affordable, climate-responsive housing solutions.

- **Youth-Led Data and Advocacy**: Through Keep Your Faith Alive, youth document housing challenges, generate local evidence, and engage municipal authorities to influence housing policies.
- **Capacity Building and Financial Inclusion**: Youth leaders are trained in digital mapping, financial literacy, and advocacy. Community savings groups provide micro-finance options, enabling caregivers and young professionals to access housing improvements.
- **Participatory Planning and Inclusion**: Intergenerational dialogues elevate children's and youth perspectives—particularly on safety, sanitation, and flood risks—feeding into planning processes with city officials.
- **Integrated Livelihoods and Climate Resilience**: Housing interventions are linked to livelihood opportunities and incorporate flood-resistant designs and climate-informed planning, connecting housing to economic agency and long-term resilience.

Results

Participation and Capacity:
- 120+ youth and caregivers engaged
- 60 households accessed micro-finance through community savings groups

Planning and Service Improvements:
- Youth-generated data integrated into municipal planning dialogues
- Improved sanitation and safer community spaces through participatory processes

Systemic Impact:
- Strengthened youth leadership in housing decision-making and increased civic participation in local governance.

Scalability

A **transferable, low-cost model** based on savings groups, participatory mapping, and youth leadership—adaptable across informal settlements and scalable through partnerships with local NGOs and municipalities.

3.3. Housing as a Platform for Resilience and Recovery

In crisis- and climate-affected contexts, these solutions illustrate how locally led approaches can link housing reconstruction with livelihoods, environmental sustainability, and long-term resilience. Through community participation, use of local materials, and integrated delivery models, initiatives across multiple countries move beyond short-term recovery to strengthen adaptive capacity. They show that empowering local actors is critical to building resilient systems that can withstand future shocks.

3 Buddhist Relief Tzu Chi Foundation, Philippines | Rebuilding Hope: From Disaster Risk to Resilient Homes

Solutions and Interventions

To address housing vulnerability driven by climate disasters, environmental degradation, and poverty, this initiative applies a **globally scalable, locally led model** across **Nepal, the Philippines, Mozambique, Indonesia, and Sierra Leone**, integrating housing, disaster risk reduction, livelihoods, and environmental sustainability.

- **Disaster-Resilient Housing (Nepal, Philippines, Mozambique, Indonesia)**: Communities rebuilt **permanent homes using disaster-resilient designs**, with strong participation in construction to strengthen ownership and recovery.
- **Risk Reduction and Environmental Action (Sierra Leone): Environmental restoration and flood risk reduction** improved safety in informal settlements, led by women and youth as Eco-Champions.
- **Livelihood Integration (Sierra Leone and beyond)**: Programs such as **AgriConnect and community-based enterprises** strengthened food security and household income, linking housing to economic resilience.
- **Community-Driven Delivery (Global)**: Cash-for-work and participatory approaches connect **housing reconstruction, livelihoods, and environmental protection**, ensuring sustainability.

Philippines– Great Love Village (Leyte)

- **60 permanent homes** on a **14,000 sqm site** using typhoon-resilient designs (Formblocks, elevated housing, drainage)
- Community facilities (central kitchen, training spaces) and **disaster-preparedness infrastructure**
- **Adaptive reuse of materials** and climate-responsive systems (rainwater harvesting, natural ventilation)
- Strong community governance (Bayanihan) and livelihoods (**mushroom farming, baking, sewing**)

Results

Housing and Recovery:

- Permanent housing delivered across Nepal, the Philippines, Mozambique, and Indonesia.
- Risk Reduction: Improved environmental safety in Sierra Leone informal settlements.
- Livelihoods and Inclusion: Strengthened incomes and leadership roles for women and youth

Philippines Outcomes:

- 60 families housed
- Access to skills training, livelihoods, and community infrastructure

Scalability

Implemented across **multiple countries and disaster contexts**, the model offers a **replicable approach** based on community ownership, integrated shelter–livelihood systems, and climate-resilient design.

3 Civic Forum on Housing and Habitat, Zambia | Sustainable Shelter and Safe Communities: Integrating Housing, Security, and Environmental Stewardship

Solutions and Interventions

To address inadequate housing, environmental health risks, and limited access to resilient construction, the **Civic Forum on Housing and Habitat Zambia (CFHHZ)** implements a community-driven model linking housing, livelihoods, and environmental solutions.

- **Climate-Resilient Construction**: Promotes **Soil Stabilized Block Technology (SSBT)** using local laterite to deliver cost-effective, durable housing while building local construction skills.
- **Capacity and Enterprise Development**: Community training and **EU-funded enterprise programs** support housing cooperatives, enabling collective savings and access to finance.
- **Environmental Solutions**: In Lusaka, **waste-to-energy systems** convert organic waste into cooking gas and bio-fertilizer, improving sanitation and reducing reliance on charcoal.
- **Policy Engagement**: Through the **Just City project**, CFHHZ facilitated multi-stakeholder dialogue, contributing to a **20-year housing program** and national policy processes.

Results

Housing and Community Impact:
- Improved living conditions through SSBT housing, with reduced crime and increased community confidence
- 1,200+ people in Nyama (Kalumbila District) benefited from improved safety and security

Environmental Outcomes:
- Waste-to-energy systems improved sanitation, reduced emissions, and provided alternative cooking energy

Livelihoods and Financial Inclusion:
- 2,100+ households reached through enterprise development
- 28 housing cooperatives mobilized, accessing over ZMW 13,000 (USD 684.21) in collective funds
- 300 members strengthened tenure security and invested in housing improvements

Policy Impact and Scalability

Contributed to the **National Housing Program** and gained government recognition of cooperative models. The integrated approach—housing, enterprise, and environmental solutions—is **replicable across districts**.

3.4. Advancing Inclusive Housing through Local Empowerment

These initiatives focus on expanding access to housing for marginalized groups—particularly women and low-income communities—through cooperatives, community financing, and institutional engagement. Across Zimbabwe, Indonesia, Argentina, and Nepal, they address structural barriers to land, finance, and formal systems while strengthening agency and participation. Housing is positioned not only as an outcome, but as a pathway to social inclusion and economic resilience.

3 Zimbabwe Parents of Handicapped Children's Association (ZPHCA), Zimbabwe | Sustainable Advancing Inclusive Housing through Women-Led Cooperatives

Solutions and Interventions

To address housing exclusion faced by grassroots women, the initiative supports **women-led housing cooperatives** to secure land and access affordable housing.

- **Cooperative Formation and Governance**: **102 women** organized into two cooperatives, establishing leadership structures, constitutions, and monthly savings schemes.

• **Institutional Engagement**: Cooperatives were **registered with the City of Harare**, enabling formal engagement for land allocation.
• **Affordable Financing**: A **10-year payment plan** allowed members to progressively finance housing.
• **Land Access**: **88 housing stands** were allocated in Mabvuku and Lafarge following deposit payments, enabling incremental construction.

Results

Housing Access:
• 88 of 102 women secured land
• Many have moved into homes; while others are building at various stages of construction.

Inclusion and Impact:
• Reduced reliance on discriminatory rental markets and improved housing security.

Scalability

A **replicable cooperative model** enabling vulnerable groups to pool resources and access land through structured engagement with local authorities.

4 Build Change, Indonesia | Climate-Resilient Housing for Low-Income Women

Solutions and Interventions

To address climate vulnerability in low-income housing, the initiative introduces a **market-based model for incremental climate adaptation finance**, enabling households—particularly women—to upgrade homes through targeted loan products.

• **PENEDUH Loan Product (launched May 2025)**: Provides **incremental climate adaptation loans (ICALs)** for home upgrades that improve thermal comfort and resilience.
• **Microfinance Delivery Model**: Scaled through **microfinance institutions (MFIs)**, expanding access across branches and provinces while validating the commercial viability of climate adaptation finance.
• **Blended Finance and Policy Linkages**: Designed to connect with **government green housing subsidies** through partnerships with public financial institutions, bridging access gaps for low-income households.
• **Scaling Strategy**: Focused on replicating a **self-sustaining financing model** by expanding MFI partnerships and reaching diverse climate-risk contexts.

Results

Scale and Outreach:
• Expanded to 90 branches across 3 provinces
• Reached 289 members

Housing Improvements:
• 246 members completed home upgrades
• Improved living conditions for 960 people (48% women)

Energy Efficiency:
• 85% of users reduced electricity consumption
• Average 12% reduction in monthly energy costs

Thermal and Environmental Impact:
• 90% of homes recorded cooler indoor environments
• Indoor temperatures reduced by around 2°C at peak hours
• 73% of users reported improved thermal comfort

Health and Livelihood Outcomes:

- 26.5% reported improved household health
- 22.3% reported reduced work disruptions and heat-related absenteeism

Scalability

Demonstrates a **replicable, market-driven model** for climate adaptation housing finance, with proven uptake, measurable impacts, and strong potential for expansion through MFI networks and public subsidy systems.

5 Buenos Aires Province Government, Argentina | State and Gender Policies in Practice: The 'Ellas Hacen' Neighborhood in La Plata—Advancing Dignified Housing through Participatory Planning

Solutions and Interventions

To address structural housing barriers faced by women in vulnerable situations, the initiative applies a **phased, community-based approach** combining housing, infrastructure, and social inclusion.

- **Phased Development (2013–Present)**: Originating in the Ellas Hacen program (2013), women were trained in construction trades and organized into cooperatives, evolving into a **social production of habitat model**. After a pause (2016–2018), the project was reactivated in 2019 through a **multi-institutional approach** led by national and provincial authorities.
- **Housing and Basic Infrastructure**: Construction was carried out on organized plots with **essential services (water, electricity, sewerage)** and urban infrastructure (curbs, paving).
- **Gender-Responsive Social Infrastructure**: The project integrates facilities including a **center for victims of gender-based violence, a child development center, a multi-purpose hall, and a recreational green park**.
- **Health, Social, and Community Programs**: Interventions include **socio-environmental censuses, vaccination campaigns, and workshops on reproductive health and violence prevention**, alongside strengthening community organization through assemblies.
- **Livelihoods and Skills Development**: Women were trained and engaged in construction, supported by **entrepreneurship programs and a labor registry** to facilitate employment.

Results

Housing Delivery:

- 175 housing units constructed
- 145 units allocated to women from the Ellas Hacen program
- 30 units allocated to individuals transitioning from the Dr. Alejandro Korn Neuropsychiatric Hospital

Project Progress:

- 60% completion achieved, with finalization projected for 2026

Social Impact:

- Strengthened economic and residential autonomy for women, reframing housing as a process of social inclusion and reparation.

Integrated Development:

- Delivery combines housing, infrastructure, health, and social services, supporting broader socio-urban integration.

Scalability

The **multi-institutional and community-based model** offers a replicable approach for integrating housing with social services and livelihoods, adaptable to other municipalities and vulnerable populations.

1 Lumanti Support Group for Shelter, Nepal | Enabling Marginalized Communities in Jeetpursimara city to access Affordable Housing

Solutions and Interventions

To address inadequate housing and exclusion from formal systems among low-income communities—particularly Dalit communities—the initiative promotes **climate-resilient bamboo housing** through community-led construction and capacity building.

- **Climate-Resilient Housing Delivery**: Construction of **100 bamboo houses across four wards**, using improved techniques to enhance durability and resilience.
- **Skills Development and Local Capacity**: Training programs for **local masons** on bamboo treatment and construction methods, strengthening local building practices.
- **Community Savings and Empowerment**: Formation of **community savings groups**, particularly led by women, to build financial security and support housing investments.
- **Institutional Linkages**: Engagement with **municipal authorities** to connect communities with government resources and integrate housing into local development processes.

Results

Housing and Capacity:
- 100 climate-resilient houses constructed
- Strengthened local skills in bamboo construction

Institutional Impact:
- Shift in local government perception—from viewing communities as passive recipients to **active partners** in development—leading to increased investment in marginalized communities.

Social Impact:
- Improved living conditions and strengthened community agency through savings groups and participation in local planning.

Scalability:

A **replicable model** combining local materials, skills development, and community financing, with growing policy support for scaling bamboo housing through local guidelines and technical standards.

3.5. Linking Housing with Livelihoods and Local Economic Empowerment

This cluster of solutions highlights how integrating housing with livelihoods can create sustainable pathways out of poverty. In Uganda and South Africa, housing interventions are linked to skills development, enterprise creation, and income generation, reinforcing the relationship between secure shelter and economic opportunity. These approaches demonstrate the importance of local networks and grassroots systems in enabling long-term resilience and upward mobility.

1 University of South Africa, South Africa | "Not Just Numbers": Homeless People as Economic Contributors in Tshwane

Solutions and Interventions

To address homelessness in Tshwane, the initiative promotes **skills development, employment pathways, and social inclusion**, positioning homeless individuals as active economic contributors.

- **Skills and Employment Pathways**: Training in **construction, maintenance, and repair** supports income generation and housing-related work.
- **Self-Employment and Micro-Enterprise**: Participants transition into **self-employment and small businesses**, including caregiving, technical services, retail, and personal services.

• **Integrated Housing–Livelihood Approach**: Links **employment opportunities with housing access**, reinforcing pathways out of homelessness.
• **Coordination and Advocacy**: Led by a grassroots organization within the **Tshwane Homeless Forum**, in collaboration with the city and researchers.

Results

Economic Inclusion:
• Enabled transitions into income-generating activities and self-employment.

Social Integration:
• Strengthened pathways out of homelessness through combined housing and livelihood support.

Institutional Impact:
• Established a coordinated platform linking grassroots actors, the city, and researchers.

Scalability:

A **replicable model** centered on skills, employment, and coordinated support, adaptable to other urban contexts.

5 Slum Women's Initiative for Development (SWID), Uganda | Strengthening the Socio-Economics of Local Communities

Solutions and Interventions

To address poverty, limited livelihoods, and housing vulnerability by grassroots women and low-income households in **Jinja (Eastern Region)** and the **Busoga subregion**, the initiative strengthens **local socio-economic systems** by linking land access, skills development, and income generation.

• **Land Rights and Housing Awareness**: Trains grassroots women on **land rights, property ownership, security of tenure, and habitable shelter**.
• **Livelihoods and Skills Development**: Builds capacity in **trade, agribusiness, value addition, and value chains** to support income generation.
• **Community Networks and Financing**: Strengthens **local groups** to mobilize resources and improve access to land and housing finance.
• **Integrated Rural–Urban Approach**: Links urban housing access with **rural livelihood systems** to support long-term resilience.

Results

Land and Housing Access (Urban – Jinja):
• 500 women trained over five years
• 100 acquired land and secured tenure
• 30 built habitable shelters
• 200 started agribusinesses

Livelihoods (Rural – Busoga):
• 300 women trained
• Established small-scale agribusinesses and value chain activities

Social Impact:
• Improved living standards, increased women's land ownership, reduced domestic violence, and enabled children's education.

Scalability

A **replicable, community-driven model** linking land rights, livelihoods, and housing, adaptable across rural and urban contexts to strengthen economic resilience and secure tenure.



Photo: UNDP South Sudan

4. Driving Innovation through Multilevel Coordination and Local Action

Transforming locally led innovation into scalable housing solutions requires effective coordination across levels of government, sectors, and stakeholders. The initiatives in this section demonstrate how **multilevel governance and collaborative frameworks** connect community action, local implementation, national policy, and financing systems. Aligned with **Policy Recommendations 2, 3, and 5**, these solutions show that structured partnerships—across governments, civil society, private sector, and development actors—are essential to scale impact, align investments, and sustain results. Across the portfolio, innovation is not driven by isolated actors, but by **systems that enable coordination, integration, and shared accountability**, turning fragmented efforts into coherent, large-scale transformation.

4.1. Integrated Service Delivery and Social Housing Models

These solutions highlight how integrating housing and health can drive more inclusive, preventive, and people-centered housing systems across contexts. In Canada (Toronto), place-based approaches align housing, health, and social services to address vulnerability. In Ireland, a nationally supported, locally delivered model enables ageing in place at scale through coordinated housing and care support. In New Zealand, regulatory frameworks grounded in long-term evidence embed health considerations into housing standards, transforming existing stock and new development. Together, these cases show how housing–health integration can advance across scales—from local implementation to coordinated systems and national policy frameworks—offering complementary pathways for systemic change.

1 City of Toronto, Canada | Social Medicine Initiative – Toronto's New Supportive Housing at Dunn House

Solutions and Interventions

To address chronic homelessness and complex health needs, Dunn House delivers a **housing-first model** combining permanent housing with integrated healthcare and support services.

- Permanent Supportive Housing: Provides stable housing to individuals experiencing **chronic homelessness and health challenges**, ensuring immediate access to safe and secure accommodation.
- Integrated Health and Social Services: On-site and coordinated services address **healthcare, social support, and case management needs**, improving overall well-being and stability.
- Targeted Support for High-Needs Individuals: Focuses on residents with **frequent interactions with emergency and hospital systems**, aiming to reduce acute service use through continuous care.

Results

Housing and Care Delivery:
- 51 residents housed and supported through integrated services

Health System Impact:
- 52% reduction in Emergency Department (ED) visits
- 79% reduction in hospital bed days

Cost Savings:
- Estimated USD 2.1 million in annual healthcare cost savings

Systemic Impact:
- Demonstrates how **housing-first models with integrated care** can reduce pressure on health systems while improving outcomes for high-needs populations.

Scalability

Provides a **replicable model** for coordinated housing and healthcare delivery, particularly in contexts with high public costs linked to homelessness.

5 Age Friendly Ireland, Ireland | Healthy Age Friendly Homes Program: Integrating Housing, Health, and Care for Ageing in Place

Solutions and Interventions

The Healthy Age Friendly Homes Program positions housing as a central determinant of health by supporting older people (65+) to live independently in their homes through integrated, home-based interventions. The program operates through **local coordinators embedded across all 31 local authorities**, who assess individual needs and connect housing support (e.g., accessibility adaptations, retrofits, rightsizing) with health, social care, and community services. Key interventions include:

- **Integrated housing–health service delivery**: Tailored home-based support packages linking housing adaptations with care services
- **Local coordination model**: Case management across public, private, and community providers
- **Multisectoral governance**: Coordination across housing, health, energy, and social sectors
- **Home adaptation and retrofit support**: Including accessibility upgrades, energy retrofits, and assistive technologies
- **Community-based care model**: Expanding services to prevent premature institutionalization

The program is supported by **national rollout funding, including EUR 5 million annually**, enabling scaling and sustained delivery.

Results

Housing and Health Outcomes:

- Improved independence and quality of life for older people, enabling ageing in place
- Reduced premature transitions into residential care through home-based support
- Enhanced safety and accessibility of homes through targeted adaptations

Systemic Impact:

- Scaled from pilot phase (2021, nine sites) to na-tionwide rollout (2024)
- Implemented across 31 local authorities, em-bedding coordination at scale
- Supported by over EUR 2.6 billion national in-vestment in older persons' services (2024)
- Strengthened integration of housing within health and social care systems

Social and Economic Impact:

- Reduced pressure on long-term care systems by delaying institutionalization
- Measurable improvements in self-reported health status, loneliness, social support, and functional ability (pilot evaluation findings)
- Increased efficiency through coordinated ser-vice delivery across sectors

Scalability

The model demonstrates strong scalability through **nationwide institutionalization across 31 local authorities, dedicated annual funding (EUR 5M), and integration within national ageing strategies**. Its coordination-based delivery model is transferable to other contexts seeking to align housing, health, and social care systems at scale.

5 Kāinga Ora – Homes and Communities, New Zealand | Embedding Healthy Housing Standards through Regulation and Evidence-Based Policy

Solutions and Interventions

New Zealand has embedded WHO Housing and Health Guidelines into national housing policy, positioning housing quality as a key determinant of health. The **Healthy Homes Guarantee Act (2019)** introduced legally binding standards for insulation, heating, ventilation, and safety across rental and public housing. This regulatory framework is supported by **over 20 years of research (Kāinga Oranga program)**, which generated robust evidence linking housing conditions to health outcomes, particularly for Māori and low-income populations. Key interventions include:

- **Standards-based housing regulation**: Nationwide enforcement of healthy housing standards
- **Evidence-based policy design**: Long-term research informing legislation and programs
- **Large-scale retrofit programs**: *Warmer Kiwi Homes*, delivering subsidized insulation and heating to low-income households
- **Public housing transformation**: Kāinga Ora integrating WHO standards into existing stock and new builds, including a mandate to deliver **8,000 new public homes**
- **Health-focused housing planning**: Incorporating accessibility, energy efficiency, and climate considerations

Results

Housing and Health Outcomes:

- 44% reduction in hospitalizations, 63% reduction in mental health inpatient stays, and 43% reduction in criminal charges among Housing First participants
- 18.6% reduction in hospitalizations from Healthy Homes interventions
- Improved housing quality (insulation, heating, ventilation), with positive impacts on school attendance and employment outcomes

Systemic Impact:

- WHO guidelines embedded into national legislation (2019)
- Transformation of housing quality standards across both rental and public housing sectors
- Public housing system scaled through Kāinga Ora's mandate to deliver 8,000 new homes while upgrading existing stock

Social and Economic Impact:

- Improved equity in housing conditions, particularly for Māori, Pacific peoples, and low-income households
- Increased employment through large-scale retrofit programs
- Reduced healthcare costs through prevention of housing-related illness

Scalability

This model demonstrates scalability through **national legislation, long-term evidence generation (over 20 years), and large-scale public housing delivery (8,000 new homes + retrofit programs)**. Its combination of regulation and evidence-based policy provides a highly transferable model for embedding health outcomes into housing systems.

4.2. Strategic Urban Planning and Multilevel Policy Alignment

This cluster of solutions shows how housing challenges can be addressed at scale through **integrated planning, regulatory innovation, and coordinated governance**. Across contexts, housing is embedded in broader territorial strategies aligning land use, infrastructure, services, and financing across levels of government and stakeholders. In Germany, targeted regulatory tools and incentives shape markets and secure affordability. In the Canary Islands, regulatory reform is combined with participatory planning and innovative housing models to optimize land use in an insular context. In Colombia, large-scale public–private–philanthropic partnerships translate these approaches into fully integrated urban developments. Together, these cases demonstrate how multilevel alignment—linking policy, planning, and delivery—can move beyond fragmented interventions toward systemic, scalable urban transformation.

1 Government of the Canary Islands, Spain | Integrated Housing and Urban Innovation in an Insular Context: From Regulatory Reform to Participatory City-Making

Solutions and Interventions

To address acute housing shortages driven by land constraints, rising demand, and fragmented territorial dynamics, the Government of the Canary Islands—through the Canary Islands Housing Institute (ICAVI) and in partnership with municipalities, civil society, and private actors—has implemented complementary initiatives combining regulatory reform, participatory planning, and innovative housing models to expand access, optimize existing assets, and place people at the center.

- **Regulatory Reform and Rapid Supply Expansion (ICAVI – Decree-Law 1/2024)**: Adopted in February 2024, the law introduces urgent measures to unlock supply by streamlining permitting, increasing heights and density, enabling adaptive reuse, and mobilizing public land. In municipalities such as Arucas, developments align with adjacent building heights—maximizing limited land and accelerating protected housing (VPO) delivery for registered applicants.
- **Strategic Urban Transformation through Participatory Planning (INFECAR Master Plan – LPA Studio & Cabildo de Gran Canaria)**: The INFECAR redevelopment in Las Palmas transforms an enclosed site into an open, connected urban hub. Co-designed with residents and public actors, it functions as a **nexus between neighborhoods**, prioritizing eco-design, efficient land use, and public space as an extension of housing.
- **Innovative and Inclusive Housing Models (Provivienda – Intergenerational Housing)**: A Canary Islands 2030 Agenda pilot pairs older adults (65+) and young migrants (22), both registered applicants, in shared rental housing—improving affordability while fostering intergenerational coexistence and reducing isolation.
- **Multilevel Coordination and Partnerships**: Coordination across ICAVI, municipalities, civil society (including Provivienda and Cáritas), academia, and private actors aligns housing with land use, services, and territorial development.
- **Optimizing Land and Existing Assets**: Interventions prioritize densification, adaptive reuse, and activation of underutilized buildings—shifting from isolated housing delivery to integrated city-making.

Results

Expanded Housing Capacity and Supply:
- Increase from 28 to 46 dwellings in pilot developments under Decree-Law 1/2024
- Faster delivery through streamlined approvals and regulatory flexibility
- Greater use of existing urban land and infrastructure through densification and reuse

Housing Access and Social Inclusion:
- Expanded access to affordable housing linked to applicant registries
- Intergenerational model improves affordability and reduces loneliness for vulnerable groups
- Increased diversity of housing solutions, including shared and non-traditional models

Urban Integration and Territorial Impact:
- Transformation of INFECAR into an open, connected urban hub
- Public space strengthened as a core component of housing ecosystems
- Improved institutional coordination linking planning, land use, and housing delivery

Systemic and Institutional Impact:
- Strengthened role of governments as market shapers and land managers
- Enhanced multilevel governance and public–private–citizen collaboration
- Shift from housing provision toward integrated, people-centered city-making through housing.

Scalability

A transferable model for land-constrained, high-demand contexts. By combining regulatory flexibility, participatory planning, and innovative housing models, it enables rapid supply expansion while improving inclusion and quality, with strong relevance for territories facing spatial and affordability constraints.

1 City of Bonn, Germany | Incentives for the mobilization and construction of affordable housing

Solutions and Interventions

To address a growing affordable housing gap—where only **20% of eligible households** can access subsidized housing—the City of Bonn combines **regulation, financial incentives, and multilevel coordination** to expand supply and protect affordability.

- **Subsidized Housing System and Gap**: Around **10,000 rent-controlled units** are currently available, but this is projected to decline to **<4,300 units by 2030**, underscoring the urgency to expand supply.
- **Bonn Building Land Model (Baulandmodell)**: Establishes binding quotas through urban development contracts, requiring **40% of gross floor area** in new developments to be allocated to **publicly subsidized housing**, applicable to projects with **>24 units or >2,200 m²**. Developers also contribute to **social infrastructure (e.g., childcare facilities)**.
- **Municipal Incentives for Small Property Owners**: Provides **grants of up to EUR 20,000** to activate vacant or underused housing. In return, units must be rented to eligible households **for at least 10 years**, expanding access to affordable housing.
- **Multilevel Coordination Platform**: The **Bonn Housing Conference** convenes stakeholders across government, housing industry, and administration to improve **coordination, transparency, and joint action**.
- **Targeted Social Programs**: Complementary initiatives, such as **"Finally at home"**, address specific groups including people experiencing homelessness and youth.

Results

Affordable Housing Delivery:
- 53,700 m² of residential gross floor area delivered (2017–2020) under subsidy regulations
- Equivalent to approximately 420 publicly subsidized housing units

Policy Adaptation:
The calculation framework was updated in 2025 to respond to rising construction costs.

System Impact:
- The model establishes a **binding framework** linking new development to affordable housing provision and social infrastructure.

Replication:
- The model has been adopted by other German cities, including Augsburg, Erfurt, Frankfurt, and Regensburg.

Scalability

Demonstrates a **replicable approach** combining quotas, incentives, and stakeholder coordination to expand affordable housing in high-demand urban markets.

5 Fundación Santo Domingo – FSD, Colombia | Housing as a Platform for Inclusive Urban Transformation – Ciudad del Bicentenario

Solutions and Interventions

To address housing deficits and socio-economic exclusion, Fundación Santo Domingo (FSD) advances a **multilevel, public–private–philanthropic partnership model (PPPP)**, positioning housing as a platform for integrated urban development.

- **Multistakeholder Coordination (PPPP Model)**: FSD convenes **national and local governments, private developers, NGOs, and financial institutions** to co-design and implement large-scale housing solutions.
- **Policy Alignment and Systemic Reform**: In collaboration with Colombia's Ministry of Housing, FSD supported frameworks

for **Social Interest Housing and large-scale "macro-projects"**, enabling a shift from fragmented projects to **integrated urban developments**.

- **Megaprojects / "Megabarrios" Approach**: Since 2021, projects are structured as **compact, mixed-use developments** inspired by the "15-minute city," integrating **housing, education, healthcare, employment, and public space**.

- **Innovative Financing and Governance**: FSD manages **housing trusts pooling public and local government resources**, supported by robust legal, financial, and technical oversight. **Joint governance committees** ensure coordinated decision-making.
  - **Private Sector Engagement and Social Programs**: Developers act as **long-term partners**, with requirements for **affordability, local employment, and environmental standards**, complemented by programs in **education, skills training, and community integration**.

Results

Housing and Population Reach:
- 7,000+ homes delivered in Ciudad del Bicentenario
- Currently serving around 25,000 residents
- Planned scale of 45,000 homes upon completion

Community Outcomes:
- Public spaces and facilities strengthened social cohesion and neighborhood safety.

Integrated Urban Services:
- Provision of 3 schools, 4 child development centers, health centers, libraries, commercial spaces, and a citizen integration center, improving access to essential services.

Social and Economic Impact:
- Reduced spatial exclusion, improved access to employment, education, and healthcare, and generated local economic activity through construction and neighborhood commerce.

Scalability

A **replicable model** grounded in multilevel coordination and PPPP structures, aligning national policy, municipal leadership, and private–philanthropic investment—adaptable to other cities in Colombia and Latin America.

4.3. Long-Term Infrastructure Planning and Territorial Coordination

These initiatives illustrate the shift from reactive housing delivery to **forward-looking, programmatic planning models** that integrate infrastructure, housing, and territorial development. In the United Kingdom and Spain, long-term pipelines, co-financing mechanisms, and cross-sector governance platforms enable more predictable, coordinated, and scalable interventions. By combining evidence-based planning with multilevel financing and institutional alignment, these approaches strengthen the capacity to deliver sustained urban transformation.

1 Cornwall Council, United Kingdom | Strategic Infrastructure Planning for Sustainable Growth

Solutions and Interventions

Cornwall faces the challenge of aligning infrastructure with housing growth, economic development, and climate resilience within a changing planning system. Dispersed settlements, environmental constraints, and capacity gaps require a shift to **long-term, coordinated planning**.

To address this, Cornwall Council has adopted a **program-based infrastructure approach**:

- **Long-Term Infrastructure Pipeline**: A **20–30-year rolling pipeline** across key sectors, shifting from reactive delivery to **proactive, priority-based planning**.

• **Spatial and Policy Alignment**: Integration with the **Planning and Infrastructure Act (PIA)** and emerging **Spatial Development Strategies (SDSs)** to align infrastructure with housing and growth.
• **Cross-Sector Governance (CSIG)**: The **Cornwall Strategic Infrastructure Group** coordinates providers, strengthens collaboration, and aligns planning processes.
• **Scenario-Based Planning**: Uses modelling to assess growth patterns, identify infrastructure corridors, and integrate environmental constraints.
• **Climate and Community Integration**: Embeds **climate resilience and nature recovery**, incorporating local priorities through **Neighborhood Priority Statements (NPSs)**.

Results

System Transformation:
• Shift to a proactive, program-based model
• Stronger alignment between infrastructure, planning, and growth

Governance and Coordination:
• Enhanced collaboration through CSIG
• Increased investor confidence and transparency

Planning and Evidence:
• 20–30-year pipeline providing long-term visibility
• Scenario modelling supporting evidence-based decisions

Climate and Community Outcomes:
• Integration of climate resilience and green infrastructure
• Inclusion of community priorities in planning

Scalability

A **transferable model** combining long-term pipelines, cross-sector governance, and scenario planning—adaptable to regions implementing **SDSs or devolution frameworks**.

2 Government of Catalonia, Spain | Transforming Neighborhoods and Towns: Catalonia Government Plan 2025–2029

Solutions and Interventions

Catalonia faces **concentrated urban vulnerability and territorial inequality**, requiring sustained, structural intervention. The **Neighborhoods and Towns Plan (2025–2029)** delivers a comprehensive program for **urban, environmental, and social regeneration**, anchored in **Law 11/2022**:

• **Urban Recovery Fund**: **EUR 1 billion (2025–2029)** to support **Integrated Intervention Programs** led by local councils.
• **Integrated Regeneration**: **120 programs** combining **physical, ecological, and socio-community actions** to address multidimensional vulnerability.
• **Co-Financing Mechanism**: **Five annual calls of EUR 200 million**, covering **50–75% of costs**, enabling locally driven interventions.
• **Multilevel Governance**: Institutionalized coordination with **standardized criteria and territorial diagnostics** guiding investment.
• **Equity and Climate Focus**: Targets **urban segregation, social inequality, and climate impacts**, improving access to services and housing.

Results

System Transformation:
• Shift to a permanent public policy framework

- Established stable legal, financial, and governance systems

Investment and Reach:
- EUR 412 million mobilized in first call (EUR 232 million public subsidy)
- Reached 277,000 residents and 2.83 million inhabitants in selected municipalities

Governance and Methodology:
- Standardized approach integrating physical, ecological, and social dimensions
- Strengthened multilevel coordination and evidence-based planning

Scalability

A transferable model based on standardized diagnostics, co-financing, and integrated planning—adaptable across regions facing urban inequality and climate challenges.

4.4. Community-Led Upgrading Linked to Multilevel Systems

This cluster shows how community-driven upgrading can be scaled when linked to broader **systems of infrastructure, governance, and financing**. Across contexts—including Malawi, Egypt, and Kenya—local initiatives move beyond isolated improvements to integrate land use planning, tenure security, and access to essential services—particularly water, sanitation, and basic infrastructure—into more coherent development pathways. In Malawi, in-situ upgrading connects tenure, planning, and WASH to national policy. In Egypt, integrated water–energy–food systems improve living conditions while strengthening resource efficiency and governance. In Kenya, community-led models combine climate-responsive upgrading, local data, and environmental restoration to improve services, reduce risk, and support livelihoods in informal settlements. Together, these approaches show how linking community action with multilevel coordination, technical systems, and public investment can transform upgrading into inclusive, resilient, and system-based development pathways.

2 Lilongwe City Council, Malawi | Informal Settlement Upgrading Initiative through the Home Equals Campaign

Solutions and Interventions

To address rapid urbanization, informality, and service gaps, this initiative implemented a **community-driven, in-situ upgrading model** in Area 27, Lilongwe, led by resident networks in collaboration with Lilongwe City Council and supported by national stakeholders.

- **Community-Led Planning**: Resident networks drove participatory land-use planning, resulting in an **approved formal layout plan** by Lilongwe City Council.
- **Integrated Upgrading**: Planning was combined with road grading, drainage, and improved water and sanitation access, addressing critical infrastructure gaps.
- **Tenure Security and Savings**: The approved layout plan and community savings groups enabled formal land tenure while strengthening local financial capacity.
- **Policy Linkages**: The initiative informed the **Malawi National Slum Upgrading and Prevention Strategy**, elevating community-led upgrading to the national level.
- **Facilitation and Partnership Support**: Habitat for Humanity Malawi acted as a catalyst and facilitator—mobilizing resources through the Home Equals campaign, providing technical support, and strengthening coordination between communities and the City Council.

Results

Housing, Land, and Services:
- 402 families secured tenure through the approved layout plan
- Improved access to water, sanitation, drainage, and safer infrastructure

Impact:
- Reduced eviction risk, strengthening stability and resilience
- Increased household investment in housing improvements
- Improved sanitation contributing to better health outcomes

Community and Governance:
- Strengthened community leadership and participatory planning
- Effective collaboration between communities, NGOs, and local government

Scalability:

A **replicable in-situ upgrading model** combining community leadership and institutional partnerships. Informed a national strategy with potential to reach **up to 1.9 million people**.

2 Habiba World for Training and Organic Farming, Egypt | Solar Oasis Model: Integrated Water–Energy–Food Systems for Climate-Resilient Desert Communities

Solutions and Interventions

To address water scarcity, limited infrastructure, insecure land tenure, and poor living conditions in informal desert settlements, the initiative advances an integrated Agri-PV model combining renewable energy, water systems, and community-based governance. Through multilevel coordination, it aligns local implementation with technical innovation and territorial planning.

- **Integrated Water–Energy Systems**: Solar (PV) systems combined with desalination and irrigation technologies provide more stable and affordable access to water, supporting improved sanitation and reducing dependence on external supply systems.
- **Improved Living Conditions and Livelihoods**: Climate-adaptive agricultural practices—such as shading, reduced evaporation, and salt-tolerant crops—enhance productivity, food security, and household well-being.
- **Tenure Security and Governance**: Shared land tenure agreements and bottom-linked governance structures strengthen security of tenure and enable coordinated planning across farmer clusters.
- **Co-Creation and Multilevel Coordination**: Communities, government, and technical partners co-develop scalable infrastructure models, from decentralized to centralized systems.
- **Integrated System Planning**: Scenario-based modelling supports optimization of energy–water–food systems, guiding efficient and sustainable infrastructure design.

Results

Access to Services and Living Conditions:
- Improved access to water and sanitation systems through PV–desalination integration
- Reduced exposure to water scarcity, price volatility, and environmental stressors
- Enhanced food security, health, and overall living conditions

Tenure and Community Resilience:
- Strengthened **shared land tenure arrangements**, supporting stability and investment
- Increased resilience through more reliable access to essential resources

Economic and Livelihood Outcomes:
- Potential for >15% return on investment within 12 months, supporting financial independence
- Cooperative structures enable inclusion and reinvestment in services such as sanitation

Systemic Impact:
- Validated an integrated energy–water–food model for desert communities
- Strengthened coordination across public, private, and community actors

Scalability

A modular model adaptable to water-scarce and desert contexts, with flexible configurations (decentralized to centralized). By combining renewable energy, water systems, tenure frameworks, and multilevel governance, it offers a transferable approach where housing, livelihoods, and basic services are closely interlinked.

2 Polycom Development Project, Kenya | Where Girls Sleep in Water: Polycom Girls Demand Climate-Resilient Housing Now

Solutions and Interventions

To address unsafe living conditions, exclusion from decision-making, and limited integration of community data in planning, particularly for adolescent girls and young women in informal settlements, the Polycom Development Project applies a **multilevel, community-driven model** linking grassroots action with local governance and national systems.

- **Community-Rooted Action**: Women- and youth-led committees map risks, co-design **climate-resilient housing and settlement upgrades**, and monitor service delivery, supported by savings groups and micro-financing.
- **Leadership and Capacity Building**: Through leadership academies, mentorship networks, and learning hubs, **adolescent girls and young women** build skills to lead community action and influence decision-making.
- **Local Institutional Integration**: Community-generated data is integrated into **county planning and budgeting**, with community representatives engaged in ward-level forums and **local officials trained in gender-responsive, climate-smart approaches**.
- **Policy and Financing Linkages**: Evidence from communities informs **housing, climate, and urban policy processes**, while coalitions and financing mechanisms support scaling of community-led upgrading.

Results

Participation, Leadership, and Inclusion:
- 6,500+ adolescent girls engaged in leadership and community action programs (24 months)
- 78% report increased confidence in engaging authorities
- 64% assumed leadership roles in schools, youth groups, or community committees

Governance and Institutional Impact:
- Five county departments integrating community-generated data into planning and budgeting
- 120+ local officials trained in gender-responsive, climate-smart approaches

Planning, Data, and Settlement Improvements:
- 40+ high-risk hotspots identified (unsafe housing, flood zones, poorly lit areas)
- 12 settlement upgrades delivered (drainage, safer walkways, climate-responsive improvements)
- 32% reduction in safety-related absenteeism reported by schools and caregivers

Sustainability and Financing:
- Community-led committees sustain monitoring, advocacy, and co-design
- Savings groups and county-level funds support continued settlement upgrades

Scalability:

A **highly replicable multilevel model** linking community leadership, local institutions, and national systems. Built on existing structures and adaptable training modules, with strong potential to scale across informal settlements while centering **adolescent girls' leadership in climate-responsive urban development**.

2 Mto Wangu Initiative, Kenya | Community-Led River Restoration and Settlement Upgrading in Mathare

Solutions and Interventions

In Mathare—an informal settlement in Nairobi with an estimated 500,000 residents facing acute poverty, environmental degradation, and limited access to water, sanitation, and basic services—the Mto Wangu Initiative advances a community-led approach linking housing, environmental restoration, and livelihoods. Anchored in youth leadership and multilevel partnerships, it integrates settlement upgrading, WASH access, and climate resilience within a broader human settlements' strategy.

- **Settlement Upgrading and WASH Integration**: Riparian zones and illegal dumpsites are reclaimed and transformed into green public spaces, community assets, and shared WASH facilities, improving sanitation, environmental health, and living conditions.
- **Participatory Planning and Local Data**: Through mapping, surveys, and tools such as GIS and Kobo Toolbox, residents document housing conditions, tenure, service gaps, and environmental risks, informing advocacy for in-situ upgrading and planning frameworks such as a proposed Special Planning Area.
- **Waste Management and Circular Economy**: Clean-up systems, waste buy-back centers, and upcycling initiatives reduce environmental hazards while improving sanitation and generating local income, including youth engagement through initiatives like "Football for Plastic."
- **Housing–Livelihood Nexus**: Environmental upgrading is linked to green jobs and community enterprises, strengthening household resilience and supporting housing stability.
- **Resilient Settlements and Crisis Response**: Following the 2024 floods, the initiative supported drainage clearance, riparian restoration, and community response systems, reducing risk and strengthening long-term resilience.
- **Multilevel Coordination**: Partnerships with the City County, national agencies, UN-Habitat, and networks (i.e. the Mathare River Regeneration Network) connect community action with policy and scaling pathways.

Results

Settlement Upgrading and Services:
- Rehabilitation of degraded riverbanks and dumping sites into community-managed public spaces
- Expanded access to shared WASH facilities and improved environmental health
- Reduced flood and environmental risks

Participation and Governance:
- Community-generated data strengthening evidence-based planning
- Increased participation of youth, women, and local groups
- Stronger advocacy for in-situ upgrading

Livelihoods and Inclusion:
- Green jobs and income generation through waste and upcycling systems
- Active engagement of local youth and community networks

Resilience and Systems Impact:
- Community-based response mechanisms following the 2024 floods
- Strengthened coordination between community actors and institutions
- Recognition of community-led upgrading as a pathway for integrated housing and settlement development

Scalability:

A transferable model for informal settlements, integrating **housing, WASH, livelihoods, and climate resilience** through community leadership and multilevel coordination. It offers a replicable pathway to upgrade dense settlements while strengthening governance, data systems, and long-term sustainability.

4.5. Climate–Housing Nexus through Multilevel Coordination

These solutions highlight how addressing climate challenges in housing requires coordination across **local action, national policy, and regional or global frameworks**. Across Europe, India, and Nepal, initiatives combine adaptive reuse, energy efficiency, renewable energy, and low-carbon materials with financing mechanisms and policy alignment. By linking community-level implementation with broader climate and housing agendas, they demonstrate scalable pathways for delivering affordable, low-carbon housing while advancing energy transition goals.

4 Habitat for Humanity International, Europe and the Middle East (Poland, Great Britain, Hungary, Croatia; Bulgaria, Hungary, Lithuania) | Integrated Housing Affordability and Energy Transition Strategy (ESTHer and ComActivate)

Solutions and Interventions

To address rising housing costs, energy poverty, and the environmental impact of new construction, this initiative advances an **integrated strategy combining adaptive reuse and energy-efficient renovation** to deliver affordable, low-carbon housing at scale.

- **Adaptive Reuse for Affordable Housing (ESTHer)**: Across **Poland, Great Britain, Hungary, and Croatia**, vacant and underused buildings are converted into **affordable, energy-efficient homes** for vulnerable groups. The model integrates **life-cycle carbon assessment, participatory co-design, and new financial mechanisms**, including Social Rental Agencies (SRAs), supported by national coalitions and an EU Community of Practice.
- **Energy Renovation and Community Enablement (ComActivate)**: In **Bulgaria, Hungary, and Lithuania**, the project addresses barriers to renovating multi-family apartment buildings (MFABs) through **Resource Centers (RCs)** and **Neighborhood Energy Sufficiency Roadmaps (NESRs)**, combining technical solutions with **community engagement and governance support** to enable collective action.
- **Multilevel Coordination and Policy Linkages**: Both projects connect **community action, local implementation, and EU-level policy and financing frameworks**, advancing housing solutions that are environmentally sustainable, socially inclusive, and economically viable.

Results

Housing Delivery and Affordability (ESTHer):
- 15 housing units to be created through adaptive reuse (4 already delivered in Poland)
- Housing provided to families on social housing waiting lists and Ukrainian refugee households
- 70+ organizations and municipalities engaged in national coalitions and EU-level collaboration

Innovation, Policy, and Systems Impact (ESTHer):
- Comparative research across 4 countries identifying barriers and opportunities for reuse
- Development of LCA-based carbon assessment tools aligned with EU standards
- Influence on EU and national housing and climate policies, including the Renovation Wave and Green Deal

Energy and Renovation Impact (ComActivate):
- 1,100+ MFABs analyzed, impacting 100,000+ residents
- 3 Resource Centers operational, serving 1,300+ users
- 100+ stakeholders trained, with targets of 350+ HOA managers and 100+ technical professionals

Climate and Affordability Outcomes (ComActivate):
- Projected 33 GWh/year energy savings and 9,357 tCO/year emissions reductions
- Increased renewable energy uptake and energy affordability for vulnerable households

Governance and Institutional Strengthening:
- Strengthened homeowner associations, local governments, and multi-stakeholder platforms
- Policy dialogue advanced at national and EU levels, including engagement with EU institutions

Scalability

A **replicable, systems-based model** combining adaptive reuse and energy renovation. By linking **local implementation with financing, policy frameworks, and multilevel governance**, the approach enables scalable pathways for **affordable, low-carbon housing across Europe**.

4 Young Generation Sustainable Synergy, India | Turning Every Roof into Solar Power: How Integrated Solar Infrastructure Transforms Cities and Communities

Solutions and Interventions

To address rising energy costs, limited access to clean energy, and environmental impacts of urban growth, this initiative promotes **solar energy integration across residential and urban infrastructure** through a **public–private partnership (PPP) model**.

- **Distributed Solar Deployment**: Installation of **solar panels on rooftops of homes, commercial buildings, and public structures**, expanding access to clean and affordable energy.
- **Public–Private Partnerships (PPP)**: Leverages collaboration between **government entities, private sector providers, and local stakeholders** to finance, deploy, and scale solar infrastructure.
- **Capacity Building and Local Empowerment**: Training **youth and women in solar installation and maintenance**, creating technical skills and livelihood opportunities.
- **Community Engagement and Awareness**: Promotes **sustainable energy practices** and strengthens participation in local energy planning and climate action.

Results

Energy and Cost Savings:
- 30–50% reduction in household electricity bills
- Reduced reliance on conventional energy sources

Capacity and Inclusion:
- Expanded local skills and employment opportunities through solar training
- Increased participation of youth and women in the energy transition

Climate Impact:
- Estimated 1–2 tons of CO reduced per household per year

Community Impact:
- Greater adoption of sustainable energy practices
- Strengthened community engagement in energy planning

Scalability

A **replicable, PPP-driven model** combining infrastructure, financing, and capacity building to scale **affordable, low-carbon energy solutions across urban contexts**.

4 BASE Bahay Foundation, Nepal | Developing the Bamboo Market Ecosystem: Scaling Climate-Resilient, Inclusive, and Low-Carbon Housing Solutions

Solutions and Interventions

To address Nepal's housing deficit and climate vulnerability, this initiative established a **sustainable bamboo housing ecosystem** linking housing delivery, market development, and policy reform.

- **Inclusive Co-Financing Model**: A **Matching Funds Model** blends government subsidies, **USD 6.8 million in philanthropic investment**, and community labor to deliver affordable, climate-resilient housing for marginalized groups.
- **Bamboo Treatment and Supply Chain: Eight upgraded bamboo treatment centers** operated by private firms, NGOs, and cooperatives produce **14,500 treated poles monthly**, ensuring quality supply and generating local employment.

• **Innovative Construction Technology**: The **Cement Bamboo Frame Technology (CBFT)** and prefabricated wall panels improve construction efficiency and reduce **CO_2 emissions by 94% compared to RCC construction**.
• **Government and Market-Based Delivery**: In partnership with **15 local governments**, housing is delivered through both **subsidized construction and market-based approaches**, supported by contractor training and private sector engagement.
• **Ecosystem and Policy Strengthening**: Mason and youth training, community forest engagement, and technical partnerships—including Habitat for Humanity Nepal, BASE Bahay Foundation and local universities —support implementation, while advocacy contributed to the draft National Bamboo Guideline and integration into the Building Code.
• **Particular focus on marginalized households**—including **landless, Dalit, Indigenous, and women-headed families**—as well as workers and enterprises across the bamboo value chain.

Results

Housing and Reach:
• 867 resilient homes constructed, benefiting 4,335 people (2019–2025)
• Implemented across 15 local governments

Livelihoods and Inclusion:
• 2,500+ people indirectly benefited (masons, farmers, youth, entrepreneurs) through training, employment, and value-chain participation

Climate Impact:
• 94% reduction in CO_2 emissions compared to conventional RCC construction

Market and System Development:
• Eight treatment centers producing 14,500 poles/month, strengthening supply chains
• Expansion of bamboo enterprises and contractor capacity

Policy and Institutional Impact:
• Contribution to National Bamboo Guideline and Building Code inclusion
• Strengthened government co-investment mechanisms and technical validation partnerships

Scalability

A **replicable ecosystem model** integrating housing, markets, and policy. Already expanded across **Koshi and Madhesh provinces**, with scaling driven by **PPP models, microfinance, and carbon finance**, enabling broader adoption in disaster-prone and low-income regions.

4.6. Vacant Housing, Urban Revitalization, and Circularity

This cluster focuses on unlocking underutilized housing stock through **policy incentives, adaptive reuse, and coordinated urban regeneration strategies**. In Japan and Brazil, multilevel approaches connect local implementation with fiscal tools, planning reforms, and community engagement to revitalize central areas and expand housing supply. In El Salvador, the revitalization of the Historic Center of San Salvador illustrates how a combined approach—linking regulatory enforcement, targeted incentives, and cooperative housing models—can reactivate vacant buildings and restore the residential function of central urban areas. Together, these initiatives show how aligning housing policy with demographic, economic, and environmental strategies can transform vacant assets into drivers of inclusive and sustainable urban development.

This approach has gained traction across Latin America and the Caribbean, with emerging initiatives—such as Costa Rica's *Viviendas Urbanas Inclusivas y Sostenibles* and Colombia's urban renewal and land circularity efforts in Medellín—demonstrating growing interest in adaptive reuse and urban core revitalization as scalable housing strategies.

4 City of Yokohama, Japan | Urban Housing Circularity in Yokohama: Revitalizing Vacant Homes through Circular Construction and Family Housing Support

Solutions and Interventions

Yokohama, with a population of **3.78 million**, has approximately **1.9 million housing units**, many built during the 1960s–70s and now aging. The share of homes over 30 years old increased from **25% (2008) to 37.2% (2018)**, while vacant housing reached **178,000 units**, driven in part by inheritance trends. These unused homes weaken communities and pose safety risks, while rising new-home prices limit access for younger households. To address these challenges, the city implements a **three-pillar** strategy focused on prevention, reuse, and management of vacant homes:

- **Vacancy Prevention**: Consultation desks, **AI- and LINE-based tools**, and **"End-of-Life Housing Planning" workshops** address root causes of vacancy.
- **Reuse and Renovation**: Promotes **adaptive reuse of vacant homes** through renovation subsidies, expert support, and targeted programs such as the **Child-Raising Housing Renovation Subsidy**.
- **Management of Poorly Maintained Properties**: Provides **legal guidance and demolition subsidies** to improve safety and neighborhood conditions.
- **Circularity and Decarbonization**: Advances **energy-efficient retrofits, ZEB (Net Zero Energy Building) conversions**, material reuse, and expanded use of wood, linking housing policy with **resource efficiency and emissions reduction**.

Results

Housing Revitalization:
- Vacant houses decreased from 178,300 (2018) to 168,600 (2023), a reduction of 9,700 units and the first decline since surveys began
- Of 356 designated "specified vacant houses", approximately 40% (140 properties) were improved between 2015 and FY2022

Policy Reach and Prevention:
- Vacant house consultation services receive approximately 650 inquiries annually
- AI-based tools, consultation services, and housing planning workshops strengthened early intervention and vacancy prevention efforts

Circularity and Decarbonization:
- Highly energy-efficient homes increased from 62,212 (2021) to 103,010 (2024)
- Relocation subsidies supported 200 households in FY2023, expanding to 500 households in FY2024

Social Impact:
- Recorded the largest net in-migration of residents aged 20–40 in child-rearing households in 20 years in 2025
- Strengthened links between housing policy, family support, and long-term community revitalization

Scalability

A replicable municipal model that treats aging and vacant housing stock as a circular urban asset rather than a liability. By combining vacancy prevention, housing reuse, energy-efficient retrofits, family-support measures, and partnerships with private and community actors, it offers transferable solutions for cities facing demographic change, aging housing, and decarbonization challenges. Yokohama is already sharing and promoting the approach through international circular city initiatives across Asia.

5 City of Shizuoka, Regional Government, Japan | Revitalizing Japan's Oldest Public Housing: Leveraging Vacant Units to Address Population Decline

Solutions and Interventions

Shizuoka City faces **projected population decline of 30% by 2050** (from 670,000 to 495,000), alongside aging public housing and rising vacancies that weaken community cohesion. In response, the city is revitalizing **Hagoromo Danchi (77 years old)**—one of Japan's oldest public housing complexes—through adaptive reuse and community-driven activation.

• **Adaptive Reuse of Vacant Units**: Vacant units are repurposed as **exhibition spaces and renovated housing**, including **trial housing for migrants**, attracting new residents while preserving historic assets.
• **Attraction and Retention of Residents**: Introduces **long-term trial housing for migrants** and integrates housing with employment support through coordination with migration and business development agencies.
• **Community Engagement and Activation**: Guided tours (twice monthly) and outreach activities position the complex as a **cultural and tourism resource**, while encouraging new residents to participate in **neighborhood associations**.
• **Academic and Technical Partnerships**: Collaboration with universities engages students in **hands-on renovation design**, including on-site living experiences, building assessments, and implementation planning.
• **Integrated Housing and Urban Strategy**: Combines housing reuse, migration attraction, and community revitalization to address **population decline and aging housing stock**.

Results

Housing Revitalization:
• Occupancy increased from 54.2% to 62.5% (+8.3 percentage points
• Continued role as a public housing safety net, with 50% of units occupied

Attraction and Visibility:
• 530 visitors in FY2025 guided tours, with 37% (200) from outside the city/prefecture
• 66 study tour visitors, 55 architecture professionals, and 70 municipal officials engaged
• 12 media inquiries, strengthening outreach and replication potential

Innovation and Capacity Building:
• 15 students from 3 universities developed renovation proposals for 4 units
• Hands-on training supporting future technical professionals

Community Impact:
• Increased participation in neighborhood association activities
• Strengthened local cohesion and interest in living in aging housing complexes

Scalability

A **replicable model for revitalizing aging public housing** through adaptive reuse, migration incentives, and community engagement. By linking housing policy with demographic and local economic strategies, the approach offers scalable solutions for cities facing **population decline and vacant housing challenges**.

5 SP Urbanismo, Brazil | Urban Intervention Project for Adaptive Reuse in Central São Paulo

Solutions and Interventions

Latin America faces a paradox of **growing housing deficits alongside vacant buildings**, particularly in well-serviced urban centers. In São Paulo, widespread abandonment in the central sector has contributed to urban decay despite strong infrastructure. To address this, the city implements an **urban intervention program** that prioritizes **adaptive reuse of existing buildings** through three strategic lines:

• **Fiscal and Urban Incentives**: Provides municipal tax exemptions (up to five years) and forgiveness of **Property Tax (IPTU) debts** to encourage developers to rehabilitate existing buildings rather than pursue new construction.
• **Subsidies for Rehabilitation**: Offers subsidies covering **25% of demolition, renovation, and construction costs**, improving the financial viability of adaptive reuse projects.
• **Land-Use and Ownership Incentives**: Supports **change of use for existing properties** and implements rezoning to capture positive externalities and mitigate negative impacts in the central area.

Results

Housing Delivery and Urban Regeneration:
• 48 buildings renewed in the central sector

• 5,148 housing units generated

Urban and Systemic Impact:
• Revitalization of underutilized central areas with existing infrastructure
• Reduced pressure for urban sprawl and associated public costs

Policy and Market Impact:
• Strengthened incentives for adaptive reuse over new construction
• Improved alignment between urban planning, fiscal policy, and housing delivery

Scalability

A **replicable policy-driven model** leveraging fiscal incentives, subsidies, and zoning reforms to unlock vacant urban assets. Particularly relevant for cities facing **simultaneous housing shortages and underutilized central areas**.

4 Planning Authority of the Historic Center of San Salvador (APLAN) and Ministry of Housing, El Salvador | Revitalization of the Historic Center and Recovery of its Residential Function

Solutions and Interventions

The Historic Center of San Salvador has experienced progressive urban decline and a loss of its residential function, with a significant presence of vacant, underused, and abandoned buildings, despite its strategic location and existing infrastructure. To address this, APLAN is implementing a set of urban interventions aimed at revitalization and attracting private investment within an 80-block area of the Historic Center. These include:

• **Regulatory enforcement mechanisms**, such as **mandatory economic compensation** for property owners who negatively impact on the urban landscape by maintaining vacant, underused, or abandoned buildings;
• **Targeted fiscal incentives**, including **tax benefits** for the recovery, rehabilitation, and restoration of heritage-listed properties, as well as for interventions that reactivate buildings for residential, productive, cultural, or tourism uses.

In parallel, the Ministry of Housing supports the revitalization process through the financing of housing projects under a **mutual-aid cooperative housing model**, which combines public subsidies with the direct participation of organized families in the construction and management of their homes. One example is Colonia Bloom, a vacant heritage property acquired by the Government of El Salvador for rehabilitation and vertical redevelopment into cooperative housing, aiming to provide homes for **31 families** in the heart of the historic center.

Results

Property Reactivation and Housing Delivery:
• 149 properties sanctioned with economic compensation between 2024 and 2025
• Two housing projects completed in the Historic Center through the cooperative model, delivering 64 new housing units

Urban and Systemic Impact:
• Reactivation of the residential function in the Historic Center
• Rehabilitation and adaptive reuse of vacant and underused buildings, including cultural heritage assets

Policy and Market Impact:
• Introduction of a policy mix combining enforcement mechanisms with targeted incentives, creating instruments not previously implemented in other parts of El Salvador
• Strengthened inter-institutional coordination among public authorities, aligning heritage preservation, urban policy, and housing delivery
• Increased attractiveness of the Historic Center for private actors, helping leverage additional investment in rehabilitation and adaptive reuse

Scalability

A replicable policy mix combining enforcement mechanisms, targeted incentives, and cooperative housing models to activate vacant buildings in central areas. The approach is particularly relevant for cities seeking to recover historic centers while expanding affordable housing supply through the reuse of existing assets.

4.7. Strengthening Housing Finance Systems through Multilevel Action

These solutions address one of the most critical barriers to scaling housing: fragmented and insufficient financing systems. In Peru and across African cities, initiatives strengthen housing finance ecosystems through market organization, municipal finance reform, digitalization, and capacity-building. By linking local demand, financial institutions, and national policy frameworks, they demonstrate how coordinated financial systems can unlock investment, improve affordability, and enable large-scale housing delivery.

6 Full Building and La Firme, Peru | "Guardian Constructor": Inclusive Business Model for Incremental Housing

Solutions and Interventions

Peru's rapid urban expansion—**93% informal over the past 20 years**—has driven widespread incremental housing, often resulting in unsafe, costly, and inefficient construction. **Guardian Constructor** addresses this by creating a **multi-stakeholder service ecosystem** that formalizes and improves incremental housing processes:

- **Integrated Service Hubs**: Establishes commercial hubs (**"Full Building" and "Casa La Firme"**) connecting families with **construction companies, suppliers, financial institutions, and technical services**.
- **End-to-End Housing Support**: Provides **design, legal and technical assistance, financing, and after-sale services**, reducing risks, costs, and construction time.
- **Inclusive Business Model**: Orchestrates actors across the value chain, mobilizing **USD 21 million** and building trust with **9,400 families**.
- **Iterative Co-Design and Scaling**: Developed through **pilot testing (since 2020)** with families, private developers, and civil society, evolving into a scalable national model with expanding partnerships and hubs.

Results

Reach and Awareness:
- 21,256 households reached through information initiatives (FY2025)
- 3,497 households report improved awareness of where to access housing products and services

System and Economic Impact:
- Addresses inefficiencies contributing to USD 5.6 billion in annual cost overruns in incremental housing
- Potential to reduce overruns by up to USD 3.867 billion annually through assisted construction models

Housing and Social Outcomes:
- Improved access to safer, more affordable, and efficient construction processes
- Positive impacts on health, assets, and quality of life for low-income families

Scaling Pathway:
- Expanded from Mala to regions including Lambayeque and Piura
- National scale-up underway through additional hubs and partnerships (2025 onward)

Scalability

A **replicable, market-based model** that organizes demand and reduces fragmentation in incremental housing systems. Adaptable to contexts with **high informality and fragmented housing supply chains**.

6 Cities of Addis Ababa, Dar es Salaam, Kigali, Lusaka, Nairobi, and Yaoundé — Africa | From Fiscal Gaps to Financial Strength: Transforming Municipal Finance in African Cities

Solutions and Interventions

Rapid urbanization in African cities is increasing demand for housing, infrastructure, and services, while weak, fragmented municipal finance systems limit investment capacity. This initiative, led by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) in partnership with city governments and development partners, supports six African cities — Addis Ababa, Dar es Salaam, Kigali, Lusaka, Nairobi, and Yaoundé — to strengthen municipal finance and expand fiscal space through an integrated reform approach:

- **Financial Diagnostics and Reform Design**: Conducted **comprehensive financial assessments** to identify constraints in revenue generation, expenditure management, and governance, informing tailored reform strategies.
- **Revenue Mobilization and System Strengthening**: Expanded **own-source revenues** through improved tax bases, valuation, billing, and enforcement systems to increase compliance.
- **Digitalization and Data Systems**: Introduced **integrated financial management systems** and tools (including geospatial mapping) to improve efficiency, transparency, and data-driven decision-making.
- **Capacity-Building and Technical Support**: Delivered **training, peer learning, and technical assistance** to strengthen financial planning, reporting, and administration.
- **Policy Reform and Multilevel Coordination**: Facilitated **local–national dialogue** to address fiscal decentralization constraints and strengthen regulatory and institutional frameworks.

Results

Revenue and System Improvements:
- Increased own-source revenue collection through strengthened systems and compliance
- Transition from manual to digitized financial management systems

Governance and Planning:
- Improved transparency, accountability, and evidence-based budgeting
- Use of diagnostics and data tools to inform policy and revenue reforms

Institutional Strengthening:
- Enhanced local capacity through training and technical support facilitated by UNECA and partners
- Strengthened coordination between local and national governments

Development Impact:
- Increased capacity to finance housing, infrastructure, and basic services
- Improved responsiveness to urban growth and shocks

Scalability

A **highly adaptable model** combining diagnostics, digitalization, capacity-building, and policy reform. Replicable across cities due to **standardized tools and flexible, context-specific implementation**.



Photo: Lumanti Support Group for Shelter

5. Advancing Inclusive Participation, Accountability, and Data

Strengthening participation, accountability, and data systems is essential to ensuring that housing policies are responsive, inclusive, and effective. The solutions in this section demonstrate how **user-centered approaches, transparent governance, and localized data** improve decision-making, build trust, and enhance policy outcomes. Aligned with **Policy Recommendations 3, 4, and 6**, these initiatives show that housing systems are most effective when communities actively shape decisions, when allocation and delivery mechanisms are transparent, and when real-time, localized evidence informs planning and implementation. Across the portfolio, participation, accountability, and data are not standalone tools—they are **foundational elements of governance systems** that enable more equitable, adaptive, and scalable housing solutions.

5.1 Participatory Housing Models and Policy Feedback Loops

This cluster shows how participatory approaches—linked to implementation and policy engagement—strengthen housing systems and inform institutional reform. In Argentina, community-driven design and pilot implementation shape national frameworks and expand access to affordable housing. In Kenya, dialogue-based approaches improve alignment between residents, service providers, and public authorities, strengthening responsiveness in informal settlements. Across contexts, these initiatives move beyond consultation to influence planning and coordination. By integrating user experience and local knowledge, they create feedback loops that connect community realities with policy design—strengthening accountability, building trust, and enabling more responsive housing and service delivery systems.

1 Habitat for Humanity Argentina (HFHA), Argentina | "Estela de Esperanza": Rental Housing Solutions in Buenos Aires

Solutions and Interventions

To address limited access to stable and affordable rental housing, HFHA implemented an integrated approach combining housing delivery, participatory design, and policy engagement.

- **Adaptive Reuse and Social Rental Housing**: Following assessments initiated in 2007, HFHA redeveloped a high-risk building in La Boca into a social rental complex (acquired in 2009, built in 2012, inaugurated in 2015), establishing a tenant community.
- **Participatory and Multi-Stakeholder Approach**: The model engages communities, public institutions, and financial actors in co-designing housing solutions, shaping priorities and decision-making through workshops, partnerships, and ongoing dialogue.
- **Public–Civil Society Collaboration**: Partnered with the City Housing Institute to support the "Alquilar se Puede" program through workshops for families accessing rental credit and guarantees.
- **Data-Driven Policy Engagement**: Combines research, iterative testing, and implementation experience to inform policy dialogue, including a 2019 World Bank–financed consultancy contributing to the 2020 National Rental Law.
- **Integrated Support Model**: Introduced employability support, a staggered three-year subsidy, and savings schemes returned at contract completion; methodology refined in 2021.
- **Knowledge Sharing**: Promoted social rental models through national and international platforms, including the 2023 Social Rental Conference.

Results

Housing Stability and Living Conditions:
- 89% of residents moved from precarious conditions
- Overcrowding reduced (3% to 2.3%)
- Improved construction quality (7 of 9 families)
- 89% reported better water quality and reduced respiratory issues

Housing Pathways:
- Five families accessed formal rentals; 1 achieved ownership

Well-being and Social Outcomes:

- 89% reported improved emotional well-being
- 77% reported increased security and reduced stress
- 100% reported positive impacts on educational performance
- 89% reported improved study conditions

Policy and Knowledge Impact:

- Informed the 2020 National Rental Law
- Shared in 20+ national and international events

Scalability

A replicable model linking pilot housing delivery with policy reform, financial mechanisms, and multi-stakeholder engagement—applicable in contexts with high informality and limited access to formal rental markets.

2 The Legend Kenya, Kenya | Strengthening Participatory Governance and Service Alignment in Nairobi's Informal Settlements

Solutions and Interventions

To address hazardous living conditions, weak coordination, and low trust in Nairobi's informal settlements, this initiative applies a **community-led dialogue and coordination model** that strengthens participation, builds trust, and improves alignment between residents, authorities, and service providers.

- **Participatory Dialogue and Trust-Building**: Regular forums between residents, police, and local leaders—complemented by community-led tours—create structured spaces for engagement, strengthening relationships and mutual understanding.
- **Coordination Platform for Local Priorities**: The initiative connects communities, organizations, and public authorities to improve information sharing and align interventions with locally identified housing, land-use, and service priorities.
- **Participatory Planning and Advocacy**: Facilitates dialogue on planning and land-use issues, enabling communities to engage authorities and advocate for practical, context-specific solutions.
- **Psychosocial Support and Community Well-being**: Mental health and trauma-healing trainings for community members and police improve well-being and strengthen community–institution relationships.
- **Networked Engagement and Scaling**: Through MCLD Kenya, local actors are linked to resources, capacity-building opportunities, and national networks, reinforcing participation and enabling broader policy engagement.

Results

Participation and Governance:

- Increased participation in budgeting processes and local decision-making
- Higher attendance in local government meetings
- Improved collaboration and information sharing across community and institutional actors

Capacity and Social Impact:

- 450+ people trained in mental health awareness
- Reduced stigma and improved community well-being
- Strengthened relationships between communities and local authorities
- Stronger capacity to implement community priorities

System Impact:

- Strengthened linkages across community groups, authorities, and national networks
- Expanded through Peace in Our Cities (2025), reinforcing its role as a scalable participation model

Scalability:

A replicable, low-cost model that strengthens participatory governance through dialogue and coordination. By creating feedback loops between communities and institutions, it supports more responsive housing, land-use, and service delivery systems, and can be scaled through community and national networks.

5.2 Data-Driven Governance and Digital Systems for Transparent and Inclusive Housing

This subsection highlights how integrated data systems and digital governance platforms are transforming housing systems into more transparent, efficient, and inclusive public infrastructures. At the forefront of this shift, Ramallah Municipality demonstrates how data can function as an operational backbone for urban governance—linking administrative systems, spatial intelligence, and citizen engagement into a unified, interoperable ecosystem. By embedding real-time data, digital workflows, and participatory interfaces into planning and service delivery, the model illustrates how municipalities can move from fragmented information systems to fully integrated, evidence-based decision-making environments.

1 Ramallah Municipality, Palestine | Mapping Inclusive Futures: Integrated Geospatial and Citizen-Centric Urban Planning Platform

Solutions and Interventions

To address fragmented data systems and limited citizen engagement in urban planning, Ramallah Municipality developed an integrated digital governance ecosystem that connects administrative, spatial, and citizen-generated data into a unified, interoperable platform. The system combines an Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system, a Geographic Information System (GIS), and a Digital Archive, enabling real-time, data-driven decision-making across municipal functions.

- **Integrated Data Architecture**: Through secure APIs, the platform integrates real-time administrative data (permits, land use, population density, housing units) with spatial datasets and historical records, creating a unified data environment for location-specific planning and policy design.
- **Data as Operational Backbone**: Digitized workflows replace paper-based processes, enabling planners and departments to use live, cross-sectoral data for scenario modeling, compliance monitoring, and identification of underserved areas.
- **Citizen-Centric (user-friendly) Digital Platforms**: Web and mobile GIS applications allow residents to access urban data, visualize planning information, submit housing-related requests, and report infrastructure issues—broadening access to planning systems.
- **Participatory Data and Feedback Loops**: A geo-tagged feedback module routes citizen inputs to relevant departments, tracks resolution in real time, and provides transparent status updates, embedding accountability into service delivery.
- **Open Data and Transparency**: Public-facing portals provide access to planning maps and development data, strengthening trust and enabling external stakeholders to engage with evidence-based urban governance.

Results

Efficiency and Service Delivery:
- Processing times reduced from 20+ days to under 72 hours
- 92% of municipal service requests digitized

Governance and Data Systems:
- Real-time integration eliminated departmental silos
- Strengthened monitoring of informal development and permit compliance
- Enhanced institutional capacity for evidence-based planning and decision-support

Participation and Trust:
- 350,000+ annual digital engagements
- Citizen satisfaction increased from 65% to 88%

Systemic and National Impact:
- Adopted as a national model by the Ministry of Local Government
- Scaled to other municipalities through interoperable, modular design

Scalability

A highly transferable model based on interoperable, open-standard systems, modular architecture and user friendly. By positioning data systems as core governance infrastructure, the approach enables cities with fragmented information environments to transition toward transparent, data-driven, and participatory urban planning systems.

Building on this integrated systems approach, the following cases illustrate how data-driven governance can be applied across specific dimensions of housing systems—from transparent allocation and social inclusion pathways (Pamplona) to large-scale program targeting and policy design (Paraná), and improved market transparency in informal rental systems (Malawi). While differing in scope and scale, these initiatives demonstrate how digital tools, participatory registries, and real-time data can enhance accountability, strengthen targeting, and support continuous policy adaptation across diverse housing contexts.

1 Pamplona City Council, Spain | Inclusive and Data-Driven Housing Pathways: Aukera Ordinance and the Living Lab for Inclusive and Climate-Resilient Housing

Solutions and Interventions

To address housing exclusion, affordability, and the need for evidence-based policy, Pamplona has implemented a comprehensive municipal strategy combining a regulated social housing pathway (with transparent allocation mechanisms informed by real-time data) as well as a data-driven Living Lab for inclusive and climate-resilient housing. Together, the **Aukera Ordinance** and the **Living Lab** position data as a core decision-support tool linking governance, service delivery, and policy innovation.

- **Structured Housing Pathways and Transparent Governance (Aukera)**: The Aukera Ordinance establishes a centralized housing management system that governs 613 municipal dwellings through clearly defined eligibility criteria, income-based rents, and time-bound allocation—ensuring traceability, fairness, and accountability in housing access.
- **Data-Driven Decision-Support and Targeting**: Household-level data and administrative records are used to prioritize needs, manage housing pathways (emergency to independent living), and optimize resource allocation across the system.
- **Integrated Social and Institutional Data**: Housing access is linked to individualized social support plans delivered by social services, enabling continuous monitoring of socio-economic progress, to transition residents into the regular housing market.
- **Living Lab for Inclusive and Climate-Resilient Housing (Smart Co-Living)**: A pilot of 12 rehabilitated housing units combines co-living for persons with disabilities and students, integrating accessibility, energy efficiency, and social innovation within a Positive Energy Neighborhood framework.
- **Data-Driven Innovation and User Participation**: The Living Lab incorporates digital twins and real-time monitoring systems to generate evidence on energy performance, accessibility, and well-being, while user participation informs design, operation, and policy learning.
- **Integrated Policy and Knowledge System**: Together, the initiatives link participatory governance, transparent allocation systems, and real-time data to strengthen accountability and inform continuous policy adaptation.

Results

System Transformation and Governance (Aukera):
- 613 municipal dwellings managed as a structured inclusion system
- Improved targeting and fairness through transparent allocation mechanisms
- Increased efficiency through time-limited stays and housing rotation

Social Inclusion and Housing Outcomes:
- Strengthened pathways from emergency housing to independent living

• Enhanced autonomy through integrated social support and progressive affordability

Innovation, Climate, and Data (Smart Co-Living):
- 12 smart housing units piloting inclusive co-living models
- Integration of advanced energy systems and climate-resilient design
- Real-time data generation on energy use, accessibility, and well-being

Policy and Institutional Impact:
- Embedded in Pamplona's 2030 Urban Agenda and Energy Transition Strategy
- Supported by EUR 5 million in EU funding
- Evidence from the Living Lab informs urban policy and housing innovation

Scalability

A highly transferable model combining regulatory reform, participatory governance, and data-driven innovation. By optimizing existing housing stock (Aukera) and generating real-time evidence (Living Lab), the approach enables cities to scale inclusive, transparent, and climate-responsive housing systems without relying solely on new construction.

5 Paraná Local 2030 Hub, Brazil | Data-Driven and Participatory Housing Systems: From Disaster Response to Policy Design

Solutions and Interventions

To strengthen housing access, crisis response, and policy effectiveness, institutions in the State of Paraná have implemented a set of complementary initiatives that embed data systems, transparent processes, and citizen-informed decision-making across housing interventions.

- **Data-Driven Disaster Response and Transparent Resource Allocation (Civil Defense)**: Following severe climate impacts, housing damage assessments were conducted to classify levels of destruction and determine compensation. Support was delivered through bank cards for materials and service vouchers for labor, ensuring traceable, transparent, and needs-based allocation of public resources.
- **Participatory Demand Identification and Targeting (Casa Fácil Paraná - COHAPAR)**: The program combines housing delivery and land regularization with a digital Cadastro de Pretendentes (SCHaP), an online system that captures household-level data to identify, qualify, and prioritize housing demand. This enables more equitable targeting and aligns public investment with verified needs.
- **Integrated Housing Delivery and Financial Accessibility**: Casa Fácil-COHAPAR provides subsidized housing to low-income families (1–6 minimum wages), with no down payment, low-interest financing, and long-term repayment, implemented through partnerships with municipalities, Caixa Econômica Federal, and the private sector.
- **Evidence-Based Policy Design and Spatial Analysis (IPPUC)**: In Curitiba, a detailed housing deficit methodology combines national (João Pinheiro Foundation) and local (CadÚnico) data to map vulnerable populations spatially, identifying key drivers such as excessive rent burden, precarious housing, and cohabitation.
- **Linking Data, Participation, and Policy Adaptation:** Across initiatives, citizen data inputs, territorial mapping, and transparent systems inform decision-making, enabling policies to respond to real demand, improve accountability, and adjust housing strategies based on evidence.

Results

Crisis Response and Accountability:
- BRL 30 million allocated for housing reconstruction following the 2025 tornado
- Standardized assessment and compensation mechanisms ensure transparency and replicability across the state

Housing Access and Inclusion:
- 55,500+ families provided with adequate housing through Casa Fácil Paraná-COHAPAR
- Improved access to infrastructure and reduced migration pressures from small towns
- Improved alignment between housing supply, demand, and territorial realities

Data-Driven Policy Insights:

- 35,000 families identified in vulnerable housing conditions in Curitiba
- 88% affected by excessive rent burden, 10% by precarious housing, 2% by cohabitation
- Spatial mapping aligned housing needs with priority intervention areas (SEHIS)

Systemic and Institutional Impact:

- Strengthened targeting, transparency, and efficiency in housing allocation

Scalability

A highly transferable model demonstrating how integrated data systems, participatory registries, and transparent allocation mechanisms can strengthen accountability and policy responsiveness. Applicable across contexts seeking to align housing interventions with real-time data, citizen demand, and evidence-based planning.

1 Kulima Africa, Malawi | AI-Powered Rental Discovery for Youth: Building a Trusted Housing Marketplace

Solutions and Interventions

To address fragmented and opaque rental housing markets, Kulima developed LUNDAI, an AI-powered platform that transforms informal housing information into a structured, transparent, and accessible digital system for students and young professionals. The platform demonstrates how data systems can extend beyond public administration to improve market functioning and user access.

- **Data Structuring and Integration of Informal Markets**: Automated tools aggregate and standardize rental listings from both formal and informal sources, converting unstructured data into searchable, comparable property profiles.
- **AI-Driven Verification and Trust Mechanisms**: A data-based scoring system evaluates listing reliability, reducing fraud and improving transparency in informal housing markets.
- **User-Centered Decision-Support Tools**: A conversational AI interface and location-based search functions enable users to identify suitable housing options based on preferences and proximity (e.g., campuses).
- **Digital Platform as Market Infrastructure**: By introducing structured data into informal systems, the platform enhances efficiency, reduces information asymmetries, and improves access for underserved groups.
- **Scalable Data Ecosystem**: Designed to integrate widely used communication channels (e.g., WhatsApp), the system demonstrates how digital tools can build inclusive housing intelligence systems without relying on formal registries.

Results

System Readiness and Functionality:

- Core platform fully developed and operational in a controlled environment
- Successfully aggregates fragmented listings and converts unstructured data into searchable profiles
- Demonstrates filtering, verification logic, and natural-language search capabilities

Market Transparency and Efficiency:

- Establishes a digital foundation to reduce search time, improve access, and prevent rental fraud
- Enhances trust between tenants and landlords through AI-supported verification

Scalability

Designed for expansion across cities without reliance on formal registration systems, the model integrates existing informal digital channels. It is adaptable to other African urban contexts and has potential to evolve into a broader housing intelligence ecosystem supporting evidence-based planning and inclusive housing access.

5.3. Community-Led Upgrading with Data and Accountability

This cluster demonstrates how participatory upgrading becomes more effective when combined with data systems and transparent governance. Community-led processes are reinforced through spatial mapping, locally generated evidence, and co-governance mechanisms that inform planning, track progress, and strengthen accountability. As shown by Shelter Associates, participatory data can make informal settlements visible within formal systems, enabling more targeted and inclusive interventions. Complementing this, SPARC's climate-resilient upgrading model illustrates how localized, community-generated evidence can directly inform household-level adaptation and drive incremental, scalable improvements. Building on these foundations, initiatives in Zanzibar and the Philippines demonstrate how such approaches can be institutionalized through area-based planning, multilevel coordination, and formal governance systems. Together, these cases show how embedding data and accountability within community-led upgrading enables more inclusive, adaptive, and scalable transformation of informal settlements.

2 Shelter Associates, India | From Invisible to Indispensable: Data-Driven, Community-Led Housing and Sanitation in Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh

Solutions and Interventions

To address the invisibility of informal settlements in urban systems, Shelter Associates applies an integrated model linking spatial data, housing, and sanitation through participatory and data-driven processes.

- **Participatory Spatial Data Systems**: Community members and field teams co-produce geo-tagged maps of households and socio-economic conditions, creating spatial databases shared with municipal authorities—often making informal settlements visible in official systems for the first time.
- **Data-to-Policy Integration**: Findings are actively presented to municipal corporations to inform planning, budgeting, and service delivery, strengthening accountability and evidence-based decision-making.
- **Community-Led In-Situ Housing**: Housing interventions are guided by mapped data and co-designed with residents, enabling in-place redevelopment. Projects such as Bondre Nagar rehoused 77 families in permanent homes with tenure, sanitation, and drainage.
- **Integrated Sanitation and Inclusion**: The One Home One Toilet program ensures household-level sanitation, complemented by community-led initiatives such as menstrual hygiene programs, delivered and managed by women.
- **Policy Uptake and System Scaling**: The mapping methodology has been recognized and adopted by government programs, including Uttar Pradesh's Akankshi Nagar Yojana, embedding local practices into formal policy frameworks.

Results

Data Visibility and System Impact:
- Over 1 million people mapped and made visible to municipal and state systems
- Spatial data informed city planning and national policies, including GIS-based slum mapping mandates

Housing and Service Outcomes:
- 77 families rehoused in Bondre Nagar with secure tenure and basic services
- 100,000+ household toilets delivered across Maharashtra

Participation and Inclusion:
- High community ownership through co-design and data collection
- 78% menstrual cup adoption in Belapur through community-led implementation

Policy and Replication:
- Model replicated across cities (e.g., Ichalkaranji) following multi-stakeholder policy engagement
- Methodology institutionalized within state programs

Scalability

A highly replicable, process-driven model—map, co-design, build in place, and support—demonstrating how participatory data systems can strengthen accountability, improve targeting, and enable inclusive, evidence-based urban policy at scale.

4 Society for the Promotion of Area Resource Centers (SPARC), India | ROOH Campaign: Community-Driven Climate-Resilient Housing through Local Data and Incremental Innovation

Solutions and Interventions

To address the growing vulnerability of informal housing to climate stressors, the ROOH (Roof Over Our Heads) campaign advances a community-driven, evidence-based approach to improving dwelling resilience by leveraging local construction ecosystems and participatory data generation.

- **Community-Generated Data and Evidence**: The approach combines architectural assessments, empirical testing of materials, and microclimatic analysis to generate localized data on heat, rain, and structural performance. This evidence is co-produced with residents, artisans, and local builders, enabling context-specific housing solutions.
- **Participatory Design and Iterative Upgrading**: Housing improvements are developed through incremental, dwelling-level interventions—such as layered roofing systems, insulation materials, and climate-responsive plasters—allowing households to adapt solutions over time based on needs and resources.
- **Local Ecosystem Engagement**: The model mobilizes local construction actors (masons, artisans, suppliers) through training and skill-building, strengthening technical capacity while facilitating the adoption of improved materials and techniques.
- **Demonstration-Based Scaling ("Zone of Influence")**: Pilot interventions serve as live demonstrations, enabling peer-to-peer learning and validation. Households adopt solutions based on observed results, creating a self-reinforcing system of accountability and uptake.
- **Alternative Financing Approaches**: The model emphasizes savings-led, incremental investment strategies over reliance on formal credit, aligning with financial realities in informal settlements.

Results

Housing and Climate Resilience:
- Temperature reductions of **1–2°C on average**, and up to **4–7°C at peak**
- **Zero water ingress** reported in rain-prone demonstration dwellings

Participation and Capacity:
- Active engagement of residents, artisans, and local construction networks across **60+ learning labs in 10+ countries**
- Strengthened local skills and increased agency in housing decision-making

Scaling and Adoption:
- Expansion from **six pilot demonstrations to 100+ resilient homes** within 18 months
- **1:6 replication rate** — for every intervention, six neighboring households adopt similar solutions

Systemic Impact:
- Shift from one-off housing delivery to **incremental, evidence-based upgrading models**
- Increased confidence among residents to invest in and improve their homes based on demonstrated results

Scalability

A highly transferable model grounded in locally available materials, community-generated data, and incremental upgrading. Its reliance on demonstration, peer learning, and local capacity building enables rapid adoption across informal settlements, while its adaptability to different climatic and socio-economic contexts supports scaling across regions in the Global South.

2 Commission for Lands (COLA) — Ministry of Lands and Housing Development, Zanzibar-Tanzania | Mwembeshauri Integrated Urban Redevelopment Initiative (MIURI)

Solutions and Interventions

To address informal growth, infrastructure gaps, and climate vulnerability, MIURI applies an integrated, area-based redevelopment approach combining participatory planning, institutional strengthening, and coordinated urban investment.

• **Participatory Urban Redevelopment**: Upgrading informal and dense areas through roads, pathways, drainage, and waste management, guided by inclusive policies that prioritize in-situ improvement and community needs.
• **Infrastructure and Mobility Improvements**: Shift to pedestrian-friendly environments with walkways, public spaces, non-motorized transport, and safer urban design to improve accessibility and connectivity.
• **Planned Housing and Densification**: Reorganization of plots, introduction of planning standards, and promotion of multi-story housing to replace overcrowded, unregulated development and improve service access.
• **Economic Integration**: Mixed-use development and integration of small-scale commercial activities, linking neighborhoods to urban economic corridors and supporting gradual formalization.
• **Climate Resilience Measures**: Drainage upgrades, improved waste systems, and urban greening reduce flood risks and environmental hazards.
• **Institutional and Policy Strengthening**: Reinforces planning systems, land administration, and regulatory enforcement, aligned with PPP frameworks and long-term strategies, improving coordination, transparency, and accountability.

Results

Infrastructure and Mobility:
• Upgraded roads and drainage reduced flood risks and improved access and walkability

Housing and Urban Form:
• Transition to planned, multi-story housing with improved services and living standards

Environmental and Service Outcomes:
• Reduced flooding and pollution; expanded and more reliable basic services

Governance Impact:
• Stronger planning systems, land-use control, and more predictable urban development

Scalability

A replicable model combining participatory planning, institutional reform, and coordinated investment—adaptable to rapidly urbanizing contexts facing informality and climate risks.

1 Alliance of People's Organizations Along Manggahan Pasig Floodway (APOAMPF), Philippines | Community-Led In-City Resettlement in Manggahan, Pasig

Solutions and Interventions

To address displacement risks and unsafe living conditions, APOAMPF led a community-driven resettlement model that replaces forced relocation with participatory, in-city housing solutions.

• **Community-Led Advocacy and Consensus Building**: Organized resistance to eviction and built collective agreement on in-city resettlement through the formation of APOAMPF and the development of a "People's Plan."
• **Institutionalized Participation and Co-Governance**: Secured representation in the Local Interagency Committee (IAC), enabling communities to co-decide on beneficiary selection, affordability, housing design, and estate management in collaboration with government and civil society.
• **Policy Influence and Resource Mobilization**: Contributed to a national covenant that established a P50 billion in-city resettlement fund and supported the revision of the National Housing Authority's Estate Management Manual to enable community-managed housing.
• **Land Access and Housing Delivery**: Negotiated access to land (MMDA property) for in-city resettlement, leading to the construction of housing for 800 families.
• **Community Governance and Accountability**: Established elected estate management structures (78 leaders, mostly women) responsible for service delivery, financial management, and settlement governance, with systems for consultation, mediation, and accountability.
• **Participatory Resilience and Livelihood Systems**: Developed community-based disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation practices, alongside livelihood initiatives such as urban gardening, recycling, and solar lighting.

Results

Housing Security and Safety:
- 800 families resettled in-city, avoiding distant relocation
- Elimination of eviction threats and reduced exposure to flood risks

Social and Community Outcomes:
- Safer living environment, particularly for children
- Strengthened livelihoods linked to climate adaptation practices

Participation and Governance:
- Formal accreditation in local government and representation in the City Housing Board
- Established regular consultation mechanisms and strengthened mediation capacities
- Community-led management of services, security, and infrastructure

Accountability and Systems Impact:
- Effective collection and management of funds for maintenance of housing and services
- Institutionalization of community participation in housing policy and implementation

Scalability

A replicable model demonstrating how organized communities, supported by policy reform and multilevel collaboration, can lead in-city resettlement processes. The "People's Plan" approach strengthens participation, accountability, and co-governance, offering a scalable pathway for inclusive housing in high-risk urban contexts.

5.4. Culturally Grounded Participation and Data for Climate Resilience

These solutions highlight the importance of aligning data systems and governance with local knowledge, particularly in climate-vulnerable and culturally distinct contexts. In Fiji and the Philippines, participatory approaches integrate Indigenous knowledge, community-defined indicators, and locally grounded monitoring systems into housing and resilience planning. By bridging traditional knowledge with formal data systems, they enhance relevance, legitimacy, and effectiveness, while strengthening accountability and long-term sustainability.

4 Habitat for Humanity Fiji, Fiji | Climate Resilience in the Pacific: Co-Designing Culturally Grounded Impact Measurement

Solutions and Interventions

To address gaps in measuring climate resilience, HFH Fiji applies a culturally grounded, participatory approach that places Indigenous iTaukei communities at the center of decision-making, enabling them to define, plan, and evaluate housing and resilience solutions based on their own knowledge systems and priorities.

- **Community-Led and Culturally Grounded Planning**: Village-led master planning integrates eco-relational principles—such as kinship, spiritual ties to land (Vanua), and holistic human–environment relationships—into housing and resilience design.
- **Participatory and Inclusive Impact Measurement**: Locally led baseline assessments, reflection sessions, focus groups, and consultations embed culturally relevant indicators into monitoring, evaluation, accountability, and learning (MEAL) systems.
- **Data Systems Aligned with Local Knowledge**: Combines qualitative and quantitative methods to capture culturally meaningful outcomes, addressing gaps in conventional resilience metrics and strengthening evidence-based decision-making.
- **Integration with Governance and DRR Planning**: Community-identified priorities inform Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) masterplans, linking local knowledge with provincial and sub-national planning systems.
- **Relational Engagement and Institutional Learning**: A long-term, trust-based engagement model strengthens community ownership, inclusion of marginalized groups, and continuous learning for program adaptation and scaling.

Results

Participation and Community Ownership:
- Strengthened community leadership in defining resilience priorities and decision-making
- Inclusion of diverse groups, including low-income and marginalized households

Data, Learning, and Policy Relevance:
- Development of culturally grounded indicators for resilience measurement
- Improved alignment between community knowledge and formal planning systems

Resilience and Planning Outcomes:
- DRR masterplans informed by local cultural and environmental knowledge
- Enhanced understanding of land use, displacement, and resilience needs

Institutional and System Impact:
- Strengthened integration with sub-national governance structures
- Increased legitimacy and effectiveness of resilience interventions

Scalability

A transferable model for embedding culturally grounded, participatory data systems into climate resilience planning. The approach aligns local knowledge with global frameworks and is scaled through new pilots (e.g., Serua) and future national programs, with potential adaptation across Pacific and other contexts.

3 Cagayan State University, Philippines | Climate-Resilient Ivatan Housing: Participatory, Data-Driven Preservation and Adaptation in Batanes

Solutions and Interventions

To address climate risks and the erosion of traditional knowledge, the Ivatan Houses Project applies an integrated approach combining culturally grounded design, participatory governance, and data-driven monitoring to strengthen resilient housing systems.

- **Culturally Grounded and Resilient Housing Design**: Combines indigenous Ivatan building techniques (stone, lime, traditional forms) with modern engineering to deliver typhoon- and earthquake-resilient housing adapted to local conditions.
- **Participatory Planning and Knowledge Co-Production**: Community-led processes—including focus group discussions and consultations—enable residents, artisans, and local organizations to co-design housing solutions and ensure intergenerational transfer of traditional knowledge.
- **Policy Integration and Institutional Alignment**: Works with all six municipalities in Batanes to embed resilient housing standards into land use plans, building codes, heritage zones, and disaster risk reduction strategies, strengthening long-term accountability.
- **Participatory Governance and Data for Accountability**: Community monitoring systems and open data platforms track housing conditions, risks, and recovery progress, strengthening transparency and evidence-based decision-making. This ensures Ivatan housing plays a meaningful role in shaping housing priorities, making interventions more responsive to local needs and cultural context, while improving trust, targeting, and long-term sustainability of climate-resilient housing.
- **Livelihood and Local Economy Integration**: Links housing interventions to local materials, labor, and skills development, supporting economic resilience while preserving cultural heritage.

Results

Resilience and Housing Outcomes:
- Improved technical capacity of local builders in resilient construction
- Strengthened use of traditional Ivatan housing adapted to climate and seismic risks

Participation and Social Cohesion:
- Increased community engagement in design, construction, and governance
- Strengthened trust between communities, cultural associations, and researchers

Data and Accountability:
- Community-led monitoring systems enhancing transparency and local decision-making
- Improved evidence base for housing and resilience planning in Uyugan, Batanes

Institutional and Policy Impact:
- Integration of resilient housing standards into local planning and regulatory frameworks
- Strengthened collaboration across municipalities, academia, and government

Scalability

A replicable model combining indigenous knowledge, participatory governance, and data systems. Adaptable to other hazard-prone contexts, particularly where cultural heritage and climate resilience must be addressed together through locally led, evidence-based approaches.

5.5. Institutional Innovation for Participation and Accountability at Scale

This cluster shows how strong public systems can embed participation, transparency, and data into housing delivery at scale. In Spain and Portugal, models combine open procurement, participatory governance, community engagement, and performance monitoring to deliver high-quality, inclusive housing. These approaches demonstrate that institutionalizing accountability—through clear processes, data-driven monitoring, and citizen engagement—can significantly improve policy effectiveness, strengthen trust, and expand impact across metropolitan and national systems.

5 Área Metropolitana de Barcelona (IMPSOL), Spain | Building High-Quality, Climate-Smart Affordable Homes at Scale

Solutions and Interventions

To address housing shortages and climate pressures, IMPSOL implements a metropolitan model that combines transparent governance, climate-responsive design, and data-driven decision-making to deliver high-quality affordable housing at scale.

- **Transparent and Accountable Procurement**: All projects are selected through open, anonymous architectural competitions, ensuring fairness, quality, and innovation while strengthening institutional capacity and public trust.
- **Climate-Responsive and Low-Emission Design**: The AMB–IMPSOL Sustainability Protocol guides all developments, prioritizing passive strategies (bioclimatic atriums, cross-ventilation, intermediate spaces) and low-impact materials, including industrialized timber construction.
- **Data-Driven Monitoring and Continuous Learning**: Environmental monitoring systems track temperature, humidity, CO levels, and ventilation habits, enabling real-time performance assessment and iterative improvement of design and management.
- **Social Inclusion and User-Centered Design**: Housing typologies incorporate shared spaces and non-hierarchical layouts, improving habitability and fostering community life while engaging residents in understanding energy use.
- **Metropolitan Governance and Scaling**: A financially self-sustaining public development model coordinates delivery across 33 municipalities, aligning housing expansion with climate action and social priorities.

Results

Housing Supply and Quality:
- 7,000+ affordable homes delivered across 140 projects in 33 municipalities; 3,600 additional units under management
- Improved habitability, including a 62.5% average increase in bedroom size

Environmental Performance:
- 72% reduction in primary energy demand compared to standard buildings
- Verified through ongoing environmental monitoring systems

Governance and Accountability:
- Institutionalized transparent procurement and sustainability standards
- Continuous data use strengthens evidence-based policymaking and design

Systemic Impact:
- Expanded public rental housing in a market with <2% affordable stock
- Strengthened metropolitan leadership and technical capacity

Scalability

A highly transferable model combining transparent procurement, climate-smart design, and performance monitoring. Demonstrates how locally led, data-driven public housing systems can scale inclusive, low-carbon solutions across metropolitan regions.

5 Euskadi Local2030 Hub, Spain | People-Centered Urban Regeneration for Inclusive and Scalable Housing Systems

Solutions and Interventions

To address aging housing stock, energy poverty, and social inequality, the Basque Country advances a comprehensive urban regeneration model that integrates policy frameworks, participatory governance, and evidence-based interventions across scales.

- **Strategic Policy Framework and Systemic Targets**: The Basque Rehabilitation Strategy, anchored in the Social Pact for Housing 2022–2036 (signed by 100 actors), sets a target of rehabilitating 300,000 homes, doubling the annual rehabilitation rate from 1.5% to 3%.
- **Neighborhood-Based, People-Centered Regeneration (Opengela)**: One-stop-shops provide tailored support to residents, enabling co-designed interventions that improve energy efficiency, accessibility, thermal comfort, and overall housing quality in vulnerable neighborhoods.
- **Integrated Urban Regeneration and Value Capture (Bilbao)**: Regeneration of underused areas combines strategic planning, public space improvements, and financing mechanisms that capture value and redistribute benefits to expand affordable housing without displacement.
- **Participatory Governance and Social Accompaniment**: Community engagement is embedded through co-design processes and local support systems, ensuring interventions respond to residents' needs and strengthen trust and accountability.
- **Multilevel Governance and Institutional Coordination**: Aligns regional policy, municipal implementation, and community participation, supported by academia, civil society, and international partners to ensure continuity and policy coherence.

Results

Housing and Living Conditions:
- Improved thermal comfort, accessibility, and housing quality in vulnerable neighborhoods
- Reduced energy costs and strengthened social cohesion

Access and Inclusion:
- Hundreds of households supported through Opengela with access to financing and streamlined processes
- Increased accessibility of regeneration programs for vulnerable groups

Governance and System Impact:
- Demonstrated that regeneration can finance affordable housing through value capture
- Strengthened institutional capacity through coordinated multilevel governance

Policy and Institutional Sustainability:
- Long-term alignment across regional, municipal, and community levels ensures continuity
- Integration of social, economic, and environmental dimensions into housing policy

Scalability

A highly adaptable model combining regulatory frameworks, participatory governance, and financing mechanisms. Its modular, people-centered approach enables replication across cities seeking to scale inclusive, climate-responsive urban regeneration without displacement.

5 Just a Change, Portugal | Renovating Homes, Rebuilding Lives through Community-Driven Housing Solutions

Solutions and Interventions

To address housing poverty and inadequate living conditions, Just a Change implements a people-centered, community-driven model that combines local partnerships, volunteer mobilization, and multi-stakeholder coordination to deliver scalable housing renovations.

- **Community-Driven Identification and Co-Creation**: Works with municipalities, civil society, and local partners to identify households in need, ensuring interventions respond to real, locally defined priorities.
- **Volunteer-Based Implementation Model**: Mobilizes and trains volunteers to carry out renovations alongside technical supervisors, ensuring quality standards while fostering civic engagement and social cohesion.
- **Integrated Housing Improvements**: Renovates homes lacking essential conditions—such as roofs, insulation, sanitation, electricity, and hot water—addressing health, safety, and energy efficiency simultaneously.
- **Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships and Governance**: Coordinates public, private, and community actors to finance, implement, and sustain interventions, strengthening accountability and local ownership.
- **Participation, Accountability, and Local Impact**: Active engagement of volunteers and communities ensures transparency, responsiveness to local needs, and strengthened trust in housing interventions.

Results

Housing and Social Impact:
- 670+ homes and 280 social institutions renovated
- 28,000+ beneficiaries reached across 50+ municipalities
- 82% of beneficiaries report significant life improvements; 92% report overall positive change

Health, Well-being, and Inclusion:
- Improved safety, thermal comfort, and living conditions
- Reduced vulnerability and strengthened dignity and social inclusion

Participation and Civic Engagement:
- 34,000+ volunteers mobilized
- Strong impacts on volunteer engagement, skills, and social cohesion

Institutional and System Impact:
- Recognized as a Public-Private Partnership (UNECE, 2025)
- Awarded UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour

Scalability

A highly replicable model based on standardized processes, strong local partnerships, and volunteer mobilization. Demonstrates how community-driven approaches can scale cost-effective, inclusive housing solutions while strengthening accountability and local governance systems.

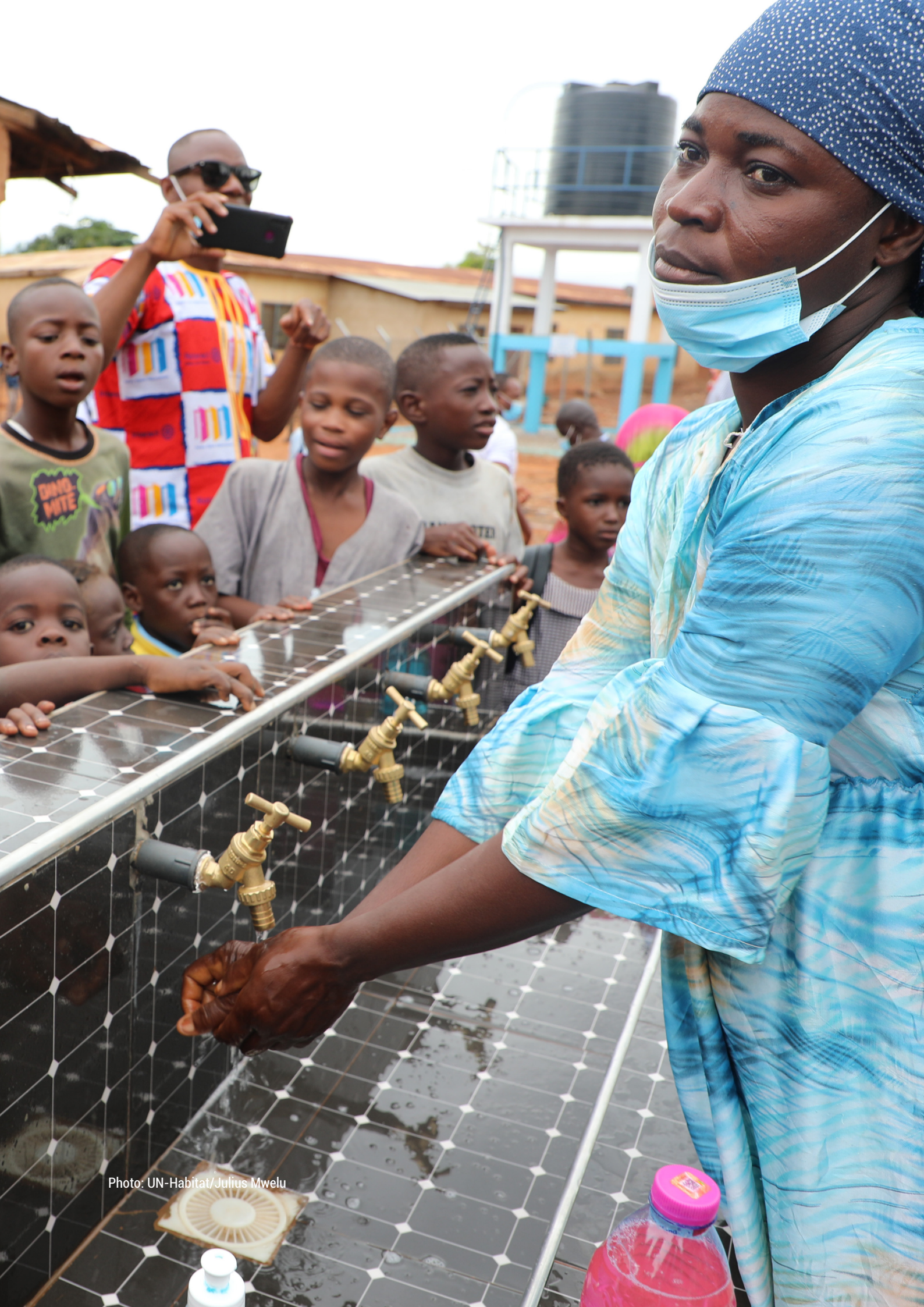


Photo: UN-Habitat/Julius Mwelu

6. Unlocking the Potential: Lessons for Scaling Local Action and Impact

This section synthesizes key insights from the case studies and identifies cross-cutting lessons for scaling locally led housing solutions. Drawing on evidence across the three approaches—empowering local actors, driving innovation through multilevel coordination, and advancing inclusive participation, accountability, and data—the analysis highlights the enabling conditions that allow local solutions to move from pilots to systemic impact.

Across diverse contexts, successful initiatives are characterized not only by strong local leadership, but by their ability to connect that leadership to enabling systems—governance frameworks, financing mechanisms, participatory processes, and data systems. Housing emerges not only as an outcome, but as a **platform for integrating sectors**, linking health, climate resilience, livelihoods, and social inclusion within coherent territorial systems. At the same time, common barriers persist, including institutional fragmentation, limited fiscal space, regulatory constraints, and gaps in technical and administrative capacity. The lessons below reflect both the synthesis of case studies and the practical experience shared by implementing partners.

6.1. From Local Capacity to Systemic Transformation

Across all clusters, a consistent pattern emerges: **empowered local actors are the foundation of effective and scalable housing solutions**. Whether through regulatory reform, community leadership, or economic empowerment, these initiatives demonstrate that localization is not only about implementation—it is about shifting power, resources, and decision-making closer to people and territories. Local and regional governments, in particular, play a critical role not only as implementers, but as **market shapers and system orchestrators**, shaping land use, incentives, and investment flows.

Key lessons from practice:

- **Local ownership drives sustainability and scale**. Solutions that are co-designed and led by local governments, communities, and grassroots organizations are more responsive to real needs and more likely to endure and expand over time.
- **Capacity building must be continuous and institutionalized**. Effective initiatives invest in long-term technical support, peer learning, and institutional strengthening, rather than one-off interventions.
- **Enabling regulatory frameworks unlock local action**. Flexible policies and planning systems allow local actors to adapt solutions to context, test new approaches, and engage diverse partners.
- **Innovation extends beyond housing delivery**. Increasingly, solutions include tenure models, land activation, service integration, and new housing typologies that expand the scope of what constitutes a housing solution.
- **Collective platforms enable delivery**. Cooperatives, savings groups, and community organizations play a critical role in mobilizing resources, improving access to finance, and strengthening negotiation power.
- **Linking housing with livelihoods enhances resilience**. Integrating economic opportunities into housing strategies improves affordability, strengthens ownership, and supports long-term sustainability.

Together, these findings reinforce a central message: **strengthening local actors is not a parallel track—it is the core pathway for delivering inclusive, resilient, and scalable housing solutions**.

6.2. From Coordination to Systemic Scale

Across all clusters, a clear pattern emerges: **multilevel coordination is the mechanism through which local innovation becomes systemic change**. Scaling housing solutions depends not only on strong local action, but on the ability to connect that action to enabling policies, financing systems, and institutional frameworks. Housing plays a central role as a **systems integrator**, enabling coordination across sectors and aligning investments within territorial development strategies.

Key lessons from practice:

- **Structured multilevel governance enables scale**. Alignment between local, regional, and national actors ensures coherence, reduces fragmentation, and accelerates implementation.
- **Partnerships are essential to address complexity**. Collaboration across governments, private sector, civil society, and development partners allows solutions to integrate technical, financial, and social dimensions.
- **Housing integrates systems and sectors**. Effective solutions link housing with infrastructure, health, climate action, and local economies, improving outcomes across multiple development priorities.
- **Innovative and blended financing is critical**. Combining public resources with private investment, community finance, and new financial instruments expands reach and sustainability.
- **Scaling occurs through systems, not only projects**. Institutionalization, regulatory embedding, and network-based replication are key pathways for expanding impact.
- **Coordination platforms and intermediaries' matter**. Dedicated mechanisms—such as housing forums, program platforms, and partnership structures—are essential to align actors and sustain collaboration over time.

Together, these findings reinforce a central message: **innovation scales when systems connect—linking actors, levels of governance, and resources into coherent pathways for impact**.

6.3. Participation, Data, and Accountability as System Enablers

Across all clusters, a consistent pattern emerges: **inclusive participation, transparent systems, and robust data are critical enablers of effective housing policy and delivery**. When communities are actively engaged, processes are transparent, and decisions are grounded in evidence, housing systems become more responsive, equitable, and sustainable.

Key lessons from practice:

- **Participation strengthens legitimacy and effectiveness**. Engaging communities throughout the project cycle ensures that solutions reflect local priorities and realities.
- **Transparency improves trust and targeting**. Clear allocation systems and open processes enhance fairness, reduce exclusion, and strengthen public confidence.
- **Data systems are foundational**. Reliable, localized, and real-time data enables better planning, targeting, monitoring, and policy adaptation.
- **Digital tools are most effective when combined with local knowledge**. Integrating technology with community-generated data enhances relevance and usability.
- **Feedback loops enable continuous improvement.** Linking implementation with policy design through monitoring and learning systems allows housing policies to evolve over time.

Together, these findings reinforce a central message: **better housing outcomes depend not only on what is delivered, but on how decisions are made—through inclusive, accountable, and data-informed systems that place people at the center**.

6.4 Cross-Cutting Barriers to Scaling

While the case studies demonstrate strong potential for scaling locally led solutions, several recurring barriers must be addressed:

- **Institutional fragmentation and weak coordination** across levels of government
- **Fragmented and insufficient financing ecosystems**, particularly at the local level, limiting the ability to scale proven solutions
- **Regulatory and planning constraints** that limit flexibility and innovation
- **Capacity gaps** in planning, implementation, and financial management
- **Data limitations**, including lack of accessible, standardized, and localized information

Addressing these barriers is essential to unlocking the full potential of locally led housing solutions and enabling their expansion across diverse contexts.



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7. Conclusion and Way Forward

The Road to Baku: The Local Way demonstrates that locally led housing solutions are not isolated innovations, but **practical pathways for advancing global development agendas**. Across diverse contexts, housing has emerged not only as an entry point, but as a **systems platform for SDG localization**—linking social inclusion, economic opportunity, climate resilience, and governance. The evidence shows that the challenge is no longer identifying solutions but **creating the enabling systems to scale them**.

Three overarching messages emerge. First, **localization works when power, resources, and decision-making are anchored at the territorial level**, enabling solutions that respond to real needs. Second, **scale depends on multilevel coordination**, connecting local action with national policy, financing systems, and global frameworks. Third, **better outcomes require inclusive, accountable, and data-driven governance**, ensuring housing systems remain responsive, transparent, and adaptive.

Building on these insights, several priority actions stand out. The priorities identified through the solutions reinforce and operationalize the Road to Baku Policy Recommendations, demonstrating how locally led action translates these principles into practice:

- **Strengthen enabling environments for local action** (*Recommendation 1*), including regulatory flexibility, decentralization, and sustained investment in local institutional capacity, positioning local and regional governments as lead actors and market shapers in housing delivery and territorial development.
- **Anchor housing within a renewed social contract** (*Recommendation 2*), integrating housing with services, livelihoods, climate resilience, and social protection systems, while addressing the needs of vulnerable and underserved populations.
- **Foster multilevel governance and multi-stakeholder partnerships** (*Recommendation 3*), institutionalizing coordination across levels of government and sectors, and strengthening collaboration between public, private, and community actors.
- **Strengthen accountability and transparency in housing systems** (*Recommendation 4*) by embedding participatory mechanisms, clear allocation processes, and monitoring frameworks that build trust and improve policy effectiveness.
- **Mobilize and align financing with local housing priorities** (*Recommendation 5*), by developing stronger territorial financing systems, expanding blended and innovative financing mechanisms, and enabling local access to capital for scaling solutions.
- **Strengthen localized data systems and evidence for decision-making** (*Recommendation 6*), investing in data platforms, participatory registries, and real-time monitoring tools that connect local evidence with policy design, implementation, and review.
- **Invest in platforms for collaboration and learning** (*Cross-cutting*), including peer networks, South–South and triangular cooperation, and co-creation mechanisms that support replication and adaptation across contexts.

Looking ahead, the Road to Baku process forms part of a broader continuum of global milestones—from the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FFD4) to the Second World Summit for Social Development, COP30 and onward to the World Urban Forum. This trajectory will continue towards the 2026 UN Water Conference in the UAE and beyond, converging toward a critical moment: the **2027 SDG Summit**, which will assess progress on the 2030 Agenda and define the path for accelerated implementation.

In this context, locally led housing solutions offer a concrete and scalable pathway to deliver results. By connecting local innovation with national frameworks and global commitments, they demonstrate how the SDGs can be translated into tangible improvements in people's lives.

Scaling these solutions will require sustained political commitment, coordinated action, and investment in the systems that enable local actors to lead. The Road to Baku: The Local Way provides both the evidence and the direction: the future of sustainable urban development will be shaped by the ability to empower local actors, connect systems, and place people at the center of decision-making. Ultimately, the evidence is clear: localization is not a secondary dimension of sustainable development — it is a primary accelerator, ensuring that global ambitions translate into tangible outcomes where they matter most: in people's lives, communities, and territories.



Photo: UN-Habitat/Julius Mwelu

Annexes

Annex A — Table of Local Housing Solutions and Sources*

#	Title	Country	Region	Leading Organization	Partners and Stakeholders Involved
Empowering Local Actors and Strengthening Capacities					
1	The Role of Good Governance and Strategic Urban Planning advancing Adequate Housing	Guatemala	Americas	Metropolitan Housing and Urban Development Agency (EMVDU) of the Guatemala Municipality	Private Sector & Industry Bodies: real estate developers, building material suppliers, and the Guatemala Chamber of Construction (CGC) and the Association of Real Estate Developers (ADIG). Financial Institutions: commercial banks and insurance companies. Public Sector & State Institutions: Coordination with national and municipal housing authorities. International & Multilateral Organizations: UN-HABITAT. Technical & Sustainable Advocacy: The Guatemala Green Building Council (GGBC) and FUNDESA. CIDEU. Housing & Human Rights: Habitat for Humanity, We Effect, and Build Change.
2	Expanding Social Housing Condominiums Units in Metropolitan Santiago	Chile	Americas	Ministry of Housing and Urbanism (responsible for defining policy, issuing the regulatory framework, and financing subsidies at the national level)	Habitat for Humanity Chile (technical and social expertise, project design, management, and supervision); Central and local governments (subsidies, permits, and regulatory adjustments); Community leaders and civil associations (resident engagement facilitation and participation in co-design and activities); Construction companies and suppliers (building services and technical expertise); microfinance institutions (financial solutions to support families).
3	Engineered Wood Housing: Turning Construction Waste into Climate-Responsive Homes	Brazil	Americas	Águia Florestal Indústria de Madeira LTDA	Municipal and State Governments (e.g., COHAPAR, city halls); public Banks (e.g., Caixa Econômica Federal); construction companies and architectural firms; forestry sector actors; universities and research centers; international organizations (funds, UN); local communities and beneficiaries.
4	Redeveloping Al-Galaa Informal Settlement, Mansoura: Inclusive, Data-Driven Upgrading at Scale	Egypt	MENA	Egyptian Engineers Syndicate	Civil society organizations – Engineers affiliated with the Engineers Syndicate – The Egyptian government's Slum Development Fund –Contracting companies implementing the project.

#	Title	Country	Region	Leading Organization	Partners and Stakeholders Involved
5	From Informal Coastal Settlement to Eco-Integrated Housing in Gharqana, South Sinai	Egypt	MENA	Ministry of Environment – Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA)	Ministry of Environment (Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency – Nature Conservation Sector); South Sinai Governorate and relevant national authorities (including planning, security, and regulatory bodies); UNDP's Green Sharm Initiative; Local Bedouin residents and community association. Additional stakeholders included the executing contractor and multiple government entities involved in land allocation, licensing, and service provision.
6	Sanjaynagar Slum Redevelopment: Building Equitable Communities, Not Just Houses	India	Asia	Community Design Agency	Community Design Agency (architectural design, project and financial management); Snehalaya NGO – (social partner); Ahmednagar Municipal Corporation -AMC (land provision, city services, and project approvals); PMAY-Urban – State and Central Government bodies (subsidy support of 2.5 lakh per household); Curry Stone Foundation (project development, design, and construction gap funding; Burhade Architects (Local Architect of Record, Ahilyanagar); Rang De – enabled peer-to-peer, low-interest financing for households; Hunnarshala Foundation (concept design and masterplan); Integrated Design - Landscape Architect; Phoenix Consultants - Plumbing Consultant; Vidyutsallagar Pvt. Ltd - Electrical Consultant.
7	Activating Vacant Land as a Foundation for Future Housing and Urban Development	Palestine	MENA	Al Bireh Municipality	Al Bireh Municipality; Ministry of Agriculture; local universities (student engagement); civil society organizations; community volunteers and neighborhood groups; private landowners.
8	Revitalizing Substandard Housing into Livable Homes	Uganda	Africa	Keep Your Faith Alive	None
9	Rebuilding Hope: From Disaster Risk to Resilient Homes	Nepal, Philippines, Mozambique, Indonesia, Sierra Leone	Global	Buddhist Relief Tzu Chi Foundation	Local and national governments; community leaders; women and youth groups; environmental and recycling partners; agricultural livelihood partners; international humanitarian organizations; local faith actors; and global volunteers. Local Government of Palo Leyte, Philippines.
10	Sustainable Shelter and Safe Communities: Integrating Housing, Security, and Environmental Stewardship	Zambia	Africa	Civic Forum on Housing and Habitat	We Effect -Zambia, Lusaka City Council, Misereor, Fredrich Ebert Stiftung
11	Advancing Inclusive Housing through Women-Led Cooperatives	Zimbabwe	Africa	Zimbabwe Parents of Handicapped Children's Association	City of Harare and Government of Zimbabwe

#	Title	Country	Region	Leading Organization	Partners and Stakeholders Involved
12	Climate-Resilient Housing for Low-Income Women	Indonesia	Asia	Build Change	Global Innovation Fund (GIF); KOMIDA microfinance institution
13	State and Gender Policies in Practice: The 'Ellas Hacen' Neighborhood in La Plata—Advancing Dignified Housing through Participatory Planning	Argentina	Americas	Buenos Aires Province Government	Municipal governments in Buenos Aires Province; Community-based and social organizations; Worker cooperatives and popular economy organizations; Provincial ministers (Infrastructure, Community Development, Women and Diversity, Security, Health, and Education); National government agencies related to housing, habitat, and urban services; International organizations and development banks, including the Inter-American Development Bank; and Public universities and specialized technical teams.
14	Enabling Marginalized Communities in Jeetpursimara city to access Affordable Housing	Nepal	Asia	Lumanti Support Group for Shelter	Jeetpursimara Sub Metropolitan City, Foundation for the Housing for the Disadvantaged (France), Asian Coalition for Housing Rights, Climate Works Foundation, SELAVIP Foundation, MISEREOR
15	"Not Just Numbers": Homeless People as Economic Contributors in Tshwane	South Africa	Africa	University of South Africa	Tshwane Leadership Forum, University of Pretoria, the City of Tshwane and Tshwane Homelessness Forum.
16	Strengthening the Socio-Economics of Local Communities	Uganda	Africa	Slum Women's Initiative for Development (SWID)	Huairou Commission
Driving Innovation through Multilevel Coordination and Local Action					
17	Social Medicine Initiative – Toronto's New Supportive Housing at Dunn House	Canada	Americas	City of Toronto	City of Toronto, University Health Network (UHN), United Way Greater Toronto (UWGT)
18	Healthy Age Friendly Homes Program: Integrating Housing, Health, and Care for Ageing in Place	Ireland	Europe	Age Friendly Ireland (local government shared service hosted by Meath County Council)	Age Friendly Ireland; Meath County Council (host authority); Government of Ireland Department of Health and Department of Housing; Local Government and Heritage; Health Service Executive (HSE); Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI); Local authorities (31councils); Community and voluntary sector organizations; WHO (norm-setting and guidance).

#	Title	Country	Region	Leading Organization	Partners and Stakeholders Involved
19	Embedding Healthy Housing Standards through Regulation and Evidence-Based Policy	New Zealand	Oceania	Kāinga Ora – Homes and Communities (national public housing agency)	Kāinga Ora – Homes and Communities; Ministry of Housing and Urban Development; Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA); Kāinga Oranga Housing and Health Research Program (University of Otago); central government agencies; private retrofit and construction sector; Community and voluntary organizations; WHO (norm-setting and guidance).
20	Incentives for the Mobilization and Construction of Affordable Housing	Germany	Europe	City of Bonn	Local construction businesses, welfare organizations
21	Integrated Housing and Urban Innovation in an Insular Context: From Regulatory Reform to Participatory City-Making	Spain	Europe	Government of the Canary Islands	Government of the Canary Islands; municipal governments (e.g., Arucas City Council, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria); Cabildo de Gran Canaria; LPA Studio; Canary Islands Housing Institute (ICAVI); Provivienda; Cáritas; academic and technical institutions; private sector actors.
22	Housing as a Platform for Inclusive Urban Transformation – Ciudad del Bicentenario	Colombia	Americas	Fundación Santo Domingo (FSD)	Ministry of Housing (Government of Colombia), City of Cartagena (local government), Trust (Private administration of Funds), Private housing developers, public service providers, Private Investor, Housing owners, financial institutions.
23	Strategic Infrastructure Planning for Sustainable Growth	United Kingdom	Europe	Cornwall Council	Arcadis, National Grid, South West Water, NHS Kernow, Devon and Cornwall Police, National Energy System Operator, Fire and Ambulance service, Environment Agency, National Highways, Openreach.
24	Transforming Neighborhoods and Towns: Catalonia Government Plan 2025–2029	Spain	Europe	Government of Catalonia	The Government of Catalonia, through the Ministry of Territory and other sectoral ministries (regulatory framework, technical, financial resources, and interministerial coordination for the design and implementation of the Plan); Local councils (identify urban areas requiring special attention and developing proposals tailored to local needs); Community-based organizations and social stakeholders (drafting integrated intervention program reports through participatory processes); Specialized technical teams (identify areas requiring special attention and prepare the diagnostic assessments and proposed integrated intervention program reports; Academia (study of vulnerability in Catalonia).

#	Title	Country	Region	Leading Organization	Partners and Stakeholders Involved
25	Informal Settlement Upgrading Initiative through the Home Equals Campaign	Malawi	Africa	Lilongwe City Council (Approval of regularization plans)	Area 27 resident networks; the Lilongwe City Council; Habitat for Humanity Malawi (technical facilitation, capacity support, and financing mechanisms).
26	Solar Oasis Model: Integrated Water–Energy–Food Systems for Climate-Resilient Desert Communities	Egypt	MENA	Habiba World for training and Organic Farming	Governorate South Sinai, Municipality Nuweiba, Org architecture & Urbanism BV, Habiba World for training and Organic Farming, 3E, Engazaat, Center of Excellence of Water, the Flemish State of the Arts (FIKAP).
27	Where Girls Sleep in Water: Polycom Girls Demand Climate-Resilient Housing Now	Kenya	Africa	Polycom Development Project	Global Call to Action Against Poverty - GCAP, Huairou Commission
28	Community-Led River Restoration and Settlement Upgrading in Mathare	Kenya	Africa	Mto Wangu Initiative	Community-Based Organizations: ITOLS Self Help Group, Rise and Shine CBO, Bondeni Recovery CBO, Mathare local youth groups and resident associations; Networks: Mathare River Regeneration Network (MRRN); Government: Nairobi City County Government, Local Administration (Chiefs, Ward Offices), Kenya Forest Service (KFS); International & Development Partners: UN-Habitat, Canadian Embassy (High Commission of Canada in Kenya), Climate Justice Impact Fund for Africa (CJIFA); NGOs and Civil Society: Pussy Power; Environmental & peace-building NGOs via MRRN; Private Sector /CSR Partners: Octagon Foundation (Octagon Africa), Local eco-businesses & upcycling enterprises; Educational & Social Institutions: Good Samaritan Children's Home, Mathare-area primary & secondary schools, Roots Community Library; Volunteers & Informal Partners: Community volunteers (youth & women), artists, athletes, & creative hub.
29	Integrated Housing Affordability and Energy Transition Strategy (ESTHer and ComActivate)	Poland, Great Britain, Hungary, Croatia; Bulgaria, Hungary, Lithuania	Europe	Habitat for Humanity International - Europe and the Middle East	Laudes Foundation; EU Life Program; Habitat for Humanity International - Europe and the Middle East; MRI: Metropolitan Research Institute (Hungary), Municipality of Budapest 8th District: Budapest Fovaros VIII. Kerulet Jozsefvarosi Onkormanyzat (Hungary), BPIE: Buildings Performance Institute Europe (Belgium), IWO: Housing Initiative for Eastern Europe (Germany), EnEffect: Centre for Energy Efficiency (Bulgaria), Kaisiadorys Municipality (Lithuania), Burgas Municipality (Bulgaria), Eko Invest (Croatia), LCA: Lithuanian Consumers Alliance (Lithuania); Associated partner: Habitat for Humanity Macedonia, HFH Poland, HFH Great Britain.

#	Title	Country	Region	Leading Organization	Partners and Stakeholders Involved
30	Turning Every Roof into Solar Power: How Integrated Solar Infrastructure Transforms Cities and Communities	India	Asia	Young Generation Sustainable Synergy	Local government, community organizations, private sector, NGOs, and academic institutions.
31	Developing the Bamboo Market Ecosystem: Scaling Climate-Resilient, Inclusive, and Low-Carbon Housing Solutions	Nepal	Asia	BASE Bahay Foundation	Government (policy and subsidies), private sector (treatment centers) Base Bahay Foundation; Habitat for Humanity Nepal, NGOs (technical support), and communities (labor and ownership).
32	Urban Housing Circularity in Yokohama: Revitalizing Vacant Homes through Circular Construction and Family Housing Support	Japan	Asia	City of Yokohama	
33	Revitalizing Japan's Oldest Public Housing: Leveraging Vacant Units to Address Population Decline	Japan	Asia	City of Shizuoka	Shizuoka City (Housing Policy Division, Planning Division, Industrial Infrastructure Development Headquarters); Shizuoka City Urban Development Corporation; University students (The University of Tokyo, Okayama University, Shizuoka Institute of Science and Technology).
34	Urban Intervention Project for Adaptive Reuse in Central São Paulo	Brazil	Americas	SP Urbanismo	Private real estate developers are key in the implementation of this project. Through a set of incentives, the public sector aims to mobilize the private sector to renovate the city center of São Paulo.
35	Revitalization of the Historic Center and Recovery of its Residential Function	El Salvador	Americas	Planning Authority of the Historic Center of San Salvador (APLAN) and Ministry of Housing	APLAN (Planning Authority of the Historic Center); Ministry of Housing of El Salvador; organized community groups / housing cooperatives; property owners (subject to incentives and enforcement mechanisms); private investors and developers; cultural heritage and urban planning authorities.

#	Title	Country	Region	Leading Organization	Partners and Stakeholders Involved
36	"Guardian Constructor": Inclusive Business Model for Incremental Housing	Peru	Americas	Full Building and La Firme	Guardian Constructor (implementation, coordinating construction, financing, and technical support through its housing hubs); construction companies, suppliers, and microfinance institutions (essential building services, materials, and financial products for incremental housing); civil associations, local community organizations, and families (participation in co-design, pilot testing, and construction decisions); real estate developers, such as Menorca (land plots for pilots); government agencies (access to subsidies and regulatory support).
37	From Fiscal Gaps to Financial Strength: Transforming Municipal Finance in African Cities	Multi-country: Ethiopia, Tanzania, Rwanda, Zambia, Kenya, Cameroon	Africa	Cities of Addis Ababa, Dar es Salaam, Kigali, Lusaka, Nairobi, and Yaoundé	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), UN-Habitat.
Advancing Inclusive Participation, Accountability, and Local Data					
38	"Estela de Esperanza": Rental Housing Solutions in Buenos Aires	Argentina	Americas	Habitat for Humanity Argentina (HFHA)	Habitat for Humanity Argentina-HFHA (property acquisition, construction, tenant support, and financial management for families; the Government of the City of Buenos Aires and the City Housing Institute (program implementation, workshops, and accreditation for rental guarantees); Banco Ciudad (credit and guarantee support for participating families); Housing Secretariat and the World Bank (consultancy, policy recommendations, and financing that informed national rental programs).
39	Strengthening Participatory Governance and Service Alignment in Nairobi's Informal Settlements	Kenya	Africa	The Legend Kenya (MCLD)	Local administrators, community organizations operating in the area, INGOs directly and indirectly, religious leaders, police, etc.
40	Mapping Inclusive Futures: Integrated Geospatial and Citizen-Centric Urban Planning Platform	Palestine	MENA	Ramallah Municipality	Ministry of Local Government (MOLG) and neighborhood committees.

#	Title	Country	Region	Leading Organization	Partners and Stakeholders Involved
41	Inclusive and Data-Driven Housing Pathways: Aukera Ordinance and the Living Lab for Inclusive and Climate-Resilient Housing	Spain	Europe	Pamplona City Council	Pamplona City Council; Public University of Navarre (UPNA); organizations supporting persons with disabilities; AH Asociados (lead partner); Obenasa; CENER (National Renewable Energy Centre); UPV/EHU; European Commission (Horizon 2020 – Green Deal Call); local residents and communities.
42	Data-Driven and Participatory Housing Systems: From Disaster Response to Policy Design	Brazil	Americas	Paraná Local 2030 Hub	Civil Defense of the Paraná Government; Family and Social Development Secretary; Secretary of Finance; COHAPAR - Paraná Company of Housing, Works Superintendence; Federal Government, Ministry of Cities; Caixa Econômica Federal; Sanepar (Paraná Sanitation Company) and other companies of municipal sanitation; COPEL (Paraná Energy Company) and other municipal partners; IAT (Água e Terra Institute); IDB (Inter-American Development Bank), Paraná State Government; Institute for Urban Planning and Research of Curitiba (IPPUC); CadÚnico (Federal Government) and João Pinheiro Foundation (From the state of Minas Gerais-Brazil).
43	AI-Powered Rental Discovery for Youth: Building a Trusted Housing Marketplace	Malawi	Africa	Kulima Africa	Kulima Africa (Lead Innovator); local student communities and campus organizations; independent landlords and rental property managers; digital technology contributors and volunteer developers; youth innovation networks and civil society advocates working on housing access and digital inclusion.
44	From Invisible to Indispensable: Data-Driven, Community-Led Housing and Sanitation in Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh	India	Asia	Shelter Associates	Urban Local Bodies across Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh, communities, and funding partners like Bank of America, HDFC Life, Tata Trusts, Infosys, Dasra Foundation, Azim Premji Foundation, HT Parekh foundation, individual donors, and others.
45	ROOH Campaign: Community-Driven Climate-Resilient Housing through Local Data and Incremental Innovation	India	Asia	Society for the Promotion of Area Resource Centers (SPARC)	NGOs; community groups and federations, residents; local construction actors such as contractors and artisans; academic institutions and knowledge partners; building construction and development institutions; the private sector.

#	Title	Country	Region	Leading Organization	Partners and Stakeholders Involved
46	Mwembeshauri Integrated Urban Redevelopment Initiative (MIURI)	Zanzibar, Tanzania	Africa	Commission for Lands (COLA), Ministry of Lands and Housing Development	Ministry of Lands and Housing Development, Commission for Lands, Zanzibar City Municipal Council, Mwembeshauri Community, Private Investors and Developers; and NGOs and international Partners.
47	Community-Led In-City Resettlement in Manggahan, Pasig	Philippines	Asia	Alliance of People's Organizations Along Manggahan Pasig Floodway (APOAMPF)	Community Organizers Multiversity, TAO professional Technical architectural, ULAP – in-city urban poor federation, UP-All, Pasig Local government, National Housing Authority, Misereor, Huairou Commission.
48	Climate Resilience in the Pacific: Co-Designing Culturally Grounded Impact Measurement	Fiji	Asia	Habitat for Humanity Fiji	Habitat for Humanity Fiji working in close partnership with Indigenous iTaukei communities (leading local planning, define success indicators, and co-design resilience strategies; local and provincial authorities (baseline assessments and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) planning); research partners (evidence generation and learning).
49	Climate-Resilient Ivatan Housing: Participatory, Data-Driven Preservation and Adaptation in Batanes	Philippines	Asia	Cagayan State University	Provincial Government of Batanes, Local Government Unit of Uyugan, Batanes, Department of Public Works and Highways-Region II, Department of Science and Technology, Batanes State College, Kamanyidungan du Uyugan Association, Cultural Committee of Ivatans.
50	Building High-Quality, Climate-Smart Affordable Homes at Scale	Spain	Europe	Área Metropolitana de Barcelona (IMPSOL)	Institut Metropolità de Promoció de Sòl i Gestió Patrimonial-IMPSOL (planning, designing, constructing, and managing affordable housing) in partnership with 33 metropolitan cities, and building users.
51	People-Centered Urban Regeneration for Inclusive and Scalable Housing Systems	Spain	Europe	Euskadi Local2030 Hub	Basque Government, Bilbao Council, Bilbao Metropoli 30, UN Etxea
52	Renovating Homes, Rebuilding Lives through Community-Driven Housing Solutions	Portugal	Europe	Just a Change	People first public-private partnership approach working with municipalities (co-finance interventions and support the identification and prioritization of housing poverty cases); the private sector (financial contributions, in-kind donations of materials, and employee engagement for volunteering); local NGOs and social organizations (identify vulnerable households and ensure long-term social support).

*All solutions were submitted by the Leading Organizations through the form referenced in Annex E and are connected to the Road to Baku: the Local Way engagement strategy, its workshops and consultations.

Annex B — Road to Baku Policy Brief: Main Recommendations

1. Strengthen Local and Regional Governments as Lead Actors in Housing

Building on the outcomes and commitments coming out of FFD4, the WSSD2 and COP30and looking ahead to WUF13 as a catalyst for implementation, position LRGs as **institutional drivers of SDG localization**[1] , **with housing as a strategic entry point for territorial transformation with a systemic approach**. Strengthen the institutional, technical, and financial capacities of LRGs to co-design, coordinate, finance, implement, and monitor integrated housing strategies that link land, infrastructure, tenure security, access to basic and social services, livelihoods and decent jobs, food security, and climate resilience, in partnership with national governments, UN Country Teams, communities, and local stakeholders. LRGs should convene and steer multistakeholder partnerships that support implementation at scale, aligning national frameworks with local needs, priorities and capacities as well as translating global commitments into people-centered territorial transformation roadmaps. Coordinating LRGs with national governments and supported by regional and global platforms, including UN Regional Commissions, this approach strengthens policy coherence and enables effective multilevel implementation.

2. Anchor Housing in a Renewed Social Contract

Position housing as a cornerstone of a renewed social contract and a **key for protecting human rights**—advancing dignity, stability, social cohesion, equality, and trust in institutions—while also recognizing it as a **driver of economic development**. Link housing to access to basic and social services, job creation, local supply chains, economic opportunities, education and health, tenure security, climate resilience, territorial agrifood systems that strengthen food security, while positioning affordable housing as a resilient long-term investment. This is particularly important in fragile and conflict-affected contexts, where access to adequate housing is closely linked to social stability and cohesion as it strengthens trust between communities and institutions. Support context-specific housing strategies co-created with communities and aligned with national policies, building on implementation frameworks such as the Localization Blueprint, help territories translate shared long-term visions into coherent policy pathways and investment-ready programs[2].

3. Foster Local Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships and Inclusive Governance for Housing Solutions

Strengthen multilevel and multi-stakeholder partnerships under the leadership and coordination of LRGs by bringing together local and national governments and their networks, the private sector, academic, civil society, youth, financial institutions, and development partners to **co-create and co-deliver housing solutions at scale**, aligned with long-term territorial strategies. Move toward long-term investment and delivery pipelines that prioritize communities most in need, leveraging WUF13 and related global platforms to elevate locally-led commitments and partnerships. This is particularly critical in fragile and conflict-affected settings, where LRGs face heightened pressures from displacement, reconstruction needs, and constrained institutional capacity. Ground partnerships in **participatory, rights-based approaches** that reflect lived realities and **safeguard inclusion—especially for women, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities, migrants, displaced populations, residents of informal settlements, informal workers, communities affected by crisis and reconstruction, and marginalized groups**. The Baku Call to Action should promote **enabling frameworks and incentives** for responsible private sector engagement, support youth- and community-led innovation, and align partnerships around shared long-term territorial visions.

4. Strengthen Accountability and Transparency in Housing Delivery to Renew Trust

Strengthen accountability mechanisms that rebuild trust and legitimacy by making housing commitments measurable, transparent, and responsive to communities. Promote participatory monitoring and community-led feedback loops, and track progress using localization tools and indicators—such as Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) and the SDG Localization Marker 2.0—that capture whether housing strategies deliver integrated outcomes across basic services, inclusion, livelihoods, food security, and resilience. Share results through peer learning across cities and territories to accelerate scaling and replication of implementation-ready solutions.

5. Mobilize and Align Financing with Local Housing Priorities

Align **financing frameworks** with local-level priorities and leverage other innovative mechanisms to expand access to adequate, affordable housing and enable delivery at scale. Mobilize resources for affordable housing, including upgrading informal settlements, strengthening tenure security, expanding access to **basic services**, and investing in **climate-resilient infrastructure**. Building on FFD4 outcomes and the Seville Platform for Action (SPA), strengthen fiscal decentralization, enhance local fiscal

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1 In line with the Secretary-General's Action 55(e) and the Doha Declaration outcomes of the World Social Summit on strengthening engagement of local and regional governments in global processes; see UN-Habitat, Doha Declaration highlights WUF13 as key platform for regional engagement: wuf.unhabitat.org/news/doha-declaration-highlights-wuf13-key-platform-regional-engagement

2 Relevant international and regional frameworks—such as the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing, Housing2030, the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact, and related principles on sustainable and high-performance buildings—can further support policy alignment and implementation.

capacity and revenue systems, and promote enabling regulatory frameworks for inclusive housing investment. Advance territorially anchored financing strategies, such as ILFFs, to enable local governments to plan, finance, and deliver integrated housing solutions. Mobilize blended territorial investment packages that crowd in private capital by combining public, development, and private finance, supported by predictable regulatory environments, risk-sharing mechanisms, and productivity-enhancing construction approaches. Align financing with land-use planning and land-based financing instruments to support sustainable housing supply and affordability, and align subsidies, incentives, and regulation with locally defined strategies to ensure predictable, transparent flows – especially in informal settlements and underserved communities. This is particularly important in fragile and conflict-affected settings, where financing must also support recovery, reconstruction, and service restoration while strengthening local institutional and fiscal capacity under constrained conditions.

6. Strengthen Localized Housing Data and Evidence for Policy and Implementation

Strengthen the production and use of localized housing data systems and observatories, including disaggregated affordability data, spatial and land information systems, and indicators related to infrastructure, services, climate resilience, and energy efficiency. Link these systems to VLRs, national monitoring frameworks, and SDG reporting to support evidence-based policymaking, transparency, and accountability across all levels of governance. Promote interoperable and coordinated data systems to ensure that local data informs national policy and global reporting. Support digital tools, spatial platforms, and local observatories to track housing needs, inform planning, and guide investment decisions. Encourage peer learning and knowledge exchange across cities and regions—including through regional platforms and collaboration with UN Regional Commissions and partners—to strengthen data capacities. Ensure that localized data informs global review and accountability processes, including the ten-year review of the New Urban Agenda and the SDG 11 review at the High-Level Political Forum, with WUF13 serving as a key moment to connect local evidence to global commitments and follow-up.

Annex C — List of Regional Consultations and Local Workshops

- 21 January – UNESCAP Road to Baku: the Local Way Regional Consultation – UNESCAP – Held in the context of APLP CITIES
- 2 February – WUF13 Local and Regional Government Roundtable Consultation – Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments (GTF), UN Habitat and Local2030 – Held in the context of the WUF13 Engagement Strategy
- 25 February – Yokohama Day – Regional Workshop on Advancing Circular Policy and Business Solution for Plastics in the Tourism Sector – City of Yokohama and UNDP – Held in the context of GPIP-II
- 5 March – Road to Baku: the Local Way CIDEU Workshop – CIDEU
- 11 March – CEPAL Road to Baku: the Local Way Regional Consultation – CEPAL, GIZ, Local2030, UCLG and the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments (GTF)
- 17 March – Paraná Local2030 Hub Road to Baku: the Local Way Workshop - Paraná Local2030 Hub – Held in the context of the III International SDG Forum: From Research to Action
- 24 March – WUF13 Baku Call to Action: Local and Regional Governments Consultation – Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments (GTF), UN Habitat and Local2030 – Held in the context of the WUF13 Engagement Strategy
- 24 March – Universidad de Granada Road to Baku: the Local Way Workshop – Universidad de Granada
- 26 March – Road to Baku: the Local Way Catalyst Now Workshop – Catalyst Now
- 26 March - Road to Baku: the Local Way Canary Islands Workshop – Government of the Canary Islands
- 31 March – Road to Baku: the Local Way University of South Africa Workshop – University of South Africa
- 7 April – WUF13 Children and Youth Consultations – UN Habitat and Local2030 – Held in the context of the WUF13 Engagement Strategy
- 17 April – Road to Baku: the Local Way Euskadi Local2030 Hub Workshop – Euskadi Local2030 Hub
- 21 April – UNECE Road to Baku: the Local Way Regional Consultation – UNECE – Held in the context of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the UNECE Region
- 27 April – UNECA Road to Baku: the Local Way Regional Consultation – UNECA – Held in the context of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development
- 14 May – UNESCWA Road to Baku: the Local Way Regional Consultation – UNESCWA – Held in the context of the Arab Forum for Sustainable Development

Annex D — Alignment of Case Studies with Policy Recommendations

The mapping reflects primary and secondary contributions, recognizing that most solutions are multi-dimensional and contribute to multiple policy recommendations simultaneously.

Policy Recommendation	How Solutions Contribute	# Solutions	Types of Contributions	Illustrative Examples from Portfolio
1. Strengthen LRGs as Lead Actors in Housing	Position local/regional governments as planners, regulators, conveners, and market shapers for housing delivery and SDG localization	16	• Regulatory reform and land-use planning • Municipal coordination and delivery platforms • Local institutional capacity strengthening • Strategic urban planning and governance	**Guatemala (EMVDU):** TOD-based regulatory reform + incentives to steer private investment toward low-income housing **Canary Islands (Spain)**: Decree-Law 1/2024 increasing density, unlocking land, accelerating approvals **Bonn (Germany):** Mandatory affordable housing quotas (40%) in new developments **Palestine (Al Bireh):** Municipal-led land activation as a precursor to housing **Catalonia (Spain):** EUR 1B multilevel program enabling municipalities to lead integrated regeneration **Cornwall (UK):** Long-term infrastructure pipeline aligning housing with territorial planning **Palestine (Ramallah Municipality):** municipal leadership, planning authority, and governance systems **Egypt (EEAA):** public-sector-led regulatory + institutional innovation
2. Anchor Housing in a Renewed Social Contract	Integrate housing with services, livelihoods, inclusion, and human development, positioning housing as a platform for dignity and opportunity	20	• Housing + health, education, and social services • Livelihoods and economic inclusion • Gender-responsive and inclusive housing • Integrated neighborhood and territorial development • Climate and environmental integration	**Toronto (Canada):** Housing-first model integrating healthcare 79% reduction in hospital bed days **Argentina (Ellas Hacen):** Housing + GBV services + childcare + livelihoods for women **Zambia (CFHHZ):** Housing + waste-to-energy + livelihoods + community safety **Colombia (FSD):** "Megabarrios" integrating housing, schools, health, jobs (15-minute city model) **Ireland:** Housing integrated with health and ageing systems **Uganda (SWID):** Housing linked to land rights, agribusiness, and income generation **Egypt (Habiba World):** Systems integration model (water–energy–food–housing) with strong livelihoods + living conditions + service access dimensions.
3. Foster Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships and Inclusive Governance	Enable co-creation and co-delivery through collaboration across governments, civil society, private sector, and communities	30	• PPP / PPPP models • Community–government co-design • NGO–municipal partnerships • Multi-level coordination platforms • Coalition-based and networked delivery	**Colombia (FSD):** Public–private–philanthropic partnership delivering 7,000+ homes **Kenya (Polycom):** Youth-led data + integration into county planning systems **Malawi (Area 27):** Community planning formal layout approval national policy influence **Egypt (Al-Galaa):** Community committees + government + academia co-governance **Habitat Europe (ESTHer/ ComActivate):** Multi-country coalitions linking EU policy, local delivery, and finance

Policy Recommendation	How Solutions Contribute	# Solutions	Types of Contributions	Illustrative Examples from Portfolio
4. Strengthen Accountability and Transparency in Housing Delivery	Introduce participatory monitoring, transparency mechanisms, and feedback loops to build trust and improve delivery	17	• Community monitoring and scorecards • Participatory governance mechanisms • Transparent allocation systems • Data-linked accountability platforms	**Egypt (Al-Galaa):** GIS + community scorecards tracking housing, services, and outcomes **Kenya (Polycom):** Community-generated data used in budgeting and planning **Yokohama (Japan):** Monitoring vacant housing and policy outcomes through data systems **Malawi upgrading:** Community participation reduces eviction risk and strengthens trust **Spain (social rental models):** Needs-based allocation instead of lottery systems **Uganda (KYFA):** Youth-led accountability and planning engagement
5. Mobilize and Align Financing with Local Housing Priorities	Expand and diversify financing mechanisms to support affordable housing and scaling	14	• Blended finance (public–private–community) • Microfinance and savings groups • Climate and adaptation finance • Land-based and regulatory financing tools • Subsidy alignment	**Indonesia (Build Change):** Climate adaptation loans via MFIs 85% energy savings improvements **Nepal (Bamboo ecosystem):** Blended finance (public + $6.8M philanthropy + community labor) **India (Sanjaynagar):** PMAY subsidies + community finance + NGO support **Guatemala (EMVDU):** Incentives and development rights mobilizing USD 100M+ private investment **Zambia (CFHHZ):** Cooperative savings + enterprise financing for housing
6. Strengthen Localized Housing Data and Evidence	Use data, digital tools, and local knowledge systems to inform planning, monitoring, and policy alignment	15	• GIS and spatial mapping • Community-generated data • Digital and geospatial platforms • Evidence-based planning systems • Monitoring tools linked to SDGs	**Egypt (Al-Galaa):** GIS-based monitoring + multi-level governance dashboards **Kenya (Polycom):** Mapping of risk hotspots and integration into county systems **EU (ComActivate):** Analysis of 1,100+ buildings; energy and emissions tracking **Cornwall (UK):** Scenario modeling and long-term planning data systems **Uganda (KYFA):** Youth-led mapping informing local planning and advocacy **India (SPARC)**: Community-generated data, enumeration, and federation-based knowledge systems

Main Insights:

- **Strongest alignment:** Policy Recommendation **3 (Partnerships)** is the most consistently addressed across the portfolio, reflecting the fundamentally **collaborative nature of locally led housing solutions**.
- **Core operational backbone**: Recommendations **1 (LRG leadership)** and **2 (social contract)** are deeply embedded across solutions—even when not explicitly framed— demonstrating that **local governments as market shapers and housing as a systems platform** are central to effective delivery.
- **Key gap: Recommendation 5 (Financing)** remains **notably underrepresented**, consistent with the report's findings on Dialogue 6. Financing innovations exist but are **fragmented and not yet systemic**.
- **Emerging system enablers: Recommendation 4 (Accountability)** and **6 (Data)** show increasing prominence through participatory monitoring, digital tools, and community-generated data. However, these remain unevenly institutionalized and require stronger integration into formal governance systems.
- **Evolving nature of housing solutions**: The portfolio reflects a shift from housing as a standalone sector to **housing as an integrating platform**, encompassing land management, tenure innovation, service delivery, climate action, and livelihoods.
- **Typical contribution pattern across solutions**: Most solutions contribute to **2–4 recommendations simultaneously**, with a common cluster being: **(2) Social contract + (3) Partnerships + (1) LRG leadership**, reinforcing the interconnected nature of localization pathways.

Annex E — Template for Collecting Locally Led Housing Solutions

Template for Locally Led Solutions

World Urban Forum 13

The **World Urban Forum 13 (WUF13)** will be held in Baku, 17-22 May 2026. As part of the **Road to Baku: The Local Way process**, the Local2030 Coalition is gathering locally led solutions that position housing as a catalytic entry point for advancing SDG localization, integrating social, economic, environmental, and governance dimensions. We are particularly interested in **innovations and policies** with strong potential for scale-up or replication, ensuring that local experiences meaningfully contribute to the Baku Call for Action and to the outcomes of WUF13.

Selection Criteria: All submitted solutions will be reviewed against a set of selection criteria. Eligibility and prioritization will be determined based on the extent to which submissions meet the following criteria: **a) demonstrate clear evidence of results and impact, supported by qualitative and/or quantitative information; b) align with one or more of the six Road to Baku focus areas** (reflecting the official WUF13 dialogue themes); **c) present strong scalability, transferability, or replication potential, including sustainability mechanisms; and d) illustrate a multilevel, multi-stakeholder approach**, demonstrating how collaboration among local and regional governments, communities, national authorities, UN entities, civil society, academia, and/or the private sector translates global commitments into **tangible, locally grounded outcomes**.

Disclaimer: Due to space limitations, only a **selected number of solutions that meet the criteria** will be featured in the Road to Baku report. Considerations of **regional and stakeholder balance** will also inform the final selection. However, all submissions that meet the selection criteria will be recognized as part of the Road to Baku: The Local Way process. Solutions that meet the criteria but are not included in the report will be made available on the **Local2030 Coalition's online platform**, as appropriate, ensuring visibility, peer learning, and continued exchange beyond WUF13.

DEADLINE: The deadline to submit solutions is 31 March 2026, COB CET.

Title: It should quickly convey the core impact or transformation	*[Example: "Reviving Vacant Lots into Parks: How Community-Led Design Built Safer Streets and Stronger Neighborhoods in Medellín"*	
Region/ Country		
Please indicate which consultation, workshop, or meeting this solution is coming from (If not applicable, please write "N/A")		
Local context/ Main challenge:	*[Max 100 words]*	
Leading Organization/ Institution:		
Type of Organization (select one)	☐ National Government ☐ Local or Regional Government / Association of Local and Regional Governments ☐ Civil Society Organization / NGO ☐ Academia / Research Institution	☐ Private Sector ☐ Youth Organization / Youth-led initiative ☐ International Organization ☐ Other:_____
Partners/ Stakeholders Involved: Acknowledge implementing partners, funders, and key stakeholders		

***Focus Areas:** Please choose the category of themes that better indicates where the solution has its strongest emphasis*	☐ 1. The Global Housing Crisis: What Is the Plan? - Advancing co-created housing solutions that align national frameworks with local delivery to accelerate SDG localization, affordability, and inclusive development. ☐ 2. Transforming Informal Settlements and Slums - Promoting locally driven upgrading that improves living conditions, strengthens tenure security, and expands access to services while advancing equitable SDG outcomes. ☐ 3. Housing at the Centre of Crisis Recovery and Reconstruction - Embedding housing, land rights, and community participation at the core of crisis response to strengthen resilience, social cohesion, and localized SDG implementation. ☐ 4. The Climate–Housing Nexus - Scaling locally co-designed, climate-resilient housing that reduces emissions, protects vulnerable communities, and links climate action with SDG delivery. ☐ 5. The Social and Economic Power of Housing - Leveraging housing as an engine of inclusive prosperity by generating jobs, strengthening local economies, and advancing multiple SDGs simultaneously. ☐ 6. A New Deal for Housing Finance - Expanding innovative, locally grounded housing finance systems that increase access, curb exclusion, and enable scalable SDG localization.	
In 1-2 sentences, please explain why you selected this primary focus area:		
If your solution could also fit under another of the previous focus areas, please indicate it here and explain why:		
***Approaches:** Please choose the category of approaches that better indicates where the solution has its strongest emphasis*	☐ Empowering Local Actors and Strengthening Capacities - Solutions that strengthen the authority, resources, skills, and leadership of local/ regional actors to design, finance, and deliver inclusive, affordable. climate-responsive housing and urban development, positioning local leadership as a driver of SDG localization. ☐ Driving Innovation through Multilevel Coordination and Local Action - Solutions that turn innovation into systemic change by aligning community action, local implementation, national policy, and financing through strong multilevel governance, enabling housing and territorial solutions to scale and sustain impact. ☐ Advancing Inclusive Participation, Accountability, and Data - Solutions that reinforce inclusive participation, transparency, accountability, and evidence-based policymaking, ensuring communities help shape priorities while strengthened data systems and participatory governance improve trust and policy responsiveness.	
In 1-2 sentences, please explain why you selected your primary approach:		
If your approach could also fit under another of the previous categories, please indicate it here and explain why:		
Solutions/ Interventions: *Building on the key themes and approaches selected, please describe specific actions, policies, and solutions implemented.*	*[Max 400 words]*	
Scale of Implementation	☐ Neighborhood / Community ☐ City / Municipality ☐ Regional / Subnational	☐ National ☐ Multi-country ☐ Global
Year the initiative started		
Stage of Implementation	☐ Pilot ☐ Operational / ongoing	☐ Scaled / institutionalized ☐ Completed
Primary target groups / beneficiaries (multiple choice possible), for example:	☐ Informal settlement residents ☐ Low-income households ☐ Women ☐ Youth	☐ Migrants / displaced populations ☐ Persons with disabilities ☐ General urban population ☐ Other:

Main Results and Scalability: *• What changed? Please provide qualitative + quantitative information* *• How is the solution being sustained, and could it be scaled or adapted elsewhere?*	*[Max 300 words]* *[Example: 'Within 18 months, school attendance rose by 22%, student literacy scores improved by 17%, and over 400 teachers were trained in inclusive, student-centered methods.']*
Lessons Learned: *What Worked What can others take from this story? Focus on transfer-ability, replicability, or innovation*	*[Max 120 words]* *[Example: 'Strong collaboration between local government and neighbourhood groups helped tailor solutions to dense urban conditions. Using real-time community feedback, the team refined the design during implementation. The approach is now being integrated into the city's annual planning cycle."]*
Quotes, photos and visuals (optional)	*Example: "Now I can send my children to school with proper books," said Maria, a mother of three in rural Cabo Verde.*
Contact information:	
Sources: *Kindly share additional publications, presentations, recordings, including bibliographical references.*	

About the UN Local2030 Coalition

The Local2030 Coalition is the United Nations system's platform to accelerate the localization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, enhancing coherence, efficiency, and the impact of UN action.

14 UN entities[1] drive the Coalition, co-chaired by UN-Habitat and UNECE (on behalf of the Regional Economic Commissions), ensuring that the UN system is equipped to articulate global goals and national policies with local contexts, needs, and priorities, while securing a single and powerful UN approach to localization.

Through its five constituencies—national and local and regional governments, civil society and academia, the private sector, and youth—the Local2030 Coalition is also a bridge between the United Nations and local development stakeholders, co-creating solutions for systemic transformation, with a focus on those furthest behind.

Concretely, the Coalition's members, constituencies, and partners join forces to:

- Ensure the continuous engagement of local stakeholders in the design and implementation of development agendas, tailoring global processes to local realities.
- Build capacities in the UN system and beyond to mainstream localization and accelerate the SDGs.
- Scale up contextualized innovative actions and financing solutions, increasing local impact for territorial transformation.
- Enhance data analysis and inform multilevel-multistakeholder dialogue for collective review of sustainable development processes.

Our Progress at a Glance

In the last two years, the Local2030 Coalition has consolidated progress in advancing the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals, strengthening local action as a pillar of sustainable development. Building on its mandate as the United Nations system platform for SDG localization, the Coalition has reinforced its role as a convener, connector, and accelerator—aligning global agendas, national frameworks, and territorial realities to deliver coherent and measurable impact on the ground.

Through strategic engagement and representation in key forums—including the High Level Political Forums, the Summit of the Future, Financing for Development processes, climate negotiations, and World Urban Forum, among others—the Coalition has consistently advanced the message that sustainable development outcomes depend on empowered local actors and territorially grounded solutions. These efforts have helped reposition localization from a policy aspiration to a strategic driver of sustainable development transformation.

At the operational level, the Coalition has consolidated an increasingly robust ecosystem for action. Its interagency working groups, localization capacity-building programs, knowledge networks, and territorial platforms support countries and communities in translating global commitments into local action. At the same time, the expansion of the Local2030 Hubs across regions is strengthening innovation, peer learning, and territorial leadership on the ground. This is bringing together UN expertise to advance joint analysis, tools, and advocacy on Localizing the SDG Transitions and Financing the SDG Transitions at the Local Level. Through this collaboration, the Coalition has helped build shared approaches to support countries and territories in translating global commitments into locally led action, complemented by the rollout of a Localization Capacity Building Program to equip UN Country Teams and their partners to advance SDG localization through coherent support.

Complementing these efforts, the Local2030 Hubs have become a cornerstone of the Coalition's operational model, serving as territorial platforms for SDG localization, policy innovation, and systems transformation. As of 2026, six Local2030 Hubs are active across regions and contexts. These include the established Hubs in Paraná (Brazil), Shizuoka (Japan), and Hawai'i (United States), as well as newly designated Hubs such as Basque Country (Spain), the Province of Buenos Aires (Argentina), and Cabo Verde. Together, the Hubs foster peer learning and connect territorial action with national, regional, and global policy processes.

A defining strength of the Local2030 Coalition remains the active and inclusive engagement of its five Constituencies — national governments, local and regional governments, civil society and academia, the private sector, and youth. This multistakeholder model has enabled the Coalition to shape and share, evidence-based approaches to localization, while mobilizing collective action across levels. Through its Road To processes—including the Road to Seville, the Road to Doha, the Road to Belém, and most recently the Road to Baku—the Coalition has engaged more than 2,000 stakeholders worldwide through over 40 consultations and workshops at local, national, and regional levels, co creating policy insights and practical solutions that translate global commitments into locally led pathways for transformation.

In partnership with the Joint SDG Fund and with the support of Member States, notably Spain, the Local2030 Coalition has played a catalytic role in mobilizing finance for SDG localization. As of 2026, more than USD 60 million have been channeled to joint programs on localization across more than 30 countries, leveraging on average eight times this amount through an innovative modality based on the Localization Blueprint and SDG Localization Marker 2.0, anchored in the Bilbao Bootcamp. These efforts are further reinforced through the implementation, with Spain and the OECD, of the Seville Platform for Action on Localizing Finance, which serves as an umbrella for Member States and local development stakeholders to channel finance toward local impact.

Looking ahead, the Local2030 Coalition is entering a critical phase aligned with major global milestones, including the UN Water Conference, the review processes of the New Urban Agenda, and the 2027 SDG Summit. Building on lessons synthesized through its Road To processes, including the Road to Baku, the Coalition will further anchor collective action on localization at the center of sustainable development efforts—ensuring that global ambition translates into lasting impact for people and territories.

1 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Labour Organization (ILO), International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Development Coordination Office (DCO), and the Regional Commissions.

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